

THE	
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES	

Explore the collection through time

From The Domesday Book to recent Cabinet papers, 1,000 years of international history are preserved in millions of records. Explore wars, revolutions, life stories and landmark rulings, and iconic figures including Shakespeare, Queen Victoria, Gandhi and Churchill.

Explore by time period

Our experts have identified eight consecutive time periods, from medieval to postwar, covering the full collection:

[Medieval](#)

974 - 1485

William the Conqueror’s Domesday survey aimed to put every inch of his new kingdom on paper. But Anglo-Saxon and Medieval England can also be found in the Magna Carta and other treaties, charters, letters and financial records.

[Early modern](#)

1485 - 1750

Follow the complex manoeuvres, plots and double dealings of the Tudor and Stuart courts and the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745, through our records in this period dominated by religious conflict and conspiracy.

[Empire and Industry](#)

1750 - 1850

Find out about the impact of the Industrial Revolution and how living and working conditions changed for many in Britain. Political protest and crime and punishment are key themes in our resources for this period.

[Victorians](#)

1850 - 1901

The British Empire, crime, punishment, leisure and advertising are all brought to life in our resources which are based on records from the second half of Queen Victoria’s reign.

[Early 20th Century](#)

1901 - 1918

Read original documents relating to Suffragettes, the Russian Revolution and the First World War. Cabinet papers, battle plans, maps and unit war diaries chronicle the conflict between Europe’s great powers.

[Interwar](#)

1918 - 1939

Study records relating to the rise of dictators, the failure of international diplomacy and Britain’s preparations for the Second World War. Discover more about life in 1930s Britain including unemployment, slum clearance and leisure.

[Second World War](#)

1939 - 1945

Our records cover the history of the Second World War including the roles of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. Find out more about the Holocaust and life on the Home Front.

[Postwar](#)

1945 - 2020

Discover Cold War reports from behind the Iron Curtain, find out what it was like to live in Attlee’s Britain or explore documents on Indian Partition.

Choose your own dates

Select your own date ranges to explore the collection:

Start year

YYYY

End year

YYYY

Show records