

# State Papers Online Colonial: Asia, Part I, Far East, Hong Kong, and Wei-Hai-Wei

The first part of a major new programme bringing the British Colonial Office files to a global audience.

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# COLONIAL AND POST-COLONIAL HISTORY THAT SHAPED MODERN ASIA

*State Papers Online Colonial: Asia, Part I, Far East, Hong Kong, and Wei-Hai-Wei* contains Colonial Office working files that illustrate two very different sides in the colonial relationship: a British Government whose main priority was the acquisition of commodities, wealth and labour; and the local people living under colonial rule and British-style institutions for law, health, education, policing, defence, agriculture and industry. Types of documents include original correspondence, letter/entry books of incoming and outgoing letters, confidential print, maps, and photographs.

## VALUE OF THE ARCHIVE

### Making these documents available for research and teaching is important for many reasons:

- Provides a record of Britain's administration and governance of these countries
- The documents are often the only record of people and events in the countries concerned
- They illustrate Britain's attitude to, and actions regarding, these countries, their rulers and their peoples
- They record the international relations of the region across the period, and the reasoning behind decisions taken
- They document the changing demographics and daily life of the local inhabitants
- Finally, the evolution and development of the countries today, their alliances and manner of conduct are greatly influenced by their colonial history

This collection offers researchers and students multiple subjects and angles for new research topics. Whether users benefit from the country limiters and searchable printed, typed or hand-written documents or browse through individual files and volumes, some of these documents will be read for the first time since release into the public domain, and all will be viewed with fresh eyes and new perspectives.

The earliest documents are the British Government's correspondence with the East India Company about trade in Asia, rivalry with the Dutch, the Opium trade, and the first British embassy to China of 1793 to 1794. Later documents, many formerly confidential, cover the development of trade and administration of the Far East territories. Subjects include control of opium trafficking, rubber production, Kuomintang activities, military administration after WWII, reconstruction in the Far Eastern colonies (Borneo, Hong Kong and Malaya), constitutional reform of Hong Kong, and the effect of closure of British firms in China.

## MANUSCRIPT SERIES IN PART I

Original correspondence, telegrams and reports, and registers of incoming or out-going letters from the following departments:

- **CO 77, 1570-1856:** *East Indies*
- **CO 825 and CO 872, 1927-51:** *Eastern Department*
- **CO 865 and CO 975, 1942-45:** *Far Eastern Reconstruction*
- **CO 882, 1843-1952:** *Confidential Print Eastern*
- **CO 537, 1878-1952:** *Confidential Original Correspondence*
- **CO 1030, 1941-1967:** *Far Eastern department*
- **CO 1022, 1950-56:** *Southeast Asia department*
- **CO 1023, 1946-55:** *Hong Kong and Pacific Department*
- **CO 403 and 489 1843-1872:** *Hong Kong*
- **CO 521, CO 770, CO 771, and 873: 1898-1933:** *Wei-Hai-Wei*
- **CO 700, 1047, and 1054:** *Maps*
- **CO 1069:** *Colonial Office Photographs*

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