

# The Chinese Civil War and U.S.-China Relations: Records of the U.S. State Department's Office of Chinese Affairs, 1945-1955



## Archives Unbound

**Archives Unbound** answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

*The Chinese Civil War and U.S. - China Relations* provides comprehensive and authoritative documentation examining the political background of the civil war, the failed efforts of American mediation, and the ramifications of Communist victory.



After World War II ended in 1945, the political situation on the Chinese mainland disintegrated into open civil war between the Republic of China (ROC) and the Communist Party of China (CPC). The Nationalist cause went steadily downhill until 1949, when the Communists emerged victorious and drove the Nationalists from the Chinese mainland onto Taiwan and other islands. The new Communist government was hostile to this official American presence, and all U.S. personnel were withdrawn from mainland China in early 1950.

From diplomatic listening posts in Hong Kong, Taipei, and Tokyo, the U.S. was able to maintain surveillance on Communist China. This collection includes the records communicated to the U.S. State Department by diplomatic personnel at first on mainland China and later from these diplomatic posts; all collected and collated by the Office of Chinese Affairs.

The U.S. State Department's Office of Chinese Affairs, charged with operational control of American policy toward China, amassed information on virtually all aspects of life there immediately before, during, and after the revolution. Recently declassified by the State Department, the Records of the Office of Chinese Affairs, 1945-1955, provide valuable insight into numerous domestic issues in Communist and Nationalist China, U.S. containment policy as it was extended to Asia, and Sino-American relations during the post-war period.

The documents in this collection are organized chronologically under three major categories. The Political Files relate primarily to political conditions in Communist China and Taiwan, including statements on U.S. policy toward the new regime, the internal structure of the Communist government, and U.S. military aid to Nationalist China. The Economic Files contain weekly and monthly summaries of economic conditions and reports on the Economic Cooperation Administration programs in China and Taiwan. Finally, the Top Secret Files cover both Communist and Nationalist China with reports, correspondence, and intelligence pertaining to U.S. policy, UN sanctions against Communist China, Sino-Japanese bilateral treaty negotiations, and Soviet policy toward the Chinese Communist regime.

**Coverage:** 1945-1955

**Size:** 46,492 pages

**Source Library:** U.S. National Archives