

Archives Unbound:

Foreign Relations between Latin America and the Caribbean States, 1930–1944



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.

Foreign Relations between Latin America and the Caribbean States, 1930–1944

Organized by country, this collection covers a wide range of viewpoints on political, social and economic issues. It sheds light on the foreign relations interactions between Central American and South American countries — with coverage of the Caribbean, Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Users will find memoranda, cables, correspondence, reports and analyzes, and treaties. An intuitive platform makes it all cross-searchable by subject or collection.

Sourced from the U.S. National Archives and covering the years 1930-1944, this collection provides unique perspectives for the study of Latin American and Caribbean international relations. The collection offers:

- Country-by-country analyses utilizing the State Department's decimal system to organize the voluminous correspondence and reporting on a variety of diverse topics, events and people
- Documentation and detail on the evolution of Latin American foreign policies, the significance of inter-American cooperation in time of war and the rise of totalitarian regimes

This collection consists of materials pertaining to political relations of states, including diplomatic and consular representation and bilateral treaties, conventions and agreements for the following countries/regions: Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, Central America, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and the West Indian Republics.

Documents in this collection span the period 1930 through 1944, focusing heavily on various events, people and political movements, including:

- The rise of Fascism and Falangism
- The effects of the worldwide depression
- Mexican oil and nationalization
- Central America and the “banana republics”
- FDR's Good Neighbor Policy
- Fascism and Falangism

Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection

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The rise of Fascism and Falangism in Latin American countries during the 1930s was due in large part to the success of the Franco revolution in Spain and Italian fascist propaganda. In particular, Getúlio Vargas of Brazil was a staunch supporter of the fascist movement and imitated the Italian government's Fascist program. The trend toward these political movements was due in large part to an increase in authoritarianism, nationalism, conservatism, and to a lesser extent a rise in a politicized Catholicism, which rulers like Vargas played on through propaganda.

Chaco War

The Chaco War (1932–1935) was fought between Bolivia and Paraguay over control of the northern part of the Gran Chaco region (the Chaco Boreal) of South America, which was incorrectly thought to be rich in oil. It was the bloodiest international conflict fought in the Americas during the 20th Century.

Central America and the American businessman

This collection provides unique opportunities for the study of Central American perceptions of American “economic imperialist” activities. The collection highlights the development of national politics, integration into the world economy, effects of foreign investment and political control exercised by various American businesses, in several Central American countries.

Good Neighbor Policy

Americanism in the region began to manifest itself in the form of ultra-nationalist and protectionist measures by Latin American governments. With the gathering war clouds in Europe and Asia, President Roosevelt instituted a dramatic shift in American relations with Latin America. No longer would armed intervention be used to support American foreign policy goals, businesses and/or to prop-up pro-American governments. The Good Neighbor Policy was more or less intended to garner Latin American support for a global American policy. Giving up unpopular military intervention, the United States shifted to other methods to maintain its influence in Latin America: Pan-Americanism, support for strong local leaders, the training of national guards, economic and cultural penetration, Export-Import Bank loans, financial supervision and political subversion.

This collection includes Class 700 (matters pertaining to political relations of states, including diplomatic and consular representation and bilateral treaties, conventions and agreements) materials for the following countries/regions: Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, Central America, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and the West Indian Republics. Colonial possessions in South America and the Caribbean are not included in this publication, but in the records of the home country.

State Department Decimal Filing System

From 1910 to 1963 the State Department used a decimal filing system to organize its Central Files — its correspondence and reporting repository — in which documents were assembled and arranged according to their subject, with each subject having a specific decimal code.

This collection includes Class 700 materials for the following countries/regions: Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, Central America, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and the West Indian Republics.