

U.S. Foreign Policy

GENERAL RESOURCES

Databases

Lexis-Nexis – good for newspaper coverage, both national & international, and a wide range of legal information, including treaties

- Choose “**News**” tab
- Choose “**Sources**” from drop down menu
Note selected TV & Radio program transcripts are available. To see coverage dates, check the box beside the name and then click on the “i” (information) button.

For example, transcripts from *Al-Jazeera* were available from 01-01-2002 through 06-30-2003 but are no longer updated.

The *New York Times* is available, full-text, from June 1, 1980 to the present. This is similar to the free content that is offered by the newspaper at its online version. See a Reference Librarian if an article from an earlier date is needed. Chances are that it can be obtained at no charge, other than the printing.

(L-N – abstracts 1969-May 31, 1980; online newspaper – 1851-present but \$)

- Always choose from “**Specify Date**” drop down menu; the default in this part of the database is the most recent 3 months.
- “**Legal**” tab

Source for *U.S. Treaties in Force*; read “i” for full description

See also: <http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/treaties/2007/index.htm> for a complete listing

The document *Search Strategies: Researching Treaties and Other International Agreements*, <http://www.llrx.com/node/1222/print>, provides useful background information

The Treaties Help page, <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties/trhelp.htm>, and The Treaties Search page,

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/treaties/treaties.html>, both from the Library of Congress.

Westlaw Campus Research – coverage is similar to Lexis-Nexis but different in details. Categories are New & Business and Law

ProQuest Research Library – a good place to start with most research; “one of the broadest, most inclusive databases” available from the Mount Aloysius College Library’s database listing

History Reference Center – offers “full text from more than 1,000 reference books, encyclopedias and non-fiction books, cover to cover full text for 60 history magazines, 58,000 **historical documents**, 43,000 biographies of historical figures, more than 12,000 historical photos and maps, and more than 80 hours of historical video”

CQ Researcher – a good database for obtaining an overview and background information on current issue topics. Provides in-depth analysis about the most current and controversial issues of the day. Contains full text articles on social, political, economic, and international issues.

Statesman's Yearbook Online – contains information and analysis on every country in the world, including politics, population, economics, trade, industry, climate, natural resources, education, legal systems, culture, health, international affairs, and biographical profiles of all current leaders.

SUGGESTED INDIVIDUAL TITLES (Available in Mount Aloysius College Library)

This is not an exclusive list but instead the names of several specific resources that the instructor for this course has recommended. Use **Journal Finder** to determine coverage and location.

Christian Science Monitor – from 01/02/1980 to present in LexisNexis Academic;

Current two months available in hard copy at Library Circulation Desk

Vital Speeches of the Day – from 10/08/1934 to present in History Reference Center

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents – from 01/06/1992 to present in ProQuest Research Library

Also available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/index.html> from 1993-

See also

Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/pubpapers/index.html>

and

The Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents, begun 01/20/2009

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/presdocs/index.html>

The American Presidency Project

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws>

INTERNET RESOURCES

Primary Documents of Foreign Policy

At Cold War's End: US Intelligence on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, 1989-1991

Declassified CIA documents from 1989-1991 incorporate a 1999 study of the period from 1989-1991, which signaled the end of the Cold War. The foreword and preface of this long document explain the project and its expectations. Also includes a chronology of events and an overview of the historical events. From The Center for the Study of Intelligence (CSI) of the CIA and the George W. Bush Center for Presidential Studies at Texas A&M University.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/books-and-monographs/at-cold-wars-end-us-intelligence-on-the-soviet-union-and-eastern-europe-1989-1991/art-1.html#rtoc1>
(**OR** Google – “At Cold War’s End”)

The Avalon Project at Yale Law School: A Decade of American Foreign Policy: Basic Documents 1941-1949

A collection of documents relating to American World War II and related peacetime foreign relations. Includes documents such as those arising from the Yalta (Crimea) and the Berlin (Potsdam) Conferences, United Nations materials, the Inter-American system, the North Atlantic Treaty, and other areas of interest to the U.S. (atomic energy, Palestine, arms reduction). From the Lillian Goldman Law Library in Memory of Sol Goldman at Yale Law School.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/decade.asp

The Avalon Project at Yale Law School: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy

The Avalon Project will mount digital documents relevant to the fields of Law, History, Economics, Politics, Diplomacy and Government. We do not intend to mount only static text but rather to add value to the text by linking to supporting documents expressly referred to in the body of the text. The Avalon Project will no doubt contain controversial documents. Their inclusion does not indicate endorsement of their contents nor sympathy with the ideology, doctrines, or means employed by their authors. They are included for the sake of completeness and balance and because in many cases they are by our definition a supporting document.

- Review documents from list by [Century](#) or view the “Document Collections”
<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp>

Cold War International History Project (CWIHP)

This site houses a large collection of historical materials and ongoing discussions by governments and scholars on all sides of the Cold War. Established by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1409&fuseaction=topics.intro

Foreign Relations Series

The *Foreign Relations of the United States* series presents the official documentary historical record of major U.S. foreign policy decisions and significant diplomatic activity. The series, which is produced by the State Department's Office of the Historian, began in 1861 and now comprises more than 350 individual volumes. The volumes published over the last two decades increasingly contain declassified records from all the foreign affairs agencies. Volumes available online can be found at

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/c1716.htm>

International Relations Resources

A directory of news, documents, academic law and other sites pertaining to international affairs, maintained by the Edward Ginn Library for the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Check out the link for “Documents and Treaties”.

http://fletcher.tufts.edu/inter_resources/Default.htm

The National Security Archive

An independent non-governmental research institute and library located at The George Washington University, the Archive collects and publishes declassified documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. The Archive also serves as a repository of government records on a wide range of topics pertaining to the national security, foreign, intelligence, and economic policies of the United States. The Archive won the 1999 George Polk Award, one of U.S. journalism's most prestigious prizes, for--in the words of the citation--"piercing the self-serving veils of government secrecy, guiding journalists in the search for the truth and informing us all."

<http://www2.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv>

United Nations

A range of primary documents can be found under the “Documents”, “Publications” and “Databases” tabs. Use selectively as not all are related to U.S. Foreign Policy issues.

<http://un.org/english>

Miscellaneous – Selected Links to Other Resources

The sites listed below may contain primary documents but they are generally organizational sites with secondary sources related to U.S. Foreign Policy and Foreign Affairs. One, “American Foreign Policy”, is a directory of annotated links to other sites of interest. This list is by no means comprehensive.

American Foreign Policy

This site is essentially a directory of links to a wide range of organizations, publications, policy statements, etc. on the topic of U.S. Foreign Policy. Some of the links may be listed elsewhere on this resource.

<http://www2.etown.edu/vl/amforpol.html>

The Brookings Institution

Oldest think tank in the U.S., founded in 1916, "devoted to independent research and innovative policy solutions" covering economics, governmental studies, foreign policy, and the social sciences generally. The website features news, events, and transcripts relating to research topics, as well as full-text reports, articles, testimony, opinion pieces, and speeches and interviews.

<http://www.brookings.edu>

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Site of "a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing cooperation between nations and promoting active international engagement by the United States." Includes articles, editorials, commentary, press releases; and information on the organization's programs, publications, and events. Searchable, and browsable by region, and topic (human rights, international economics, non-proliferation, **U.S. foreign policy**, and more).

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org>

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)

This organization, founded in 1921, "is dedicated to producing and disseminating ideas [to help] policymakers, journalists, students, and citizens understand foreign policy choices facing the United States and other governments." The site features publications organized by region or issue (such as homeland security, human rights, environment, and terrorism), background on specific topics (such as on foreign ownership of U.S. infrastructure), and **links to primary source documents** and to related sites.

<http://www.cfr.org>

Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI)

FPRI researches "pressing issues — the war on terrorism, developments in the Middle East, nuclear proliferation in South Asia, relations with China, Russia, and Japan — and long-term questions, such as the roles of religion and ethnicity in international politics." This site features articles, transcripts, audio and video clips, and publications from FPRI. Articles are browsable by subject, author, date, or title. Not searchable.

<http://www.fpri.org>

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Website for "the principal U.S. agency to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms." Features background information and history of the agency, profiles of USAID program areas (by subject and geographic area), policy reports, annual reports, and other documents about U.S. foreign aid.

<http://www.usaid.gov>

U.S. Department of State

This official site offers information reflecting the diverse activities of the U.S. Department of State. There is information on traveling and living abroad, international issues, business, and the department's educational and cultural programs. There are also press releases, recent news, background material on countries and regions, help with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and more.

<http://www.state.gov>

U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The jurisdictional reach of this committee touches on a diverse list of issues, from the broadly described "relations with foreign governments generally" to acquiring land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries.

<http://foreignaffairs.house.gov>

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

This committee is responsible for overseeing the foreign policy agencies of the U.S. government, including the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Peace Corps. The Committee reviews and considers all diplomatic nominations and international treaties, as well as legislation relating to U.S. foreign policy.

<http://foreign.senate.gov>

A Special Category – Congressional Research Service

Open CRS – Congressional Research Reports for the People

American taxpayers spend over \$100 million a year to fund the Congressional Research Service, a "think tank" that provides reports to members of Congress on a variety of topics relevant to current political events. Yet, these reports are not made available to the public in a way that they can be easily obtained. A project of the Center for Democracy & Technology through the cooperation of several organizations and collectors of CRS Reports, Open CRS provides citizens access to CRS Reports already in the public domain and encourages Congress to provide public access to all CRS Reports.

<http://www.openers.com>

zFacts.com, Congressional Research Service

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is the policy research arm of the US Congress. With its \$80 million budget and 800 employees, it issues about 3,000 briefs, reports, short issue papers and longer position papers per year.

An arm of the Library of Congress, the Congressional Research Service is renowned for its non-partisanship and in-depth analysis, but it does not make its reports available to the public. However, it cannot prevent members of Congress from giving them out individually and some government agencies from posting reports they find relevant. Perhaps 1000 have become available on the web.

zFacts provides a specialized Google Search Engine at

<http://zfacts.com/p/576.html>