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Spain and Portugal, 1837–1974: British Foreign Office Confidential Print falls under the broad themes of "International Relations", "Politics and Social Movements", and "War, Security, and Intelligence". You can explore related collections, such as *Germany 1920–1969: British Foreign Office Confidential Print*; *International Organisations, 1923–1969: British Foreign Office Confidential Print*; and *Italy, 1832–1969: British Foreign Office Confidential Print*, by scanning the QR codes.

Germany, 1920–1969

International Organisations, 1923–1969

Italy, 1832–1969



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Spain and Portugal, 1837–1974: British Foreign Office Confidential Print

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Britain's relationships with Spain and Portugal have been among its closest, and most complicated, ties to the European continent for hundreds of years. **Imperial rivalry persisted into the nineteenth century and colours the earlier documents within this collection**. Yet there was also widespread economic co-operation and a spirit of friendship with roots in the Napoleonic Wars. **Later, in the first half of the twentieth century, Britain's interest in Spain hinged on its volatile politics—the swings from extremes of right and left which characterised the interwar years, culminating in the Spanish Civil War and the rise of Francisco Franco as dictator**. Throughout that conflict, Britain was forced to balance its desire to shore up democracy and roll back fascism, with its commitment to appeasement and unwillingness to be drawn into a messy ideological struggle. **During this period, Portugal also became a right-wing dictatorship under António de Oliveira Salazar and his Estado Novo movement**. After 1945, both regimes were reimagined as a sturdy bulwark against communism and Spain, Portugal, and Britain were allies once more, albeit uneasy ones.

This collection comprises 84 items, including diplomatic correspondence and reports, amounting to over 27,000 pages. This material is principally correspondence and reports, sent between British diplomats and envoys in Spain and Portugal, and civil servants in the Foreign Office in London. **It offers unrivalled insights into the numerous changes and reconfigurations which the Iberian countries experienced during this period**.

Topics which are covered in particular depth are the nineteenth-century imperial tensions experienced around territories such as Cuba and Gibraltar; the development of normalised economic and trade arrangements between Britain, Spain, and Portugal; Britain's controversial policy of non-intervention during the Spanish Civil War; and the management of complex relationships between Britain and the two right-wing regimes in the years after the Second World War.

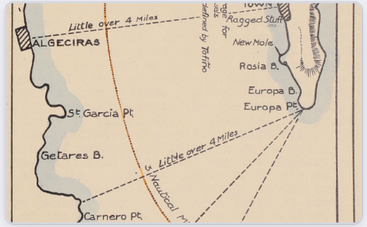
This collection will be of interest to historians of Spain and Portugal. **It will also prove valuable to students, educators, and researchers interested in political thought and diplomacy, as well as in key historical themes, such as empire, totalitarianism, and war**. It will likewise appeal to those situated within the fields of economics, international relations, and political science.

> *"Our immediate interest is to keep the Germans out of the Peninsula, and our future interest to have a Spain that is not dominated by our enemies. Provided that these two points are firmly maintained, we can, I suggest, look dispassionately at the marches and counter-marches of the Spanish leaders."*

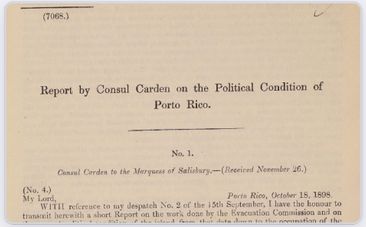
Sir S. Hoare to Mr. Eden, 22 February 1943, FO 498/40: Miscellaneous Papers, 1895–1973, image 508.



The Spanish Civil War was a critical moment in the divided diplomatic landscape of the 1930s. Beginning in 1936, right-wing military officers, led by General Francisco Franco, staged a coup against Spain's democratically elected left-wing government. Fearing the conflict could escalate into a wider European or global war, Britain and France promoted an international policy of non-intervention. Twenty-eight countries signed the Spanish Civil War Non-Intervention Agreement, which aimed to prevent foreign military involvement in the conflict.



Gibraltar commands the narrow straits separating the Mediterranean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean. Held by Britain since 1713, control of Gibraltar has long proved a contentious issue in Anglo-Spanish relations.


(7068.)

Report by Consul Carden on the Political Condition of Porto Rico.

No. 1.

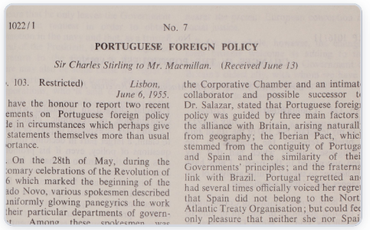
Consul Carden to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord, *Puerto Rico, October 18, 1898.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 15th September, I have the honour to transmit herewith a short Report on the work done by the Evacuation Commission and on

The Spanish-American War of 1898 marked the decline of Spain's global empire and America's emergence as a world power. British officials monitored the conflict, including fighting and political developments in Puerto Rico.


1022/1

No. 7

PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY

Sir Charles Stirling to Mr. Macmillan. (Received June 13)

103. Restricted) *Lisbon, June 6, 1955.*

have the honour to report two recent ements on Portuguese foreign policy le in circumstances which perhaps give statements themselves more than usual ortance.

On the 28th of May, during the omary celebrations of the Revolution of 6 which marked the beginning of the ado Novo, various spokesmen described niformly glowing panegyrics the work heir particular departments of govern-

the Corporative Chamber and an intimat collaborator and possible successor t Dr. Salazar, stated that Portuguese foreig policy was guided by three main factors the alliance with Britain, arising naturall from geography; the Iberian Pact, whic stemmed from the contiguity of Portuga and Spain and the similarity of thei Governments' principles; and the fraterna link with Brazil. Portugal regretted an had several times officially voiced her regre that Spain did not belong to the Nort Atlantic Treaty Organisation; but could fe only pleasure that neither she nor Spai

The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, signed in 1373, remains the world's oldest surviving alliance. As this source shows, in 1955, Portugal's Estado Novo described the alliance as the "keystone" of their country's foreign policy.



The collection tracks political developments across the Iberian peninsula. Concluding in 1974, it surveys the final years of Portugal's Estado Novo regime and almost the entire period of Franco's rule in Spain.

Spain and Portugal had been major players in the first great wave of European imperialism, responsible for colonising vast swathes of the Americas, as well as substantial parts of Africa and Asia. By the nineteenth century, they had been surpassed in their imperial might by Britain and France, but they still remained major players at a global level. Spain governed Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines until the Spanish-American War of 1898, while Portugal maintained colonies in Angola, Mozambique, and Goa, among others, into the 1960s and 1970s.

The Confidential Print series offers some of the most fascinating British Foreign Office material. It is of extremely high value to scholars and students situated within a range of academic fields. Significantly, these files represent the reports and correspondence which the Foreign Office deemed most important to preserve for posterity. In many cases, the material is clearly printed and organised chronologically, often in volumes which feature detailed contents pages, making it simple to navigate.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Sources include: The National Archives (UK).