

# THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The American Civil War: The International Context demonstrates the involvement of European nations in the American Civil War, including their internal discussions, reactions to approaches from Unionists and Confederates, the challenges and advantages the American conflict brought, and its impact on politics and society.

Selection of imagery from The American Civil War: The International Context



## QUICK FACTS

**SOURCES:** The National Archives, UK; British Library; Library of Congress; Archives Centre, National Museums Liverpool, UK; Somerset Archives, UK; and more

**SIZE:** Approximately 460,000 pages

**DATE RANGE:** 1860–1875

**CONTENT TYPES:** Correspondence, newspapers, commercial and trade papers, manuscripts and personal papers, legal briefs

## ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The American Civil War is increasingly considered a major nineteenth century event not just in American history but also in global politics, with ramifications for the future of slavery and ideas of popular, democratic government. Both Unionists and Confederates conducted separate but parallel diplomatic negotiations and trade arrangements with European nations, particularly Britain and France, while the choices Europe made had an impact on the war and subsequent international dynamics.

## VALUE OF THE ARCHIVE

**Multiple Perspectives:** The diplomatic correspondence regarding the American Civil War is complemented by papers of cotton merchants and shipbuilders, papers of pro-Union and pro-Confederate societies, letters home from Europeans who enlisted in the war, and legal documents relating to compensation after the war's end.

**Topical Relevance:** While the American Civil War is a fundamental topic of every university course on American history, lecturers are increasingly looking to teach the war in its transnational context. This archive provides the primary source insights needed to analyse the war from an international perspective.

## COLLECTIONS INCLUDED

### The National Archives, UK

- Records from the Foreign Office: Political and Other Departments: General Correspondence before 1906, United States of America, Series II
- Records from the Foreign Office: Embassy and Consulates
- United States of America: General Correspondence
- Admiralty and Ministry of Defence, various departments
- Lord John Russell Papers
- Home Office, Registered Papers

### British Library

- *The London American*, 1860–1863
- *The Index. A Weekly Journal of Politics ... Devoted to the exposition of mutual interests, political and commercial of Great Britain and the Confederate State of America*, 1862–1865

### Library of Congress

- Henry Hotze Papers, 1861–1865

### Archives Centre, National Museums Liverpool

- Fraser, Trenholm & Co. Papers, 1860–1877
- Bryson Collection, Cobham Family Records, 1862–1865
- George Busk Crow Letters, 1861–1864

### Somerset Archives, UK

- The Queen's Proclamation of Neutrality, 1861

### Nationaal Archief Nederland

- Records from Het archief van het Nederlandse Gezantschap in de Verenigde Staten van Amerika, 1814-1940 (The Archives of the Dutch Legation in the United States of America, 1814-1940)
- Records from Het archief van het Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, 1813-1894 (The archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1813-1894)

### Rigsarkivet, Danmark

- Koloniernes Centralbestyrelse (Central Directorate for the Colonies)
- Koloniernes Centralbestyrelse, Regnskab, Vestindien (Central Directorate for the Colonies, Accounts, West Indies)
- Udenrigsministeriet (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

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