

Decolonization:

Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

Crucial to research related to processes and movements of decolonization are the voices of local players who helped forge their country's new direction. In this collection of firsthand perspectives, researchers can explore decolonization as a historical process in which over 70 countries and territories emerged from colonial or imperial structures into independence.



BRING THE VOICES OF FORMERLY COLONIZED AND COMMONWEALTH PEOPLES TO THE FOREFRONT OF HISTORY

Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories presents political ephemera and organizational material produced in over 70 previously colonized countries and territories during the twentieth century. Largely eschewing the accounts of colonizers, this wide-ranging collection helps researchers explore decolonization as a historical process sparked from within, specifically the changing or adapting of systems from an imposed imperial or colonial structure after 1945 and up to the present day.

The archive sheds light on national political developments that followed decolonization and how former colonies negotiated their own agency and futures. Researchers can draw comparisons between different political movements within newly independent countries, as well as Commonwealth territories including Australia and Canada, discovering how and why self-rule developed differently in each region.

ARCHIVE SNAPSHOT

Approximate Size
250,000 pages

Date Range
1898 to 2017
(primarily mid-twentieth century)

Key Source Libraries
Senate House, United Kingdom; Trade Union Congress Library, London Metropolitan University; Nuffield College, University of Oxford

VALUE OF THE COLLECTION:

- **Relevance to Academic Trends:** Responds to increased interest in once-neglected areas of academia, such as African history and politics, as well as the history and politics of former colonies beyond colonialism.
- **Greater Perspectives and Representation:** Provides an opportunity for less Eurocentric readings of decolonization through access to non-Western primary source material, including diverse and Indigenous voices.
- **Supports Cross-Disciplinary Studies:** Relevant to faculty and researchers within area studies, anthropology, history, international relations, political science, transnational studies, and sociology departments.
- **Broad Regional Focus:** Illuminates a wide geographical reach across 70 countries and territories, making the collection a touchstone for establishing comparative arguments.

OPTIMIZED FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

Explore new research pathways and tell visual stories with historical data using *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*. This cloud-based environment removes barriers to digital scholarship and enables researchers of all levels to quickly build, analyze, and visualize data mined from primary sources, including *Decolonization*.

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