Victoria, Queen of Great Britain. The Papers of Queen Victoria on Foreign Affairs: Files from the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle. Edited by Kenneth Bourne. Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, c1990-.

COVERAGE This collection, reproduced from the Royal Archives, reflect Queen Victoria's active role in foreign affairs. It includes the principal papers of state forwarded to the Queen, her related correspondence with her ministers, and correspondence with other sovereigns and members of families. Also included are reports and memoranda that were attached to correspondence for the Queen's information. These documents contain statistics, eyewitness accounts and intelligence reports from foreign office officials stationed throughout the continent. In addition, it contains extracts or abstracts of many papers of state submitted to the Queen in order to bring specific information to her attention.

The papers of Queen Victoria are in six parts.


The papers reflect the Queen's active role in influencing British foreign policy. Included is correspondence with her ministers and with the tsars of Russia along with state documents and reports from embassies abroad. These files cover such themes as the succession of Tsar Alexander II; the emancipation edict of 1861; the second Polish revolution, 1863-1864; Russian expansionism, 1860-1900; the London Conference of 1871; the Alliance of the Three Emperors, 1881; the Franco-Russian Alliance of 1893; and the First Hague Peace Conference (1899).

Part 2. Germany and Central Europe, 1841-1900.

Included is correspondence between the Queen and her ministers and with heads of German and Austrian states along with state documents and reports from embassies abroad. Topics covered in this part are: the question of constitutional reform in Germany, 1840-1847; the revolutions of 1848; the Frankfurt Parliament and constitution, 1848-1849; the Schleswig-Holstein question, 1851-1853 and 1863-1865; the Seven-Weeks War with Austria, 1866; the founding of the North German Confederation and the German Empire; the Franco-Prussian War; the Berlin Congress, 1878; trade protection issues, 1879-1900; and the Kruger telegram incident.

Part 3. Italy, 1847-1900.

These papers reflect the Queen's active role in influencing foreign affairs. Included is correspondence with her ministers and with heads of the Austrian and Italian states along with state documents and reports from embassies abroad.

Topics covered in this collection are: Austrian efforts to gain British support in Northern Italy, 1848; the campaigns of Giuseppe Giribaldi, 1860-1861; proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy under Victor Emmanuel, 1861; and the Triple Alliance, 1882-1900.
Part 4. Portugal and Spain, 1841-1900.

This section covers the Queen and her Prince Consort involvement starting in 1841 in the debates on the choice of husbands for Spain's Queen Isabela and Infanta Dona Luisa Fernanda, the crisis that beset the Spanish monarchs that included the expulsion of Isabela in 1868 and the establishment of a short-lived republic, the restoration of Isabela's son as Alfonso XII, and the Carlist War of 1837-1876.

It includes documents on British neutrality in the Spanish-American war.

The Portuguese material contains extensive correspondence on the civil war, 1846-1848, the Saldanha coup of spring 1851. Correspondence between Prince Albert and his young cousin King Pedro V begins in 1854 and ends with Pedro's death in 1861.

Part 5. France and Belgium, 1848-1900.

This section includes documents on the June insurrection 1848; the establishment of the Second Republic and the presidential election of Louis Napoleon, 1848; the coup d'etat and establishment of the second empire, 1851-1852; the Anglo-French commercial treaty, 1860; Napoleon III's efforts to secure economic control over Belgium, 1867-1870; and the Paris Commune, 1871.


Some of the topics covered in this section are: the Don Pacifico affair and Palmerstonian "gunboat diplomacy", 1850; the Greek assembly proclamation designating Prince Alfred as King of Greece; the British government's rejection of the proclamation; and the choice of the Danish prince as George I, 1863.

ACCESS Each section has a printed guide. Consult the guides listed below. They contain an index by author, recipient, date and reel numbers. In addition, it has a name index of correspondents. Give call number, title of the collection and the reel number.


