Finding Primary Sources

Primary Source – a definition

- Was created during the time period being studied
- Creator has first hand knowledge of the events being described
- Can be a document, photograph, painting, picture, recording...

Secondary Source – a definition

- Comments on, builds upon or cites a primary source
- Hindsight
Finding Primary Sources

To find primary documents, combine your topic with keywords such as:

- sources
- diaries
- personal narratives
- memoirs
- correspondence
- speeches
- treaties
- sermons
- songs
- cartoons
- papers
- photography
- letters
• If your topic is a person, then do an AUTHOR search.

• Use the DATE RANGE filter in JSTOR to find works published during World War II.
• Indexes articles from over 20 major U.S. newspapers, most back to the 1800’s.

• Use the “Date Range” filter to find newspaper articles written during the war.
Use the Advanced Search in Google Books

Choose Full View Only

Limit Publication Date to get only works published during the time period you’re researching
THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF WAR

BREAKING JAPANESE CODE BEFORE PEARL HARBOR WAS CLIMAX OF AN UNECESSARY AND UNKNOWN BATTLE

by FRANCIS SILL WICKWARE

One of the most exotic melodramas of the century might be entitled "The Great Code Mystery" or, "How Much Did We Know about the Japs?" According to the celebrated letter which General Marshall sent to Governor Dewey during the 1944 presidential campaign, we somehow had broken the top Japanese diplomatic code some time before Pearl Harbor. It is also clear that in some manner the U.S. Navy obtained the Japanese codes (as distinguished from diplomatic codes) afterward during the war and was informed about important Japanese moves and maneuverings.

Tantalizing rumors have been circulating. It is said, for example, that we obtained the Jap codes from a member of the Imperial Diet who actually was a secret U.S. agent. This individual, according to the story, was first told the codes and then sentenced to death and then spirited away beyond the reach of assassins. Another rumor is that possession of the codes not only determined the whole course of the Pacific war but had a very important bearing on the German war as well.

Several months ago President Truman issued a directive prohibiting any official discussion whatever about codes, without White House sanction. There is also pending in Congress a bill known as S-95, which provides a fine of $20,000 and/or ten years' imprisonment for anyone divulging code information or even information about messages "purporting to be in code." However, while the full truth about the Great Code Mystery may never be told, it is possible to say a good deal about codes without violating national security. The subject is an old one. It goes back at least to the Fifth Century B.C., when a Greek named Histiaeotus shaved the head of a slave, tattooed a secret message on his scalp, waited until the hair grew back, and then sent him forth as a diplomatic courier.

Every major government maintains a "black chamber," ceaselessly decoding communications of other governments—friendly or not—in peace as in war. The headquarters of these code-reconnaissance groups are as inaccessible as Mr. Everest. The code department of the U.S. State Department

In the last war, vital cryptographic work was left to a comparative handful of advanced mathematicians, professors of dead languages, and assorted savants, whose composite information had to equal that of a generously endowed library. The possibilities of cryptography are almost limitless. In the last war U.S. Indians from various tribes were employed in communications on the theory that if they spoke back and forth no one could understand them. They indeed proved so troublesome that after the war numerous German "students" and "professors" came to the U.S. to study Indian languages and are supposed to have compiled the best Indian dictionaries in existence. However, it appears that the Navajo dialect is so difficult that there are said to be only 18 non-Naivas in the world who know anything about it. A recent issue of the Marine Corps Gazette mentioned the use of Navajo in the Pacific campaigns. There are scores of obscure Chinese, Siberian and Asiatic-Indian dia-
Use the **Location Code** in Encore to limit your search to US Documents

- **US Documents are shelved in the ODY Lower Level by their Superintendent of Documents Number**
Government Information

The following websites will lead you to information sources published by governments and related agencies.

- United States of America
- U.S. States
- New York
- Canada
Foreign Relations of the United States

http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/

- Choose pre-Kennedy Administration for World War II materials

229. Foreign Relations of the United States, 1945-1950. Emergence of the Intelligence Establishment

- Then choose the time period you’re researching

Published by the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Historian.
- Covers U.S. foreign policy decisions and diplomatic activity since 1861.
Thanks for attending!
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