

THE	
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES	

Quick Facts

Source Library: The National Archives, UK

Size: Approximately 340,000 pages

Content Types: Government documents, correspondence and transcriptions, manuscripts

Date Range: 1868–1905

Available: March 2027

Newly Digitized Materials: 100% new scanning from original documents

Disciplines Supported: European history, political history, politics, international relations, imperialism, Russian and Eastern European studies

Complementary Gale Archives:

- *Nineteenth Century Collections Online*, particularly *British Politics and Society*
- *State Papers Online: Nineteenth Century: The State Papers of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII*

Usage Highlights:

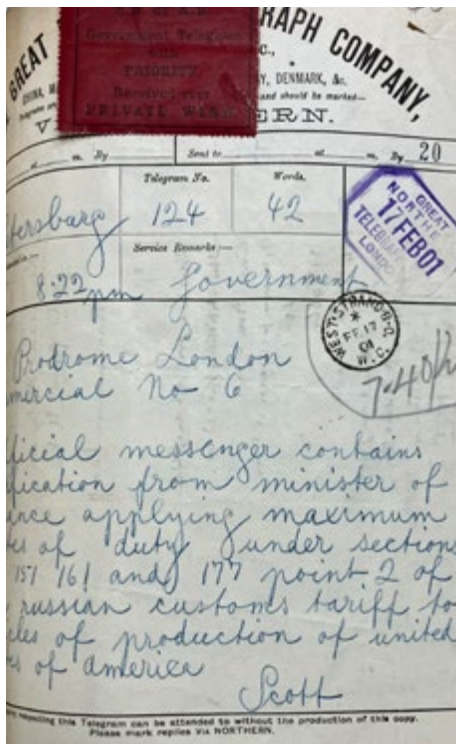
- Discover text that includes handwriting at all search levels (basic, advanced, and document level) with Gale's handwritten text recognition (HTR) technology
- Mine this content within *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*
- Enhance student instruction with the Learning Center
- Get better results with recent improvements to navigation and the document viewer in *Gale Primary Sources*
- Cross-search content from other *Gale Primary Sources* archives
- As an alternative to searching, browse content at the collection level, arranged by Russian monarch

Nineteenth Century Collections Online: Great Britain and the Russian Empire, 1868–1905



Examine One of the Most Consequential Relationships in Modern History

Covering the period shortly following the Alaska Purchase through to the first Russian Revolution, this monumental collection spans nearly 40 years of Russia's accelerating industrialization, political upheaval, and imperial expansion from the unblinking perspective of Britain's diplomatic machine. Gale's broadly adopted series, *Nineteenth Century Collections Online* (NCCO), presents its first new collection in nine years, documenting defining events, from the conclusion of the Great Game and the assassination of Alexander II to the social and political unrest that marked the turn of the twentieth century. It also captures Britain's evolving assessments across a vast geographic landscape, including present-day Ukraine, Georgia, Poland, and Finland. The decentralized, day-by-day reporting reconstructs the full sweep of Anglo-Russian diplomacy across Eurasia, rooted in NCCO's exhaustive coverage of this transformative century, and echoing in current events.



How It Enhances Research

The first of a two-part release and drawn from The National Archives in the UK, this monumental entry in the *Gale Primary Sources* program reintroduces one of Gale's flagship series, *Nineteenth Century Collections Online*, to scholars, providing access to dispatches between the British Foreign Office and its ambassadors and consuls across the Russian Empire during a transformative period in global politics that resonates with current events. Covering nearly four decades, these records illuminate Britain's strategies, territorial concerns and conflicts, and responses to pivotal events in Russia during a period of tense imperial rivalry marked by Russia's industrialization, political violence, heightened nationalism, and the stirrings of revolution.

At its core are daily on the ground reports whose decentralized views help scholars reconstruct how Anglo-Russian relations shaped—and were shaped by—events across Eurasia. Researchers can explore formal dispatches, original telegraphs from London, transcriptions of telegrams received in posts across the empire, and correspondence drafts. Such in-depth variety defines the only digital primary source collection to reveal the cordial but competitive nature of Anglo-Russian relations in the pre-Soviet era, allowing researchers and instructors to compare immediate observations with policy deliberations and trace not just diplomacy at the time, but the border aspirations that set current events in motion.



The collection provides clear-eyed perspectives on a sequence of defining moments in late Tsarist Russia. It documents reactions to the Alaska Purchase in 1867; tracks Britain's reading of the Conquest of Turkestan and its implications for the "Great Game"; and offers frank viewpoints on the assassination of Emperor Alexander II, followed by dispatches on the reign of Alexander III, including multiple attempts on his life and the political climate these crises, and his death, produced. It then moves into coverage of the reign of Russia's final tsar, Nicholas II. These firsthand accounts capture Britain's appraisal of Russian imperialism against its own colonial might, Russia's alliances in Europe that foreshadowed the global conflicts of the early twentieth century, and the social unrest that fomented the first Russian Revolution.

The breadth of coverage extends across territories now outside Russia, including Ukraine, Georgia, Poland, and Finland, enhancing work on nationalism, borderlands, and the formation of modern states. Restrictions on access to primary sources about Russia's history, at a time of sharply increased academic interest in Russian and Eastern European studies, make this collection an indispensable resource for faculty studying European political history, imperial policy, international relations, conflict studies, and global history, as well as for teaching historical methods through primary sources. Handwritten documents are searchable by Gale's HTR technology, removing barriers to discoverability and enabling students to engage more directly with archival material.

These materials make the workings of Anglo-Russian diplomacy discoverable at scale: a highly topical inquiry into Russia's relationships with Britain at its imperial height, with unwavering diplomatic insight into how information moved at the time, how far-reaching assessments evolved, and how policy was made, filling a long standing geographic gap in primary source offerings within one module. *Great Britain and the Russian Empire, 1868–1905* provides a focused scope on a previously inaccessible period of Western history, revealing its footprint in today's geopolitical order.





JOURNEY OF THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES
· THE CZAR AND CZARINA OF RUSSIA ·
FROM LEITH TO BALLATER
(FOR BALMORAL)

SEPTEMBER · 1896 ·

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