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Microcopy No. 355

RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RELATING TO POLITICAL RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY  
1910-29



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RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RELATING TO POLITICAL RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY, 1910-29

On the 4 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced records from the decimal file of the Department of State, 1910-29, that concern political relations between the United States and Germany. Because there were no U.S. diplomatic representatives in Berlin from 1917 to 1922, most of the records in this microcopy originated from U.S. diplomatic posts in Denmark and the Netherlands during the years 1917-19 and from the U.S. Commissioner in Germany until diplomatic relations were resumed in 1922.

The records are mostly instructions to and despatches from diplomatic and consular officials, and correspondence with individuals, firms, and officials of the Federal Government concerning World War I and the peace settlement. Also included in the records are notes between the Department of State and foreign diplomatic representatives in the United States, memoranda prepared by officials of the Department, and drafts of proposed treaties. The Lists of Documents or "purport sheets" reproduced on Roll 1 give brief abstracts of the documents reproduced in the microcopy and serve as a finding aid to the documents themselves. The arrangement of the entries on the lists corresponds to the arrangement of the documents in the file.

Since 1910 the central files of the Department of State have been grouped and arranged according to a decimal system of subject classification. The decimal file initially consisted of nine primary classes numbered 0 through 8, each covering a broad subject area. Under Class 7, Political Relations of States, the documents are arranged according to the countries concerned. Each country has been assigned a 2-digit number and the numbers for the United States and Germany are 11 and 62, respectively. Thus, the documents reproduced in this microcopy bear the file number 711.62 and concern relations between the United States and Germany. The digits that follow the second country number represent a specific subject. The number, in turn, may be followed by a slant mark (/). The numbers following the slant mark are assigned to individual documents as they are accumulated

on a specific subject. For example, a decimal file number taken from a document reproduced in the microcopy is 711.624/3. The digit 4 following the country number for Germany (62) signifies that the subject is naturalization and the number following the slant mark indicates that this is the third paper received on this subject.

The documents under one subject classification are generally in chronological order, coinciding with the document number assigned (which follows the slant mark). There are instances, however, when a document file number was not assigned until a date considerably later than the one on which the document was received.

Cross-reference sheets that refer to related records under other subject classifications in the decimal file have been reproduced as they occur, and appropriate cross-reference notations appear in the Lists of Documents. Other cross-reference notations are to documents in the "numerical file," a system used for the central files of the Department of State for the period 1906-10. The numerical system of assigning consecutive numbers to subject case files was replaced by the decimal system of subject classification in 1910.

Before the records were filmed a search was made by the National Archives and the Department of State for missing documents. The checkmarks that appear by most entries in the left-hand column of the Lists of Documents indicate that the papers are in the file. The absence of checkmarks denotes that the documents were not found; it is believed that they were not among the records when they were received from the Department.

Most of the records reproduced in this microcopy concern political relations with Germany before U.S. entry into World War I, the termination of the War, and negotiations for peace. The records are unbound and consist mostly of correspondence, memoranda, supporting documents, and copies of agreements.

Before U.S. entry into World War I, the documents include press reports concerning attitudes in both countries toward each other. The effect on the American

public of the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915 and British attempts to influence U.S. opinion are reported.

Some documents concern the Joint Congressional Resolution adopted July 1, 1921, terminating the state of war as of July 2, 1921, the Treaty of Peace signed in Berlin on August 25, 1921, and the Presidential Proclamation of November 4, 1921, to the same effect. Other records relate to the problems of making a peace treaty separate from the Versailles Treaty, especially as to trade, claims, alien property, and reparations. The views of Herbert Hoover and John Foster Dulles are recorded in regard thereto.

The records reproduced in this microcopy are part of the records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State.

Related records are in other classes of the Department of State decimal file, 1910-29, as follows: Class 2, extradition treaties; Class 3, protection of interests; Class 4, claims treaties, conventions, and agreements; Class 5, international congresses and conferences, multilateral treaties; Class 6, commercial treaties, conventions, and trade agreements; Class 8, postal conventions.

Complementary to the records in Class 7 reproduced in this microcopy are two other series, also in Record Group 59, relating to Germany: one is another series in Class 7, which concerns political relations between Germany and other states (Microcopy 354); the other is in Class 8, which relates to internal affairs of Germany (Microcopy 336).

In the same record group in the National Archives are several series of volumes containing additional material on relations between Germany and the United States. There are copies of instructions from the Department of State to U.S. Ministers to all countries, 1808-33 (Rolls 2-8 of Microcopy 77), and to U.S. Ministers to Germany, 1835-1906 (Rolls 65-72 of Microcopy 77), despatches from U.S. Ministers to the German States and Germany to the Department, 1799-1906 (Microcopy 44), notes to the Legation of the German States and Germany in the United

States from the Department, 1834-1906 (Rolls 27-34 of Microcopy 99), and notes from the Legation of the German States and Germany in the United States to the Department, 1816-1906 (Microcopy 58). Also relating to Germany are instructions to special agents of the United States from the Department, 1823-86 (Rolls 152 and 154 of Microcopy 77).

There are microcopies available on despatches from U.S. consular officials at Aix-la-Chapelle, 1849-1906, Altona, 1838-69, Annaberg, 1882-1906, Augsburg, 1846-73, Bamberg, 1892-1906, Barmen, 1868-1906, Berlin, 1865-1906, Bremen, 1794-1906, Breslau, 1878-1906, Brunswick, 1858-1906, Carlsruhe, 1854-74, Chemnitz, 1867-1906, Coburg, 1898-1906, Cologne, 1876-1906, Crefeld, 1878-1906, Dresden, 1837-1906, Düsseldorf, 1881-1906, Eibenstock, 1902-6, Elberfeld, Rostock, and Lübeck, 1804-89, Erfurt, 1892-94, Frankfurt on the Main, 1829-1906, Freiburg, 1892-1906, Fürth, 1890-98, Geestemünde, 1867-82, Glauchau, 1891-1906, Hamburg, 1790-1906, Hanover, 1854-67, 1893-1906, Hesse-Cassel, 1835-69, Hesse-Darmstadt, 1854-71, Hesse-Homburg, 1854-66, Kehl, 1882-1906, Königsberg, 1879-81, Leipzig, 1826-1906, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, 1858-74, Magdeburg, 1890-1906, Mayence, 1871-1906, Mannheim, 1874-1906, Munich, 1834-1906, Duchy of Nassau, 1854-69, Nuremberg, 1846-1906, Oldenburg, 1856-69, Plauen, 1887-1906, Schwerin, 1862-69, Solingen, 1898-1905, Sonneberg, 1851-98, Stettin, 1830-1906, Strasbourg, 1866-72, Stuttgart, 1830-1906, Weimar, 1893-1906, and Zittau, 1897-1906. Complementary to the despatches are instructions to the consuls. All these series were discontinued on August 14, 1906, when the Department of State adopted the practice of filing incoming and outgoing correspondence by subject.

In Record Group 76, Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations, are documents relating to the agreement concerning Samoa, 1899, and to the Mixed Claims Commission of the post-World War I period.

In Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, are records originally kept at U.S. diplomatic and consular posts. Among these are records of the U.S. Legation (later Embassy) in

Germany, 1835-1913, and of various consular posts in that country.

Other related records may be found in Record Group 131, records of the Office of Alien Property Custodian; and in Record Group 256, Records of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace.

Record Group 242, World War II Collection of Seized Enemy Records, includes records of the Foreign Ministry and other German Government agencies. Microfilm copies of a large number of these records are in the National Archives.

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The decimal file number span of the documents and the subjects covered by those documents are reproduced in this microcopy as follows:

<u>Roll</u>	<u>File Number and Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
LISTS OF DOCUMENTS		
1	711.62 - 711.62m14 Brief abstracts that serve as a finding aid to the documents.	\$6
DOCUMENTS		
<u>RELATIONS; BILATERAL TREATIES</u>		
<u>General</u>		
	711.62 - 711.620. Oct. 20, 1910 - Oct. 13, 1926.	
<u>Political</u>		
	Termination of war; peace treaty between United States and Germany: 711.62119/0-105. Jan. 15-Dec. 28, 1921.	
2	711.62119/106-183. Jan. 25, 1922 - Sept. 27, 1929. 711.62119P81/57 - 711.6214 Popular comment on the peace treaty; arbitration and conciliation treaty between the United States and Germany, May 5, 1928; Kellogg-Briand Treaty for the Renunciation of War, ratified by the Reichstag, Feb. 6, 1929; proposal by a German citizen for the United States to annex Germany, 1920.	\$8
<u>Commerce and Navigation</u>		
3	711.622/0-118 Correspondence, Aug. 3, 1915 - Nov. 3, 1929.	\$5
4	711.6221 and 711.6227 Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Consular Rights effective Oct. 14, 1925; aerial navigation.	\$5

<u>Roll</u>	<u>File Number and Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
	<u>Naturalization</u>	
	711.624	
	Naturalization Treaty of May 26, 1868.	
	<u>Other Relations</u>	
	711.629	
	Convention Respecting the Regulation of the Liquor Traffic, May 19, 1924.	
	711.62c14 and 711.62m14	
	German Pacific Colonies and Depend- encies; League of Nations mandate to the Marshall, Caroline, and Ladrone Island groups assumed by Japan; Samoa.	
		Total      \$24