



Primary Source Reading Lists

Aims- To include primary sources with regular weekly reading assignments.

To build familiarity with the process of analyzing primary sources.

To improve critical thinking skills and analytical techniques.

To encourage students to make connections between individual documents and larger historical events.

Conscription

'Registration of young men', Announcement of the next round of conscription for the armed services. Issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, June 1945. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.hatom/000005/487/001>

The Battle of Britain

'Tail's Up!', a recruitment advertisement issued by the War Office in March 1941. History of Advertising Trust O&M wartime book no. 5. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.hatom/000005/091/001>

The Battle of the Atlantic

Battle of Supplies, a war-time film about convoys across the Atlantic released in 1942 by the Ministry of Information and the Crown Film Unit. The file contains production notes, dialogue and commentary sheets, a shot list, music cue sheets, and documents relating to the film's finances. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.inf6/000470/001>

Air raids and civil defence

Shelter Progress Reports from Region 5 (London) for Week ended 21 December 1940. Ministry of Home Security, HO 207/373. Documents about the shelters of London, their capacity, safety and standards of living. See especially pages 1-37. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.ho207/000373/001>

British Empire

'Supply of Doctors for the Services and for Civilian Needs', Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India for the Lord President's Council, 1 January 1943. This report discusses the Indian government's decision to extend conscription to include doctors. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.cab71/000012/003/001>

The war-time economy

Proposed Publication of Statistics about the War Effort of the United Kingdom, a report for the War Cabinet, 4 October 1944. See especially Charts, pages 54-72. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.cab71/000018/007/054>

Russia

Tale of Two Cities, a war-time government film released in 1942 by the Ministry of Information and the Crown Film Unit. The file contains production notes, dialogue and commentary sheets, a shot list, music cue sheets, and documents relating to the film's production and finances. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.inf6/000341/001/001>

Germany

A file of documents about the arrival in Scotland of Rudolf Hess, the Deputy Führer of the Nazi Party, and international press reactions to the news. 1941. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.ho199/000482/001>

United States

Two draft telegrams about the Lend-Lease programme resulting from discussion at a Supersession of the Lord President's Committee regarding the Lend-Lease White Paper, with a note by the President of the Board of Trade, 6 July 1944. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.cab71/000017/021/001>

Japan

Pacific Thrust, a war-time documentary film released in 1945 by the Ministry of Information about the progress of Allied operations in the Pacific. The file contains a synopsis of the film, a shooting script, production credits, and documents relating to the film's licensing and distribution. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.inf6/000657/001/001>



Primary Source Reading Lists

THE PEOPLE'S WAR

Women during World War II

'Let me tell you about the Women's Land Army', a recruitment flyer issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1939-40. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.maf59/000017/001/002> (Pages 2-5.)

Children during World War II

'Thank you, Mrs. Evans', an advertisement issued by the Ministry of Health aimed at recruiting more volunteers to foster evacuated children from British cities. March 1940.

<http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.hatom/000007/003/001>

Propaganda, public opinion and morale

'What do I do?', War-time advertisement about German radio broadcasts, August 1940.

<http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.hatom/000003/355/001>

War-time developments in technology

'Britain's "safety curtain" ... you can help put it up', a recruitment poster for radar technicians issued by the Air Ministry in 1949. <http://www.warstateandsociety.com/Content/wtss.hatom/000005/569/001>



DIGITAL PRIMARY SOURCE COLLECTIONS