

Harold Foote Gosnell Papers

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Collection Summary

Title: Harold Foote Gosnell Papers

Span Dates: 1931-1962

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1937-1959)

ID No.: MSS49791

Creator: Gosnell, Harold Foote, 1896-1997

Extent: 9,200 items ; 23 containers ; 9.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Political scientist, educator, and government consultant. Chiefly subject files consisting of correspondence, memoranda, reports, research data, maps, charts, printed and near-print material, and miscellany. The papers relate principally to projects Gosnell conducted for various government agencies, including a study on state and regional planning for the National Resources Committee; studies on government information services, especially those of the Office of War Information and the Department of State; and analyses of foreign elections for the Central Intelligence Agency, primarily in the Philippines, Indonesia, and the Sudan.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Barnes, Joseph, 1907-1970--Correspondence.

Eisenhower, Milton Stover, 1899-1985--Correspondence.

Eliot, Charles W. (Charles William), 1899-1993--Correspondence.

Gosnell, Harold F. (Harold Foote), 1896-1997.

Organizations

United States. Central Intelligence Agency.

United States. Department of State.

United States. National Resources Committee.

United States. Office of War Information.

Subjects

Elections--Indonesia.

Elections--Philippines.

Elections--Sudan.

Information services.

Regional planning.

Occupations

Consultants.

Educators.

Political scientists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Harold Foote Gosnell, political scientist, educator, and government consultant, were given to the Library of Congress by Gosnell in 1976.

Processing History

The papers of Harold Foote Gosnell were arranged and described in 1982. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Harold Foote Gosnell Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Harold Foote Gosnell in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Harold Foote Gosnell are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Harold Foote Gosnell Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1896, Dec. 24	Born, Lockport, N.Y.
1918	A.B., University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.
1922	Ph.D., University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1922-1943	Professor of political science, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1928	Married Florence Lucy Fake (died 1991)
1932	Member, editorial staff, President's Research Commission on Social Trends
1937-1939	Research consultant, National Resources Committee
1940	Research consultant, Bureau of the Budget
1941-1942	Research consultant, Office of Price Administration
1942-1946	Research consultant, Bureau of the Budget
1946-1950	Research consultant, State Department
1946-1962	Adjunct professor of political science, American University, Washington, D.C.
1950s	Research consultant, Central Intelligence Agency
1955	Visiting professor, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.
1960-1961	Research scientist, Special Operations Research Office
1962-1970	Professor of government, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

1997, Jan. 8

Died, Bethesda, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Harold Foote Gosnell (1896-1997) span the years 1931-1962, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1937-1959. The collection consists of files Gosnell compiled as a political scientist and government consultant.

The Gosnell Papers treat four principal topics. The earliest material is devoted mainly to a study Gosnell headed at the National Resources Committee (NRC), later to become the National Resources Planning Board, in which a survey was made of the future of state and regional planning. Contained in the NRC files are reports, questionnaires, research data, and internal memoranda reflecting the agency's operation. The material represents Gosnell's own work as well as the research of students, colleagues, and other officials. Correspondence of NRC's executive officer, Charles W. Eliot (1899-1993), the director of the reorganized National Resources Planning Board from 1939 to 1943, appears throughout the files.

A government study of United States information services during World War II, begun by Gosnell about 1943 when he worked for the War Records Section of the Bureau of the Budget, was continued by him at the State Department. At the budget office, the scope of Gosnell's research was government-wide with a focus on the activities of the Office of War Information (OWI). At the State Department, where he worked from 1946 to the end of the decade, his project was limited specifically to information services in the department itself. Titled "War Information Services," research files from both projects are topically arranged in one section. Included are memoranda, reports, budget statements, and other documents from government agencies, as well as administrative correspondence relating to planning the research. Subjects treated include the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the Office of Price Administration, press and media branches of the OWI, State Department and War Department morale programs, and the Experimental Division for the Study of War Time Communications. Correspondents include Joseph Barnes and Milton Eisenhower, former OWI officers who commented on the research while it was in progress.

Other files contain background data and articles Gosnell wrote on the organization of the State Department and source material he compiled while a foreign elections analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency after 1950. His fact-finding missions best documented in the CIA file are trips to the Philippines (1953, 1955), Indonesia (1955), and Sudan (1958). The file contains correspondence, election ephemera, maps (especially from Sudan), summaries of conversations with political leaders and Americans abroad, and related matter.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by topic and thereunder alphabetically by subject.

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