

Turmoil

People's lives turned upside down – evidence from 1000 years.

Exhibition blurb:

Protests, propaganda and secrets have shaped the story of Britain for the past thousand years. Matters of state, government, society and the everyday lives of the people are all recorded in the collection at The National Archives.

Stories of fights for rights and justice; of the men and women going into wars; and of the secret plotting and planning going on in the annals of power; this exhibition delves into the tales of struggles of the people of the nation from 1086 to the present day.

Find out how The National Archives looks after this unique collection of records, and delves deep into the stories within to find out about and preserve the history of Britain. Take a look yourself; you never know what you might find...

Key stories and messages:

- Introduction – whole collection covers 1000 years of British history.
- Non-linear exhibition – different zones on protests, secrets etc.
- TNA work behind-the-scenes to feature – e.g. conservation / research.
- Stories of dark and light phases in history.
- Protests:
 - Suffrage – anniversary of some women getting the vote in 2018
 - Reformation of the church
 - Anti-war protests and war propaganda
 - Miners' strike
- Secrets:
 - Spy stories from older history
 - Hidden histories element – LGBTQ etc?
 - Personal stories – e.g. affairs of Anne Boleyn / Elizabeth I
 - Conspiracy theories and cover-ups – UFOs
 - Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot
- Turmoil/upheavals:
 - Black Death / Plague
 - Colonisation / Slavery
 - Industrialisation

More detail on some key stories:

- **Suffrage** – 6th February 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the ‘Representation of the People Act 1918’ which gave women (if they were over 30 and owned some property) the right to vote for the first time. This was a hard-fought right that saw around a thousand female lobbyists (Suffragettes) imprisoned for their actions between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- **Reformation of the church** – In the 16th century, under the rule of King Henry VIII, the English church broke away from the authority of the Pope and the Roman Catholic religion, and began the development of the Church of England and the rise of the Protestant Christian religion across England and Wales. This was in part due to some Acts of Parliament brought about in response to Henry’s wishes to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. The dissolution of the monasteries was a later part of the reformation, when lands belonging to the clergy were sold, and the King (or Queen) became known as ‘Defender of the Faith’.
- **Anti-war protests and war propaganda** – throughout much of the past 1000 years, each war has brought about protests and rebellion from the people against the fighting and violence towards other people, countries and beliefs. During the wars, propaganda has been used by all sides to promote their own views and behaviour as the ‘right’ way forward. TNA’s collection holds examples of propaganda posters, leaflets and objects, as well as many records of the people rising up to protest about those in power deciding their fate for them.
- **Secrets and spies** – archival records open up the previously-secret stories of spies, plots, affairs and cover-ups from throughout history. You could find out what the British Government were thinking about the threat of alien attack from UFOs; see the evidence behind the accusations of infidelity made against Anne Boleyn; or explore who the real-life versions of James Bond were and what they were doing. Is it conspiracy or truth?

Links to TNA online resources:

- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/museum/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/worldwar2/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/greatwar/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/home-front/>
- <http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/maps-telling-untold-stories/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/great-plague/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/politics/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/heroesvillains/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/crime-punishment/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/spies/>
- <http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/want-believe-ufos-archive/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/georgian-britain-age-modernity/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/women-in-uniform/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/women-english-civil-wars/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/black-presence/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/caribbeanhistory/>
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/humanrights/default.htm>
- <http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/pride-place-putting-lgbt-history-map/>