

**Harold Foote Gosnell Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2005**

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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

**Extent:** 23 containers

**Extent:** 9.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81049791>

**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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### 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.

## 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

Date	Event
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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Container	Contents
BOX 1	Central Intelligence Agency
BOX 1	Foreign political analysis
BOX 1	Eastern Europe, 1951
BOX 1	Egypt, 1956-1957
BOX 1	French parliament, 1951-1962
BOX 1	India, 1948-1962
BOX 1	Indonesia, 1955 elections, 1950-1960 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Indonesia, 1955 elections, 1950-1960 (1 folder)
BOX 2	Japan, 1951-1959
BOX 2	Philippines
BOX 2	1953 elections, 1935-1955 (5 folders)
BOX 3	1953 elections, 1935-1955 (6 folders)
BOX 4	1953 elections, 1935-1955 (4 folders)
BOX 5	1953 elections, 1935-1955 (2 folders)
BOX 5	1955 elections, 1955-1957 (3 folders)
BOX 6	1957 elections
BOX 6	Miscellaneous elections, 1948-1961
BOX 6	Sudan, 1958 elections, 1956-1960 (5 folders)
BOX 6	Reminiscences of service, 1959, undated
BOX 7	National Resources Committee
BOX 7	Abstracts of dissertations on planning, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., 1938-1941
BOX 7	Administrative aspects of social planning, 1939-1941
BOX 7	Administrative memoranda, 1936-1938
BOX 7	American Society of Planning Officials, newsletters, 1940-1943 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Appraisal of State Planning Board reports, 1936-1937
BOX 7	Appraisal of state and regional planning, 1937
BOX 7	Bibliographies, 1937
BOX 7	City and county planning, 1937
BOX 7	City planning, 1940-1941
BOX 8	Comments on State Planning Board reports, 1937-1938
BOX 8	Conferences, 1938-1939 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Correspondence on State Planning Board reports, 1938

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BOX 8	Development of planning, 1939
BOX 8	Foreword to State Planning Board report
BOX 8	“The Future of State Planning,” 1938 (3 folders)
BOX 8	Housing, 1936-1938
BOX 9	Illinois State Planning Commission, 1935-1939
BOX 9	National Conference on Planning, Minneapolis, Minn., 1938
BOX 9	Notes on State Planning Board report, 1938
BOX 9	Pamphlets, 1933-1939
BOX 9	Personnel directory, 1939-1940
BOX 9	Planned communities, 1938
BOX 9	Planning “school,” 1938
BOX 9	Population studies, 1938
BOX 9	Procedure for population studies, 1938
BOX 10	Progress of state planning boards, 1938
BOX 10	Regionalism and public administration, 1935-1940
BOX 10	Regional planning, 1937-1941
BOX 10	Report on future state planning, 1938
BOX 10	Simon, Dorothy P., report, 1941
BOX 10	Soviet planning
BOX 10	State legislation on planning, 1939
BOX 10	State Planning Board programs, 1938-1939
BOX 10	State Planning Board reports
BOX 10	Final tabulations, 1937-1938
BOX 11	Preliminary tabulations, 1937
BOX 11	State planning questionnaire, 1937
BOX 11	Status and summaries of state and regional planning programs, 1938-1939
BOX 11	Status of organizations of planning agencies, 1937-1939
BOX 11	Status of work reports, Charles W. Eliot (1899-1993), 1938-1939 (3 folders)
BOX 11	Subdivision control, undated
BOX 11	Summary sheets of state planning boards, 1937
BOX 11	Technical committees on national planning, 1938-1940
BOX 12	Technicians Conference, Washington, D.C., 1938 (2 folders)
BOX 12	Tennessee Valley Authority report, 1938
BOX 12	Urbanism monograph, 1937-1938
BOX 12	Walker, Robert A., report, 1939
BOX 12	Wehrwein syllabus, 1940
BOX 12	Wisconsin State Planning Board, 1941
BOX 12	Zoning, 1937-1938
BOX 12	Miscellaneous reference articles, undated
BOX 13	State Department
BOX 13	Office of European Affairs, undated
BOX 13	Organization, 1941-1950 (6 folders)

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BOX 14	Organization, 1941-1950 (7 folders)
BOX 15	Reorganization Task Force, 1949 (3 folders)
BOX 15	War information services
BOX 15	Appraisals and administrative memoranda regarding history project, 1942-1947
BOX 15	Barnes, Joseph, correspondence, 1942-1943
BOX 15	Bibliographies, 1946
BOX 15	Bureau of Overseas Publications, 1942
BOX 15	Coordinator of Information, 1941-1946
BOX 15	Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, 1941-1948 (3 folders)
BOX 16	Domestic information, State Department, 1945-1955
BOX 16	Domestic pamphleteers, 1946
BOX 16	Eisenhower, Milton, correspondence, 1943-1944
BOX 16	Experimental Division for the study of War Time Communications, 1941-1943 (3 folders)
BOX 16	Federal Communications Commission, 1945
BOX 16	Framing the OWI executive order, 1942-1946
BOX 16	History of the State Department, undated
BOX 16	International information activities, first phase, State Department, undated
BOX 17	Management problems and practices, 1943-1946
BOX 17	Mobilizing for the war of words, 1940-1942
BOX 17	National Security Resources Board, 1949
BOX 17	Navy Department, 1946
BOX 17	News Bureau, Domestic Branch, OWI, 1942-1945
BOX 17	<i>New York Times</i> index on war news and propaganda, 1945
BOX 17	Office of Censorship, 1944-1945
BOX 17	Office of Civilian Defense, 1944
BOX 17	Office of Emergency Management, 1941-1942
BOX 17	Office of Price Administration, 1941-1943 (2 folders)
BOX 18	Office of Price Administration, 1941-1943 (1 folder)
BOX 18	Office of War Information
BOX 18	Budgets, 1944-1945 (4 folders)
BOX 18	Estimate of appropriations, 1944
BOX 18	Field information, 1943-1947
BOX 18	Files, 1946-1949
BOX 18	Foreign News Bureau, 1942-1943
BOX 18	History, 1942-1948 (3 folders)
BOX 19	History, 1942-1948 (2 folders)
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BOX 19	Office of Program Coordination, 1943
BOX 19	Overseas Operations Branch, 1944
BOX 19	Radio Program Bureau
BOX 20	Weekly media reports, 1942-1943 (2 folders)
BOX 20	Organization and personnel, State Department
BOX 20	Outlines and prospectuses, 1942-1945 (3 folders)
BOX 20	Outposts, 1948
BOX 20	Overhead organization of the OWI, 1942-1946
BOX 21	Overseas Motion Picture Bureau, undated
BOX 21	Overseas News and Feature Bureau, 1949
BOX 21	Personnel practices and procedures, 1940-1943
BOX 21	Personnel problems, 1941-1948 (4 folders)
BOX 21	Planning and intelligence, 1944 (2 folders)
BOX 22	Press and publication activities during the war, State Department, undated
BOX 22	Program of the War Records Section, Bureau of the Budget, 1942-1947
BOX 22	Public opinion research in the government, 1946
BOX 22	Recruiting information specialists, 1947
BOX 22	Social Science Research Council, Committee on War Studies, 1943-1946
BOX 22	Transition period, OWI-State Department, undated
BOX 22	Transporting the goods, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
BOX 22	United States at war, 1943-1946 (2 folders)
BOX 23	Warburg, James (“moronic little King” controversy), 1943
BOX 23	War Department
BOX 23	Bureau of Public Relations, 1942-1945
BOX 23	Special Services Research Branch, 1943-1945
BOX 23	War Production Board, 1944
BOX 23	Miscellany, 1931-1959, undated (5 folders)