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A Guide to Research and Research Materials

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Research and Research Materials

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by
Alan Cassels

Revised Edition



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About the Editor

Alan Cassels was born in Liverpool, England; he took his B.A. at Oxford University and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. He has taught at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, and the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and is now professor of history at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. The author of *Mussolini's Early Diplomacy* and other books and articles on fascism and twentieth-century diplomatic history, he is now preparing a study of ideology in international relations in the modern world.

Introduction to the Series

The reception accorded this series when it first appeared confirmed the editors in their belief that these research guides would meet a genuine need. It seems appropriate, therefore, since new material, published and unpublished, has become available over the last decade, that the series be brought up to date. A second edition is also an opportunity to add further volumes to the series. The series now consists of revised volumes on France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and International Organizations, and new volumes on the Soviet Union and on International Economic Relations.

The series is intended for scholars doing research for seminar papers, dissertations, and books dealing with European diplomatic history between 1918 and 1945. It provides information to assist them in their researches and to guide them on their visits to libraries and archives. It will enable them to find their way quickly and efficiently through the voluminous research and research materials that have become available in recent years and will point them toward solutions to the problems they will encounter in the course of their work.

The individual handbooks in this series are organized to serve the researcher's needs. Each has its own distinctive features, for the archival holdings and the research based on these holdings vary considerably. They are, however, meant to be complementary. They focus on materials relevant to different subject areas and, within the limits set by the history of international relations, avoid unnecessary repetition. They are organized along similar lines, and researchers who need to consult several volumes will have no trouble finding their way.

The first chapter will help the reader understand the nature and significance of the sources and allow him to determine where to concentrate his research, how to allot research time, and, not least, how best to approach the materials in the archives. It describes how foreign policy was made - how the foreign ministry was organized and how it functioned, how it affected the conduct of foreign affairs and diplomacy, and how it was influenced by bureaucratic politics, domestic developments, and public opinion.

The second chapter brings together the most current information on public

and private archives, libraries, research institutes, and newspaper collections. It indicates what work can be undertaken on this side of the Atlantic and what has to be left for a visit to Europe, and further, what repository will be most useful and rewarding.

The remainder of the volume is bibliography. Sections on general and bibliographical reference works are followed by a survey of the literature in the field, ranging from documentary series to memoirs to significant secondary sources. Arranged topically within a broadly chronological

framework, largely annotated, this bibliography permits ready reference to specific books and articles, historical personalities, and diplomatic events. Together with the archival information, the bibliography will suggest areas for further research or reassessment.

Each volume is edited by an authority in the field. Each reflects experience gained on the spot in archives and libraries as well as knowledge shared by colleagues, archivists, and librarians. The volumes therefore are as current and reliable as possible. They will be valuable companions to all who are interested in international affairs and diplomacy.

CHRISTOPH M. KIMMICH
SERIES EDITOR

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I. Introduction to the Revised Edition

It is an unfortunate truism that every bibliography is out of date the moment it is completed. Perhaps, then, a revised bibliographical edition needs no justification. On the other hand, it is now a half-century since the outbreak of the Second World War, and the further we move from events, the less fresh evidence and revelation must be expected. It seems reasonable, therefore, at the start to give some idea of what and how much new material has appeared since the first edition of this guide was published.

The bibliographical content of this volume, like that of its companions in the series, falls into two categories: first, archival source material, and second, printed titles. Probably, the chief merit of these research guides to European diplomatic history is the provision of background, provenance, nature, and location of unpublished material. In this matter of basic sources, Italy has always lagged behind, say, the United States, Great Britain or Germany - with respect to both archival accessibility and organization. Hence, it is of the utmost importance for researchers into Italian foreign policy that the Archivio Storico del Ministero degli Affari Esteri in Rome has embarked on the microfilming (with attendant compilation of inventories) of the records of the gabinetto del ministro for the two decades 1923-43. These files provide the most comprehensive and authentic account of the formulation of Italian foreign policy, especially in the crucial years 1936-43 when decision-making was forcibly centralized in the gabinetto. As described in chapter IIIA, filming has begun with those sensitive files hidden from the Germans in 1943 in the basement of the Palazzo Lancellotti. The gabinetto del ministro project constitutes beyond question the most significant archival development in the field of Italian foreign policy in the last ten years. At the same time, more private papers have come to light or become more readily available. Here, one would mention above all the deposit in Italy's Foreign Ministry archives of a mass of papers left by Carlo Sforza and an equally large collection by Dino Grandi, both sets of papers formerly held in private hands.

As for secondary literature, this has proliferated even more in the 1980's. In part, this is merely witness to the never-ending publication explosion. More important, however, the greater accessibility of primary sources, particularly in the Foreign Ministry's historical archive, has spawned a quantity of recent

authoritative studies in both monograph and article form. In order to accommodate these latest research results without expanding this volume to inordinate length, I have omitted certain secondary titles that appeared in the first edition. The omissions are mostly dated works, written more than twenty-five or thirty years ago, although many d'un certain age retain their place as classics or because no subsequent scholar has reworked their subject matter. In addition, I have excluded articles whose author has later integrated the research

and conclusions into a book-length study - a common academic practice the world over. As in the first edition of this guide, in view of its probable audience, almost all the material presented is in one of the major western languages - English, Italian, French or German.

Every generation, it seems, claims to write a "new" international history, although as often as not there is more rhetoric than substance in the boast. The irreducible core of diplomatic history remains the relationship among nation states expressed through interchange between governments and foreign ministries. This traditional interpretation informs the choice of the bulk of the items in this guide. There is, of course, another side to the study of international politics, namely the question of how a nation's foreign policy comes to be made. This is always susceptible to re-evaluation and fresh approaches. It is almost thirty years since Fritz Fischer published his Griff nach der Weltmacht (Düsseldorf, 1961), which reinterpreted Germany's war aims and foreign policy, 1914-18, in terms of that country's internal social and political character. Arguably, this work more than any other has forced diplomatic historians to relinquish the shibboleth of the Primat der aussen Politik and to take note of domestic factors behind national foreign policies. Bibliographically speaking, this has opened up great vistas, and multiplied enormously the task of establishing clear limits to what is and what is not relevant material in the sphere of international relations. This consideration explains why a number of entries in this guide pertain to Italy's internal situation between 1918 and 1945.

For instance, no account of diplomacy in our present century of mass politics can ignore the role of public opinion, even when a Mussolinian dictatorship held sway. The attempt to inculcate a spirit of integral nationalism in the Italian people went hand in hand with the development of an aggressive foreign policy, a genuine symbiotic relationship. In the Italian case, too, it is impossible to overlook the influence of emigration on external policy-making. How far Italy's interwar assertiveness on the world stage can be traced to closure of her traditional emigration outlets is a debatable but certainly credible conjecture, and a vainglorious Fascist regime was not one to resist the lure of appealing to the patriotic sentiments of millions of Italians around the globe. But perhaps the most fruitful of recent inquiries into the domestic springs of foreign policy concerns the role of business interests. Several past international problems have been greatly illuminated by reference to the archives of industrial and financial concerns able to exert influence on

national policy. For this reason I have added to this edition a section on Italy's economic archives. Not a few Italian firms self-servingly endorsed an expansionist foreign policy, and their records have only lately been opened to researchers.

One other newly fashionable facet of diplomatic history warrants mention. What is now regularly dubbed the "missing dimension" refers to the impact of intelligence reports on policy calculations. Unfortunately, in Italy, as nearly everywhere, officialdom is loath to release its espionage and counterespionage source material. Copies of intelligence reports are routinely weeded out of departmental files before these are opened to scholars, although it is sometimes incompletely done and the researcher may stumble on evidence of cloak-and-dagger operations in, say, foreign or service ministry archives. Nevertheless, research in this area remains problematical, which, however, has not deterred a host of writers, serious and otherwise, from commentating at length on the spy business. For reference to the intelligence factor in this guide, then, it is not

possible to designate any depository of primary source material, but the bibliographical section of printed titles contains a number of relevant items.

I have seen fit to retain from the first edition citations of the principal primary sources in Italian military and colonial history, 1918-45, as well as secondary works in these fields that bear upon international affairs. Military and colonial matters exist on the fringe of diplomatic history, yet patently shaped Italy's foreign policy decisions, particularly as the Fascist regime grew more bellicose and imperialistic with the passage of time. Also carried over from the first edition is the treatment of Vatican diplomacy. In one sense the Papacy and the Italian government negotiated with each other as sovereign bodies, a situation formalized by the Lateran Treaties of 1929. But Roman Catholicism's intimate place in Italian society makes this relationship less a diplomatic one than an inextricable part of Italian domestic politics, which is why Italo-Vatican relations are not covered in this guide. On the other hand, the Papacy's geographical location guaranteed that its dealings with other states, although pursued independently, could not be divorced utterly from the foreign policy of secular Italy. Certainly, the world's chancelleries considered the Vatican a useful listening post in Italy and occasionally a means of influencing Italian policy. It is therefore the Vatican's non-Italian diplomacy that receives attention in this guide. It should be emphasized, however, that no claim is made here to provide a complete bibliography of Italy's military and colonial policies, nor of Papal diplomacy at large.

For whatever reason, foreign policy studies of the interwar years appear to center on one great problem in each country: in the U.S., isolationism; in Great Britain, appeasement; in France, naturally, the debacle of 1940. But the closest analogue to the Italian case is the crystallization of debate in German historical scholarship around the continuity, or lack of continuity, between Germany's nationalist tradition and Nazi ambitions in the east. Italian diplomatic historiography has come to revolve around the same kind of question. To what extent was the foreign policy of Fascism, in aims and methods, an extension of that of liberal Italy? Put another way, was Fascism, which at the outset owed so much to the pre-1922 Nationalist movement, destined by its nature ultimately to embrace aggressive imperialism and violent international revisionism? These questions are but the tip of a larger iceberg of controversy launched many years ago when Benedetto Croce characterized Fascism as an anomalous "parenthesis" in Italian history. Often the issue is to be glimpsed between the lines, rather than stated explicitly, in

diplomatic studies that have no particular axe to grind. None the less, it serves to give shape to the historiography of Italian foreign policy in the era bounded by the two world wars.

No bibliographer, however hard-working, can sustain his or her endeavors without the aid of fellow scholars. In revising this guide I have incurred my fair share of intellectual indebtedness, which I am delighted to acknowledge. First and foremost, I want to thank Professor Enrico Serra, superintendent of the Archivio Storico del Ministero degli Affari Esteri, both for his unfailing courtesy and for the latest information about the exciting developments within his jurisdiction; next Dr. Jens Petersen of the Istituto Storico Germanico in Rome, whose bibliographical expertise is unparalleled; and finally in Italy's capital, Dr. Egmont Lee, director of the Canadian Academic Centre in Italy, whose office helped smooth my path into appropriate archives and libraries. Other scholars to whom I owe particular gratitude include Dr. W. Simon of the United Nations Library in Geneva, Dr. Brian R. Sullivan, Dr. H.J. Burgwyn,