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BRITISH GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA, 1939-2009

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British Government Information

The Central Office of Information (COI) was a British government department established in 1946 as the successor to the wartime Ministry of Information (MOI).

The COI and MOI were responsible for informing and influencing the British public on a wide range of issues. To this end, both worked with and on behalf of other departments and public bodies to design and produce appropriate publicity and propaganda materials.



This collection was scanned from source at the British Library.



It contains over 27,000 unique images.

The items in this collection are diverse in nature, ranging from posters and stickers to pamphlets and guidance booklets.

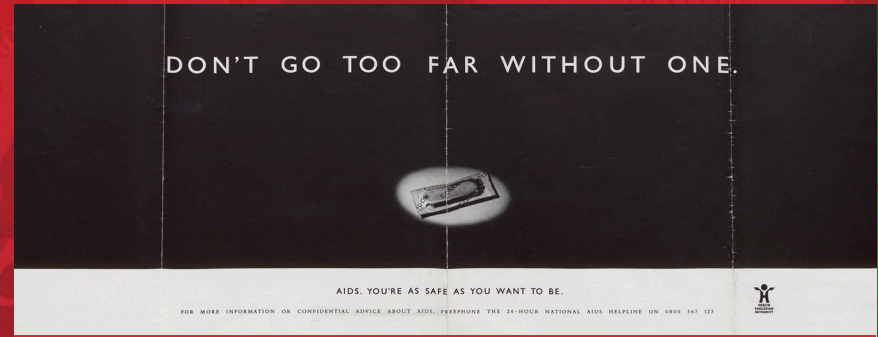
The subject matter is just as varied, covering public health, education, social security, civil defence, international politics, race relations, sex discrimination, public sector career opportunities, policing, the environment, and Britain's membership of the European Economic Community.

“This unique collection reveals what the government wanted its citizens to think or know about topical issues, ranging from defeating Hitler to smoking cessation, at different times during the 20th century and the changing images of Britain it wanted to project to the outside world. It provides a snapshot of the social history of Britain through government eyes”

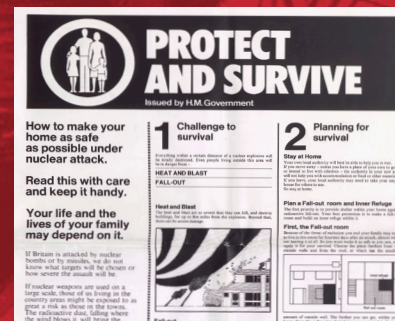
Jennie Grimshaw, Content Lead for Government and Official Publications at the British Library.

Sources include: British Library

and Propaganda, 1939-2009



Professor David Welch has written a 5,000 word contextual essay to accompany the collection.



This collection contains a carefully curated selection of materials, with a particular focus on post-1939 communications.



Items include anti-Nazi posters and publications from the Second World War.

Over 4 million records covering 1000 years of world history: from politics & warfare, to slavery & revolution.



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