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**MONITORING**  
**Summary of World Broadcasts**  
**Essential Global Media, 1939-2001**

***"This is the history of the world speaking to the world."***

--Nick Cull, Professor of Communication, University of Southern California



## Essential Facts

Previously inaccessible transcripts of original radio and television broadcasts from around the world, collected and translated into English

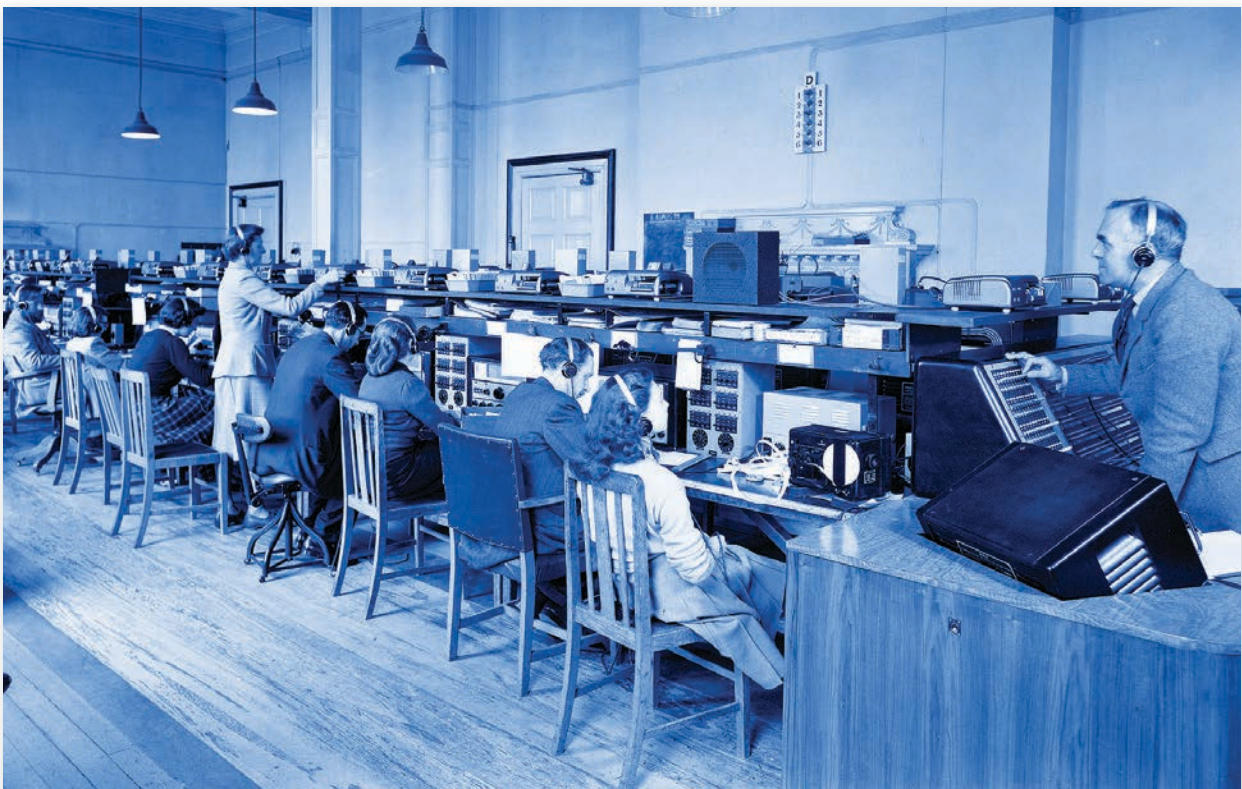
Exceptional real-time coverage of critical world events, from the start of WWII to the early 21st century

Provides scholars with the unprecedented research value of open-source intelligence transcripts

Recognized as one the most important historical archives ever assembled, *BBC Monitoring: Summary of World Broadcasts* is now available as a digital primary source collection from Readex. This expansive resource features nearly 70,000 individual multi-page reports that are indispensable for interpreting the complexity of today's global events.

### BBC Monitoring: Origins and Scope

BBC Monitoring was founded in 1939 at the start of WWII. Its purpose was to **listen** to radio broadcasts and gather open-source intelligence to help Britain and its allies understand global dynamics and assess emerging global threats and capabilities. Over the next 60 years, the scope of its monitoring grew quickly. Trained specialists **transcribed** broadcasts of speeches, current affairs, political discussions, and social and cultural events worldwide. Transcripts, in turn, were **translated** into English, then read by experts who carefully **selected** critical content for publication. Finally, selections were summarized and curated into daily reports that comprise the *Summary of World Broadcasts*. These original daily reports often included commentary and evaluation by subject-matter experts, as well as synopses and specialist briefings.



# How Broadcast Summaries Were Created

## Step 1

Subject-matter experts listened to foreign broadcasts



## Step 2

Specialists transcribed broadcasts, then translated them into English



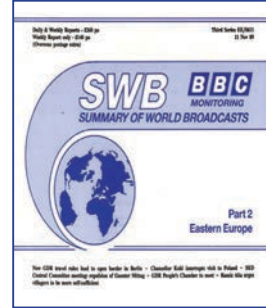
## Step 3

Editors read translations and selected content for publication



## Step 4

Daily SWB report was assembled, reflecting strategic interests of the UK



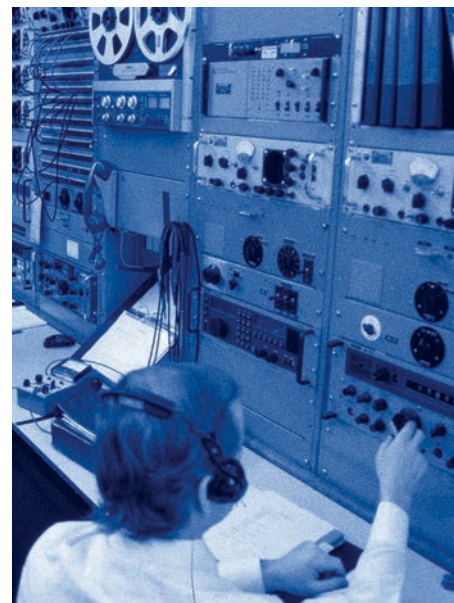
## The research value of open-source intelligence

Open-source intelligence is non-covert information gathered from publicly-available sources. From its inception, BBC Monitoring has played an important role in the gathering, transcribing, and translating of open-source intelligence. Its daily reports enabled government and policy officials to explain policy decisions, facilitate communication with foreign officials without compromising intelligence sources, and assess global threats more quickly. The digital archive of *Summary of World Broadcasts* puts this abundant critical intelligence into the hands of scholars for the first time ever, inspiring new research opportunities and investigative possibilities.

## First-hand, real-time coverage of 20th-century people, places, and global events

Daily digests of foreign radio and television broadcasts are vital primary sources for scholars and teachers specializing in 20th-century political, social, cultural, and economic history. Researchers will discover unmatched insights into key regions, global events, and national security priorities of the UK government, including WWII, the Cold War, Communist China, Chernobyl, Ukraine, and the Soviet Union/Russia.

Unlike newspapers – which appear in print and are widely circulated – radio and TV broadcasts are ephemeral communications that only persist when a listener creates and publishes a transcript. This distinctive quality makes *Summary of World Broadcasts* a record of essential discourse unlike any other.



## Organized by critical time periods of high-research interest

Structured for high-research interest and impact, the *Summary of World Broadcasts* digital archive is available as a complete collection or by individual chronological collections:

### Series 1: 1939-1958

Includes WWII and early years not covered by *Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Reports, 1941-1996*

### Series 2: 1959-1973

Includes Cuban Missile Crisis, Cold War, Chinese Cultural Revolution

### Series 3: 1974-1988

Includes Argentina's Dirty War, Chernobyl, Dissolution of the Soviet Union

### Series 4: 1989-2001

Includes Iranian Revolution, Persian Gulf Crisis, emerging 21st-century security threats, and later years not covered by *FBIS Daily Reports*



## Shared Mission, Similar Goals

The relationship between **BBC Monitoring** and the **Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS)** relied on the principle of dividing the world for the purpose of efficient monitoring. Due to divergent strategic interests and editorial priorities, the regional and subject-matter focus of *Summary of World Broadcasts* differs substantially from *FBIS Daily Reports*. These material differences offer significant research opportunities for scholars.

## A distinctive, valuable addition to any research collection

Five compelling reasons to add this collection to your library holdings:

1. Delivers previously inaccessible perspectives to inform scholarly research across all academic disciplines
2. Provides unique global views rooted in first-hand, open-source intelligence gathering
3. Gives particular attention to the viewpoints and mindsets of local populations
4. Offers essential background for interpreting today's global events – the context behind how we got to where we are now
5. Reveals and tracks key 20th-century events as they developed over days, months, or years



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