

U DLA

**Papers of Harold Laski
(and Frida Laski)**

1910-1969

Biographical background:

Harold Joseph Laski was born in Manchester in 1893, the second son of Nathan Laski and his wife Sarah Frankenstein. His father was a cotton shipping merchant, a leader of the Jewish community and a Liberal. Harold Laski was educated at Manchester Grammar School and studied eugenics under Karl Pearson at University College for six months in 1911. He met Frida Kerry, a lecturer in eugenics, and they married in that year, just as he began an undergraduate degree in history at Oxford University. Frida Laski lectured in Glasgow and she and Harold Laski were destined to have a distance marriage in its early stages.

In 1914 Laski was awarded a first class honours degree and the Beit memorial prize. He worked for a while with George Lansbury on the Daily Herald. When the war broke out he failed his medical and in 1916, the year his daughter Diana was born, he was appointed lecturer in modern history at McGill University, Montreal. In 1916 he joined the staff of Harvard University and there associated with Oliver Wendell Holmes and Felix Frankfurter, both of whom went on to be appointed to the Supreme Court. He was friendly with Franklin Delano Roosevelt and there is a letter in the collection from this former United States president. In 1919 Laski was savagely attacked for his sympathy with the Boston police strikers and he turned his back on an American academic career, taking a post at the London School of Economics in 1920.

Harold Laski became professor of Political Science in 1926 and held this post at the London School of Economics until his death. He retained an interest in American political thought and excited controversy when he took a Marxist approach to American politics in *The American Democracy* (1948). He is supposed to have seen in America, more acutely than England, the struggle between capital and labour. Laski was a prolific writer of works of political philosophy and political theory. His other works included *Studies in the problem of sovereignty* (1917), *Authority in the modern state* (1919), *A grammar of politics* (1925), *Democracy in Crisis* (1933), *Parliamentary government in England* (1938) and *Reflections on the constitution* (his Simon lectures at Manchester University were published posthumously in 1951).

Harold Laski was also involved in Labour politics and was friendly with Ramsay MacDonald through the 1920s. In 1923 MacDonald offered him a cabinet post if he would stand for parliament, but he turned down this offer as well as a further offer of a seat in the House of Lords made in 1929. In 1931 he became disillusioned with Labour Party politics and his friendship with MacDonald came to an end. From that date he extended his Marxist philosophy, arguing for the rest of his life that social revolution was inevitable. In 1932 he joined the Socialist League and in 1937 took part in a joint effort with the Communist Party and the Independent Labour Party in an attempt to form a Popular Front against the government of Neville Chamberlain. He was on the executive committee of the Fabian Society through most of the 1920s and 1930s and was a close friend of both Leon Blum and John Strachey of The Left Book Club. Between 1934 and 1945 he served as an alderman on Fulham council and was chairman of the libraries committee. In 1937 he returned to the Labour Party fold, joining the executive committee and he served on this until 1949.

During the second world war Laski suffered a nervous breakdown as a result of overwork and over-commitment. Despite this he chaired the Labour Party conference in 1944 and was chair of the National Executive committee from 1945 to 1946. During the 1945 election he undermined the leadership contest of Clement Atlee and the Conservative press (and Winston Churchill) were quick to demonise him. He took out a libel case against one of the papers and this hung over him during a year of travel in 1946, on trips made with Denis Healey, the new International Secretary. He lost the libel case and the costs of £13,000 came out of public donations.

Never a healthy man, his health failed further, but he continued to overwork, attending 40 meetings in 30 days during the February 1950 general election. A month later he contracted influenza and died. His influence persisted, through past pupils and friends, like John Saville who helped acquire his papers for the Brynmor Jones Library. In 1954 the Harold Laski Institute of Political Science was opened in India. Frida Laski outlived her husband by over a quarter of a century.

Custodial History:

Deposited in 1973 and at various other times by Prof. John Saville (1974), Mrs Nancy Gilbert (1989) and the Friends of the Brynmor Jones Library (1989 - 1990). Most of Frida Laski's papers arrived in 1989.

Description:

The papers of Harold Laski largely comprise correspondence, of both a public and a personal nature, and some printed material.

There is correspondence from the following people: Herbert Fisher; Henry W Nevinson; George Lansbury; J L Paton; Lord Morley; Ernest Baker; Lord Sankey; Sidney Webb and Beatrice Webb; Ramsay McDonald; Siegfried Sassoon; H G Wells; Hugh Dalton; Clement Atlee; Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Stafford Cripps; Margot Asquith; Orde Wingate; Winston Churchill; Carr Saunders; Leon Blum; Stephen Leacock; James Bryce; Felix Frankfurter; Lord Haldane; D Redlich, August Birrell; Bertrand Russell; S Alexander; Joe Kennedy; I Maiskey; Lord Humberstone; Ellen Wilkinson; Duke of Bedford; Archibald McLeigh; C P Scott; Philip Snowden; Harold Darling Foster; Walter Lippman; T S Adams; F Gousev. The most numerous letters (5 or more) are from Lord Sankey, Hugh Dalton, the Webbs, Winston Churchill, Ramsay McDonald and Clement Atlee. There is one letter from Harold Laski to Professor John Saville dated 1942.

The collection also contains 11 letters to Frida Laski including two from Jawaharlal Nehru, R H Tawney, Indira Ghandi, Sirima Bandaranaike and Walter Greenwood. There are also 469 letters of Harold Laski to Frida Laski (1910-1950) and 10 letters of Harold Laski to Diana Laski (1929-1931).

The printed material in the collection comprises articles by Laski and checklists of his book and article publications.

Extent: 3 boxes (0.5 linear metres)

Related Material:

Papers of Harold Laski (and Frida Laski), 1910-1969 [U DLA]

Papers of Granville Eastwood relating to Harold Laski, 1922-1977 [U DES]

Also various miscellaneous items relating to Laski at the following references: U DCL/2/10; U DCL/100/12; U DNO/6/19; U DPM/4/49; U DSF/1/32; U DSF/2/4; U DSF/5/8; U DSH/1/7; U DX84/31; U DX241; U DX262; U DX268; U DX320; U DX327; U LIB/2/66; U DP173; U DPB/15/1/3; U DP217.

Other repositories:

Correspondence and miscellaneous papers at Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam; Syracuse University Libraries; Southampton University Library; British Library of Political and Economic Science, London; National Library of Wales; St Hilda's College, Oxford; British Library Add MS 52729; Library of Congress; National Museum of Labour History, Manchester; Ruskin College Library, Oxford; McMaster University Library; House of Lords Record Office; Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

Access Conditions:

Access will be given to any accredited reader

Photocopies of the correspondence are issued to researchers rather than the originals

- U DLA/1 Letters from Herbert Fisher to Harold Laski 1914
i) Handwritten letter signed (3 pp) sent from India. Congratulates Laski on winning the Beit memorial prize. Fisher's work in India coming to an end. 4 Feb 1914

ii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Thanks for gift of volume. Overjoyed at the news from America. 20 April, no year
2 items
- U DLA/2 Letters from Henry W. Nevinson to Harold Laski 6-15 Feb 1914
i) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Has sent tract to Laski. Trouble between the Men's Political Union and the Women's Social and Political Union headquarters. 6 Feb 1914

ii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. W.S.P.U (Women's Social and Political Union) opposed the M.P.U. (Men's Political Union) and formed a new society. MPU to carry on as a militant body. Nevinson's association with the Lawrences' causing trouble. 15 Feb 1914[?]
2 items
- U DLA/3 Letters from George Lansbury to Harold Laski 1918
i) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Refers to the 'The Herald' and its relationship with the authorities. 4 April 1918

ii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from [London?]. Greetings and thanks. Refers to being a 'godfather'. No date
2 items
- U DLA/4 Letters from J. L. Paton to Harold Laski 5 Jun 1916-
14 Jul 1920
i) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Manchester. Addressed to 'Crammer'. Congratulations on parenthood. Also refers to Neville [Laski?]. 5 June 1916

ii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Manchester. Addressed to 'Dear Crammer'. Congratulations on expected parenthood. Refers to Neville [Laski?] and comments upon the potential of Harold. 14 July 1920
2 items

U DLA/5	<p>Letters from Lord Morley to Harold Laski</p> <p>i) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Expresses pleasure at receiving new volume. 6 Sep[?] 1921</p> <p>ii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for new volumes. 25 Jun 1922</p> <p>iii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for the chat by 'Birthe'[?]. 19 Sep[?] 1923</p> <p>iv) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Invitation to visit. Thanks for present of [book?]. 27 Feb[?], year illegible 4 items</p>	<p>6 [Sep] 1921- 19 [Sep] 1923</p>
U DLA/6	<p>Letters from Ernest Barker to Harold Laski</p> <p>i) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from, London. Refers to Laski's over - generous description of Barker's importance. 8 Nov 1921</p> <p>ii) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from Cambridge. Barker comments on Laski's views, 'it is the views I dislike- not the man'. Refers to Laski's thought on common property. Also mentions the Boots Commission and his knighthood. 15 Jan 1944</p>	<p>8 Nov 1921- 22 [Jul] 1948</p>
U DLA/6 cont...	<p>iii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Cambridge. Refers to Laski's review of 'Father of the Man'. Refers to an invitation from Dr. Watkins of the L. S. E. (London School of Economics) to speak at the Political Science Club. 22 [July?] 1948 3 items</p>	<p>8 Nov 1921- 22 [Jul] 1948</p>
U DLA/7	<p>Letters from Lord Sankey to Harold Laski</p> <p>i) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from Westminster. References to martial law and apprehension over 'present position of affairs'. 23 Jul 1924</p> <p>ii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Concern over letter received from Miss Haldane and wishes to discuss the matter. 9 Dec 1929</p> <p>iii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Westminster. References to Labour legislation in India. Post script marked 'very confidential' refers to 'Lalau?' and federal control. 17 Jan 1931</p>	<p>23 Jul 1924- 30 Sep 1940</p>

iv) Typescript letter signed (3 pp) sent from London. Informs Laski of continued opposition in appointing academic men as Judges. Refers to an enclosed letter from Chorley (not in the collection). 30 Oct 1934

v) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Llandrindod Wells. Asks for Laski's opinion on France. Has concerns not only about the war but peace too. Also mentions the Fabian Society. 30 Sep 1940
5 items

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| U DLA/8 | Letter from Sidney and Beatrice Webb to Harold Laski
From Sidney Webb:
i) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from Hampshire. Refers to Widows Pension Bill. Comments upon Laski's recent book and refers to Webb's own 'Social Parliament' idea and problems of Local Government. 13 July 1925

From Beatrice Webb:
ii) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from Hampshire. Refers to J. B. Priestley and Somerset Maughan, letter mostly illegible. 12 Feb, no year. With envelope

iii) Typescript letter signed (2 pp) sent from Hampshire. Hopes of republishing 'Soviet Communism'. Refers to constitutions of various countries including the UK and USA. Refers to Third International, Fabian Society, J. B. Priestley, the Socialist Clarity Group, Kingsley Martin, Dorothy Woodman and Professor Cyril Joad. 31 May 1941 | 13 Jul 1925-
26 Mar 1942 |
| U DLA/8
cont... | iv) Typescript letter signed (2 pp) sent from Hampshire. Comments on the one-party system. Comments on Conservative party attitude to democracy. Refers to the suppression of the 'Daily Worker', USSR. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Fifth Column and the Labour Party. 26 Mar 1942
4 items | 13 Jul 1925-
26 Mar 1942 |
| U DLA/9 | Letters from Ramsay MacDonald to Harold Laski
i) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Defends the Party against Laski's criticism. Refers to Birth Control and Villard. 23 November 1927

ii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Seeks Laski's help on communism and meetings at Seaham. Refers to [Harry] Pollitt. 16 April 1929
2 items | 23 Nov 1927-
16 Apr 1929 |

- U DLA/10 Letters from Siegfried Sassoon to Harold Laski 12 Mar 1929-
20 Nov 1945
- i) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp). No address. Will send book he has embellished. Also refers to [Victor] Gollancz. 12 March 1929
- ii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Regrets that his sonnet can never be published. Undated
- iii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Wiltshire. Refers to Laski as 'the Bogey of the Labour Party', mentions Dick Sheppard, Sam Behrman, and Cockerill[?]. Lives a quiet life: he 'reads books which take my mind away from a world which I am not able to like or fit in with'. 20 Nov 1945
3 items
- U DLA/11 Letter from H. G. Wells to Harold and Frida Laski 14 Jun 1927-
31 Mar 1931
- To Harold Laski:
- i) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from Dunmow. Anxious to discuss the Liberal-Labour mistake. 'Is it possible for you and some man close-up to Ramsay (Lees-Smith for example), to come and see me at the Reform on Thursday or Friday? I want to get at the guts of the present situation'. 5 Nov 1927
- To Frida Laski:
- ii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from Dunmow. Asks for some light reading for his wife Jane, who is ill. 14 Jun 1927
- To Harold and Frida Laski:
- iii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Invitation to supper. 27 Oct[?] 1930
- To Frida Laski:
- iv) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks for acceptance of invitation and donates £10 to their cause. 30 Oct 1930
- v) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Encloses manuscript for Laski to read. 31 March 1931
- vi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Invitation to visit. No date
- vii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) Postcard of H. G. Wells' home. No address. Expresses sympathy over death of Frida Laski's mother. No date

viii) (Typescript letter unsigned) (6 pp) Printed address read at cremation service of Amy Catherine (Jane) Wells, 10 October 1927, with envelope addressed to Mrs H. J. Laski. 1927
8 items

- U DLA/12 Letters from Hugh Dalton to Harold Laski 3 Dec 1936-
i) Handwritten letter signed (1p). No address. Praises Laski's article published in 'The Herald'. 3 Dec 1936 1 Feb 1949
- ii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Refers to economic relations with the enemy. Concerned about Chinese interests and American opinion. 8 Jun 1940, with envelope
- iii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp). No address. Comments in future tasks, opportunities and qualities needed. Wants to see Laski doing some 'important work'. 9 Aug 1945
- iv) Typescript letter signed (1p). No address. Comments upon the Party's success. 15 Mar 1946
- v) Typescript letter signed (1p). No address. Comments on the Tories and the mining industry. Praises miners and transport workers coping with bout of bad weather. 14 Feb 1947
- vi) Typescript letter signed (1p). No address. Reference to Budget Speech. Refers to Swansea and Ystradgynlais and spirit of the people 17 Mar 1947
- vii) Typescript letter signed (1p). No address. Supports succession of Laski as Chairman of the International Sub-Comittee. Refers to Denis Healey. 6 Aug 1947
- viii) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from London. Speaks of demoralisation in the party and fear of losing the confidence of the youth. 6 Sep 1947
- ix) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Thanks Laski for encouraging words. Hopes the government's socialist work will be seen in a good light. Expresses pleasure at number of young people in government. Refers to Dollar Deficit. 8 Oct 1947
- x) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Discusses the fund for Marjorie Durbin's and her children. Mentions Tom Marshall, Hugh Gaitskell, Frank Pakenham, Jack Diamond and the Mayor of Edmonton. 22 Sep 1948

xi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Refers to Israel and [L.V.S.T?]. J. V. A. [Jordan Valley Association?]. Refers to Hydro-Electric Waterfall and the Dead Sea. 1 Feb 1949, with envelope dated 1940
11 items

U DLA/13

Letters from Clement Attlee to Harold Laski
i) Typescript letter signed (1p). No address. Comments on Stafford [Cripps'] actions, disaffiliations and the treatment of Party offenders. Mentions [Walter] Citrine, [Winston] Churchill and Arthur Greenwood. 22 Feb 1937

22 Feb 1937-
2 Mar 1950

ii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for draft of broadcast. Refers to Colonel Donvan. [1940?]

iii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for note. 28 Jun 1940

iv) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. From Mary Gooch, Private Secretary, on behalf of Clement Attlee. Invitation to visit Richmond Terrace. 19 July 1940

v) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Arranges visit to talk about Seuffert's letter. 30 Sep 1940

vi) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Comments upon the problems relating to the release of Control Room assistants. 10 Oct 1940

vii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Has raised questions with the Greek Prime Minister concerning the release by the Greek Government of exiled opposition leaders. 20 Nov 1940

viii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for his letter on War Aims. Refers to a letter of 15 December where he returns letters from Chuter Ede and [Ernest] Bevin. (These are not in the collection.). 19 Dec 1940

ix) Typescript letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Attlee defends his political actions concerning the war. 29 Jan 1941

x) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Comments upon Laski's actions which have made it difficult for Attlee to consult him. 1 April 1941

- xi) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Refers to the Declaration and Laski's points relating to the M. of I. (Ministry of Information). 1 July 1941
- xii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for suggestions which he has also received from [John] Winant. 16 Oct 1941
- xiii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Encloses letter from the Ministry of Health (not present in the collection). Wants to talk to Laski about his visit to America. 22 Nov 1941
- xiv) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Comments on the principle of the non-replacement of ships. 1 April 1942
- xv) Handwritten letter signed (1 pp) sent from London. Feels it is too late to recommend Carr Saunder's name for the New Year [Honours List?]. 17 Nov 1943
- xvi) Typescript letter signed (4 pp) sent from London. Defends the government's strong stance on socialism. Discusses post war period and England's economic position with the Allies. Discusses ideas relating to nationalisation and tactics needed. Defends his socialism against Laski's accusation of Macdonaldism. 1 May 1944
- xvii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Comments on Laski's mistaken views concerning the general's[?] visit. Mentions Marshal Tito. 25 May 1944
- xviii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp). No address. Answers Laski's queries concerning Mrs. Glazier's pension. Also refers to 'SHAEFI'. 9 Aug 1944
- xix) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Arranges a time to meet 'E.B.' [Ernest Bevin?] who is unwell. 19 Sep 1944
- xx) Typescript letter signed (2 pp), sent from London. Comments upon Laski's speeches and interviews which are 'embarrassing' and do not echo the views of the government. Criticises Laski on his false and 'irresponsible' claim. Requests a period of silence from him. 20 Aug 1945
- xxi) Typescript letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Comments upon Laski's incorrect report in 'The Times' concerning local authorities. 16 Jan 1946

xxii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Comments on Laski's continuing inaccuracy. 23 Jan 1946

xxiii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski's letter concerning the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress. 23 March 1946

xxiv) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for the letter from his student concerning the Army and Navy. 29 March 1946

xxv) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for actions relating to Italy and the refugees. 23 April 1946

xxvi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Promises to review Laski's letter on the Palestine Report. 9 May 1946

xxvii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Thanks Laski for suggestions. Refers to the Zionist Committee[?]. Is too late to put T. O. Jones on the next Honours List. 21 (November?) 1946

xxviii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for letter. Will organise the authorities to look into the question of the Meineckes' house. 3 July 1946

xxix) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for suggestion concerning F. D. R (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) Memorial. 23 July 1946

xxx) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Mentions death of Ellear[?] Advises caution when appearing with Wallace in public. 8 February 1947

xxxi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Refers to India and Pakistan. 22 February 1947

xxxii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Awaits invitation from Prague University. 28 April 1947

xxxiii) Typescript letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Gives consideration to situation concerning Leon Blum. Also refers to Roosevelt Chairs, the conscription debate and the I. L. P (Independent Labour Party). 4 June 1947

- xxxiv) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Comments on the Commons passing the Bill. 17 July 1947
- xxxv) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Believes principles will see them through the 'rough weather'. Refers to Indian Independence. 12 Aug 1947
- xxxvi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Attlee defends the government's policy. 20 Aug 1947. [Copy?]
- xxxvii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Expresses confidence over the miners but is concerned over 'this Yorkshire trouble'. 3 Sep 1947 [Copy?]
- xxxviii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Discovers that practical experience has modified his theoretical views. Refers to Herbert Samuels, Edgha[?] and Clem Davis. 22 Sep 1947
- xxxix) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Refers to the Palestine problem. 25 Nov 1947
- xl) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Fears 1948 will be a difficult year. Mentions the Roosevelt Chairs. 22 Dec 1947
- xli) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for memorandum. 3 February 1948
- xlvi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Considers invitation to visit Prague as a representative of Oxford University. 6 February 1948
- xliii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Declines invitation to visit Prague. 10 February 1948
- xliv) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Refers to TUC (Trades Union Congress) meeting and George Isaacs. 18 February 1948
- xliv) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Refers to a successful conference. Also refers to Palestine. 27 May 1948
- xlvi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for loan of secretary. Comments upon visit to Lincolnshire libraries. 27 Jun 1948

xlvi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Deals with financial provision for Evan Durbin's family. 8 Sep 1948. [Copy?]

xlvi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Comments on Durbin family and refers to Hugh Dalton. 21 Sep 1948

xlix) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Raises matters concerning the financing of the University Chair. 29 Nov 1948

l) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for sending 'Liberty in the Modern State'. 10 Nov 1948

li) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Feels concern over Dutch attitude to Indonesia. Also mentions the Kashmir question. 30 Dec 1948

lii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for [William] Morris book. Refers to John Ruskin's 'The Nature of Gothic'. 27 Jan 1949

liii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Suggests amendments to Laski's introduction to the programme including references to Socialism and Capitalism, "rights" and "duties". Also refers to Trade Unionism. 14 Feb 1949

liv) Typescript letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Refers to the setup in the House of Commons, 'P[ersonal]. P[rivate]. S[ecretarie]s' and visits abroad. Laski to leave the Executive. 21 May 1949

lv) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Refers to the Tories and the exchange problem, the A. F. N. L[?], and the C. I. O [Central Information Office?] and Wall Street. Feels it is a critical point for Western democracy. 1 Sep 1949

lvi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Believes they can go on with 'renewed vigour'. Refers also to the U. S. A. 21 Sep 1949

lvii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Thanks Laski for volume[?] on Randolph [Churchill]-also refers to 'W. S. C.' [Winston Spencer Churchill]. 22 Nov 1949

lviii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Refers to the Manstein trial. 7 Jan 1950

lix) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London.
Is glad to find the country's people in good heart.
Refers to the attack by Bearson[?] on [John]
Strachey. 2 March 1950, with envelope dated 1950

With letter to Kingsley Martin from Clement Attlee:
lx) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Has no objection to publication of letters. Also refers
to Laski correspondence. 9 November 1951
60 items

- U DLA/14 Letters from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Harold Laski 10 Jan 1939-
1 Feb 1944
- i) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Washington.
Pleasure over Felix's [Frankfurter's] nomination and
dedication of Laski's book to Roosevelt. 10 Jan 1939
- ii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Washington.
Thanks Laski for the reprint on the 'Public Papers and
Addresses'. 31 Jan 1939
- iii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from
Washington. Thanks Laski for 'Where Do We Go
From Here' and states that 'Our thoughts are much
with you...'. 3 Oct 1940
- iv) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from
Washington. Refers to Hopkins visit and the
'program'. Expresses support 'to help you win this
fight' and thanks him for Attlee's note. 19 March 1941
- v) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Washington.
Hopes that they will be able to bring about
international co-operation and security. 1 Feb 1944
5 items
- U DLA/15 Letters from Stafford Cripps [?] to Harold Laski 14-20 Sep
1939
- i) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London.
Refers to Arthur Greenwood, Ned Lum[?] and
possible opposition from Dalton in relation to Cripps
aiding the party. 14 Sep 1939
- ii) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from London.
Discusses his possible role in the party, the limitations
and most effective position. Refers to the Party's
attitude to Russia. 20 Sep 1939
2 items

- U DLA/16 Letters from Margot Asquith to Harold Laski 31 May-31
i) Handwritten letter signed (5 pp) sent from London. Dec 1941
Invitation to visit. Comments on life after death of Asquith. Refers to article on Winston [Churchill] with personal comments on his character- 'he has no moral values' Refers to Lloyd George. 31 May 1941
- ii) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from London. Invitation to visit. Political and personal observations given on Winston Churchill, Neville Chamberlain, Munich and Rothschild. 31 Dec 1941, with envelope
2 items
- U DLA/17 Letters from Orde Wingate to Harold Laski 7 Jan-20 Feb
i) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. 1942
Appreciates Laski's article in the 'N. S.' [New Statesman?] and introduction to Attlee. Has been passed 'A' by the medical board. 7 Jan 1942
- ii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Departs for war and thanks Laski for his support. 20 Feb 1942, with envelope
2 items
- U DLA/18 Letters from Winston Churchill to Harold Laski Oct 1940-
i) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. 21 Sep 1944
Thanks Laski for pamphlet, 'The Rights of Man'.
Oct 1940
- ii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Sends his sympathy over death of Laski's father. 31 Oct 1941
- iii) Typescript letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Thanks Laski for words of support which enable him to 'bear the load which is fastened on my shoulders'.
2 Mar 1942
- iv) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Views on Socialism and Free Enterprise and the need for a parliamentary majority. 25 Mar 1942
- v) Typescript letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Answers Laski's concerns over invitation to address the Assembly of the International Student Service, Washington. Also refers to Lord Halifax. 18 Jul 1942
- vi) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Refers to the Guildhall speech, Hitler and the Jews. Refers to a 'permanent settlement'. 5 Jul 1943

vii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Thanks Laski for the proclamation by Queen Anne
[book?]. 6 Oct 1943

viii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Thanks Laski for tributes. 21 Sep 1944, with
envelope addressed to Frida Laski dated 1968
8 items

U DLA/19

Letters from Carr Saunders to Harold Laski
i) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from
Cambridge. Suggests having a Chair in Public
Administration after the war. 29 Dec 1943

29 Dec 1943-
8 Jun 1949

ii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London.
Comments on family matters work at the school. 21
Dec 1946

iii) Handwritten letter signed (6 pp) sent from London.
Discusses matters relating to new staff at the school.
Also refers to a report for the Malayan University
Commission. 9 Jul 1947

iv) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London.
Discusses staff matters and appointments. 15 Jul
1947

v) Handwritten letter signed (3 pp) sent from London.
Thanks Laski for generous comments. Considers
retirement and refers to R. W. Chapman. 7 Jan 1949

vi) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Returns R. H. Tawney's letter (see DLA/19/vii). 8
June 1949, with envelope addressed to Laski
Letter from R. H. Tawney to Harold Laski:

vii) Typescript letter signed (3 pp) sent from London.
Declines authorship for book on the Webbs' life and
work. Gives reason for his refusal and refers to a Mrs
[Margaret] Cole. 30 May 1945
7 items

U DLA/20

Letter from Leon and Mme Blum to Harold Laski.

1947

Letters from Leon Blum:

i) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London.
Invitation to meet. No date

ii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from France.
Family matters. 11 November, no year

iii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from France.
Invitation to meet? 1 January, no year

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Letters from Mme. Blum:

iv) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Note regarding Frida Laski. No date

v) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from France.
Invitation to visit? 17 March 1947, with envelope
addressed to Harold Laski

Letter from Bernard Malan to Leon Blum [?]:

vi) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Paris.
Illegible. No date

Letter from Bernard Malan to 'Monsieur le President':

vii) Typescript letter signed (1p). No address given.
Review of book 'Imaginer ou disparaître'. 26 Jul 1947,
with envelope addressed to Frida Laski, dated 1968
7 items

U DLA/21

Letters to Harold Laski

Letter from Stephen Leacock:

i) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from Montreal.
Congratulates Laski on parenthood. [1916]

[1916]-
20 Sep 1949

Letter from James Bryce:

ii) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp). No address given.
Discusses Laski's book, church history, theology and
Home Rule in Ireland. 19 Apr 1918

Letter from Felix Frankfurter:

iii) (Typescript letter unsigned) (1p) Telegram from
Washington. Asks for Laski's help concerning the
American labour situation after the war. 10 Dec 1916

Letter from Lord Haldane:

iv) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from
Scotland. Comments upon Laski's book 'Authority of
the Modern State'. Discusses at length the Pluralists,
the New Realists, Labour and the Liberals. 7 Apr 1920

Letter from D Redlich:

v) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from Vienna.
Expresses admiration for Laski's work on Karl Marx
and discusses aspects of socialism. Refers to his
'political pessimism' concerning Europe. 15 February
1923

Letter from August Birrell:

vi) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London.
Invitation to visit. 17 March 1924

Letter from Bertrand Russell:

vii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Penzance. Asks Laski to help arrange a publisher for Mason. Refers to the Sociological Club and comments on his own recently finished book on education. 8 September? 1925

Letter from S. Alexander:

viii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Manchester. Thanks Laski for letter and kind words. 8 January 1929

Letter from []:

ix) (AL) (1p). No address given. It states that the note is in the place of a letter. 16 June[?] 1930

Letter from Joe Kennedy:

x) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Encloses a copy of Jack Kennedy's book. 20 August 1940

Letter from Harold Laski to Joe Kennedy:

xi) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Marked 'Copy'. Criticises Jack Kennedy's book and expresses regret it was ever published. Refers also to Arthur Krock and Harry Luce. 21 Aug 1940

Letter from I. Maisky:

xii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. He has sent Laski a book and thanks him for his flattering words in 'Reynolds' [Reynolds News?]. 14 Oct 1942

Letter from Lloyd Humberstone:

xiii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. Discusses possible subjects for a theses. Encloses paper for Laski to consult (not present in the collection). 23 April 1943

Letter from Ellen Wilkinson:

xiv) Handwritten letter signed (3 pp) sent Ministry of Education, London. Apologises over matters concerning the 'Swedish speech'. Thanks Laski for his kindness and wishes to solicit some of his advice. 3 June 1946

Letter from Duke of Bedford:

xv) Handwritten letter signed (5 pp) sent from Wigtownshire. Defends his party (the British People's Party) against Laski's claim of fascism and anti-semitism. Discusses the privileges and requirements attached to British citizenship. 26 September 1948

Letter from Archibald MacLeish:

xvi) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from America.
Thanks Laski for comments on his article. Discusses poetry, in particular, W.H. Auden. 20 September 1949
16 items

- U DLA/22 Letter to Mr Thompson from Harold Laski 6 Dec 1943
Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London. A summary of the reasons for the non-acceptance of Mr Thompson's thesis.
1 item
- U DLA/23 Letter to Felix Frankfurter from Harold Laski 4 Oct 1947
Typescript letter unsigned (2 pp) sent from London. Comments upon 'C - J's' [Creech-Jones?] speech to the Assembly and the Arab veto. Discusses Cabinet reshuffle mentioning Cripps, Bevin and Dalton.
1 item
- U DLA/24 Letters to Frida Laski 25 Mar 1950-
Letter from Lord Morley: 26 Jul 1971
i) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London. Invitation to dinner. 10 May, no year
- Letter from Owen Sheehy Skeffington:
ii) Handwritten letter signed (3 pp) sent from Dublin. Contains reminiscences of Laski, particularly his intellect. Refers to his 1936 Donellan lectures. Expresses sympathy over Laski's death. 25 Mar 1950
- Letter from Noel Brailsford:
iii) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from London. Expresses sympathy over Laski's death. Comments upon Laski's career and thanks Frida for the support she gave him. 26 March 1950
- Letter from Locker Lampton:
iv) (AL) (1p) sent from London. Sent on behalf of Locker Lampton sending commiserations over Laski's death. 4 April 1950
- Letter from Felix Frankfurter:
v) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp) sent from Washington. Expresses deep regret over Laski's death. Thanks Frida for her support she gave Laski. Refers to Bob Valentine's death. 9 Apr 1950
- Letter from Mabel G:
vi) Handwritten letter signed (1p). No address. Encloses note from Jack Rice, no date. Includes envelope addressed to Mrs Eggleshaw. Jun 1950

Letter from Jack Rice:

vii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp). No address. A eulogy upon a house and the men and women who have lived there. 1 Jul 1950

Letters from Jawaharlal Nehru:

viii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from New Delhi. Contains arrangements for Frida Laski's visits to Delhi and Bombay. Refers to the Family Planning Conference in Bombay. 3 Nov 1952

ix) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from India. Agrees to write a preface for the Hindi edition of the 'Grammar of Politics'. Refers to Krishna Menon. 9 Jul 1955

Letter from R. H. Tawney:

x) Handwritten letter signed (4 pp). No address. Mentions Tawney's eightieth birthday. Regrets delay in answering letters from friends and thanks Frida Laski for writing. Refers to 'The Times'. 24 Feb 1960

Letter from Indira Gandhi:

xi) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from New Delhi. Thanks Frida Laski for her condolences. 3 Jul 1964

Letter from Sirima R. D. Bandaranaike:

xii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Ceylon. Thanks Frida Laski for her letter of support for the General Election. 11 Jun 1970

Letter from Walter Greenwood:

xiii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from Isle of Man. Refers to 'Love on the Dole' by Walter Greenwood and is sending copy of 'There was a Time'. Refers to the Savile[?] Club. 26 Jul 1971, with envelope dated 1969 addressed to Mrs. Winifred Laski

13 items

U DLA/25	Fragmentary letter from E. Sylvia Pankhurst 1 item	c.1950
U DLA/26	Speech 1 item	20th cent.
U DLA/27	'Justice Felix Frankfurter's contribution to the BBC's Harold Laski programme', signed copy 1 item	15 Nov 1961

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- U DLA/28 Letter from Stanley Williamson to Frida Laski 16 Mar 1962
Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Manchester.
Thanks Frida Laski for her help in producing the script
for 'In Our Time, Harold Laski'. Refers to Ralph
Miliband. Copy of the script is enclosed
2 items
- U DLA/29 Article. 'Post-War Machinery of Government. II- 1940
Research, Intelligence and Administration', by Harold
Laski
From 'The Political Quarterly'
1 item
- U DLA/30 Article. 'Britain Without Empire', by Harold J. Laski 29 Mar-12 Apr
From 'The Nation' 1947
1 item
- U DLA/31 Check-list of contributions to periodicals by Laski, and 1915-1950
of writings about them
1 item
- U DLA/32 Letters to Harold Laski 15 Nov 1927-
Letter from C. P. Scott: 20 Mar 1933
i) Typescript letter signed (2 pp). No address.
Invitation to visit. Comments upon political situation,
referring to Ramsay MacDonald 'If MacDonald were
to retire...'. 15 Nov 1927
- Letter from Philip Snowden:
ii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Thanks Laski for kind words and for press cutting
from the 'New York World'. 6 Sep 1929
Letter from Sidney Webb:
iii) Typescript letter signed (1p). No address. Thanks
Laski for congratulations on his new appointment and
his report of the Webb's study of the English Poor
Law. 10 Jun 1929
- Letter from J. Ramsay MacDonald:
iv) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Foresees problems over possible visit to speak to
American socialists. Refers to Charles Rowley and
the Royal Bounty Fund. 18 Aug 1929
- Letter from Margot Asquith:
v) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from London.
Invitation to meet. 2 Sep 1931
- Postcard from H.G. Wells:
vi) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Thanks Laski for comments. 22 Sep 1931

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Letter from Lord Sankey:

vii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Wishes to discuss 'The Labour Party and the
Constitution' with Laski. 20 Mar 1933

Letter from Lord Morley:

viii) Handwritten letter signed (1p) sent from London.
Thanks Laski for his talk on 12 May. No year.
8 items

U DLA/33	Letters from Harold Laski to Mrs Frida Laski and Diana Laski whilst at Yale Law School 28 items	Mar-Jun 1931
U DLA/34	Wartime letters from Harold Laski to Mrs Frida Laski Sent from Cambridge, Fulham, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Little Bardfield. Mostly Undated 110 items	[Aug 1941]- Nov 1945
U DLA/35	Letter from Harold Laski to John Saville Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Little Bardfield. Discusses educational matters and army 1 item	29 Dec 1942
U DLA/36	Letters of Harold Laski to Mrs Frida Laski Sent from Southport, Manchester, London and Oxford 26 items	28 Mar 1910- Dec 1911
U DLA/37	Letters of Harold Laski to Mrs Frida Laski Sent from Manchester and Oxford 24 items	[Dec 1911]- Jan 1914
U DLA/38	Letters of Harold Laski to Mrs Frida Laski Sent from Oxford, London, Bembridge (Isle of Wight), Manchester, Nottingham, Cambridge, West Didsbury, Paris, Liverpool and Geneva 74 items	29 Jul 1920- Dec 1929
U DLA/39	Letters of Harold Laski to Mrs Frida Laski Sent from Manchester, London, Newcastle, Paris, New Haven (Connecticut), Geneva, New York, and Cambridge (Massachusetts) 61 items	10 Jan 1930- 22 Mar 1938
U DLA/40	Letters of Harold Laski to Mrs Frida Laski Sent from Cambridge, London, Little Bardfield, Manchester, Oxford and Sittingbourne 103 items	1939-1945

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U DLA/41	Letters of Harold Laski to Mrs Frida Laski Sent from Moscow, Glasgow, Little Bardfield, New Haven (Connecticut), New Melford (Connecticut) 48 items	Jan 1946- Feb 1950
U DLA/42	Letters of Harold Laski to Diana Laski Sent from Geneva, Manchester and London 9 items	1929
U DLA/43	Letters to and from Harold and Frida Laski Letter from Herbert Darling Foster to Harold Laski: i) Typescript letter signed (3 pp) sent from London. Advises Laski and requests information on possible sources for several seventeenth century texts on the 'Prince of Orange', Louis XIV, the Calvinists and John Locke. 7 Aug 1922 Letter from Walter Lippman to Harold Laski: ii) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp) sent from Washington. 8 Nov 1924 Letter from Ramsay MacDonald to Harold Laski: iii) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from London. Advises Laski that his article on Blackpool in the 'New Republic' contained incorrect claims. Refers to an American reaction to the publication. 21 Nov 1927 Letter to Frida Laski from T.S. Adams: iv) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Connecticut. Requests advice from Frida Laski concerning the personal affairs of Allyn Young after his death. 3 Apr 1929 Letter to Harold Laski from F. Gousev: v) Typescript letter signed (1p) sent from Russia. Thanks Laski on behalf of Marshal J.V. Stalin, for his letter and hopes to strengthen the relationship between the countries. 15 Jun 1945 Letter from Frida Laski: vi) Handwritten letter signed (2 pp). No address. Reports on a visit. No date Letter from Diana Laski: vii) Handwritten letter signed (1p). Merivale Hall. Comments upon holiday accommodation. No date 7 items	7 Aug 1922- 15 Jun 1945

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| U DLA/44 | Letter from R.G. Kerry to Mrs [Sarah?] Laski
Handwritten letter signed (2 pp). No address.
Expresses regret and disappointment over Frida's
marriage but seeks her happiness over the matter
1 item | [Dec 1911] |
| U DLA/45 | Manuscripts
a) Review article by Harold Laski of 'Essays on
freedom and power', by Lord Acton

b) Notes for a speech or lecture by Harold Laski: 'The
functions of the League in their bearing upon future of
state-sovereignty'
2 items | [1949] |
| U DLA/46 | Checklists
a) Checklist. 'Books, pamphlets, etc. by Harold J.
Laski' 1913-1949

b) Checklist of publications, 1927-1949
2 items | 1913-1949 |
| U DLA/47 | Programme card: 'Glasgow Eugenics Society'
Syllabus of lectures, 1911 - 1912
1 item | 1911 |
| U DLA/48 | Photocopy. 'Harold Laski: an appreciation', by H L
Beales from 'Fabian Journal'
1 item | May 1950 |
| U DLA/49 | Pamphlet. 'Relevance of Gandhism', by V V Ramana
Murti, Ahmedabad, Harold Laski Institute of Political
Science
1 item | 1969 |