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# Guide to the Henry Kissinger and Hans Morgenthau Correspondence

GEN MSS 2165



by Elise Riley

March 2026

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 2165

**TITLE:** Henry Kissinger and Hans Morgenthau correspondence

**DATES:** 1956–1984

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains correspondence between Henry Kissinger and Hans J. Morgenthau, with related letters, printed material, and photographs.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.morgenthau>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.morgenthau>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Arches Bookhouse on the Hall Park McCoullough Fund, 2025.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Henry Kissinger and Hans Morgenthau Correspondence is the physical property of the Beinecke, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Henry Kissinger and Hans Morgenthau Correspondence. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Yale Archival Processing Manual.

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## Related Materials

Related material: Henry A. Kissinger papers, part II (MS 1981); Henry A. Kissinger papers, part III (MS 2004).

Associated material: Henry A. Kissinger papers, part I, are located at the Library of Congress.

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## HENRY KISSINGER (1923-2023)

Henry Alfred Kissinger was born Heinz Alfred Kissinger on May 27, 1923, in Fürth, Germany, and immigrated to the United States in 1938. After studying at Harvard University, he joined the faculty as a member of the Department of Government and made a reputation for his scholarly work on international affairs, which included his best-selling book *Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy* (1957).

Kissinger later served as assistant to the president for national security affairs (national security advisor) from 1969 to 1975, and as Secretary of State from 1973 to 1977 under presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. In office, he was known especially for his work on normalizing relations with China, a detente with the Soviet Union, peace negotiations during the Vietnam War, and his Middle East shuttle diplomacy.

After leaving office, Kissinger remained an influential author and commentator on foreign affairs and founded the international consulting firm Kissinger Associates.

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## HANS MORGENTHAU (1904-1980)

Hans Morgenthau (1904-1980) was a political scientist, political advisor, historian, and jurist. He was born in Coburg, Germany and attend the Universities of Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich. Morgenthau continued his postgraduate education at the Graduate Institute for International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.

He taught and practiced law in Germany, Spain, and Switzerland before immigrating to the United States in 1937 to escape Hitler's rise to power; he subsequently became a naturalized citizen in 1943. Morgenthau taught at several universities in the United States including Brooklyn College, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the University of Chicago, the City College of New York, and The New School.

Morgenthau frequently published work about political theory and is most known for his book, *Politics Among Nations*--published in 1948--which outlines the concepts of realism, power, and national interest in international politics. It became a staple text in international relations studies. Morgenthau was also a vocal analyst of American politics. He was a consultant for the Kennedy administration and later became a dissenter of the Vietnam War.

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## **Scope and Contents**

This collection contains correspondence between Henry Kissinger and Hans J. Morgenthau, with related letters, printed material, and photographs.

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## **Arrangement**

This collection is organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1956-1984. II. Ephemera, 1975-1980.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1956–1984

This series contains correspondence to and from Hans Morgenthau and Henry Kissinger. Of note are several letters in 1968 where Kissinger and Morgenthau disagree about the United States' foreign policy with Vietnam.

Materials in this series maintain order found at acquisition.

b. 1, f. 1	Kissinger-Morgenthau correspondence This group of Kissinger-Morgenthau correspondence is arranged chronologically, maintaining the order found at acquisition.	1956–1980
b. 1, f. 2	Third party-Kissinger correspondence	1978–1984

**Series II: Ephemera, 1975–1980**

This series contains articles, reports, photographs, clippings, and other ephemera related to Henry Kissinger and Hans Morgenthau.

Materials in this series are organized chronologically.

b. 1, f. 3	<i>New Yorker</i> book review by Hans Morgenthau	1975 August 11
b. 1, f. 4	Clippings	1976, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Note on policy	circa 1976
b. 1, f. 6	Foreign Policy Association Evening to Honor Henry A. Kissinger program folder	1977 January 11
b. 1, f. 7	"Statement of the Honorable Henry A. Kissinger with respect to the Treaty on Strategic Arms Limitation before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate"	1979 July 31
b. 1, f. 8	"Statement of the Honorable Henry A. Kissinger with respect to the Treaty on Strategic Arms Limitation before the Committee on Armed Services of the United States Senate"	1979 August 2
b. 1, f. 9	"Address by the Honorable Henry A. Kissinger to the Annual Convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors"	1980 April 10
b. 1, f. 10	Article by Hans Morgenthau	undated
b. 1, f. 11	Henry Kissinger business cards	undated
b. 1, f. 12	Pavel Eisler curriculum vitae	undated
b. 1, f. 13	Photographs	undated

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Diplomats -- United States

### **Geographic Names**

United States -- Foreign policy

United States -- Foreign relations -- 1969-1974

United States -- Foreign relations -- Vietnam

United States -- History -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Kissinger, Henry, 1923-2023

Morgenthau, Hans J. (Hans Joachim),  
1904-1980

### **Acquired From**

Morgenthau, Hans J. (Hans Joachim),  
1904-1980 , author

Kissinger, Henry, 1923-2023 , author