

Belarus in the Congressional Record 1873–1994

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Many authors have long recognised that migrants have an impact on employment, economic development, demographic trends, as well as foreign policy. The role of migrants can be both constructive, by providing ties and promoting democratic values between their home and host societies, or destructive, by serving as a source of instability in their homeland (Shain 2003). Large masses of people moving from one place to another can help societies better understand each other. Migrants can campaign to democratize authoritarian homeland regimes or serve as a force in the global economy by encouraging or discouraging global investment (Leblang 2010). Also, migrant communities of stateless nations historically played a major part in the struggle for political independence in their countries of origin (Shain 1994).

This paper looks at evolving U.S. policy towards Belarus (1873-1994) translated through a domestic intervening variable. Specifically, it focuses on the role of