

# An Examination of U.S. Refugee Policy Over Time

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## Abstract

This project examines the prevalence of refugee issues in U.S. human rights reporting over time. Employing text analysis techniques developed for the Sub-National Analysis of Repression Project, this paper explores how much attention is given to refugee issues in the U.S. State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which have been published since the 1970's to inform foreign aid decision-making. Drawing upon literature of foreign-policy making, this project examines how shifts in the bureaucratic organization of the State department itself, as well as congressional action, leads to changes in how concerns about refugees are reflected in the U.S. reporting on the topic. This project is helpful in understanding how refugee policy varies in salience over time and the degree to which it becomes a standard priority of the American foreign-policy making establishment.

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