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Abstract
This paper explores the factors that press states to cooperate on issues of migration control and identifies the politics that shape how states respond to such pressures. It highlights how a changing global labor market has altered the interests between immigrant-sending and immigrant-receiving states. The high degree of cooperation evident in the post-WWII era was the product of conforming interests, as industrialized nations sought low- to mid-level skilled labor for manufacturing and agriculture and sending states sought to reduce domestic unemployment. In the new millennium, the stakes involved for both receiving and sending states appear to have increased; however, the incentives for cooperation are based on opposing logics. Advanced industrial states increasingly seek to recruit highly-skilled labor for increasingly knowledge-based economies, while sending states are reluctant to promote the emigration of this scarce and valuable resource. At the same time, receiving states are responding to growing calls to reduce the flow of unauthorized, low-skilled migrants, while sending states show growing interest in utilizing low-skilled emigration as both a source of foreign exchange (remittances) and as a safety-valve for unemployment pressures. So why do some sending countries agree to assist in assisting receiving states in curbing migration from their country? This paper sheds light on the two-level politics of migration management by identifying the coercive strategies used by receiving states and the domestic political constraints faced by sending state governments that render cooperation problematic.