

Abstract

This paper analyzes the voting behavior of Democratic Party members in the 117th Congress. Specifically, it examines roll call votes related to U.S. foreign policy. Namely, it examines votes on funding allocations for the two major policy departments of the executive branch - the Department of State and the Department of Defense, votes on resolutions, and other legislative actions in which Congress has jurisdiction over U.S. foreign policy. More particularly, this study is interested in the voting behavior of members of the so-called "Congressional Progressive Caucus" (CPC), one of the ideological caucuses in the U.S. Congress that has been gaining political strength, especially in recent years. The aim of the study is to show whether the "Progressive Caucus" has developed to be a political force that is already showing tendencies to vote differently from the rest of the Democratic Party, or which specific members of Congress are potentially in positions to mediate between the "CPC" and the rest of the party on foreign policy issues. The study uses the social network analysis methodology to process and project data on the voting patterns of individual members of Congress.