
FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE

Nebraska's Foreign Policy

"The Foreign Policy of Nebraska" by Steven B. Sample and Eugene P. Trani, in *The Washington Quarterly* (Summer 1980), Dept. WQ, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, P.O. Box 1262, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903.

The quadrupling of U.S. exports during the 1970s (to \$181.6 billion in 1979) and the current dependence of more than 4 million American jobs on foreign trade has given individual states a big stake in foreign affairs. Even lightly populated, once isolationist Nebraska has developed extensive foreign economic ties, as well as major overseas educational and cultural programs. So write Sample and Trani, officials of the University of Nebraska and the University of Missouri, respectively.

Covering 77,227 square miles, Nebraska (population: 1.5 million) is larger than 52 of the world's independent countries. The grain and feed the state produced in 1977 could feed 120 million people. In 1977, Nebraska's farm exports totaled \$988 million—350 percent more than in 1972. These sales accounted for 63 percent of the growth of the state's total farm sales between 1972 and 1977. An estimated one-fourth (29,000) of Nebraska's farm workers owe their jobs to exports.

Nebraska's manufactured exports are modest (ranking 35th nationally in 1976) but grew by 130 percent after 1972, to \$309 million. Two of the state's best customers are the Soviet Union and China; both regimes purchased irrigation systems from Valmont Industries, of suburban Omaha. The University of Nebraska has trained hundreds of teachers in Turkey and developed an agricultural research program for Colombia.

Such developments have not been lost on Nebraskans. Groups like the Omaha Committee on Foreign Relations are growing rapidly. So is overseas coverage by Nebraska's newspapers and broadcast stations. And where once the state was represented in Congress by William Jennings Bryan and other famed isolationists, Senators Edward Zorinsky and J. James Exon are currently active, outspoken members of the Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, respectively.

Carrots and Sticks

"Containment Without Confrontation" by Robert Legvold, in *Foreign Policy* (Fall 1980), P.O. Box 984, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737.

By launching sustained arms control talks and expanding trade, President Nixon and Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev wrought major changes in superpower relations. But their failure to draw up rules for