

Reevaluating the Legal and Jurisprudential Foundations of Economic Sanctions in the Context of Geopolitical Shifts

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Received: 18/09/2025

Accepted: 22/10/2025

Abstract

Economic sanctions, a widely used tool in international diplomacy, significantly influence global dynamics, particularly in response to political and economic threats. In light of ongoing geopolitical shifts, these sanctions not only have notable economic and political effects on target countries but also present critical legal and jurisprudential challenges concerning state sovereignty and human rights. This paper offers a fresh analysis of the legal and jurisprudential underpinnings of economic sanctions in the context of these geopolitical changes, exploring the multifaceted nature of sanctions from both Islamic jurisprudential and international legal perspectives. The primary aim of this study is to evaluate the legitimacy of sanctions from both a legal and jurisprudential standpoint, considering the evolving geopolitical environment and recent advancements in international law. This research follows a descriptive-analytical methodology, utilizing a broad range of legal, jurisprudential, and international resources. The paper particularly emphasizes the impact of sanctions on human rights and the challenges of aligning Islamic jurisprudential principles with international legal frameworks governing sanctions. The research highlights key conflicts and challenges in reconciling legal and jurisprudential frameworks for sanctions, stressing the necessity to revisit international legal standards, especially in regard to human rights and the sovereignty of affected states in the face of geopolitical transformations. Ultimately, the paper proposes the creation of new legal frameworks that incorporate both geopolitical transformations and jurisprudential principles.

Keywords: Economic Sanctions, State Sovereignty, Human Rights, Islamic Jurisprudence, Geopolitics.

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1. Introduction

Economic sanctions have become a central instrument in international relations, especially as a tool for states to respond to perceived threats, exert pressure, or alter the behavior of other nations. While they serve as non-violent means of diplomacy, the effects of sanctions extend far beyond the immediate political objectives, creating profound economic, social, and legal consequences. Historically, the imposition of sanctions has been influenced by geopolitical considerations, and in recent years, these shifts have introduced new complexities to the traditional understanding of economic sanctions in both legal and jurisprudential contexts. The evolving geopolitical landscape marked by rising tensions, shifting alliances, and emerging global power dynamics has prompted a reevaluation of the legitimacy and effectiveness of sanctions. This paper delves into the legal and jurisprudential foundations of economic sanctions within the context of these ongoing geopolitical changes. More specifically, it explores the relationship between Islamic jurisprudence and international legal norms in assessing the legitimacy of sanctions, particularly as they relate to state sovereignty and human rights. In light of these geopolitical transformations, one of the key challenges lies in aligning international legal frameworks with the evolving norms of state sovereignty and the protection of human rights. The legal discourse surrounding sanctions has often centered on the notion of state sovereignty, with sanctions being viewed as a direct challenge to the autonomy of the targeted state. This issue has become even more pronounced as new global actors emerge and reshape traditional power structures, raising questions about the legitimacy of imposing sanctions on sovereign states under international law. Moreover, the intersection of Islamic jurisprudence and international law adds an additional layer of complexity to the analysis. Islamic legal principles, with their emphasis on justice, human dignity, and the prohibition of collective punishment, provide a unique perspective on the ethical and legal implications of sanctions. The challenge of reconciling these principles with international sanctions regimes has prompted new legal and jurisprudential debates that require careful attention and rethinking. This study aims to analyze the key issues surrounding the legality and legitimacy of economic sanctions from both an international legal and Islamic jurisprudential perspective. By examining the impact of geopolitical shifts, this paper seeks to address the evolving nature of sanctions and their compatibility with the principles of justice, human

rights, and state sovereignty. It proposes a new conceptual framework for understanding economic sanctions that incorporates both the realities of contemporary geopolitical shifts and the core tenets of Islamic jurisprudence. This research follows a descriptive-analytical approach, analyzing relevant legal, jurisprudential, and international sources to offer a comprehensive overview of this pressing issue. In conclusion, as the global geopolitical environment continues to evolve, the need to reassess and potentially reform the legal and jurisprudential basis of economic sanctions has never been more urgent. This paper calls for the development of new frameworks that can better address the challenges of state sovereignty, human rights, and international justice in the context of economic sanctions.

2. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative, analytical–descriptive methodology that integrates legal interpretation with geopolitical analysis to examine the evolving legitimacy and normative foundations of economic sanctions amid shifting global power dynamics. The research primarily utilizes doctrinal legal analysis to assess the rules and principles governing economic coercion, while simultaneously considering the contextual factors in international relations that affect their implementation and perception. The investigation follows a multi-layered interpretive framework, analyzing legal texts, international resolutions, and state practices not only in terms of their explicit provisions but also in relation to their underlying ethical assumptions and strategic implications. By applying a comparative and critical perspective, the study contrasts traditional approaches to economic warfare, which emphasize restraint and proportionality, with contemporary practices often shaped by unilateralism and geopolitical competition. Data for the study is drawn predominantly from secondary sources, including international legal instruments, scholarly literature, policy papers, and case studies of recent sanction regimes. These sources are subjected to textual and contextual analysis, allowing for an in-depth understanding of the interaction between normative and strategic rationales in the application of economic sanctions. Furthermore, the study combines juridical reasoning with geostrategic assessment to evaluate the extent to which contemporary sanction policies align with principles of legality and collective justice. The approach remains sensitive to cultural and civilizational variations, acknowledging that concepts of legitimacy and justice differ across legal traditions and geopolitical regions. Overall, this methodological design

enables a nuanced evaluation of economic sanctions as both legal instruments and expressions of power, highlighting the tension between normative legitimacy and geopolitical expediency in the contemporary international order.

3. Literature Review

Economic sanctions have long been utilized as instruments of international pressure, drawing the attention of scholars in political science, international relations, and economics. Early studies primarily focused on the economic effectiveness of sanctions and their deterrent capabilities. For instance, Hufbauer, Schott, Elliott, and Oegg in their seminal work, *Economic Sanctions Reconsidered*, demonstrated that sanctions achieve their objectives in roughly one-third of cases, yet often produce significant unintended consequences for the general population (Hufbauer et al,2007: 48). In recent decades, scholarly attention has shifted toward the geopolitical dimensions of sanctions. Researchers emphasize that the effectiveness of sanctions depends not only on the target country's economic capacity but also on its strategic location, trade networks, and international relations. Wang, in the article *The Legitimacy, Limitations and Response of Economic Sanctions in International Law*, analyzed unilateral extraterritorial sanctions and concluded that, when target states are supported by rival economic blocs or alternative trade routes, the sanctions' impact is considerably mitigated, prompting innovative economic and political responses (Wang,2024:134). Regarding national resilience and economic sustainability, research indicates that countries with diversified economic structures and supply networks are better able to withstand the adverse effects of sanctions. Schmidt, in *Legality of Unilateral Extra-Territorial Sanctions under International Law*, highlights that establishing alternative trade networks, independent payment systems, and domestic technological capacities substantially enhances a state's ability to counter international pressures (Schmidt,2022:62). From a geopolitical perspective, sanctions function as strategic tools designed to limit the influence and economic capabilities of states. Aslan and Aslan, in *The Russian Resilience Against Sanctions: The Roles of Proactive Policies and External Geopolitical Factors*, illustrate that Russia leveraged its geopolitical positioning, parallel financial networks, and national identity to maintain both economic resilience and political legitimacy (Aslan & Aslan,2024:12). Furthermore, Cinti, Marcone, Sabatini, and Temperini, in *Enhancing Supply Chain*

Resilience through the Supply Network Approach, argue that sanctions have driven a restructuring of global trade networks, leading to the emergence of more resilient and cost-efficient economic pathways (Cinti et al,2024:8). Taken together, the literature suggests that economic sanctions are complex, multifaceted instruments that exert both direct economic effects and indirect geopolitical impacts. This study seeks to integrate legal, economic, and geopolitical perspectives to provide a comprehensive understanding of sanctions and their implications for the positioning of states within the international order.

4. Theoretical Framework

4-1.Economic Sanctions and Geopolitical Resilience

Economic sanctions function as strategic instruments to influence state behavior without direct military intervention, operating at the intersection of power politics, international law, and economic governance .Realist perspectives underscore the role of coercion and relative power, asserting that sanctions are effective when they constrain the target state's strategic capabilities (Happold & Eden,2022:237). From a liberal institutionalist viewpoint, sanctions' legitimacy and multilateral coordination are crucial to compliance and international support (Ghanea,2021:250). Constructivist approaches, meanwhile, highlight the significance of social norms, identity, and perceptions, demonstrating that the perceived fairness and legality of sanctions influence their effectiveness (Schmidt,2022:70). This framework identifies three interrelated dimensions shaping the outcomes of sanctions: geopolitical positioning and alliances, which determine alternative trade routes and diplomatic support (Kelmendi et al.,2025:842); economic resilience and structural capacity, encompassing domestic production, technological adaptation, and financial infrastructure; and legal-normative justification, reflecting adherence to international law, sovereignty principles, and ethical constraints. Integrating these dimensions enables a holistic assessment of how sanctions affect state behavior, economic stability, and broader geopolitical dynamics, offering a foundation for comparative analysis and policy evaluation.

5. Findings

5-1.The Impact of Economic Sanctions on Iran's Geopolitical Developments: A Comparative and Analytical Review

Economic sanctions have become one of the central tools in the foreign policy arsenals of powerful nations, profoundly influencing geopolitical and

economic transformations worldwide. Over the past few decades, these sanctions, typically designed to restrict the economic, political, and security capacities of target countries, have resulted in consequences extending far beyond financial and trade barriers. In the case of Iran, sanctions have intensified since the post-revolutionary period and have become one of the primary obstacles to economic development and regional influence. The sanctions imposed on Iran have restricted its oil exports, reduced foreign currency revenues, and curtailed the country's ability to attract foreign investments, leading to reduced economic growth and rising inflation (Beheshtinia & Hasani Jalilian,2022:45-52). Additionally, the sanctions have impeded access to advanced technologies and industrial machinery, thereby weakening domestic production capacity and decreasing productivity. From a geopolitical perspective, the sanctions have significantly diminished Iran's influence in strategically important regions such as Central Asia and the Caucasus, limiting its ability to fully capitalize on opportunities emerging from the collapse of the Soviet Union. The imposed restrictions have also hampered Iran's ability to engage with regional countries and participate in joint economic and security projects, ultimately diminishing its regional role (Taghavi Asl,2024:80). Furthermore, due to financial constraints, sanctions have put pressure on Iran's ability to ensure national security and defense, increasing defense costs and creating additional limitations in procuring advanced weapons and equipment in an already constrained environment (Mosleynajad,2015:17).

On a social level, the effects of sanctions, particularly on vulnerable groups, include increased unemployment rates, reduced access to medicines and medical equipment, and a decline in the quality of public services and welfare. These sanctions, in addition to economic pressures, have led to rising social dissatisfaction and increased psychological strain on the population, potentially contributing to domestic political instability (Hitekamp,2024:125). These consequences, beyond affecting the daily lives of citizens, further complicate efforts to mitigate sanctions and necessitate comprehensive and long-term strategies. In response to these pressures, Iran has sought to mitigate the effects of sanctions through regional cooperation, diversification of its economic partners, and leveraging domestic capabilities. These strategies include strengthening ties with neighboring countries, expanding economic collaboration with Russia, China, and Central Asian states, and establishing new financial and banking networks

to circumvent international restrictions. However, sanctions continue to pose major challenges to Iran's economic development and regional influence, remaining an effective tool in global policy (Beheshtinia & Hasani Jalilian, 2022:72).

An analysis of economic sanctions reveals that, beyond their direct economic effects, they bring about significant changes in geopolitical and security equations. Sanctions have compelled target countries to reassess their regional and international policies and rebuild their defensive and economic strategies. In this context, sanctions are simultaneously recognized as both a serious obstacle and a tool for exerting pressure and controlling international policies, with effects observable not only in economic realms but also in politics, security, and society (Austin,2023:65). Therefore, combating economic sanctions requires policies that ensure synergy between domestic economic development, regional diplomacy, and the use of international capacities.

5-2.Legitimacy of Economic Sanctions in Islamic Jurisprudence and International Law: A Legal and Ethical Approach

Economic sanctions are widely recognized as a significant tool in international politics, yet their legitimacy has long been debated within both international law and Islamic jurisprudence. Sanctions must be evaluated through core principles such as justice, protection of human dignity, avoidance of unnecessary harm, and preservation of public interest. In international law, *jus cogens* norms stress adherence to legal frameworks, prohibiting harm to civilians without legitimate cause. According to Article 41 of the United Nations Charter, economic sanctions require Security Council authorization and respect for human rights; unilateral sanctions imposed by powerful states, often motivated by political and strategic interests, lack international legitimacy. Such actions undermine national sovereignty, destabilize the international order, and foster distrust among states (Haddadi,2003:75; Mirtafahi & Abbasi,2025:120). In Islamic jurisprudence, the legitimacy of sanctions is based on self-defense and safeguarding national interests. Measures that protect the regime and national security without causing undue harm to ordinary people are considered acceptable. However, sanctions that deprive vulnerable populations of essential needs such as food and medicine violate Islamic principles and are deemed illegitimate (Alinajad,2022:30). Both frameworks converge on the importance of justice, human dignity, and avoidance of

unnecessary harm. Contemporary studies highlight that sanctions are legitimate only when they comply with jus cogens norms, avoid harming civilians, and contribute to international peace and security rather than serving as instruments of political coercion (Alaei et al,2022:18; Mirtafahi & Abbasi,2025:125). Monitoring mechanisms and precise regulatory frameworks are essential to continuously assess sanctions' impact and prevent human rights violations or irreparable harm (Alaei & Colleagues, 2022:25). Ultimately, while economic sanctions may, in specific circumstances, be legally permissible, their ethical and jurisprudential legitimacy is more stringent. Sanctions are justifiable only when they uphold international law, protect civilians, and advance genuine peace and security rather than unjust political objectives.

5-3.Legitimacy of Economic Sanctions in Islamic Jurisprudence and International Law: A Comprehensive Legal and Jurisprudential Approach

Comprehensive Legal and Jurisprudential Approach Economic sanctions, as one of the central tools of modern international and domestic policy, represent non-military mechanisms aimed at influencing the behavior of states, institutions, or individuals. Their legitimacy—when examined through the dual lenses of Islamic jurisprudence and international law—requires a nuanced consideration of legal, ethical, and humanitarian foundations. From the standpoint of Islamic jurisprudence, sanctions are not inherently legitimate instruments of coercion. Their permissibility depends on essential jurisprudential principles such as the protection of public interests (maslahah), the avoidance of harm (la zarar wa la zihar), the promotion of justice, and the preservation of human dignity. Sanctions that inflict disproportionate harm on ordinary citizens—particularly those restricting access to food, medicine, or healthcare—contradict the Sharia-based commitment to justice and human welfare, thereby losing their legitimacy (Alinajad,2022:28). Islamic law's emphasis on human dignity and opposition to oppression makes it clear that collective punishment or economic hardship targeting innocent populations cannot be justified. Consequently, the Islamic legal framework recognizes legitimate resistance to sanctions through measures such as strengthening domestic production, supporting vulnerable populations, promoting economic transparency, and combating corruption. These measures reflect both moral responsibility and rational policy responses consistent with Islamic values (Alinajad,2022:35). In contrast, international law evaluates the legitimacy of

sanctions based on *jus cogens* norms and the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter. According to Article 41 of the Charter, economic sanctions may only be imposed by the Security Council and must respect fundamental human rights. Unilateral sanctions imposed outside this framework especially those motivated by political or strategic interests violate the sovereignty of states and contradict the foundational principles of international legality (Akrami,2025:492). Such measures often undermine political stability and human security, inflicting widespread economic and social harm, thereby eroding their ethical and legal legitimacy (Akrami, 2025:498). A central challenge shared by both systems—Islamic and international is the balance between sovereignty and human rights. While the Qur'an and Hadith recognize national defense and sovereignty as vital rights, they equally condemn injustice and collective suffering. Therefore, legitimate sanctions must be narrowly designed to achieve security goals while minimizing collateral damage to innocent populations (Zarei Heddak et al.,2020:40). In practice, Iran's experience under prolonged sanctions illustrates the dynamic application of these jurisprudential and legal principles. The country has adopted multidimensional strategies such as pursuing litigation in international tribunals, employing diplomatic channels, and combating crimes linked to sanctions (e.g., hoarding and money laundering) to mitigate adverse effects while safeguarding national independence and economic stability (Abbasnia,2018:38; Mohammadi, 2023:162). Ultimately, the development of coherent legal and ethical frameworks rooted in both Islamic jurisprudence and international law can strengthen the moral foundation for evaluating sanctions. Only those sanctions aligned with justice, fairness, and respect for human dignity can be deemed legitimate (Alinajad,2022:40; Akrami,2025:502). Integrating humanitarian obligations such as ensuring equitable access to essential goods and protecting civilian welfare provides a pathway for reconciling international governance with Islamic ethical principles, reinforcing both legitimacy and global justice.

5-4 Impact of Economic Sanctions on International Law and Geopolitical Developments

Economic sanctions have emerged as one of the most influential instruments of foreign policy in the twenty-first century. Designed to compel states to modify particular behaviors or policies, they function as strategic tools within broader frameworks of geopolitical rivalry and international power

dynamics (Beheshtinia and Hasani Jalilian,2022:25). The expanding application and sophistication of sanctions have not only intensified political and economic pressures on targeted states but have also created profound challenges for international legal order and multilateral governance mechanisms. From the perspective of international law, unilateral sanctions that operate outside the authority of the United Nations remain legally contentious. The UN Charter, particularly Articles 39 to 41, reserves the right to impose sanctions exclusively for the Security Council, thereby ensuring collective legitimacy. Measures undertaken unilaterally often justified under claims of national security or moral responsibility lack this legitimacy and may violate the principles of non-intervention and state sovereignty (Happold and Eden,2022:235). Such practices expose the weaknesses of the international legal system in addressing emerging geopolitical realities and maintaining balance between enforcement and equity. From a geopolitical viewpoint, sanctions serve as instruments of strategic containment and competition. Major powers employ them to limit the economic influence, political independence, or technological development of rival states. These constraints frequently produce cascading effects such as financial isolation, trade disruption, and reduced foreign investment (Holtkamp,2024:112). In many cases, sanctions have contributed to political instability, declining public trust in governance, and widening social inequalities consequences that extend beyond their declared objectives (Fassbender,2016:231). Economically, sanctions generate a broad spectrum of long-term repercussions. They reduce export capacity, restrict access to advanced technologies, and hinder the flow of capital, leading to structural stagnation and decreased productivity (Marvi-Samavarchi and Shayesteh, 2015:78). Their social effects are equally severe, particularly regarding access to healthcare, education, and basic necessities factors that directly impact human welfare and development (Peksen,2019:15). In Islamic jurisprudence and criminal law, scholars have developed critical perspectives on the ethical and humanitarian dimensions of sanctions. Feiz-Abadi (2023:45) argues that, unlike dominant Western legal reasoning, Islamic law grounded in principles of justice, equity, and public welfare (maslahah) views coercive economic measures as potentially unjust and contrary to human rights. Similarly, Ghana (2021:256) calls for a fundamental reassessment of the mechanisms and moral legitimacy of sanction policies, emphasizing the need for legal frameworks that prioritize

social justice and collective responsibility. Ultimately, economic sanctions, as complex instruments of geopolitical influence, expose the limitations of existing international legal frameworks. Ensuring a balance between global security, state sovereignty, and humanitarian principles requires legal reform and renewed international cooperation (Biersteker et al., 2016:12). Strengthening multilateral institutions, enhancing transparency in sanctioning procedures, and promoting dialogue-based dispute resolution can mitigate the humanitarian impact of sanctions while fostering stability and legitimacy in the global order (Beheshtinia and Hasani Jalilian, 2022: 30).

5-5. The Impact of Economic Sanctions on International Law and Geopolitical Transformations: A Comprehensive Analysis

Economic sanctions have evolved into one of the most influential instruments of contemporary international relations, serving both as a means of coercion and as a reflection of shifting global power structures. Initially designed to pressure states into compliance with international norms or to deter aggression, sanctions have become an integral component of geopolitical strategy, influencing diplomatic relations, trade alignments, and even domestic policy orientations within targeted states (Wang, 2024:134). From a geopolitical perspective, sanctions operate as both a deterrent and a mechanism for reshaping global alliances. States subject to restrictive measures have often responded by diversifying their economic partnerships, strengthening trade and financial relations with neutral or sympathetic states, and seeking to reduce dependency on sanction-imposing economies (Schmidt, 2022:62). This process has led to the gradual emergence of alternative geopolitical blocs and regional economic alliances, particularly within Eurasia and the Global South, reflecting a realignment of global trade flows and political influence. In economic terms, sanctions exert immediate and long-term effects on national economies. Empirical studies indicate that targeted countries often experience an average decline of 1.5 – 2 percent in annual GDP growth, alongside reductions in exports, limited access to international credit markets, and a contraction in foreign investment (Wang, 2024:134). Nevertheless, the forced adaptation to external constraints has also catalyzed domestic production initiatives, technological innovation, and import substitution policies aimed at strengthening economic resilience (Wang, 2024:137). The emphasis on self-sufficiency, while costly in the

short term, has proven to be a viable strategy for mitigating economic vulnerability and preserving social stability under sustained sanctions.

On the technical and financial front, states have increasingly developed and employed alternative payment and messaging systems such as Russia's SPFS, China's CIPS, and various regional digital currency frameworks to bypass restrictions on international transactions (Wang,2024:136). These mechanisms not only enable the continuation of cross-border capital flows but also symbolize the gradual fragmentation of the global financial order, challenging the dominance of Western-centric institutions such as SWIFT and the U.S. dollar-based settlement system. From a legal standpoint, unilateral and extraterritorial sanctions raise profound concerns regarding their compatibility with international law. Such measures often contravene principles of state sovereignty, non-intervention, and the collective security framework established under the United Nations Charter (Schmidt,2022, 75). The absence of a clear legal foundation for these sanctions undermines the legitimacy of the international legal order and creates asymmetries that disproportionately affect developing nations. Moreover, the weaponization of economic interdependence blurs the boundaries between lawful foreign policy measures and coercive economic warfare, posing normative challenges for international law scholars and policymakers alike. Ultimately, economic sanctions, as multifaceted geopolitical instruments, necessitate a comprehensive and reform-oriented approach. This includes the codification of clearer international norms governing the use and limits of sanctions, the establishment of humanitarian exemption frameworks, and the reinforcement of multilateral dispute-resolution mechanisms under the United Nations system (Biersteker et al.,2016:155). Balancing global security interests with respect for sovereignty, legality, and humanitarian principles remains central to mitigating the adverse impacts of sanctions while promoting a more equitable and cooperative international order.

5-6. Economic Sanctions and the Adaptive Responses of Russia, Venezuela, and Cuba: Legal, Geopolitical, and Economic Dimensions

Economic sanctions have emerged as one of the most influential instruments in contemporary international politics, profoundly shaping global trade, political alliances, and the legitimacy of international law. Imposed primarily to exert political pressure and compel states to modify their behavior or policies, sanctions carry far-reaching economic, legal, and geopolitical consequences (Wang,2024:134). Particularly, unilateral and

extraterritorial sanctions challenge the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention, creating tension within international legal frameworks and prompting debates over the ethical and legal legitimacy of such measures (Biersteker et al.,2016:155). The imposition of sanctions is increasingly perceived not only as a form of economic warfare but also as a tool to alter the global balance of power, influencing both regional and global geopolitical dynamics. Countries facing sanctions adopt multifaceted strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience. One prominent approach involves diversifying trade partners and establishing economic relations with non-sanctioning nations, which mitigates the impact of sanctions and strengthens national economic stability. Russia and Iran, for instance, have actively pursued alternative trade routes and partnerships with emerging markets, thereby reducing reliance on sanction-imposing economies and maintaining essential trade flows (Schmidt,2022:62). The restructuring of trade networks and creation of new economic alignments have contributed not only to economic resilience but also to geopolitical leverage, allowing these countries to assert greater autonomy in international affairs. Internally, sanctioned states focus on self-sufficiency and domestic capacity-building. Strategies such as import substitution, investment in local industries, and the promotion of technological and industrial innovation are central to mitigating the adverse effects of sanctions. Russia has capitalized on its natural resources and geopolitical position to develop parallel financial networks, including the System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS) as an alternative to SWIFT, ensuring the continuity of international financial transactions despite external restrictions (Aslan & Aslan,2024:25). Additionally, domestic political and social cohesion, reinforced by state media and political elites, has strengthened the country's resilience, preserving legitimacy and internal stability during periods of heightened economic pressure (Guter-Sandu & Kuznetsova,2020:610). The economic consequences of sanctions are substantial and multifaceted. Targeted nations often experience reductions in GDP growth, restricted access to foreign investment, limited technological transfer, and disruptions in essential services such as healthcare and education. For sanctioned countries, GDP growth may decline by up to 2% annually, with long-term repercussions for social welfare and development (Wang,2024:134). These economic pressures highlight the humanitarian dimension of sanctions, emphasizing the need for

careful design and implementation that minimizes harm to civilian populations while pursuing political objectives.

A comparative perspective of Russia, Venezuela, and Cuba illustrates both shared strategies and unique responses to external pressures. Russia has faced extensive sanctions since 2014, particularly after the annexation of Crimea and the escalation of conflict in Ukraine in 2022. Its adaptive strategies include the development of parallel financial systems, strengthening trade relations with China and India, and implementing import substitution programs in strategic sectors such as energy, agriculture, defense, and technology (Aslan & Aslan,2024:25). Domestic economic resilience, coupled with social cohesion and strategic geopolitical leverage, has enabled Russia to partially mitigate the effects of sanctions while maintaining political stability. Venezuela, heavily sanctioned by the United States, has endured severe economic contraction, hyperinflation, declining oil exports, and humanitarian crises (Romero & Velasco,2023:88). In response, Venezuela has forged strategic alliances with Russia, China, and Turkey, engaged in barter trade, and introduced the national cryptocurrency Petro to circumvent financial restrictions (Fernández & Paredes,2022:144). Despite these measures, Venezuela's dependence on oil revenues revealed structural vulnerabilities, highlighting the critical importance of economic diversification and strengthening domestic industries to enhance resilience under sanctions. Cuba, under the longest-standing U.S. embargo since 1962, demonstrates long-term adaptation strategies under persistent economic pressure (Hosseini et al.,2025:274). Cuba developed a centralized economy prioritizing healthcare, education, and biotechnology while cultivating international partnerships with Venezuela, China, and other South-South actors to secure essential imports and maintain domestic legitimacy (López, 2021:233). The Cuban experience underscores the role of strategic economic planning, human capital development, and sustained diplomatic engagement in mitigating the long-term impact of sanctions while preserving internal stability and public services. From a legal standpoint, these cases highlight the challenges that unilateral sanctions pose to international norms, including principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and the right to development. All three countries have employed a combination of legal diplomacy, economic restructuring, and strategic geopolitical alliances to resist external pressures and assert their rights under international law (Wang,2024:134). While sanctions are designed to enforce

political compliance, they often stimulate economic innovation, regional integration, and normative debates in international law. Sanctioned countries develop adaptive mechanisms that enhance resilience, turn external pressures into strategic opportunities, and reconfigure geopolitical alignments, transforming potential vulnerabilities into sources of strength and influence. In conclusion, economic sanctions are complex instruments that not only exert political pressure but also shape international law, economic structures, and geopolitical relationships. The adaptive responses of Russia, Venezuela, and Cuba demonstrate the capacity of sanctioned nations to leverage internal resources, diversify economic partnerships, and strengthen social and political cohesion. These examples underscore the importance of comprehensive and cooperative international approaches, balancing security concerns with respect for national sovereignty, economic resilience, and human rights, while encouraging legal frameworks that address both the coercive intent of sanctions and their humanitarian implications (Biersteker et al., 2016:155).

5-7. The Jurisprudential Approach to Economic Warfare and Sanctions: Foundations, Requirements, and Ethical Considerations

Economic warfare, as a form of using economic tools such as sanctions and trade restrictions instead of military force, has become one of the prominent means of exerting pressure in international politics. From the perspective of Islamic jurisprudence, this phenomenon can be examined through the principles of legitimate defense. In other words, economic warfare is only legitimate when it falls within the framework of defending the lives, property, and dignity of Muslims according to Islamic law, while adhering to the principles of justice, human dignity, and avoiding unnecessary harm to innocent individuals (Barati, 2023:31). Islamic jurisprudence emphasizes the necessity of upholding justice when facing the enemy, introducing the principle of "la darar wa la dirar" (no harm and no harming others) as a key foundation for regulating economic warfare. This principle asserts that no action causing unjustifiable harm to ordinary people is acceptable, and thus, sanctions that lead to widespread human suffering should be avoided (Bajghali et al., 2021:39). Consequently, Islamic law views economic warfare as a legitimate form of defense that must be goal-oriented and limited to targeting the enemy's economic capacity, while avoiding any aggressive acts or collective punishment. In this context, the concept of "resistant economy," which has gained significant attention in contemporary

jurisprudential and economic discussions, is presented as a strategic framework for countering economic warfare. This framework emphasizes self-sufficiency, supporting domestic production, and strengthening the economic foundation of society while simultaneously focusing on social justice and the protection of vulnerable groups (Dezhpend et al.,2008:119). Thus, the resistant economy is not only an economic response but also a jurisprudential and ethical strategy that ensures the protection of people's rights under pressure and sanctions.

Furthermore, Islamic jurisprudence, by utilizing international legal norms and Islamic principles, recognizes the legitimacy of legal responses to unilateral and extraterritorial sanctions. Such responses are justified both in terms of preserving national sovereignty and legitimate defense (Barati, 2023:45-52). In this framework, countermeasures should be taken within the bounds of international justice and principles of good faith, ensuring they remain legally and ethically valid. Overall, the jurisprudential approach to economic warfare not only accepts it as a legitimate means of defense but stresses that its implementation must always be accompanied by careful ethical and legal considerations to ensure social justice and the preservation of human dignity. This approach can provide a robust framework for policymakers and relevant institutions in designing and implementing effective policies to counter sanctions and economic warfare.

5-8. Jurisprudential Approach to Economic Warfare and Sanctions: Foundations, Requirements, and Ethical Considerations

Economic warfare, defined as the use of economic tools such as sanctions and trade restrictions instead of military force, has emerged as one of the prominent methods of exerting pressure in international politics. From the perspective of Islamic jurisprudence, this phenomenon can be analyzed through the principles of legitimate defense. In other words, economic warfare is legitimate only when it falls within the framework of defending the lives, property, and dignity of Muslims in accordance with Islamic law, while adhering to the principles of justice, human dignity, and avoiding unnecessary harm to innocent individuals (Barati,2023:31). Islamic jurisprudence emphasizes the need to uphold justice when dealing with the enemy, introducing the principle of "la darar wa la dirar" (no harm and no harming others) as a key foundation for regulating economic warfare. This principle asserts that no action causing unjustifiable harm to ordinary people is acceptable, and thus, sanctions leading to widespread human suffering

should be avoided (Bajghali et al.,2021:41). Therefore, Islamic law views economic warfare as a legitimate form of defense that must be goal-oriented and limited to targeting the economic capabilities of the enemy, avoiding any acts of aggression or collective punishment.

In this context, the concept of "resilient economy," which has garnered significant attention in contemporary jurisprudential and economic discourses, is presented as a strategic framework for countering economic warfare. This framework emphasizes self-sufficiency, supporting domestic production, and strengthening the economic foundation of society while simultaneously focusing on social justice and the protection of vulnerable groups (Dezhpand et al.,2008:123). Hence, the resilient economy is not only an economic response but also a jurisprudential and ethical strategy that ensures the protection of people's rights under pressure and sanctions. Moreover, Islamic jurisprudence, by incorporating international legal principles and Sharia, recognizes the legitimacy of legal responses to unilateral and extraterritorial sanctions. Such responses are justified both in terms of preserving national sovereignty and legitimate defense (Barati, 2023:49). Within this framework, countermeasures should be taken within the bounds of international justice and principles of good faith to ensure they remain both legally and ethically valid. Overall, the jurisprudential approach to economic warfare not only accepts it as a legitimate tool for defense but also emphasizes that its execution must always be accompanied by meticulous ethical and legal considerations to preserve social justice and human dignity. This approach can provide a robust framework for policymakers and relevant institutions in formulating and implementing effective policies to counter sanctions and economic warfare.

6. Conclusion

Economic sanctions have emerged as a central and increasingly complex instrument in international relations, deeply influencing the political, economic, and social trajectories of affected states. Historically, sanctions were designed as tools of political leverage, aimed at compelling compliance with international norms or influencing specific state behaviors. However, in the contemporary era, the evolving geopolitical landscape has fundamentally transformed both the application and the consequences of sanctions. The rise of emerging economies, the shifting balance of global power, and the formation of new alliances and regional blocs have not only altered the effectiveness of traditional sanctioning mechanisms but also

necessitated a critical reevaluation of their ethical, legal, and practical legitimacy. The imposition of economic sanctions, particularly when unilateral or extraterritorial, exposes fundamental tensions between political objectives and the principles of justice, sovereignty, and human rights. While states may pursue sanctions to achieve strategic or political ends, these measures often produce wide-ranging economic dislocations, social hardships, and political destabilization in targeted countries. Such outcomes reveal the inherent limitations of sanctions as purely coercive tools and highlight the importance of incorporating both jurisprudential principles and international legal norms into their design and implementation. Sanctions that ignore humanitarian considerations, disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, or undermine access to essential services can erode legitimacy and provoke domestic and international criticism.

The experiences of countries such as Russia, Venezuela, and Cuba exemplify the diverse ways in which sanctioned states adapt to external pressures, demonstrating both common patterns and unique strategies. Russia, for instance, has leveraged its abundant natural resources, strategic location, and geopolitical partnerships to establish alternative financial and trade networks, enabling it to sustain economic activity despite extensive sanctions. At the same time, domestic capacity-building initiatives, import substitution policies, and the strengthening of key industries have bolstered economic resilience and mitigated the immediate impact of external restrictions. Social cohesion and the cultivation of national identity have further reinforced internal stability, allowing the state to navigate economic pressures without collapsing into political dysfunction. Venezuela presents a contrasting case, where heavy dependence on a single economic sector, combined with a series of punitive sanctions, has exposed vulnerabilities and generated severe socio-economic crises. Yet even in such a challenging environment, the state has sought to build resilience through strategic partnerships, alternative trade arrangements, and innovative financial mechanisms, demonstrating the role of adaptive policy-making and international alliances in mitigating sanction-induced disruptions. The Cuban experience, characterized by prolonged isolation and the longest-standing embargo, highlights the potential for sustained adaptation through centralized economic planning, prioritization of human development sectors, and strategic partnerships with like-minded states. Cuba's ability to maintain public services and domestic legitimacy under prolonged economic

constraints underscores the significance of long-term strategic planning and social policy as tools of resilience. Comparative analysis of these countries reveals several important insights. First, diversification of trade and financial networks is essential to reduce vulnerability to external economic pressures. Second, strengthening domestic production, self-sufficiency, and institutional capacity is critical in countering the immediate and long-term impacts of sanctions. Third, social cohesion, legitimacy, and national identity play indispensable roles in sustaining internal stability, allowing states to navigate the political and economic challenges posed by sanctions. Collectively, these patterns suggest that the imposition of sanctions does not inevitably achieve intended political objectives; rather, it can stimulate economic innovation, policy adaptation, and the strengthening of alternative governance and financial structures. From a jurisprudential and ethical perspective, these dynamics underscore the urgent need for a reevaluation of the frameworks governing sanctions. Sanctions should not be viewed solely as instruments of coercion but must also be evaluated in terms of their alignment with principles of justice, proportionality, and human dignity. Legal frameworks must evolve to address the growing complexity of the global order, incorporating considerations of state sovereignty, human rights, and ethical responsibility into sanction design and enforcement. Equally, geopolitical shifts demand a more nuanced understanding of sanctions as instruments that operate within interconnected economic, political, and social systems, where their effects extend far beyond immediate policy objectives. Ultimately, the study of economic sanctions in the contemporary geopolitical context reveals both the limitations and potential of these instruments. While sanctions can exert pressure and signal international disapproval, their effectiveness is mediated by the resilience and adaptability of targeted states, the configuration of global power structures, and the degree to which legal and ethical norms are observed. A forward-looking approach requires integrating legal, economic, and ethical considerations with strategic geopolitical analysis, ensuring that sanctions are implemented in ways that are not only politically effective but also socially responsible and legally defensible. By understanding the interplay between sanctions, state resilience, and geopolitical dynamics, policymakers and scholars can better navigate the challenges of international diplomacy, transform potential vulnerabilities into strategic opportunities, and advance a more just and stable global order.

7. Acknowledgment

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to all colleagues, institutions, and experts who provided valuable insights and support throughout the research process. Special thanks are extended to [specific institution or funding body, if any] for facilitating access to essential resources and data. Their contributions significantly enhanced the quality and rigor of this study.

8. Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no financial, personal, or professional conflict of interest that could have influenced the research, analysis, or interpretation of data presented in this study. All sources of funding and institutional affiliations have been fully disclosed, and no parties had a role in the design, execution, or reporting of the research.

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