



US Seizure of Venezuelan Tanker

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Subject Reference: GS Paper II (International Law & Great Power Politics)

- **The News (Dec 2025):** The US "blockaded" and seized a sanctioned Venezuelan tanker in international waters, citing the **IEEPA (International Emergency Economic Powers Act)**.
- **Apt Topic: "Unilateral Sanctions vs. UNCLOS"**
- **The Legal Conflict:** Under **UNCLOS (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea)**, ships on the high seas have "Freedom of Navigation." The US seizure challenges the "Flag State Jurisdiction" principle.
- **Weaponization of Finance:** This is a case of **Extra-territorial Jurisdiction**. It shows how domestic US laws are used to police global energy flows, forcing countries like India to navigate a "two-tier" oil market (sanctioned vs. non-sanctioned).