

Sovereignty in Public International Law: An Applied Study of the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict Over the Crimea Island

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Abstract

This study addresses the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine over the claim of sovereignty over the Crimean Peninsula. This conflict resulted in Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula through an illegitimate referendum, which violated international law and international norms. Russia disregarded the potential consequences and sanctions that would be imposed on them, as long as it achieved its goal of expanding its influence and gaining complete economic and geopolitical control over its regional surroundings. In doing so, Russia ignored Ukraine's right to sovereignty over its territory and its rejection of the violations directed towards it. As a result, the researcher reached several conclusions, including the fact that Russia's annexation of Crimea involved numerous international violations. Therefore, it is recommended that the international community should work towards achieving common interests between the parties involved in the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, overlooking the causes of the conflict between them in an attempt to create a foundation based on peace between them.

Keywords: Russo-Ukrainian conflict. Crimean Peninsula. sovereignty. International borders.