FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION

PhD DISSERTATION

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Abstract

Since the early 17th century, the idea of freedom of the seas has existed. Up until the twentieth century, there was no opposition to the *mare liberum* theory. Today, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 carefully balances the rights of coastal states with the freedom enjoyed by all states. Undoubtedly, the rate at which the freedom of the seas is being lost has accelerated recently, but the freedom of navigation remains a fundamental component of that freedom. This dissertation aimed at studying freedom of navigation in specific maritime zones, such as high seas, exclusive economic zones, and straits, as well as the rights and duties of coastal states, and examining issues relating to navigation-related activities. In writing this dissertation, the provisions of UNCLOS and other international treaties, as well as international cases and incidents related to navigation, are mainly studied.

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