

Contemporary Implications of International Economic Sanctions for Societies Under Siege

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17237580>

Article History	Abstract
Original Research Article	<p><i>This research examines the contemporary implications of international economic sanctions for societies under siege. Sanctions are actions taken by a government to stop other countries from trading, exchanging arms, opening overseas accounts, or traveling to other nations. It can be used to impact economic policy, such as removal channels or import taxes; affect military establishment resolutions, including weapons increases or human rights. Sanctions are consequences enforced by one country on another to stop aggressive behaviour or the violation of global regulations. They are among the strongest engagements countries take, instead of going to war.</i></p> <p><i>Economic sanctions involve limitations on economic interests imposed by an international actor or another entity with a specific purpose. International sanctions are a fundamental ingredient in current universal relationships that are powerful instruments used against countries, non-state actors, and people who present a danger to universal accord and protection.</i></p> <p><i>For societies under siege, the Russia-Ukraine crisis is being used. Russia attacked Ukraine on 24th February 2022. These attacks by the Russian army became global news. The United States increased the use of sanctions by directing and ramping up against opponents in Iran, Russia, Syria, and Venezuela. Subtopics such as Ambulances under siege in Syria, Education under siege in Zimbabwe, Nigeria under siege in terms of religious conflicts, and Democracy under siege in Tunisia are all researched in this study.</i></p> <p>Keywords: Contemporary, Implications, Sanctions, Economic Sanctions, Societies Under Siege.</p>
Received: 02-09-2025	
Accepted: 12-09-2025	
Published: 30 -09-2025	
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Citation: ALO, Folake Sekinot. (2025). Contemporary Implications of International Economic Sanctions for Societies Under Siege. UKR Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies (UKRJMS), volume 1(issue 6), 43-50.	

Introduction

Sanctions are used to implement economic policy by discarding procedures or charges that will not be restricted to monetary strategy, which are used to inspire army pronouncements, weapons production, and human rights. These sanctions bring an end to conflict within society to force a specific group into conveying a peace agreement or remaining by a present one, or to enforce penalties for human rights violations. Sanctions are a powerful coercive economic instrument in the global society's collection and are used to report diverse dangers in the local and global community, which include terrorism, atomic explosions, drug trafficking, organized crime, carrying weapons to fight, fraud, and human rights exploitation.

United Nations (UN) sanctions usually put an embargo on properties, travel prohibitions, and weapons restrictions. In several cases, the European Union imposes sanctions that are endorsed by the United Nations, because they are obliged as state members to obey sanctions executed globally, because they are UN members. Researchers differentiate between harmful and helpful sanctions. Harmful sanctions are known as economic tools of mediation. They are executed to perpetrate economic harm on some countries. While helpful sanctions are procedures dedicated to encouraging collaboration among some countries.

Governments and international bodies enforce economic sanctions to change the deliberate verdicts of national and

non-state actors who pressure their welfare and disrupt global standards of conduct. Economic sanctions can be all-inclusive, disturbing a country's total economy, or they can be besieged, successfully hindering financial dealings or occasionally stopping the travel of specific people and things.

International Economic Sanctions appear to be a common and periodic feature in party-political connections between states. The United States is a foremost nation enforcing economic sanctions since World War II (Caruso, 2003).

The hostilities concerning Ukraine and Russia increased over the years but have significantly increased in recent years. On 24th August 1991, Ukraine proclaimed a sovereign republic; this was possible because of the Soviet Union's termination in the same year (Sullivan, 2022). In 2019, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy assumed office; among his goals was to put an end to the battle in Donbas (Pereira and Reeve, 2022). In 2021 and 2022, Russia gathered its military around the Russian Ukrainian border. Russia formally documented the freedom of Donetsk and Luhansk on 21st February 2022 (Westfall, 2022; Bloomberg, 2022; Sullivan, 2022). The fight and fierceness that followed the military attack of Ukraine in February 2022 left significant scars on the populace. The human charge of fight was obvious daily (Alessi & Yankiv, 2022). Russia attacked Ukraine on 24th February 2022, which got rapid criticism from various global leaders and collaborators (McGee and Princewill, 2022). The Russian Ukrainian warfare became a humanitarian crisis for Ukrainians who stayed, and those who became refugees. This was a crisis for Ukrainians who fled to neighbouring nations in search of refuge for themselves and their families (Schwartz, Kramer, and Gladstone, 2022; Bloomberg, 2022; Cengel, 2022). Kherson, the first major Ukrainian city, was captured by Russia on 2nd March 2022 (Schwartz and Perez-Pena, 2022). Due to the Russian attack, several Western powers enforced sanctions on Russia to discourage and undo Russian violence, and Western corporations began to remove their companies from Russia (Funakoshi, Lawson, and Deka, 2022).

Definitions of Terms

Sanctions: Are actions taken by a government to stop other countries or nationals from trading, exchanging arms, opening overseas accounts, or travelling to other nations. These are designed to enforce specific states or groups to modify their behaviour in the direction of the desired activity by the endorsing group. (Murphy, 2011). Sanctions can be used to impact economic policy, e.g., removal channels or import tax; it is not limited to this alone, it can be used to affect military establishment resolutions, weapons increase, or human rights. What differentiates sanctions from occupation conflicts is that occupation

conflicts challenge the target state's economic policy (e.g., the target state's tariffs, importation guidelines, or removal rates), while sanctions are aimed at modifying policies that are not related to economics. Sanctions are consequences enforced by one country on another to stop aggressive behaviour or the violation of global regulations. They are among the strongest engagements countries take, instead of going to war.

Economic sanctions: This has to do with limitations on economic interest enforced by an international actor or an additional actor with a detailed purpose. Commitments of sanctions include communicating a memorandum to specific or tertiary states, by imposing a behavioural modification that constrains behaviour (Giumelli 2011), achieving additional objectives, and reaching patterns of distinct targets. Economic sanctions are the revocation of general deals and fiscal interactions with overseas and guarantee programme objectives. Sanctions are thorough, banning business pursuits of a whole territory, blocking transactions of businesses, groups, or individuals.

Financial sanctions are the intentional removal of general dealings or business dealings (Hufbauer et al., 2007), which are arranged by a government, nationwide, or global administrative association from any public, sub-state administration, or person in response to the administrative behaviour of that recipient.

International sanctions: These are partisan and financial resolutions that form a portion of the energy by nations, multidimensional or local establishments, against states or administrations, both to defend nationwide safety benefits and to support universal law and protect threats alongside universal harmony and safety (Cortright, 2000, and Hufbauer, 2007). International sanctions are a fundamental ingredient in current universal relationships. They are powerful instruments used against countries, non-state actors, and people who present a danger to universal accord and protection.

International sanctions were enforced during the Russo-Ukrainian war; many countries were opposed to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February 2014. There was a sanction for Belarus also (The Guardian, 2022). The United States, the European Union (EU), and International Organizations sanctioned individuals, businesses, and officials from Russia and Ukraine (The Guardian, 2022). Several nations were sanctioned by Russia against an absolute ban on foodstuff importations from various countries like Australia, Canada, Norway, Japan, the United States, and the European Union. Syria was not spared; it had several financial sanctions imposed on it by the European Union, the United States, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, and the Arab League based on the oppression of civilians in the Syrian civil war in 2011.

Siege: According to Collins dictionary, it means if someone or something is being severely criticized or put under a great deal of pressure. Societies under siege sanctions are the identifying characteristic of the Western reaction to many geopolitical disputes. The United States increased the use of sanctions by directing and ramping up against opponents in Iran, Russia, Syria, and Venezuela.

Categories of Sanctions

The following are sanctions according to the congressional research service: “trade embargoes; restrictions on particular exports or imports; denial of foreign assistance, loans, and investments, blocking of foreign assets under U.S. Jurisdiction; and prohibition on economic transactions that involve U.S. Citizens or businesses.” Secondary sanctions “penalize third parties engaged in activities with the primary sanctions target that undermine or evade the purpose of the sanctions regime.” Rennack and Nelson (2021).

The standard use of sanctions led the government to target the decrease in occupation. An effective sanction attempt will lead the targeted state to adjust its behaviour, which can be favourable to the targeting state.

Objectives of Sanctions

According to the Security Council, the chief objectives of sanctions are grouped into five categories:

Conflict Resolution: Three basic methods can be inferred concerning sanctions for conflict resolution. One is flagging down the target(s), two is allowing their military downfall, and three is enabling a transferred payment by persuading them to participate in negotiation, and emphasizing execution of a harmony pact (e.g., the Liberian government). The route of a conflict varies strenuously; thereby, an unspoken approach to UN sanctions will develop. For example, a sanctions rule may be forced firstly to ease negotiation but then move toward allowing the loss of the party to the conflict. The opposite can happen, with an early plan of coercively ending conflict seemingly fluctuating concerning enabling a transferred settlement (e.g., the Taliban administration) (UN Sanctions, 2013).

Non-proliferation: There are two recent UN sanctions administrations concerning non-proliferation, which are the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) 1718 and the Iran 1737 administrations. The Council’s objectives concerning the DPRK and Iran were strong, which compelled them to develop atomic weapons and ballistic rocket machinery, and appealed to them to come back to the international non-proliferation context.

At a strategic level, the procedures are an embargo on importation of supplies and technologies linked to evolving nuclear weapons and transfer structures, freeze assets, and travel prohibitions, which are projected to tighten financing

and expertise transfers. There was a “reverse” arms embargo on both sanctions’ regimes, which banned exportations from both nations concerning various types of weapons, to limit atomic production, and government funding from sales of weapons. The DPRK sanctions administration comprises a special facility directing the army and the partisan elite to ban exporting extravagant properties to the nation (UN Sanctions, 2013).

Counterterrorism: Libya experienced one of the two counter terrorism of UN sanctions administrations in Libya 748 (1992-2003), this was in connection with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988 and UTA Flight 772 in 1989. Sudan experienced the second counter terrorism in Sudan 1054 (1996-2001), for the supposed collaboration in the bid to murder President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in 1995. Presently, Al-Qaida 1267 and Lebanon 1636 regimes are the two UN counter terrorism sanction administrations. The Al-Qaida sanctions were founded in collaboration with the sanctions executed on the Taliban, which were linked to Afghanistan.

On 15th October 1999, the main objective of the 1267 regime was approved to force the Taliban to banish Osama bin Laden, who was accused of bombing the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1998. On 11th September 2001, terrorists attacked the US. The purposes of the 1267 administration were significantly prolonged, and its plan was reviewed to accept a wider variety of counter terrorism significances, especially in connection to the global reach of Al Qaida. (UN Sanctions, 2013).

Democratization: The main objective of democratization was to facilitate a democratic transition in Iraq, using the 1518 regime. Guinea-Bissau’s response to the 12th of April 2012, military coup led the Council to impose sanctions with resolution 2048 on 18th May 2012.

Resolution 2048 placed a travel ban on five people, with General Antonio Indjai, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, who was mainly accountable for the coup. The objective of the 2048 administration is the replacement of legal stability in Guinea-Bissau.

For Iraq, the plan and method were clear and reasonable, but vague for Guinea-Bissau. The 1518 regime worked in two ways, one was to compel the previous bureaucrats and partisans of Saddam Hussein to interrupt the operation of the provisional government by contact limitation to fiscal properties (this increased armed opposition, because previous officials got slight motivation for assistance with either the new government or the UN) and rise the funding for a upcoming autonomous government through strength regaining procedures. (UN Sanctions, 2013).

Protection of civilians: The safety of civilians from human rights and humanitarian law is a supplementary objective of the Council. The Libyan 1970 regime is the first UN sanctions regime that, at its inception, explicitly stated the protection of civilians as its main objective. It was adopted on 26th February 2011, the preface sections of the resolution 1970 stated that “violence and use of force against civilians”, “gross and systematic violation of human rights”, “widespread and systematic attacks”, “the Libyan authorities responsibility to protect its population” and “hold to account those responsible for attacks, including by forces under their control, on civilians”. Resolution 1970 enforced a ban on weapons, travel bans, and an asset restriction and referred the condition to the International Criminal Court (ICC) (UN Sanctions, 2013).

SOCIETIES UNDER SIEGE

For societies under siege, I will be talking about various events in various countries of the world that led some societies to be under siege; first on the list is Syria, and it was tagged ‘**Ambulances under siege in Syria**’. Syria is known as a place of civil unrest, an unsafe place to work for health care workers, due to the lack of health personnel and health infrastructure, which are often attacked. In 2017, Syria experienced several instances of ferocity against the health care sector, with constant conflict among other countries. Some of the attacks against the health care sector included burning down hospitals, kidnapping health care workers, robbing health centers, and barring ambulances from moving (Wong and Chen, 2018). Ambulances play a crucial role in saving the lives of injured people during armed conflicts, offering life-saving action, and conveying affected personnel to hospitals. In Syria, pre-hospital services offered by ambulances and medical assistants are pursued from the commencement of the war (Fouad et al. 2017).

Education under siege: ‘Education is both a human right and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights. As an empowerment right, education is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and obtain the means to participate fully in their communities. Education has a vital role in empowering women, safeguarding children from exploitative and hazardous labour and sexual exploitation, promoting human rights and democracy, protecting the environment, and controlling population growth. (UNESCO, 2003)’.

These declarations from the United Nations echoed the significance of education. It is a human right, and no country should disrupt the education of children because it is illegal under international law to do so, and it was also regarded as immoral. Many countries, like Zimbabwe, are

under sanctions because they failed to provide education for children (Ogbonna, 2018; Zembere, 2014). In Zimbabwe, there is no way to access education; children grow up with no access to the truth. While those who find themselves in schools face difficulties in comprehending because the curriculum is packaged from developed countries. These individuals are isolated from places where they can seek, discover, and share the truth (Smith, 2000).

Nigeria under siege

In Nigeria, there are religious conflicts that are widespread, where Christians and Muslims are the main actors. These are traditionally linked to restricted attitudes among members who are fanatics. Due to their hostile attitudes, they formed an atmosphere of bitterness and ferocity among members in other faiths (Thomson, 2012; Samson, 2012). This has been aggravated by cultural, partisan, financial, and social attributes in recent years.

There has been a long history of conflicts among Christians and Muslims in the nation. These have caused a lot of viciousness, some of which are the Fagge Riots in Kano (1982), the Kaduna Crisis (1987), the Jalingo Riots (1992), the Zangon-Kataf Crisis (1992), the Sharia Riots in Kano and Kaduna (2000), the Jos Plateau Ethno-Religious Crisis (2001), and the post-2011 General Elections Crisis in Northern Nigeria (Kukah and Falola, 1996; Muhammad, 2008; Onapajo and Usman, 2015; Salawu, 2010).

Several lives were lost because of these violent conflicts among the Christians and the Muslims, and they live to establish the significance of the problem. In Nigeria, these circumstances have fueled the lobbying of belief, at the commencement of the pre-independence era (Kukah, 1993; Enwerem, 1995; Muhammad, 2008; Onapajo, 2012; Ntamu et al., 2014). The leaders deploy religious characteristics in the pursuit of partisan power, thereby making things the same.

The advent of the Islamist terrorist group, Boko Haram, started in Northern Nigeria, where *raison d'être* persists in fluctuating from partisan to pious beliefs, which reinforces this idea (Maiangwa and Uzodike, 2012; Mustapha, 2012). Boko Haram's assignment is covered in anomalies, and this climaxes the fundamental issue of mingling religion with politics in a nation where there is freedom of religion. In Nigeria, religion is a force that has caused conflict. This can be seen where Christians and Muslims are comfortable in the ethno-religious conflicts that have bedeviled the nation. For there to be religious peace in Nigeria, leaders from both religions must create a distinctive method of dialogue and look for a way forward to live at peace among themselves.

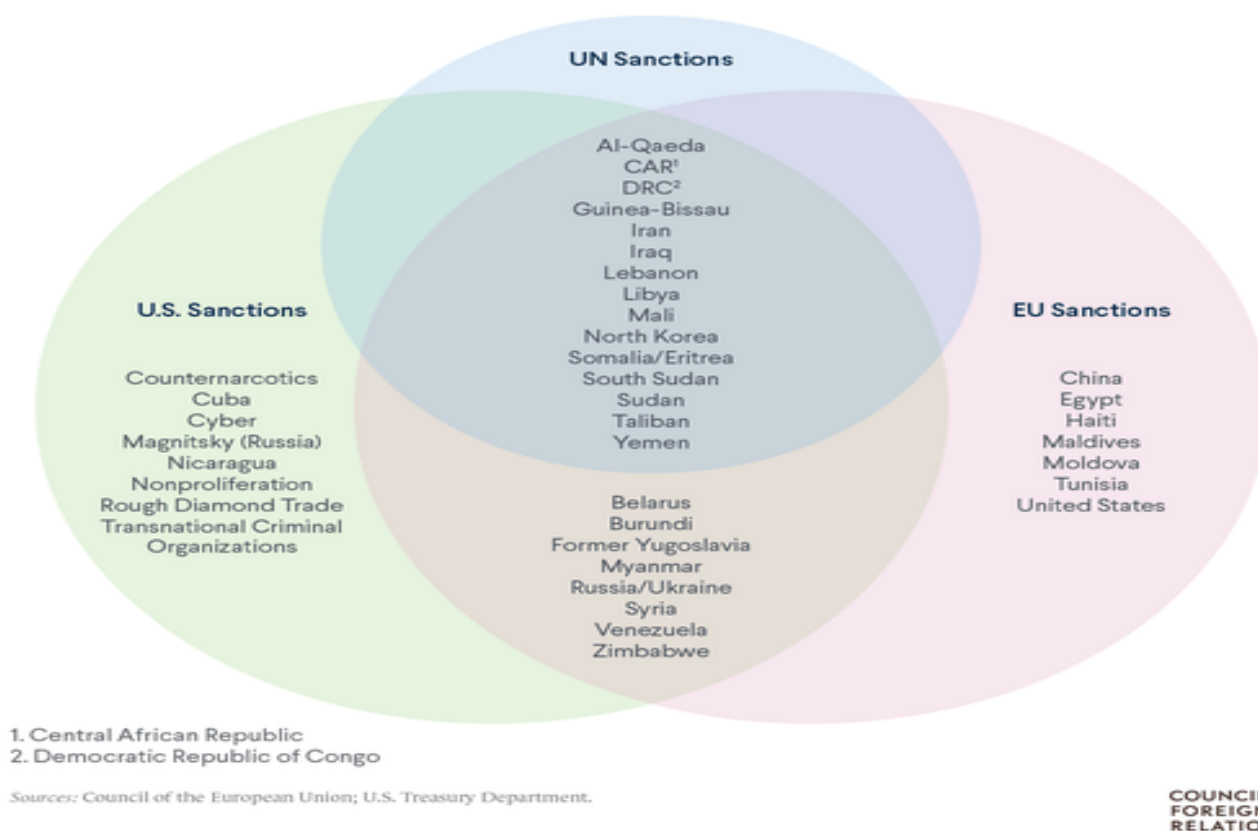
Democracy under siege in Tunisia

Tunisia, an Arab democracy, is under siege, known as a ‘quasi-lab’. With the approval of the 2014 democratic

constitution, Tunisia has been in great anxiety because of the country's inexperienced democracy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) imposed an external reform on Tunisia; a country located in North Africa. This challenged

the ambitions of the Tunisian people in politics and the increasing suspicion and ineffectiveness of their rulers. This is an essential stage for the nation's young democracy for it to grow as is expected of it.

Global Sanctions Regimes



For societies under siege, I will be using the recent Russia-Ukraine crisis as a case study. Russia attacked Ukraine on 24th February 2022. These attacks by the Russian army became global news. The attacks occurred in major cities across Ukraine, which included Berdyansk, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Sumy, and Kyiv. Western powers asserted that, by background, the war is one of the biggest in Europe since 1945. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) confirmed that more than 1.4 thousand civilians died in Ukraine throughout the war as of April 2022. This war developed into a humanitarian disaster because thousands of Ukrainians fled to the Western part of the country and to foreign countries for safety. Poland, a neighbouring country, documented one of the highest numbers of refugees, with over 2.4 million refugees as of 2nd April 2022; Romania, Moldova, and Hungary follow this. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is changing international protection and economic associations (Snower, 2022).

The sanctions on Russia are among the most powerful and detrimental punishments imposed on a major economy since the end of the Cold War. Their momentum, scope, and corresponding international backing all appear

extraordinary.

It was reported that the 2022 economic sanctions against Russia were characterized by Western leaders and policy specialists as sanctions that have no standard (Danielson et al. 2022). During the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, sanctions were imposed, which immediately froze all foreign assets, alongside a total oil embargo with a military barricade. Iran also experienced sanctions in 2012 that were devastating.

International Economic Sanctions on Russia

As for Russia, the following were some of the sanctions imposed on it:

Military goods and mercenaries

Export goods have been banned in Russia. Both civilian and military goods items of various purposes were imposed by the UK, EU, and US. This, no doubt, is apparently having its toll on the effect on some Russian manufacturers.

Flights

Russia no longer has the right to flights from other countries because Russian flights are banned from entering other airspaces like the US, UK, EU, and Canada. They cannot

charter private jets from the UK because of the ban imposed on them.

Luxury goods

Luxury goods can no longer enter Russia because the UK has banned export of some goods to Russia. From the EU, there is a ban on Russia as well.

Targeting individuals

Over 1,000 Russian individuals can no longer enter other countries of the world to do business with them, these countries are the US, EU, and UK. This means that their businesses will be grounded. This also includes wealthy business leaders.

Oil and gas

Russia no longer has access to oil and gas imports because the US has banned their importation. Likewise, the UK phased out Russian oil imports at the end of 2022. The EU has also closed the window of transactions with them because they no longer patronize them. Germany is not left out of this. Russia is left to share the brunt of the war it started with Ukraine.

Financial measures

Russia's central bank cannot be operational again because Western countries have frozen the resources they have, which is aimed at stopping the country from using its foreign exchange capital. With the sanctions imposed on Russia, the price of imported goods fell, which led to a rise in Russia's rate of inflation. They have been cut off from everything that has to do with finance. This is a great loss to the country.

Other UK sanctions include:

For Russia, all its major banks are no longer part of the UK financial system.

The assets of Russian banks have been frozen, which is a great loss to the entire country.

Major companies in Russia no longer have access to raise finance or borrow money in the UK. This means that their economy has been grounded.

There is a ban on the amount that Russians can deposit in UK banks. This means that sooner or later, the economy of Russia will crash.

What are the Implications for Economic Sanctions?

The responses of international cooperation are apparently significant for the accomplishment of sanctions. The reactions among the foremost superpowers and the target's neighbours are of paramount importance within society.

Women's rights are denied and worsen during economic sanctions (Drury and Peksen 2014). It can also influence

non-sanctioned sectors because of reduced demand for transitional possessions, lower revenues, and employment (Khan 1988). The effects on the target's wellbeing and employment are of paramount importance because they rely on the targets' financial characteristics (Black and Cooper 1987). The implication of these is that targeted states will experience negative impacts when it comes to tourism, communications, aid, and transfer of technology (Doxey 1980). Targets are bound to have logistical costs, risk in premiums and drastic development measures when there are positive modifications to sanctions (Van Bergeijk 1995). They will end up buying commodities via third parties, such commodities will be of lower quality (Amuzegar 1997), and the products will be sold at lower prices (Haidar 2017).

It is worth knowing that economic sanctions may continually affect exports even after sanctions are lifted. There will be cost implications that will affect trade relationships (Evenett 2002). Both Russia and Ukraine together are the foremost players in the resources, food, and fertilizer industries. These can be clearly seen as the consequences of these on international trade today. Some countries are experiencing a scarcity of food, a significant increase in gas prices, and an increase in the cost of goods and services. There is a scarcity of fuel and other products. These and many more are the effects on the nations of the world concerning the current war between Russia and Ukraine.

Conclusion

International sanctions provide a good review of the encounters that are fundamental in the operation of besieged sanctions, as well as new actors on the stage and their impact, and finally, new institutional and procedural mechanisms for addressing criticisms.

The requirements for effective sanctions, the twofold grasp, are often lacking, and sanctions are gotten about as less effective, a non-violent tool for the resolution of a problematic issue. More often, the selection of a sanction is driven by a need to perform "taking action", remarkably, in the national audience. Economic sanctions cause severe ethical inquiries that have largely been disregarded by philosophers and political theorists. In my own view, economic sanctions are targeted at some specific people and countries, but in the actual sense of it, the masses are at the receiving end of it all. A proverb says, 'when two elephants are fighting, the ground is at the receiving end.' In other words, economic sanctions should be removed so that the masses can go back to their normal lives.

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