An operation involving naval and air forces by which a belligerent completely prevents movement by sea from or to a port or coast belonging to or occupied by an enemy belligerent. To be mandatory, that is, for third States to be obliged to respect it, the blockade must be effective. This means that it must be maintained by a force sufficient to prevent all access to the enemy coast. The belligerent must declare the existence of the blockade. The belligerent must also specify and the starting date, geographical limits of the blockaded territory and time allowed to neutral vessels to leave. This declaration must be notified to all neutral Powers [1] and to the local authorities.

**OUTLINE**


**LEGAL SOURCE**

| GCIV, 23 [3] |
| PI, 70 [4] |
| PI, 71 [5] |
San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea

**CASES**

France, Accession to Protocol I [Part B., para. 17]

United States, The Prize Cases

Israel, Operation Cast Lead [Part II, paras 311-326, 1305-1331]

Israel/Lebanon/Hezbollah, Conflict in 2006 [Part I, paras 268-275]

UN Security Council, Sanctions Imposed Upon Iraq [Part B.]

Israel, Blockade of Gaza and the Flotilla Incident

Yemen: Naval Blockade

Yemen, Potential Existence and Effects of Naval Blockade

Sri Lanka, Naval War against Tamil Tigers
Suggested readings:


Further reading:


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/blockade

Links
[6]