

## Constitution and Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction: The case of Economic Coercion during Colonialism and International Law.

Colonization in the 19th century had started taking a more legalistic notion in relation to securing trade. The orthodox 'gunboat-diplomacy' had started to give way to the enforcement of Western constitutional norms in the colonies, which in turn came to affect the realization of both constitutional and international norms. This paper argues that extra-territorial jurisdiction and the projection of constitutional norms through a treaty system played a major role in changing interpretations of constitutional principles and in the shaping of international norms.

Specifically, the present paper addresses how the protection of British subjects through extraterritorial rules, the granting of jurisdiction to companies to trade, the extraterritorial creation of courts, the establishment of consulates and other general forms of extraterritorial jurisdiction came to shape the constitutions of the states belonging to the traditional South, such as China and the Ottoman Empire. The Western influence exerted through the treaty system at the time by being able to project its constitutional norms to those countries, which later came to shape a large area of public international law. The paper looks at the practices of the British Empire which aimed at furthering and protecting their trade routes through among those lines, while also contemplating the effect that these practices had to the UK Constitution.

The paper aims to establish a stark connection between domestic constitutional principles and establishment of certain norms within international law. Namely, the weaponization of trade through extraterritorial jurisdiction. This argument comes at a time where the establishment of tariffs and sanctions are on the rise, and it perhaps provides a structural historical analysis of its existence and its justification under the prism of state sovereignty and jurisdiction.

### Short Bio

My name is Panagiotis Gkagkatsis. I am from Greece and currently pursuing a PhD at SOAS University of London, titled "*How Have Economic Sanctions Come to Be Excused Under International Law?*" I hold both an LLB and an LLM from the University of Sussex. At present, I teach constitutional and public international law at SOAS and the University of Hertfordshire

