

Independent-dependent states

Land-locked states' right of access to and from the sea

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper focuses on land-locked states and their legal rights to access the sea, as part of the international law of the sea. Following this logic, the paper will be composed of three parts. The first part will focus on the characteristics of the land-locked states. The second part will focus on the evolution of the legal framework (as part of international law) in the field of the land-locked states' legal right to access the high seas. The third part will deal with their division into different groups. However, the stress will be put on the European examples. With the use of direct qualitative legal content analysis, we shall try to determine the main problem(s) the land-locked countries face in practicing their rights to access the high seas. The main problem remains, since all relevant legal acts in this area refer to the realisation of these rights through bilateral agreements. The previous favourites were the coastal states in their relationship with the landlocked states, leaving the door open for all kinds of different abuses as a tool for achieving various goals, such as political, economic and other objectives.

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