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In the system of international law, as well as within each order, protection of rights and interests of its subjects if it is necessary can be carried out using coercion. The most important form of manifestation of coercion in international relations is the international legal sanctions play major role in the protection of international law, since through them the subjects of international law react on the international delinquencies.

In historical retrospect of international legal sanctions applied first in order of self-help. However in the formation and development of international relations, especially in the context creation of international organizations, approvals purchased collective (institutional) character. Under current international law, coercion in the international arena if necessary by comes true decentralized (one or more states, in the order of self) and centrally (using international institutional mechanism by international organizations). Each state as a sovereign subject of international law has the right to coercion. Since creating international organizations, state sovereignty is absolutely lost and not abandoned its original and universal right of coercion.

It is well known that coercion in international law has always been closely associated with the concept of force. However, the use of force in international relations, as the case may be lawful or unlawful in accordance with an international law. Since coercion in the legal sense is only permitted by international law to use force. Permitted use of force in international law is enforced tyranny.

The vast majority of the doctrine is both classic and contemporary international law agree that is the essence of self-help is the use of force. Power in international relations may have different manifestations: military, economic, political, financial, commercial, scientific, technical, cultural, ideological, informational. However in the context of self-help in addition to political and economic power also provides the possibility of coercive measures of a military nature. Latest in fact are the most dangerous among other coercive measures of self-help, through that as their implementation should occur only on legal grounds in terms of operating in a specific historical period of international law.