

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES BETWEEN ECONOMIC IMPERATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATIONS

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the evolving doctrine of Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources (PSNR) considering contemporary environmental, human rights, and economic constraints. Originally conceived as a tool of economic self-determination during decolonization, PSNR now operates within a dense web of international obligations that increasingly limit the unilateral exploitation of natural resources. Through doctrinal analysis, case law examination, and engagement with multilateral environmental agreements, the paper demonstrates how climate commitments, sustainable development principles, transboundary harm rules, and human rights norms collectively reshape the scope of state sovereignty. It further analyzes how investment treaties and global economic instruments intersect with environmental regulation, often generating complex tensions around regulatory autonomy. The paper argues that PSNR is transitioning from an absolute right toward a responsibility-based framework requiring states to align resource governance with environmental protection, human rights, and principles of equitable development. This reconceptualization has significant implications for future resource governance.

Keywords: Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources;
International Environmental Law; Climate Change;
Human Rights; Investment Law

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