**Dr. Mehdi Hedayati Shahidani, Assistant Prof. Department of Political Science, University of Guilan, Islamic Republic of Iran**

**UNILATERAL SANCTIONS AS AN UNFAIR PROCESS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**ABSTRACT.** The report considers the concept of unilateral sanctions and the history of their use in international relations and American foreign policy. Unilateral sanctions serve as one of the key instruments of coercive diplomacy in international relations. Generally, the USA use this method against the actors not accepting their policy. Therefore, such sanctions are aimed at persuasion of the states, integrated in the world economy but not willing to accept American rules. The USA use sanctions in order to achieve their political goals. American government usually uses normative concepts and rhetoric for imposition of economic restrictions. The use of words like “violator” has become a part of the country’s rhetoric against its rivals in global politics, though a thorough study of international legislation shows that America commits more violations of international law than any other country. After the end of the Cold War, the USA have regularly used unilateral sanctions against other actors in the world politics. The article considers legitimacy and illegitimacy of such sanctions in accordance with the theory of legislative prohibition and reveals the most important consequences of these sanctions for international relations and the economies of different states.

In recent years, the use of sanctions against countries that do not want to tolerate US behaviour in the international arena has increased. In order to study the concept of sanctions, namely unilateral sanctions, this article examines their legitimacy or illegitimacy within the current system of international relations. In conclusion, we will assess the likely consequences of these sanctions for the behaviour of countries that have become their victims. This article should answer the question of whether US unilateral sanctions are legitimate in the presence of such a supervisory authority as the UN Security Council?

**KEYWORDS: sanctions, legitimacy, US**