



Sanctions

Prior to Russia's [unprovoked invasion of Ukraine](#), the international community issued multiple warnings about imposing economic sanctions against them. Now that Russia has invaded Ukraine, the [international community has imposed those sanctions](#). So, what are sanctions?

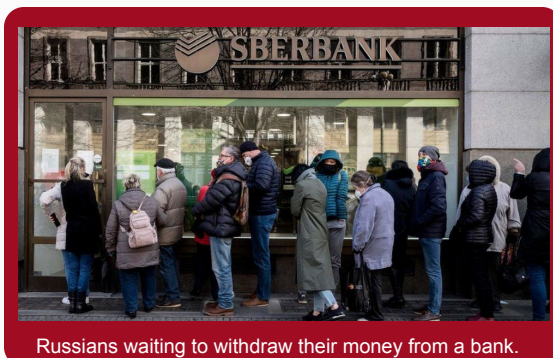
COUNTRIES THAT HAVE IMPOSED SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA



Put simply, sanctions are a punishment for violating the law. Here, Russia violated international law when it invaded Ukraine. As punishment for doing so, the international community imposed economic and diplomatic sanctions, including [athletic sanctions](#). The goal of these sanctions is to get Russia to stop its invasion of Ukraine. The general idea behind the use of sanctions is that the pressure and discomfort caused by the sanctions will get the offending country to stop their illegal actions. This leads us to our next question, are they effective?

For Russia, the economic sanctions imposed so far by the international community have been strong enough to [devalue the Russian ruble to less than one cent](#) and keep the Moscow stock market closed. The Russian people have been lining up outside of banks to withdraw their money. The Russian Central Bank has been trying to counter the effects of these sanctions, but have had to do so without access to hundreds of billions of dollars in foreign currency because western nations have [frozen their access to it](#). Even private corporations, like Shell Oil and British Petroleum, have [stopped doing business with Russia](#) over their invasion of Ukraine.

This is not the first time these types of economic sanctions have been used on countries that violate international law, but this is the first time they have been used on an [economy as large as Russia's](#). They are also being implemented swiftly by the international community. The sanctions are not just targeting governmental entities, [Putin himself has been sanctioned](#), as have Russian [oligarchs](#). Essentially, these sanctions have commercially frozen Russia from doing business globally, and for the moment, are fulfilling their intended purpose of harming Russia's economy.



Russians waiting to withdraw their money from a bank.

However, what can be accomplished through the use of sanctions is limited. The magnitude and speed with which these sanctions have been applied has sent a clear message to Russia that the international community will not tolerate its behavior.

To Think and To Do: Why do countries prefer to use sanctions when trying to combat another country's unlawful action? Explain.

LEARN MORE: [The List of Global Sanctions Against Russia](#)