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Freedom of Overflight
A Study of Coastal State Jurisdiction in International Airspace

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What exactly does freedom of overflight entail and how is it evolving? What is the interaction between the law of the sea and international civil aviation law in international airspace? What do these things mean for the operation of a State’s aircraft in international airspace adjacent to another State?

This research addresses these, and related, legal questions, through the lens of contemporary challenges in the maritime arena. From jurisdiction in airspace over maritime constructions, to air defence identification zones, and the provision of air traffic services in international airspace, it examines assertions of coastal State jurisdiction beyond that which is explicitly granted under international law. ‘Creeping jurisdiction’ as such assertions are known, is not a new phenomenon and much has been written on it over the years. This research aims to contribute to this body of work by approaching the matter exclusively from the perspective of freedom of overflight. What is the frontier of freedom of overflight and coastal State jurisdiction in international airspace?

This is a volume in the series of the Meijers Research Institute and Graduate School of the Leiden Law School of Leiden University. This study is part of the Law School’s research programme ‘Exploring the Frontiers of International Law’.