

The previous part examined the use of force in straits in the context of hybrid warfare. The book now continues by taking a closer look at instances of hybrid conflict that, as explained in Chapter 3.1 of Part 1, do not involve the use of force by any of the parties. Instead, in the examples studied below, States have made use of discriminatory navigational restrictions and imposed limits to the use of high seas freedoms as part of the package of measures of political and economic intimidation to advance their geopolitical interests. This chapter begins with case studies of discriminatory navigational restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, the Kerch Strait, and the Gulf of Finland. It also focuses on the tensions in and over the Taiwan Strait in 2021.