

Montreux Convention

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In news— Amidst Russia-Ukraine war, **Turkey is activating the Montreux Convention on naval passage** through two of its strategic straits, which would allow them to limit the movement of Russian warships between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

What is the Montreux Convention?

- **The Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits(1936)**, often referred to simply as the Montreux convention is an agreement **concerning both the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits**.
- It was signed on **20 July 1936 at the Montreux Palace in Switzerland**.
- It addressed the long-running Straits Question over **who should control the strategically vital link between the Black and Mediterranean Seas**.
- In response to Turkey's request to refortify the area, the signers of the Treaty of Lausanne and others met in Montreux and agreed to return the zone to Turkish military control.
- It guarantees complete freedom of passage for all civilian vessels during peacetime and permits Turkey to restrict the passage of navies not belonging to Black Sea states.
- **In the event of a war, the pact gives Turkey the right to regulate the transit of naval warships** and to block the straits to warships belonging to the countries involved in the conflict and **to permit merchant ships free passage**.
- **Article 19 of the treaty contains an exception** for the countries on the Black Sea that can effectively **undermine Turkey's power in blocking the Russian warships** entering or exiting the Black Sea: **which means**

warships can return to their original bases through the passage and Turkey cannot prevent it.

About Turkish Straits-

- The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, also known as the Turkish Straits or the Black Sea Straits, connect the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara.
- It is the only passage through which the Black Sea ports can access the Mediterranean and beyond.



- Over three million barrels of oil, about three per cent of the daily global supply, mostly produced in Russia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan, pass through this waterway every day.
- The route also ships large amounts of iron, steel, and agricultural products from the Black Sea coast to Europe and the rest of the world.