



Forum: Security Council
Question of: Addressing the South China Sea Dispute
Student Officer: Serika S. , Assistant President

Introduction

The South China sea is an arm of the western Pacific Ocean that borders the Southeast Asian mainland. Its abundance of natural resources and its role as a major global trade route has solidified the sea's importance to national and international trade. With around 40% of petroleum products traded globally delivered via the sea every year, and researchers having found that the total trade through both the South China Sea and the East China Sea is worth \$7.4 trillion per year, (Martin) it is almost inevitable that a case of territorial dispute over which country owns how much of the South China Sea will arise – which is exactly what is happening and has been happening for centuries since 1279, intensifying after World War 2.

Although, specifically, the issue arose when China drew a territorial map of its influence that included the entire South China Sea, the problem largely intensified following Japan's defeat in World War 2. After the country surrendered its rights to the islands in the South China Sea, it left a power vacuum in the region. Since no nation was specifically given authority over these waters, China (the Kuomintang Government) took advantage of the situation by submitting the now-famous "nine-dotted line" claim in 1947, which covered nearly the whole South China Sea. (Mastro) Its stated claim was this line, which is now referred to as the "Nine-Dash Line". In 1982, exclusive economic zones (EEZs) were created by a United Nations law. China immediately reaffirmed its nine-dash line, dismissing the claims of other claimant nations and refusing to redefine its boundaries. Following that, tensions have remained high and, as of 2025, there have been numerous reports of incidents involving fishing vessels, coast guard patrols, and naval ships from different countries in the South China Sea, highlighting the potential for escalation. (U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission)

Directly, if China were to assume sovereignty over the South China Sea, the gateway to the strait of Malacca and the port of Singapore, as well as the Paracels and the Spratlys islands, would mean China's control over the supply of the economies of Northeast Asia. More pressingly, the Chinese military has staged increasingly aggressive actions in the seaway recently, including clashes with Filipino ships, fueling fears of a full-scale conflict. The United States has a mutual defense treaty with the Philippines,



which could mean American intervention. Furthermore, the Philippines fisheries bureau has accused China's coastguard of firing water cannon and sideswiping a Filipino government vessel during a research voyage. DW News also notes that China also regards Taiwan, which split with the mainland at the end of a civil war 75 years ago, as a renegade province with which it must eventually be reunified. Concerns that Beijing may use military force to bring the democratic island under its control have further raised tensions in the South China Sea. (Vega)

The South China Sea dispute, although directly concerning only the few Southeast and Northeast Asian countries (elaborated *above*), will have a significant trickle-down effect due to its strategic, economic, and geopolitical implications. Because of its rich biodiversity and abundance of natural resources, for the nations surrounding it, the South China Sea is the number one food source, totaling 8% of the world's total commercial fishing output, and is responsible for feeding many such as the 249 million people in Pakistan and the 1.3 billion citizens of China. The marine biodiversity in the South China Sea accounts for 22% of the average Asian diet. Other countries that may not be intuitively involved are Japan, South Korea, and India, who rely on the South China Sea for oil imports from the Middle East, ASEAN countries that side with China (e.g. Cambodia because of their reliance on China for development and trade) that may weaken ASEAN unity and result in fragmentation, and Australia, who has increased focus on the Indo-Pacific as a counter to China.

Previous efforts to resolve the issue include the landmark 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruling, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), invalidated China's "nine-dash line" claims in the South China Sea, favoring the Philippines. The ruling declared that China's claims within the nine-dash line had no legal basis under UNCLOS and that China had violated the Philippines' sovereign rights in its exclusive economic zone. The Philippines has since been evolving strategies in addressing the South China Sea conflict after the favorable arbitration ruling. Vietnam has also filed a claim with the United Nations for an extended continental shelf beyond the current 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) in the seaway in July, 2024. Although ASEAN has played a key role in attempting to manage the conflict through various mechanisms, including the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and ongoing negotiations for a Code of Conduct (COC), the fragmentation of different stakeholders in the grouping has slowed down progress considerably and is an issue that requires addressing.

The importance of this issue cannot be understated and therefore it calls for the attention of the entire committee. The UN Security Council is fundamentally responsible for maintaining international



peace and security. Now more than ever, the importance of this committee and the discussions it can allow can help mediate disputes before clashes escalate too far. Now more than ever, the voices of tomorrow are needed to ensure countries maintain individual stability with no single nation holding the largest power and dominion.

Definition of Key Terms

Nine-Dash Line

The Nine-Dash Line makes up a significant part in the core of the dispute. The Nine-Dash Line is a demarcation line used by the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to assert territory over most of the South China Sea. The line encloses roughly 90% of the South China Sea, overlapping with some nations' Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). China claims "historic rights" over the waters, islands, and resources within the line, though it has never provided precise coordinates.

Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)

An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a maritime area extending 200 nautical miles from a coastal state's baseline, where the state has sovereign rights over the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind. This zone was established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. China's assertion of the Nine-Dash Line includes waters within the EEZs of other coastal states, including Malaysia, Brunei, and Vietnam.

Innocent Passage

Innocent Passage refers to the right of a foreign ship to navigate through the territorial waters of another state without interference, provided the passage is "innocent" and not prejudicial to the peace, good order, or security of the coastal state. This right is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This term relates to this issue in the way China interprets this right as the state having the exclusive right to make, apply and execute its own laws in that space without foreign interference. ("The Innocent Passage in the UN Convention")

Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, established by treaty in 1899, is an intergovernmental organization providing a variety of dispute resolution services to the international community. This includes being administered the South China Sea Arbitration, a case brought by the Philippines against China concerning maritime claims. The PCA recorded proceedings, facilitated communication, managed finances, and organized hearings, but did not issue the ruling itself. The arbitral tribunal, constituted under



the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), ultimately ruled in favor of the Philippines, as elaborated in the *Introduction*. (Mensah et al.)

Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs)

Freedom of Navigation Operations are operations by U.S. naval and air forces that reinforce internationally-recognized rights and freedoms by challenging excessive maritime claims. Not only are FONOPs peaceful exercises of rights and are principle-based, focusing on excessive maritime claims and not any particular country, they are also conducted in accordance with international law. These operations involve challenging restrictions on innocent passage through territorial seas and other maritime zones, particularly those imposed by China, Vietnam, and Taiwan. The US has asserted freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, though China's foreign ministry has criticized the exercise, saying the U.S. Navy ship "illegally entered" the waters near the islands "without receiving permission from the Chinese government," "threatened China's sovereignty and security interests," and "endangered regional peace and stability."

Continental Shelf

A portion of a continent that is submerged under an area of relatively shallow water. While China has exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the South China Sea, the Philippines sought to register its entitlement to an extended continental shelf in the West Palawan Region facing the South China Sea. Likewise, Vietnam filed a claim with the United Nations for an extended continental shelf in the South China Sea a month after its Southeast Asian neighbor the Philippines.

Timeline of Key Events

September 3, 1937 - Japan invades South China Sea Islands

After Japan gained exclusive rights over several archipelagos in the South China Sea, Japan took control of the Pratas Islands. (Council on Foreign Relations)

December 1, 1947 - China publishes map of Eleven-Dash Line

Under the Chiang Kai-shek government, China demarcated its territorial claims in South China Sea with an eleven-dash line, which claimed the waters adjacent to Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

May, 1968 - 1969 - UN Report Finds High Probability of Oil in East China Sea



A 1969 UN report (no specific date) highlighted the potential for substantial oil and gas reserves in the East China Sea, specifically in the area between Taiwan and Japan, around the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. This finding came from research conducted in 1968 and 1969, and sparked significant interest in the region's energy potential and contributed to the dispute.

January 19, 1974 - China claims Paracel Islands

A year after the Paris Peace Accords, which ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, Chinese forces occupied the western portion of the Paracel Islands, planting flags on several islands and seizing a South Vietnamese garrison. Vietnamese troops flee south and establish the first permanent Vietnamese occupation of the Spratly Islands. Additionally, Beijing built a military installation on Woody Island, the largest of the Paracels.

July 7, 1937 - September 2, 1945 - Sino-Vietnamese War

China wages a short but bloody war with Vietnam, launching an offensive in response to Vietnam's invasion and occupation of Cambodia in 1978, which ended the reign of the communist, Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge. Roughly thirty thousand were killed in the short-lived conflict, which marked the beginning of many border disputes between Beijing and Hanoi and stirred Vietnam's lingering distrust of China.

February 12, 1992 - China Passes Law on the Territorial Sea

China passes the Law on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, which lays claim to the entire South China Sea based on a historical right.

January 14, 1996 - Mischief Reef Incident

Three Chinese naval vessels fight a ninety-minute battle with a Philippine navy gunboat near Capones Island in the Mischief Reef, part of the Spratly chain of islands claimed by Manila. The incident marks the first time China engages in military confrontation with an ASEAN member other than Vietnam. Tensions later subsided after the Philippines and China signed a nonbinding code of conduct for a peaceful resolution.

November 4, 2022 - ASEAN and China Code of Conduct



China and the ten ASEAN states reach an agreement in Phnom Penh on the ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, a code of conduct that seeks to ease tensions and creates guidelines for conflict resolution.

May 9, 2009 - Malaysia and Vietnam Submit UN Claims

Malaysia and Vietnam filed a joint submission to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to extend their continental shelves beyond the standard two hundred nautical miles from their coastlines, renewing friction over maritime sovereignty in the South China Sea. China views this as a challenge to its territorial claims and objects to the submission, saying it “has seriously infringed” on China’s “indisputable sovereignty” over the islands in the South China Sea.

June 1, 2011 - October 5, 2012 - The Philippines protests against China

In June, the Philippines summoned a Chinese envoy to express its mounting concern about naval incursions in its claimed territory after recording at least five incursions by Chinese ships in the past year near the Spratly Islands and the Amy Douglas Bank, off the coast of Palawan Island. As tensions rose, the Philippines took to protest in September towards October by beginning to refer to the South China Sea as the West Philippine Sea in all official communications.

June 17, 2024 - Ongoing - Confrontations escalate China-Philippines dispute

A confrontation between the Chinese coast guards and a Philippine supply ship occurs near the Second Thomas Shoal. The shoal is an atoll within the Philippines’ two-hundred-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, as defined previously), but China claims the area is part of its territorial waters. In what is considered the most violent clash between the two yet, the Philippines accuses Chinese forces of repeatedly ramming into Philippine navy boats and threatening their crew with armed personnel. Both sides have yet to come to an agreed interpretation despite mediation by the U.S., meaning future conflicts are still very much possible. (Jazeera)

Position of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies

Japan

Japan is not a direct participant in any South China Sea dispute. However, it is important to note that the Sino-Japanese War is a key event (see *Timeline of Key Events*). Nonetheless, Japan does have vital interests in the area. Japan’s economic activity and the survival of its people, as then Rear Admiral



Takei Tomohisa noted in 2008, depend on unimpeded economic activity via sea-lanes of communication. Around 80 percent of Japan's energy imports and a large portion of its trade pass through the South China Sea. Japanese governments also worry about China's growing assertiveness in the East China Sea in relation to the two countries' territorial dispute over the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands. Its attempts to isolate and 'pick off' individual claimants in the South China Sea, its militarisation of the South China Sea, and its deployment of 'grey zone' operations, are all possibly viewed from Japan's perspective as part of a single strategy by China intended to weaken the territorial claims and control of other states in the area and establish its own control.

Vietnam

Vietnam is one of the ASEAN nations most involved in the conflict. Vietnam claims parts of the Spratly and Paracel Islands, which are also claimed by China and other regional countries like Taiwan. China's expansive claims and construction of artificial islands in the area have led to increased tensions and clashes with Vietnam and other claimants. Although the conflict is more heated between China and the Philippines, the media speculates that Vietnam has been quietly building up sovereign claims. More actions Vietnam has taken in relation to this issue is diplomatically protesting against China and the Philippines and the two countries' actions in South China Sea waters, and possibly freezing the SCS disputes, in which Vietnam stops expanding its islands in exchange for China's tacit acceptance of Vietnam's de facto control over them.

Cambodia

As Cambodia is an ASEAN nation with close ties to China, the effects and conclusion of this issue will have immense trickle-down effects on the country. Previous Prime Minister Hun Sen had consistently affirmed Cambodia's independent and sovereign foreign policy, emphasizing the nation's strategic autonomy from major powers like China and the United States. Based on public media, it seems as though Cambodia is attempting to be viewed as a stand-alone nation, non-biased towards long-standing trade partners or associate ASEAN neighbors. (The Cambodian Narrative on the South China Sea Dispute, the Unfinished Story - Khmer Times) Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation issued a statement on 9 July 2016 stressing that "Cambodia views this arbitration case is to settle a dispute brought by the Philippines against China, and this proceeding is not related to all ASEAN Member States. Therefore, Cambodia will not join in expressing any common position on the verdict."

China



Not surprisingly, China is the nation most involved, with most to lose and gain, from the South China Sea conflict. With nothing revolutionary beyond what was previously stated, this section serves to reaffirm that China benefits the most – if it is not the only nation benefitting – from taking control of the South China Sea. Although Chinese diplomats and media have stated commitments of the nation to peace and stability within the region, China's real time strategy in the South China Sea is a complex blend of military assertiveness, legal manoeuvring, and economic coercion aimed at establishing dominance over a critical maritime region. However delegates may choose to conduct themselves representing China, ultimately the country does not have, logically, politically, or strategically, a neutral stance on this issue.

The Philippines

Right after China, debatably tie-ing with Vietnam, the Philippines has much to gain and lose from this issue. The fact that Manila is a treaty ally with the military backing of the US Navy adds significant weight to the conflict, increasing the geopolitical risk of any miscalculation or escalation. (Fillingham) This issue does not limit itself to the government however, as the Filipino people have also taken to protesting against China's actions – most notably by calling the South China Sea the “Western Philippines Sea”.

France

France is not directly aligned with any particular stakeholder. However, it is speculated that Western countries are worried that the rise of China's military power will break the stability of the situation in the South China Sea and alter the balance of power among major powers. (Chen) In France's existing “Indo-Pacific strategy”, France aims to build a regional order with the alliance of France, India and Australia as the core, (Needham) and regularly carry out military exercises targeting the South China Sea with the United States, Japan and Southeast Asian countries.

Russia

Early into this conflict, Russia maintained a neutral public stance in the South China Sea dispute. Since multiple middle powers are deeply involved in Southeast Asia, Russia is a nation with a significantly lower economic and diplomatic presence as compared to several other stakeholders. However, it plays a silently important role. Aside from being Southeast Asia's top defense supplier, Russia has been a major player in the development of offshore energy resources in the South China Sea as well as in the “North Natuna Sea” off the coast of Indonesia. While Western energy companies have tried to avoid confrontation with China, often rolling back investments in conflict zones, Russia has



opportunistically sought to fill in any major investment gaps. (“Fallout: Ukraine Crisis Upends Russia’s Role in the South China Sea”)

United Kingdoms (UK)

The British government has recognised that the country has significant and growing interests in the South China Sea. Beyond the economic hub the South China Sea is confirmed to be, the British armed Forces have a regional defence staff and a naval logistics facility in Singapore, and the British army’s jungle warfare training installation and battalion of gurkhas are located in Brunei. Its strategic placing in stakeholder countries makes it a geostrategic player in the game as well.

United States of America (U.S./U.S.A./America)

Throughout this entire conflict, the U.S. has closely followed the Philippines and China especially. As stated by the U.S. Department of State: “The United States stands with its ally the Philippines to condemn the unsafe and irresponsible actions by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN) to interfere with a Philippine maritime air operation in the vicinity of Scarborough Reef.” (“U.S. Support for the Philippines in the South China Sea - United States Department of State”) Reacting to continued Chinese land reclamation efforts on several reefs in the Spratly Islands, senior U.S. officials and military officers vow to “fight tonight” if needed to defend United States interests across the Indo-Pacific, while referring to Chinese claims across the South China Sea as “preposterous” and Chinese land activities there as designed to “militarize” the region and to build a “great wall of sand.” (Swaine)

Algeria

Algeria supports China in the dispute, viewing the South China Sea as historically belonging to China and affirming its support for China's territorial unity. (CGTN Africa, 2016)

Ecuador

Ecuador proposes demolishing the nine-dash line if China cannot prove ownership, protecting biodiversity, and allowing a neutral authority like the ICJ to resolve disputes. (UNSC)

Guyana

Guyana has no public involvement in the South China Sea dispute nor has the country made any public announcements or acknowledgements of the dispute.

Japan

Japan is a significant stakeholder because of the vital Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) for its trade and energy imports. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan released, “Japan expresses serious



concern over repeated actions in recent days that increase regional tensions in the South China Sea and urges de-escalation of the tensions.”

Malta

Malta has no public involvement in the South China Sea dispute nor has the country made any public announcements or acknowledgements of the dispute.

Mozambique

Mozambique is not a significant stakeholder in the dispute. However, the president of Mozambique Filipe Jacinto Nyusi met with Xi Jinping in 2024 and has expressed support for China in their territorial sovereignty.

Republic of Korea

South Korea has long been unclear on its stance regarding the dispute for many years. The closest thing the government had to an official position was the consistent but vague statements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs essentially saying the Republic of Korea supported freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and hoped the parties involved would resolve the disputes in a peaceful manner through dialogue. After the United States pressured the country to give a more direct stance, defense Minister Han Min-goo stated that freedom of navigation and overflight must be guaranteed and that the disputes should be resolved in a peaceful manner and all nations need to abide by international law.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Samura Kamara called for the peaceful resolution of the South China Sea dispute through friendly negotiations in 2016. He affirmed that Sierra Leone is behind China in looking forward to a "mutually respectful solution among the parties that are involved in the South China Sea".

India

India is moving away from a historically neutral approach towards China and the dispute, adopting a more active and recent role in the Indo-Pacific region under its Act East policy. Additionally, New Delhi has become more vocal on the issue, especially after the 2020 Galwan Valley clash with Chinese troops. (Saha Premesha, 2025)

Pakistan



Pakistan's official and public media stance supports China's stance. An issue brief from 2016 reports the nation "criticizes external powers for encouraging conflict and urges them to avoid interfering in the region." (Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, ISSI)

Suggested Solutions

As the problem of the South China Sea dispute continues to grow, open discussions are incontestably needed. However, it is unrealistic to assume just talks will be enough. Concrete solutions need to be put in place for any significant changes to be made on this issue.

Some suggestions on how to tackle this problem are first – and most importantly – to ease tensions between the stakeholder nations. As each country's military continues to face attacks at sea, innocent sailors, fishermen, and merchants are being killed (a mainstream example is one of 74 Vietnamese fishermen killed at sea by the Chinese navy). It is most important that no more innocent civilians are harmed by setting an *agreeable truce* that may not solve the problem entirely but will set an unofficial stalemate to ensure there are no more casualties. Details on how this may be implemented and to what extent is up to the sponsors and signatories' discretion.

Secondly, as already introduced in the Southeast Asian portion of the conflict, a *neutral third-party* must assess the evidence given on either the historical ownership or physical administration of the seas. Usually, the ICJ (International Court of Justice) sees the resolution and rules the final verdict of territory as it is an *official* neutral tribunal. However, this requires patience from all stakeholders and, as suggested in the paragraph above, an unofficial stalemate, as well as prioritizing solving the issue over each country's sovereignty.

The last suggestion is one that may be very hard to justify but will result in practically no significant consequences for each stakeholder nation: come to an *implicit agreement* that, realistically, no one nation will own all of the South China Sea, and its rocks and reefs, that they rhetorically claim. In this possible solution, no country will have to "surrender", but rather keep what each country currently occupies and drop its claim on other features.

These 3 solutions vary significantly from each other, from slow to fast, some peaceful and some controversial. Nonetheless, as long as justified correctly and considering the consequences or benefits of all factors of this dispute, an agreement on any of these solutions at its most basic level will lead to the dispute easing and possibly ending as a whole.

Bibliography



- “A Perspective from the ROK - the Asan Forum.” *The Asan Forum*, 30 Sept. 2024,
theasanforum.org/a-perspective-from-the-rok/.
- Center for Preventive Action. “Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea.” *Global Conflict Tracker*,
Council on Foreign Relations, 17 Sept. 2024,
www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/territorial-disputes-south-china-sea.
- CGTN Africa. “Algeria Supports China on South China Sea Issue.” YouTube, 12 July 2016,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIlnw8EGTVE. Accessed 24 Aug. 2025.
- Chen, Zhenyi. *Study on the Situation between France and the South China Sea from the Perspective of Balance of Power Theory*.
- Council on Foreign Relations. “Timeline: China’s Maritime Disputes.” *Council on Foreign Relations*,
2024, www.cfr.org/timeline/chinas-maritime-disputes.
- “Ecuador Position Paper on Topic South China Sea UNSC | PDF | South China Sea | International Relations.” Scribd,
www.scribd.com/document/627792189/Ecuador-Position-Paper-on-topic-South-China-Sea-UNSC
C.
- Erbas, Yunus. “The Conflict in the South China Sea: A Focus on a Possible Solution.” *Beyond the Horizon*, 11 Apr. 2022,
behorizon.org/the-conflict-in-the-south-china-sea-a-focus-on-a-possible-solution/.
- “Fallout: Ukraine Crisis Upends Russia’s Role in the South China Sea.” *Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative*, 25 Mar. 2022,
amti.csis.org/fallout-ukraine-crisis-upends-russias-role-in-the-south-china-sea/.
- Fillingham, Zachary. “South China Sea Dispute: The Philippines.” *Geopolitical Monitor*, 8 July 2025,
www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/south-china-sea-dispute-the-philippines/. Accessed 8 Aug. 2025.
- Freund, Eleanor. “Freedom of Navigation in the South China Sea: A Practical Guide.” *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*, June 2017,
www.belfercenter.org/publication/freedom-navigation-south-china-sea-practical-guide.
- Green, Michael J., et al. “The U.S. Asserts Freedom of Navigation in the South China Sea.”
Www.csis.org, 27 Oct. 2015,
www.csis.org/analysis/us-asserts-freedom-navigation-south-china-sea.
- Hayton, Bill. “2022/25 “How to Solve the South China Sea Disputes” by Bill Hayton.” *ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute*, 15 Mar. 2022,
www.iseas.edu.sg/articles-commentaries/iseas-perspective/2022-25-how-to-solve-the-south-china-sea-disputes-by-bill-hayton/.



“Home | PCA-CPA.” *Pca-Cpa.org*, 2018, pca-cpa.org/home/.

Jaehyon, Lee. “South Korea and the South China Sea: A Domestic and International Balancing Act.” *Asia Policy*, vol. 21, no. 1, 2016, pp. 36–40, <https://doi.org/10.1353/asp.2016.0014>.

Jazeera, Al. “Philippines Accuses China of “Aggressive” Tactics in South China Sea.” *Al Jazeera*, 22 May 2025,
www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/22/philippines-accuses-china-of-aggressive-tactics-in-south-china-sea.

Khoury, Elie, and Asia Programme. *RECENT TRENDS in the SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTES ASIA FOCUS #16 L'IRIS*. 2017.

LaFond, Eugene C. “South China Sea | Sea, Pacific Ocean.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 18 May 2018,
www.britannica.com/place/South-China-Sea.

Li, Jennifer. *ASEAN and the South China Sea: Approaches to Resolving the Conflict*. 2017.

Martin, Nik. “How South China Sea Tensions Threaten Global Trade.” *Dw.com*, Deutsche Welle, 19 Aug. 2024, www.dw.com/en/south-china-sea-tensions-pose-threat-to-international-trade/a-69926497.

Mastro, Oriana Skylar. “How China Is Bending the Rules in the South China Sea.” *The Interpreter*, Lowy Institute, 17 Feb. 2021,
www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/how-china-bending-rules-south-china-sea.

Mensah, Thomas, et al. *PCA Case N° 2013-19 in the MATTER of the SOUTH CHINA SEA ARBITRATION -before - an ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL CONSTITUTED under ANNEX VII to the 1982 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION on the LAW of the SEA -between - the REPUBLIC of the PHILIPPINES -and - the PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of CHINA*

AWARD

Arbitral Tribunal. 2016.

Needham, Kirsty. “Australia at Centre of Indo-Pacific Alliances to Counter China.” *Reuters*, 17 Sept. 2021,
www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australia-centre-indo-pacific-alliances-counter-china-2021-09-17/.

“Pakistani Media Voice Support for China’s Stance on South China Sea - Xinhua | English.news.cn.”
Xinhuanet.com, 2016, www.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-07/13/c_135510293.htm.

Peace, The Organization for World. “South China Sea Dispute.” *The Organization for World Peace*, 13 Jan. 2017, theowp.org/crisis_index/south-china-sea-dispute-2/.

“Recent Surge in Tensions in the South China Sea.” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2024,
www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_00562.html.



- Reuters. "China Opposes Vietnam's Building Work on Disputed Reef in South China Sea." *Voice of America*, Voice of America (VOA News), 19 Feb. 2025,
www.voanews.com/a/china-opposes-vietnam-s-building-work-on-disputed-reef-in-south-china-sea-/7980305.html. Accessed 8 Aug. 2025.
- . "Vietnam Files UN Claim to Extended Continental Shelf in South China Sea." *Reuters*, 18 July 2024,
www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/vietnam-files-un-claim-extended-continental-shelf-south-china-sea-2024-07-18/.
- Saha, Premesha. India's Reformed Approach towards the South China Sea Dispute: Is There Scope to Do More? 1 Jan. 2025, pp. 43–59, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-8209-3_5.
- "Sierra Leone Urges Peaceful Resolution to South China Sea Dispute - Xinhua | English.news.cn." Xinhuanet.com, 2016, www.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-06/12/c_135428650.htm. Accessed 24 Aug. 2025.
- "South China Sea Perspectives: Japan." *H.D.P. Envall*, 15 Oct. 2022,
hdpennvall.com/essays/south-china-sea-perspectives-japan/.
- Swaine, Michael. "America's Security Role in the South China Sea." *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 23 July 2015,
carnegieendowment.org/posts/2015/07/americas-security-role-in-the-south-china-sea?lang=en.
- The Cambodian Narrative on the South China Sea Dispute, the Unfinished Story - Khmer Times*. 11 Dec. 2023,
www.khmertimeskh.com/501405326/the-cambodian-narrative-on-the-south-china-sea-dispute-the-unfinished-story/.
- "The Innocent Passage in the UN Convention." *Wwww.lawteacher.net*,
www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/international-law/the-innocent-passage-in-the-un-convention-international-law-essay.php.
- "U.S. Support for the Philippines in the South China Sea - United States Department of State." *United States Department of State*, 20 Feb. 2025,
www.state.gov/u-s-support-for-the-philippines-in-the-south-china-sea.
- U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. "South China Sea Arbitration Ruling: What Happened and What's Next?" *Wwww.uscc.gov*, 12 July 2016,
www.uscc.gov/research/south-china-sea-arbitration-ruling-what-happened-and-whats-next.
- United Nations. "PREAMBLE to the UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION on the LAW of the SEA." *Un.org*, 2019, www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/part5.htm.



Vega, Cecilia. "Conflict between China, Philippines Could Involve U.S. And Lead to a Clash of Superpowers." *Cbsnews.com*, CBS News, 15 June 2025,
www.cbsnews.com/news/china-philippines-conflict-could-involve-us-60-minutes-transcript-2025-06-15/.

"Xi Jinping Meets with President of Mozambique Filipe Jacinto Nyusi_Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China." *Mfa.gov.cn*, 2024,
www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/zyxw/202409/t20240905_11485583.html.