

CHINA - TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

Sai Kumar Swamy



TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

- East China Sea
- South China Sea



REGIONAL DISORDER

THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTES

EAST CHINA SEA - DISPUTES

■ Where

■ East China Sea

- Senkaku – Diaoyu – Tiaoyutai
- Socotra Rock

■ What

■ EEZ

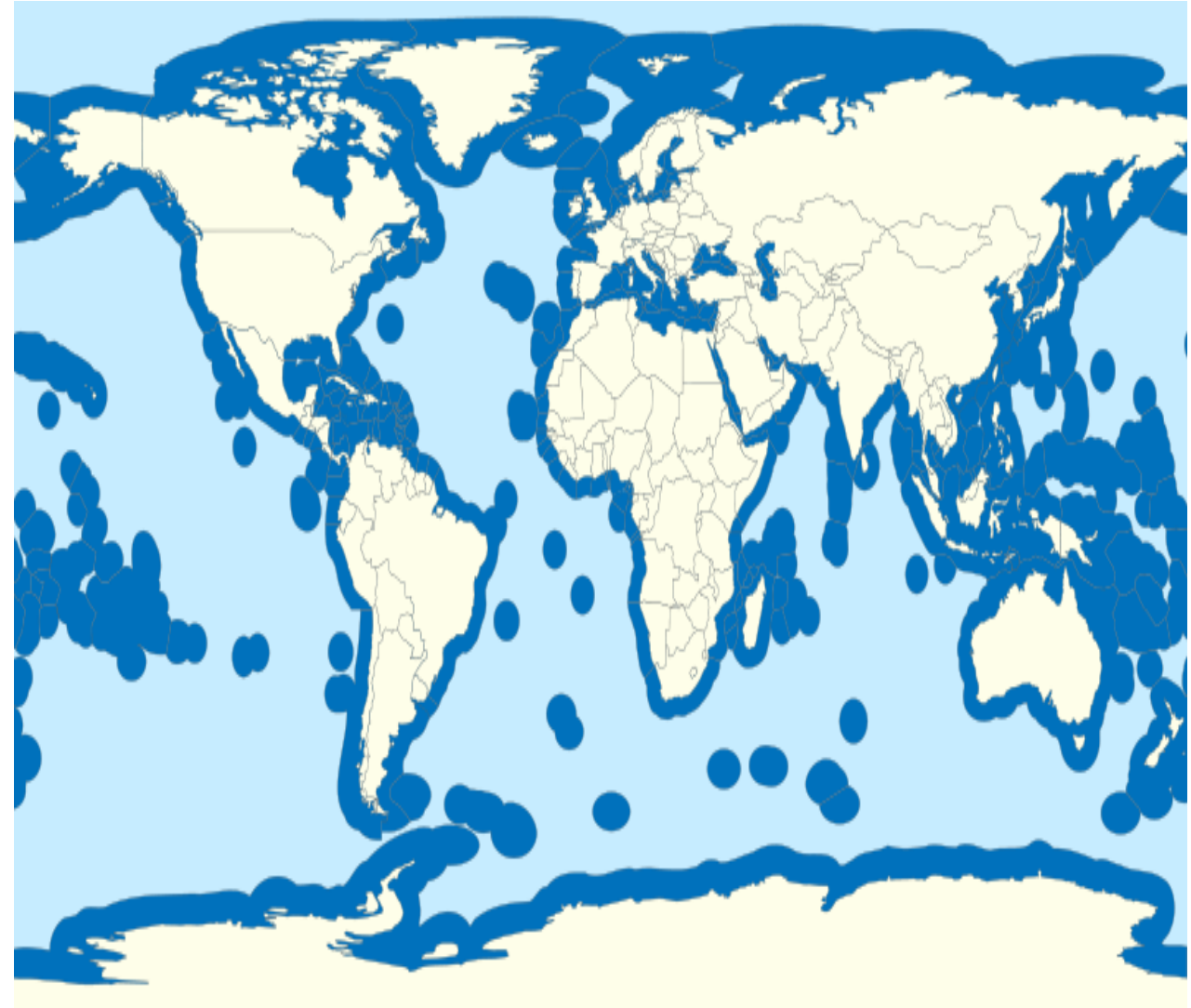
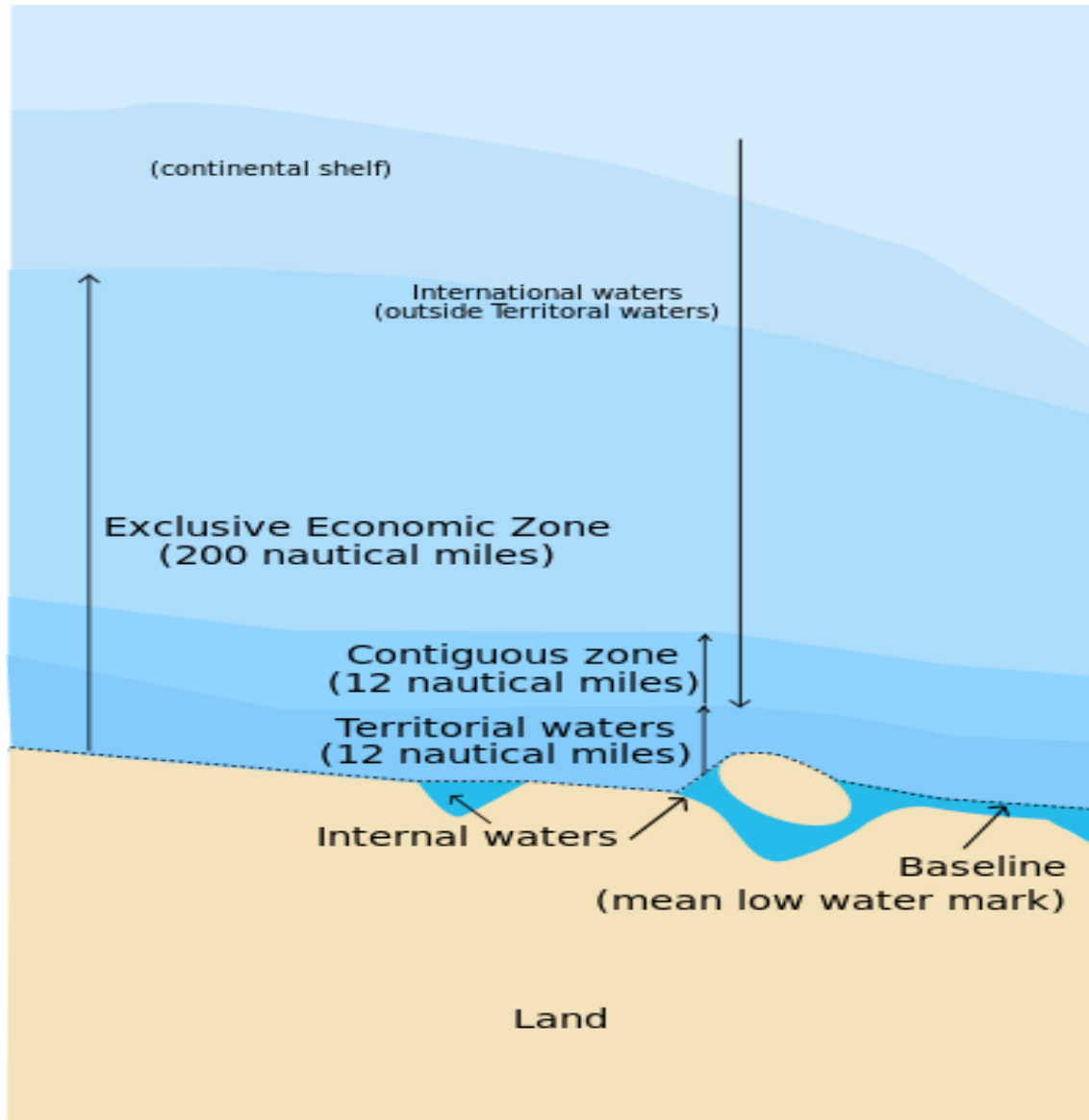
- China – South Korea and Japan
- What about Taiwan?
- UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- East China Sea is 360 Nm wide
- 200Nm is the EEZ (370Km)

■ Why

- Fishing grounds - Shipping Route
- Discovery of Natural Resources
 - Chunxiao Gas Field



EEZ — CRUX OF THE DISPUTE



SENKAKU

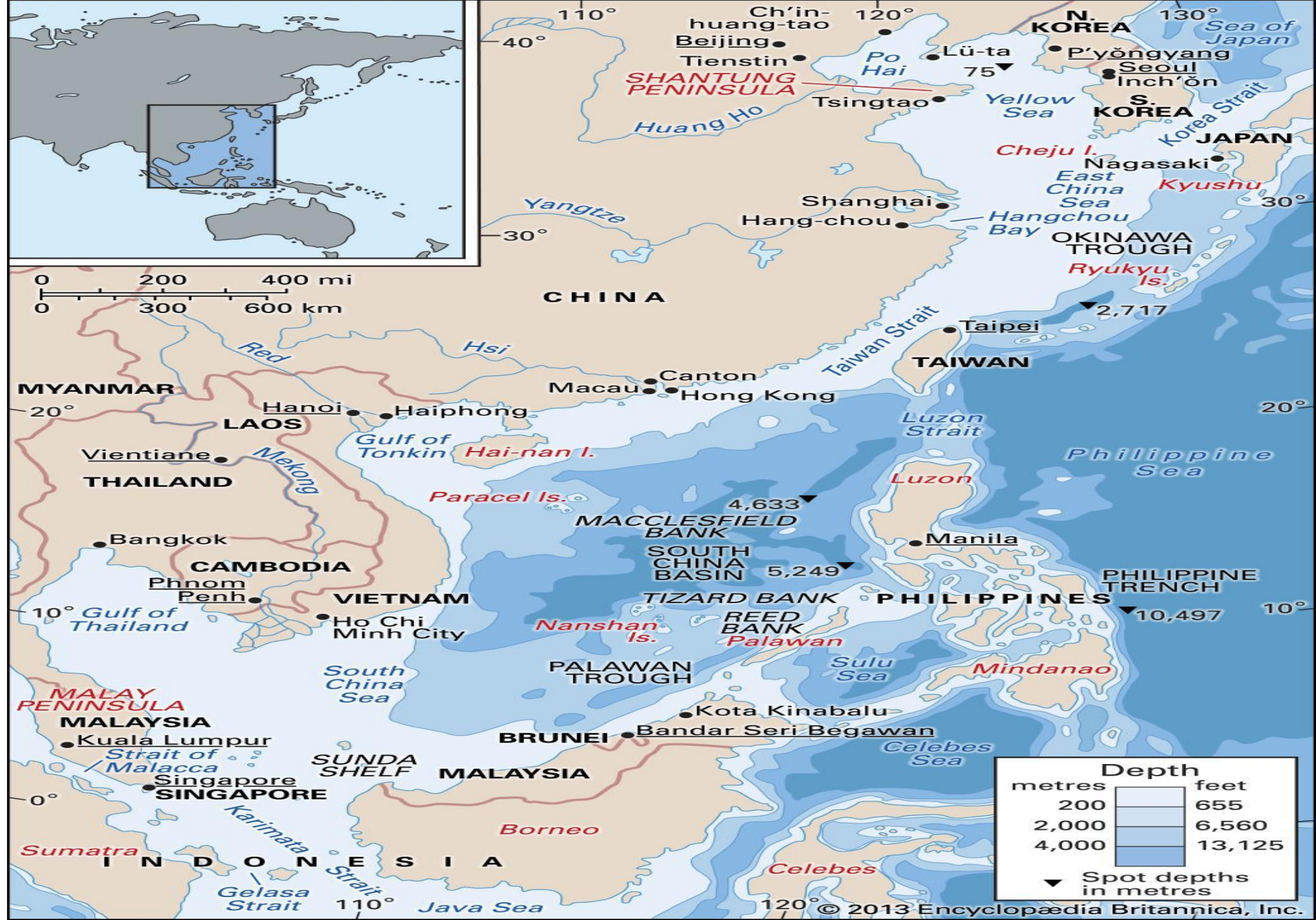
- Archipelago – 5 islands & 3 Rocky crags
 - Senkaku – Diaoyu – Tiaoyutai
 - Rich fishing grounds – Shipping – Oil reserves
 - Fishing Agreements – Senkaku outside of Chinese EEZ
- Controlled by Japan since 1895
 - Treaty of Shimonoseki
 - Terra Nullius
 - 1945-1972 – USA after WWII
 - Treaty of San Francisco
- China disputes ‘Terra Nullius’ status
 - Returned as was done of all conquests in 1945
 - US Japan Security Treaty
- Japan purchases remaining 3 islands in 2012
 - Shinzo Abe vows to defend Senkaku at all costs



SENKAKU



PACIFIC GATEWAY



OVERLAPPING EEZ - SENKAKU

Islands dispute continues

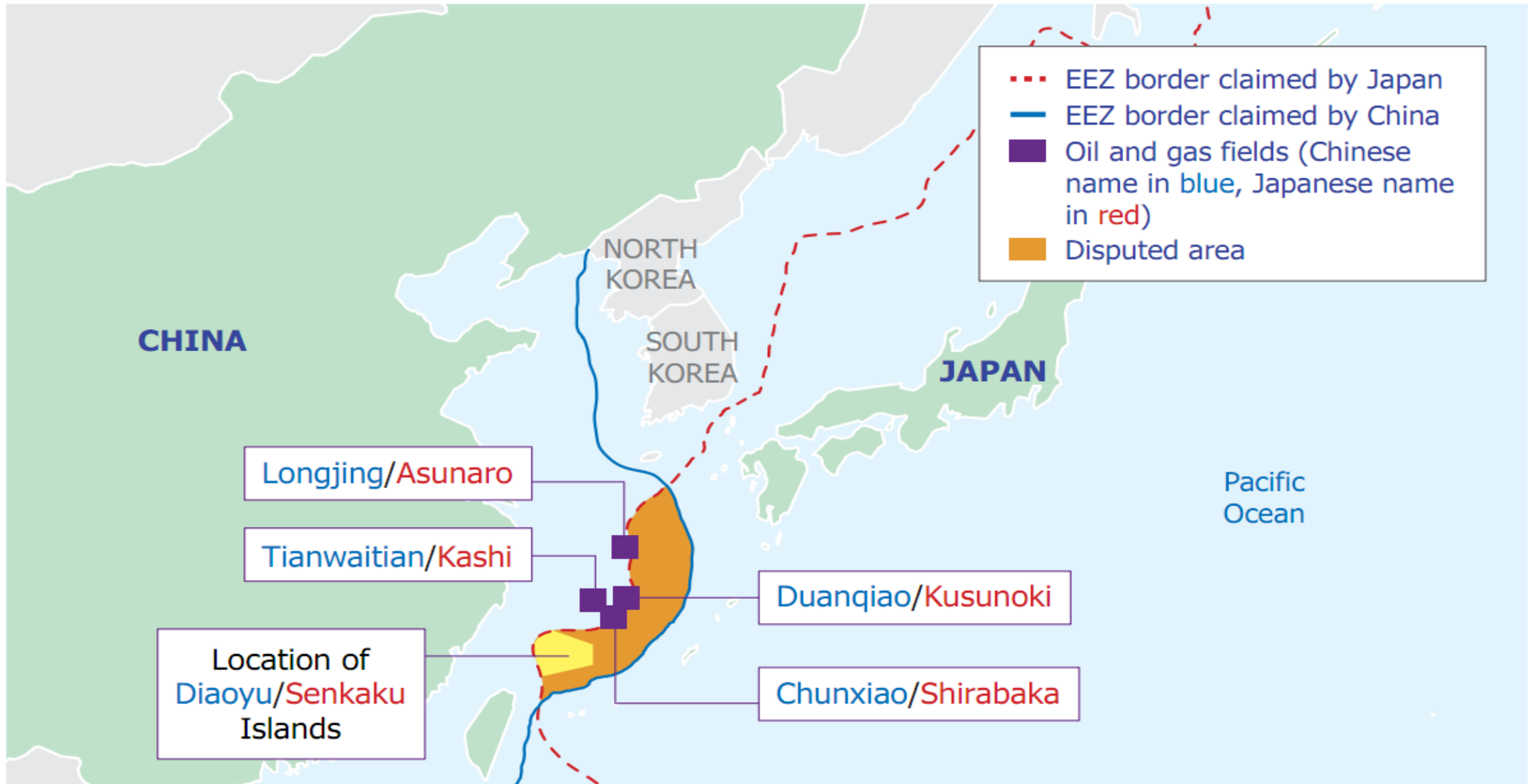
China has warned Japan after Japan bought some uninhabited islands that both countries claim. The islands are located near rich fishing grounds and potentially huge oil and gas reserves.



RICH CLABAUGH/STAFF



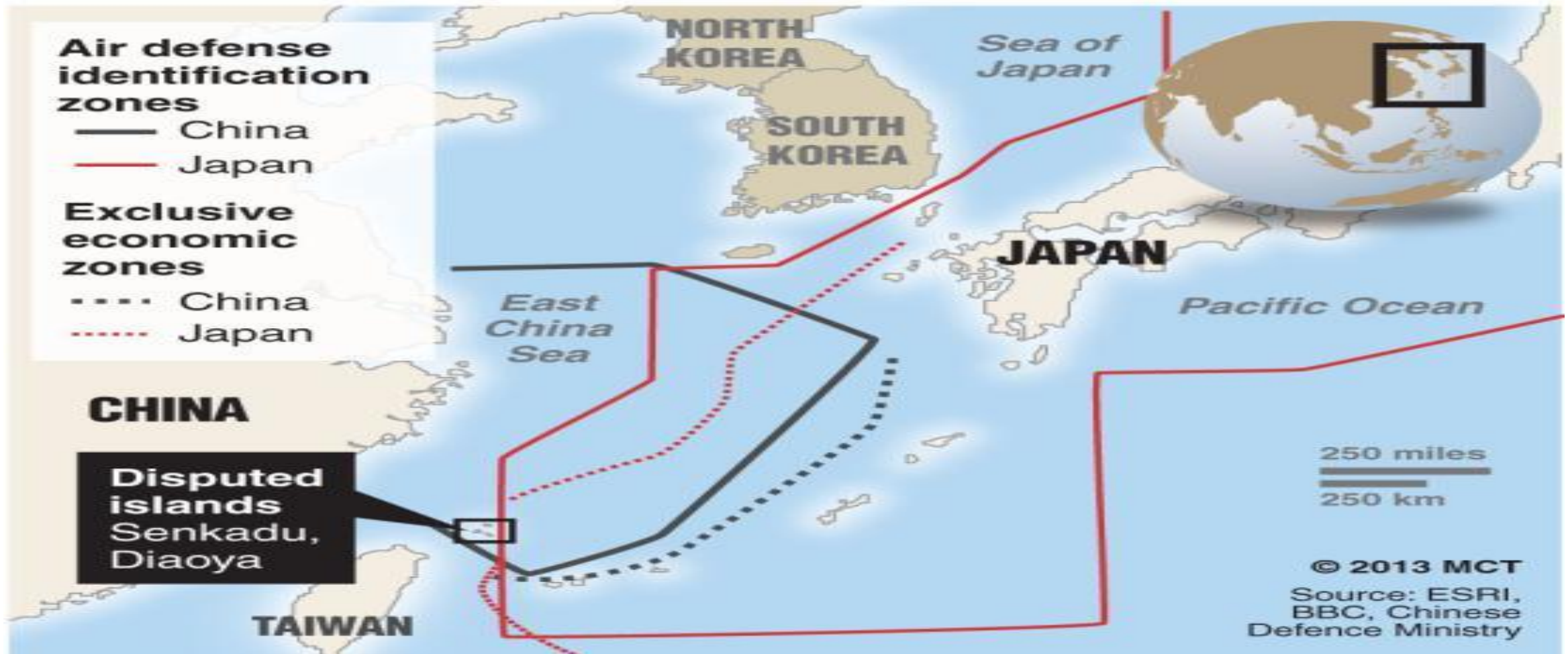
DISPUTED AREAS – OIL & GAS FIELDS



CHINESE ESCALATION - AIR-ZONE DEMARCATION

New air zone

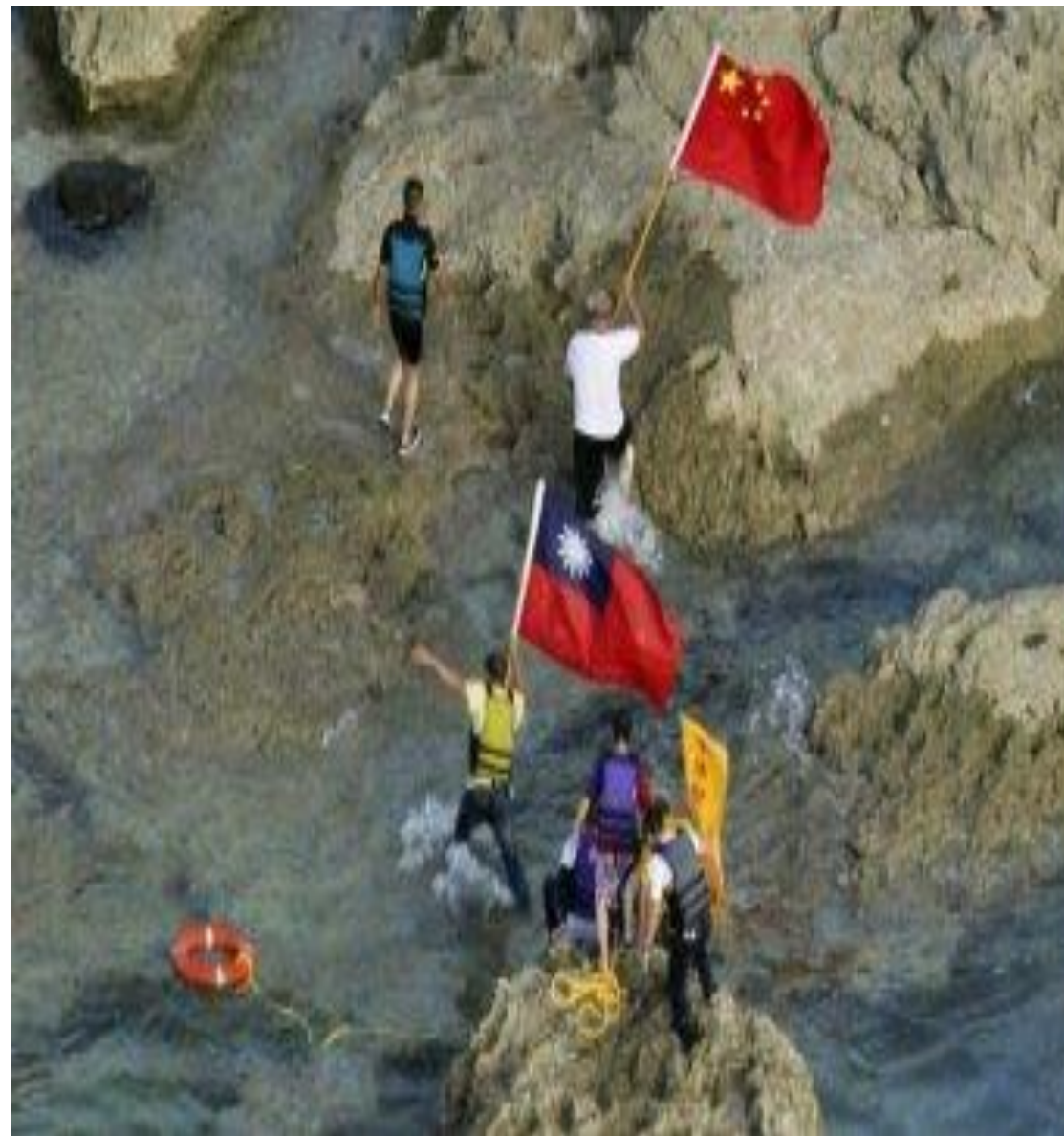
U.S. bombers and Japanese planes flew over disputed islands and through a new airspace defense zone declared by China.



THREE WAY TUSSLE — CHINA — JAPAN — TAIWAN



FACE-OFF



SOCOTRA ROCK

- Socotra – Ieodo/Parangdo – Suyan Rock
 - 149Kms from South Korea
 - 287Kms from China
 - China stakes claim after UN changes in EEZ in 1996
- Korea has built the Ieodo Ocean Research Station
- Importance
 - Korean Myths
 - Discovery of Natural Gas & Oil
 - Fishing grounds
- Current Status
 - Korea has included it in its EEZ
 - ADIZ status over Socotra by Korea and China
 - *Japan has maintained a neutral stance on it*
 - Potential flashpoint on account of ADIZ - Jeju Naval Base



IEODO – SUYAN ROCKS



IEODO OCEAN RESEARCH STATION



DOKDO TAKESHIMA DISPUTE



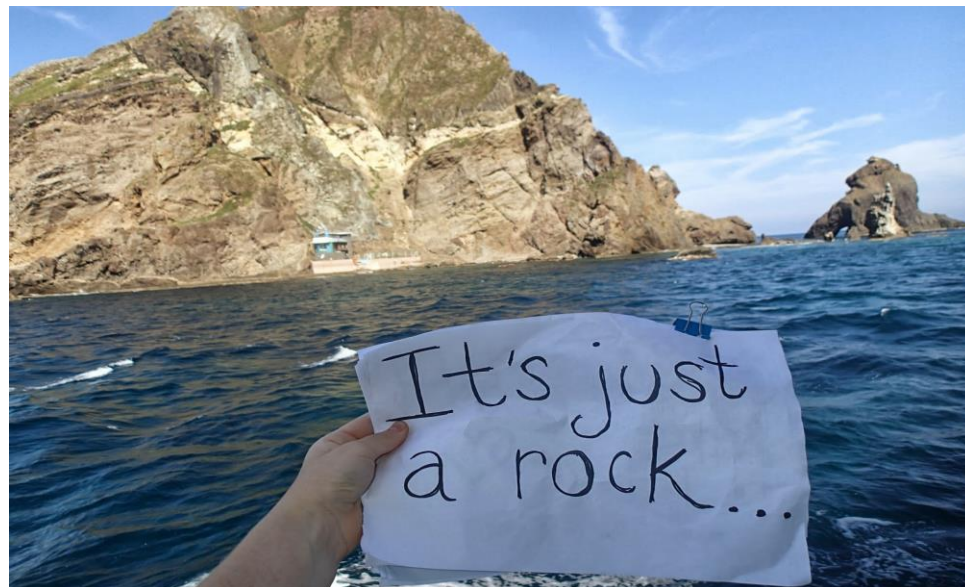
- South Korea – Japan Dispute
 - Dokdo – South Korean
 - Takeshima – Japanese
- Rich Fishing Grounds
- Historical Dispute
 - Japan claims it in 1905
 - Annexes Korea in 1910
 - World War II – Japan Loses
 - Occupied by South Korea in 1954
- Recent Flashpoints
 - Japan claim in Defence Reports
 - Korean Prez visits Dokdo
 - Takeshima Bread – Dokdo Bread
- US in the crosshairs



CLAIMS AND COUNTER CLAIMS

TEN TRUTHS ABOUT DOKDO

Not Known in Japan



KOREAN PROVOCATION



DOKDO BREAD – TAKESHIMA BREAD



LIANCOURT ROCKS MEMES



THE LIANCOURT ROCKS

Also known as Dokdo aka Takeshima makes Japanese and South Koreans act like little kids.



BELLIGERENTS & OTHER DISPUTES!

- Japan
- South Korea
- China
- Taiwan
- Tsushima
 - Held by Japan
 - Disputed by South Korea
- Naming of Sea of Japan
 - Sea between SK & Japan
 - SK wants it to be renamed
 - East Sea
- Parallel to Indian Ocean Region?



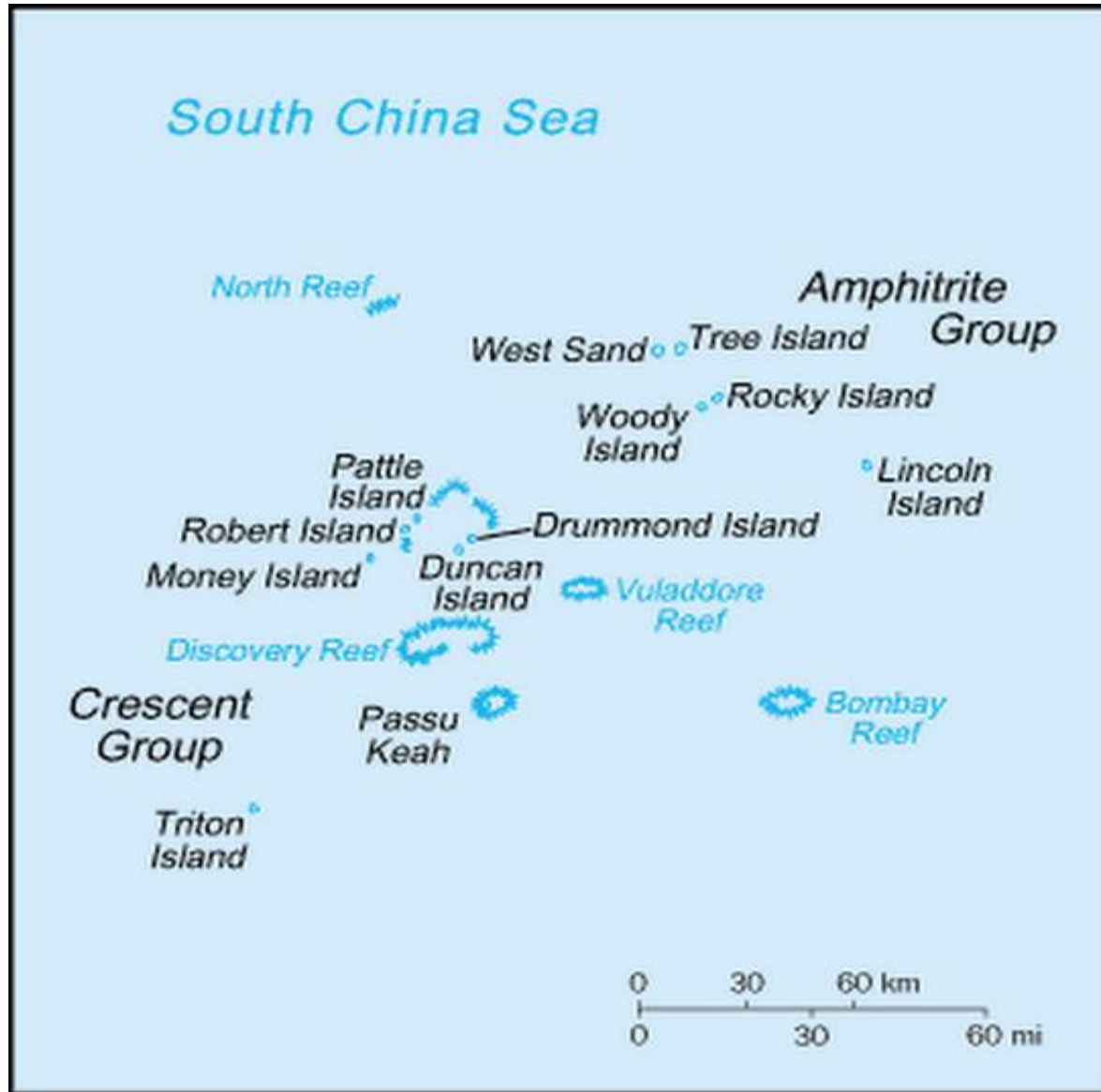
SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTES



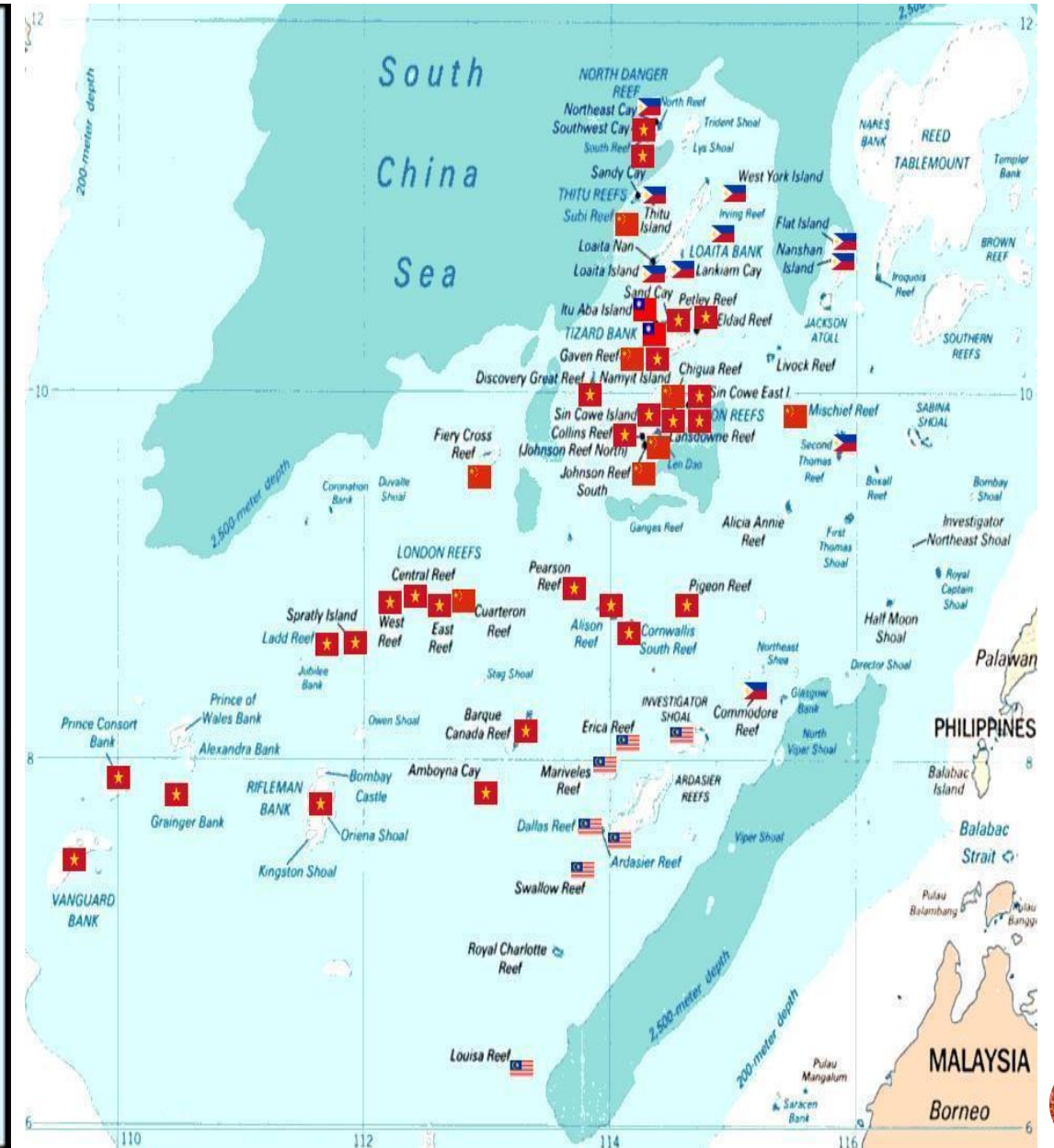
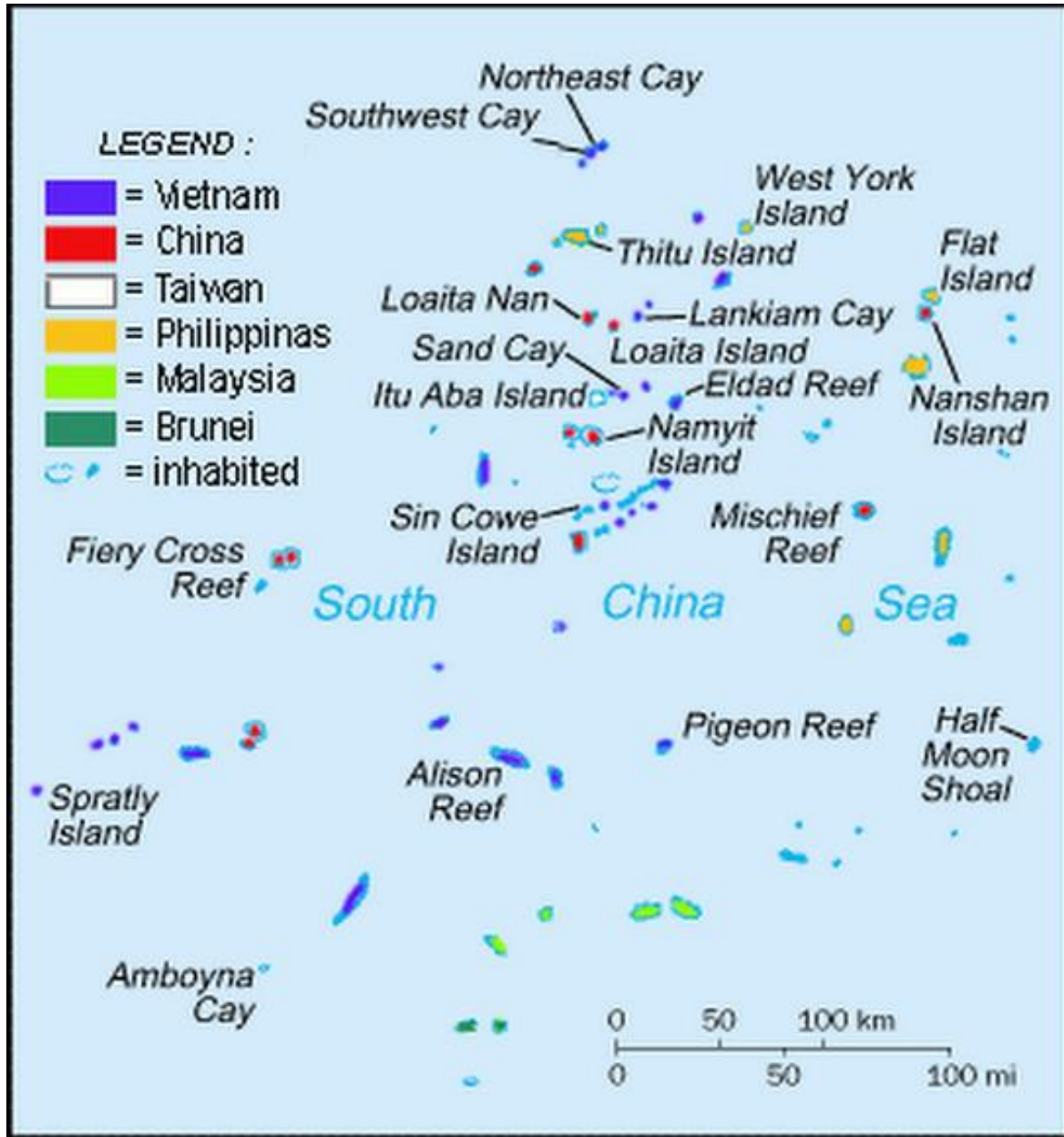
PARESU
CAI/NYTS



PARACEL ISLANDS



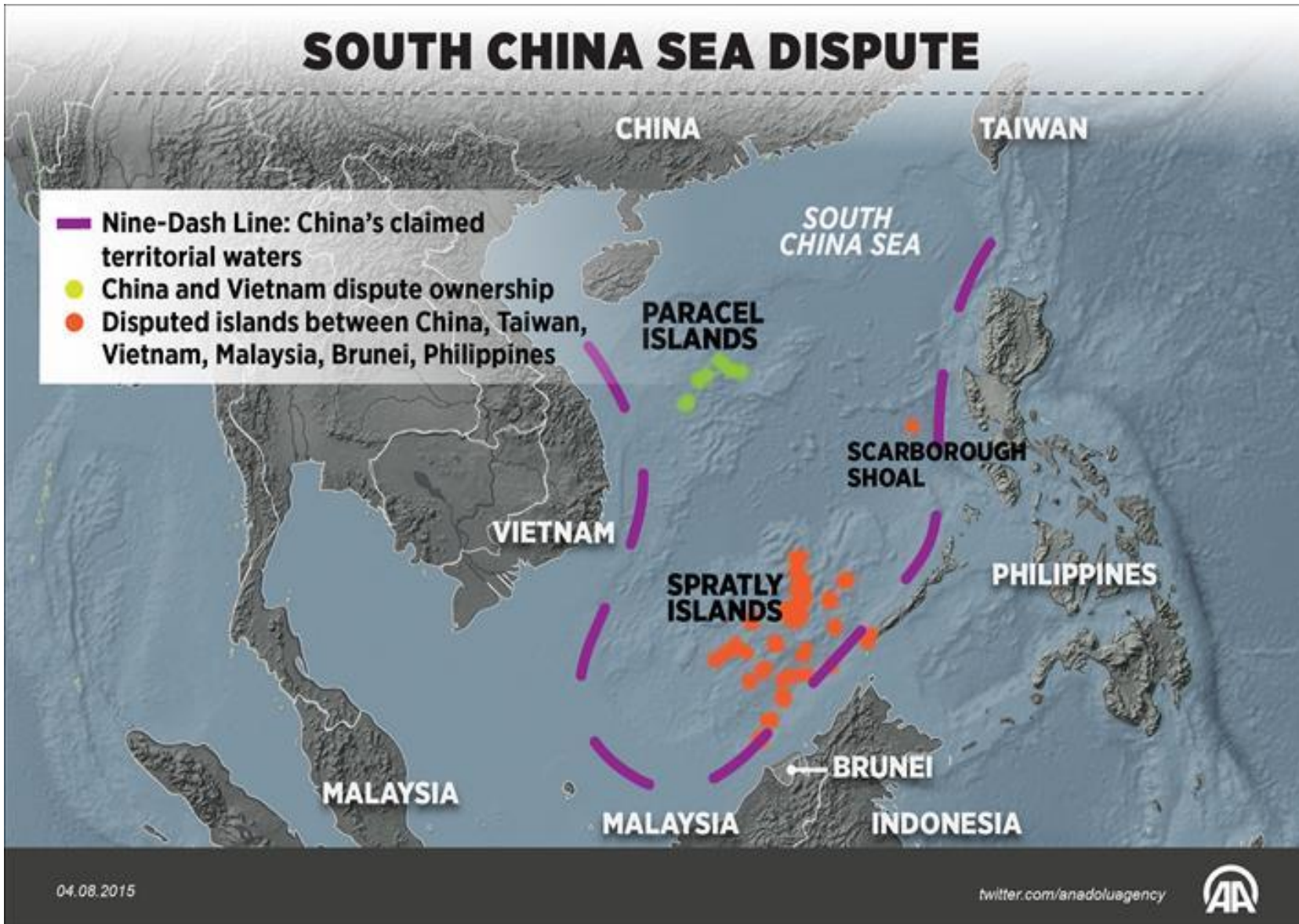
SPRATLYS



SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTES

SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE

- **Nine-Dash Line: China's claimed territorial waters**
- **China and Vietnam dispute ownership**
- **Disputed islands between China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines**



- **Three key disputes**
- **Paracel**
 - **Vietnam – China – Taiwan**
- **Spratlys**
 - **Vietnam – China – Malaysia – Brunei – Philippines – Taiwan**
- **Scarborough Shoal**
 - **Philippines – China**
- **Other Disputes**
 - **Pratas Islands**
 - **Macclesfield Bank**
- **UNCLOS & EEZ Overlaps**
- **Nine Dash Line**



SOUTH CHINA SEA - DISPUTES



Countries laying claim to South China Sea Islands

 **BALIKATAN** : Annual US-Philippine joint military exercise



IMPACT OF NINE DASH LINE

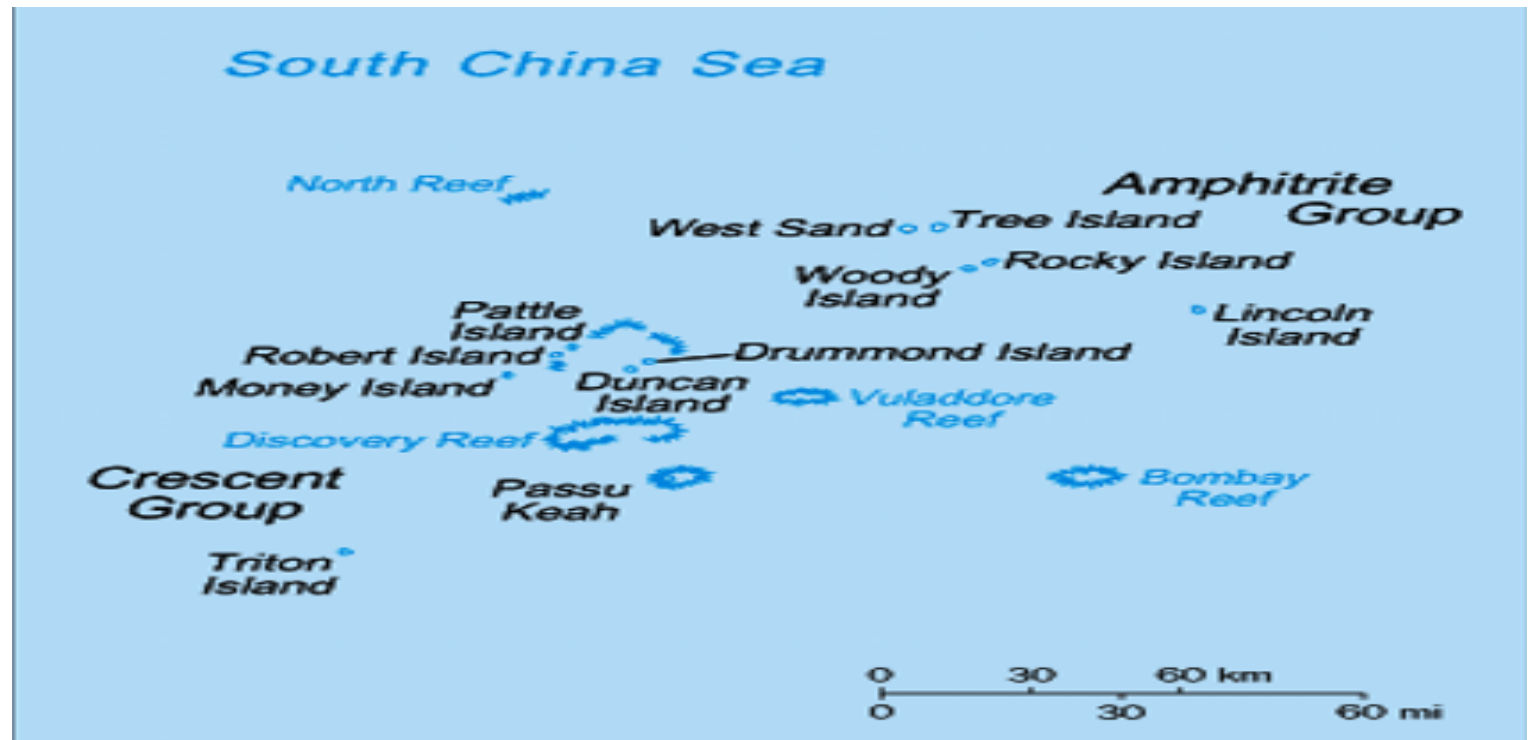


- Nine Dash Line
 - Cartographical Aggression
 - Historical records cited
- EEZs impacted
- Large tracts of Sea – Many Islands
 - **become Chinese domain overnight**
- Against International Laws



PARACEL

- Paracel
 - Vietnam & Taiwan & China
 - Amphitrite (North) – China
 - Crescent (South) – South Vietnam
- Pre 1974
 - 1957 – Transfer to China
 - China claims Paracel
- 1974
 - Vietnam attacks
 - China responds
 - Occupies entire Paracel
- Post 1974
 - Vietnam Unification
 - Claims afresh



SPRATLYS

Claimants

- China – Taiwan
- Philippines – Brunei
- Vietnam – Malaysia

Reasons

- Hydrocarbons – Fishing – Shipping

Current Status

- China, Philippines – 8 each
- Vietnam – 29 & Malaysia – 5
- Brunei – 2 & Taiwan – 1

2011 Agreement

- INS Airavat
- Taiwan, Tibet, South China Sea

Spratly Islands dispute

The South China Sea's Spratly Islands has been an area of ongoing territorial dispute between neighbouring countries. China claims most of the South China Sea, and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have overlapping claims.



Sources: U.S. government; Reuters.

*Occupation does not signify undisputed sovereignty.

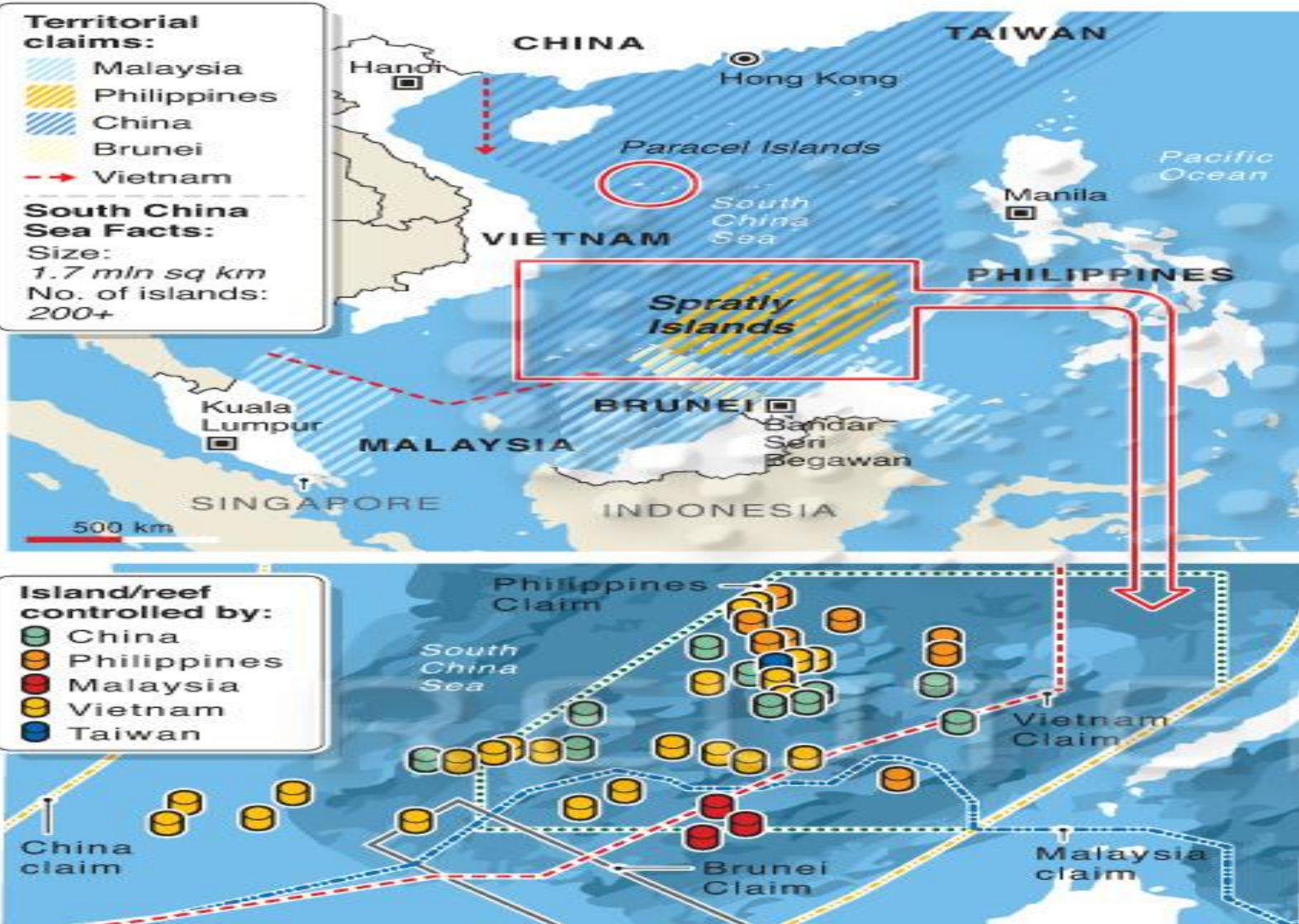
Staff, C. Chan 07/05/2015

REUTERS



SOUTH CHINA SEA - DISPUTES

SOUTH CHINA SEA TERRITORIAL DISPUTES



CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

China
 Claims almost all of the South China Sea, including all of the Spratly islands. Seized the Paracel islands from Vietnam in 1974. China's claims are based on historical records of the Han (110AD) and Ming (1403-1433AD) Dynasties

Philippines
 Occupies eight of the Spratly Islands. Claims are based on EEZ*, the continental shelf principle and a 1956 explorer's expedition

Malaysia
 Claims limited to continental shelf and EEZ. Claims three islands of the Spratlys, having built a hotel on one and bringing soil from the mainland to raise the level of another

Vietnam
 Claims a significant portion of the sea based on EEZ and its continental shelf. Occupies 20 of the Spratly islands and claims the Paracel islands despite having been forcibly removed by China in 1974

Taiwan
 Lays claim to most of the South China Sea, including all of the Spratly islands, based on historical records

Brunei
 Claim limited to its EEZ

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone. Under the UN Law of the Sea, EEZ is a seazone over which a state has special rights over the exploration and use of marine resources

Source: EIA, Middlebury College
 Graphic: Brice Hall/RNGS REUTERS

GEO LANDSCAPING

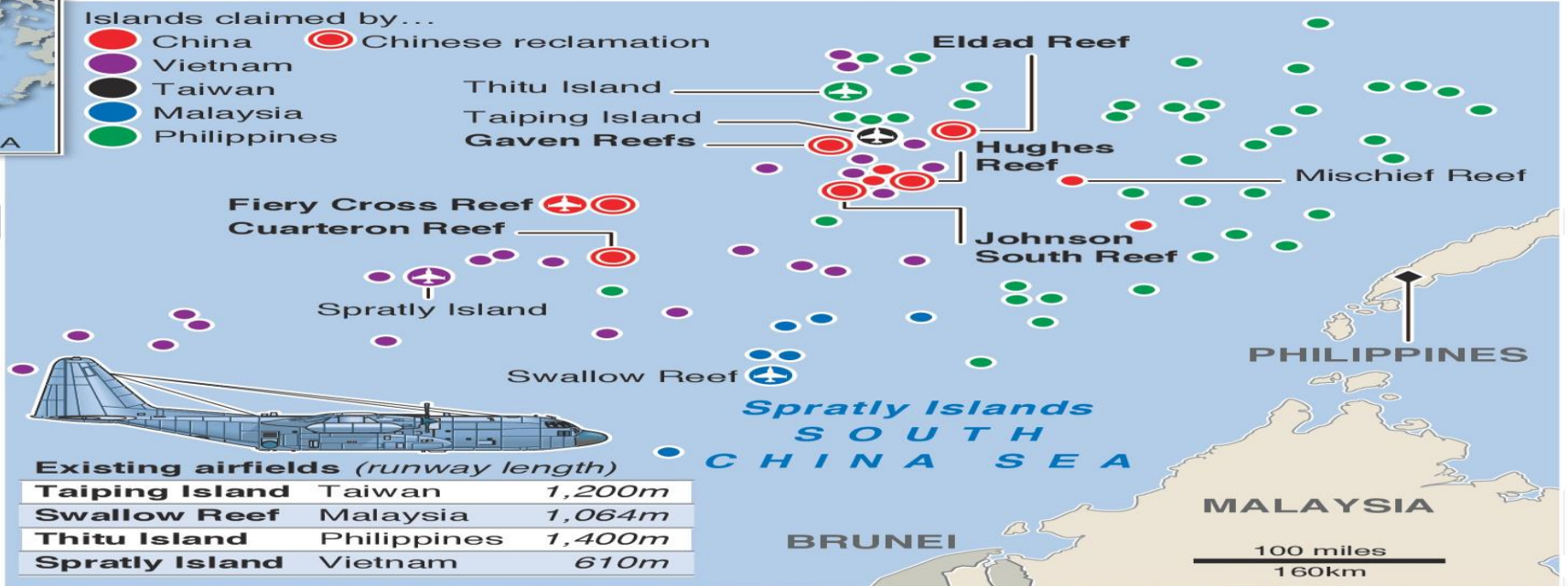


China's island-building projects

China is conducting dredging operations to reclaim land at six locations in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. The largest project – which started at Fiery Cross Reef in August – is an artificial island big enough for a 3,000-metre-long runway and harbour

Islands claimed by...

- China
- Chinese reclamation
- Vietnam
- Taiwan
- Malaysia
- Philippines



Existing airfields (runway length)		
Taiping Island	Taiwan	1,200m
Swallow Reef	Malaysia	1,064m
Thitu Island	Philippines	1,400m
Spratly Island	Vietnam	610m



Johnson South Reef
Military structure, Feb 2014

Fiery Cross Reef Jan 2015



Aug 2014: Reclamation around Chinese Navy platform starts

New terrain: Land likely to be used for garrison

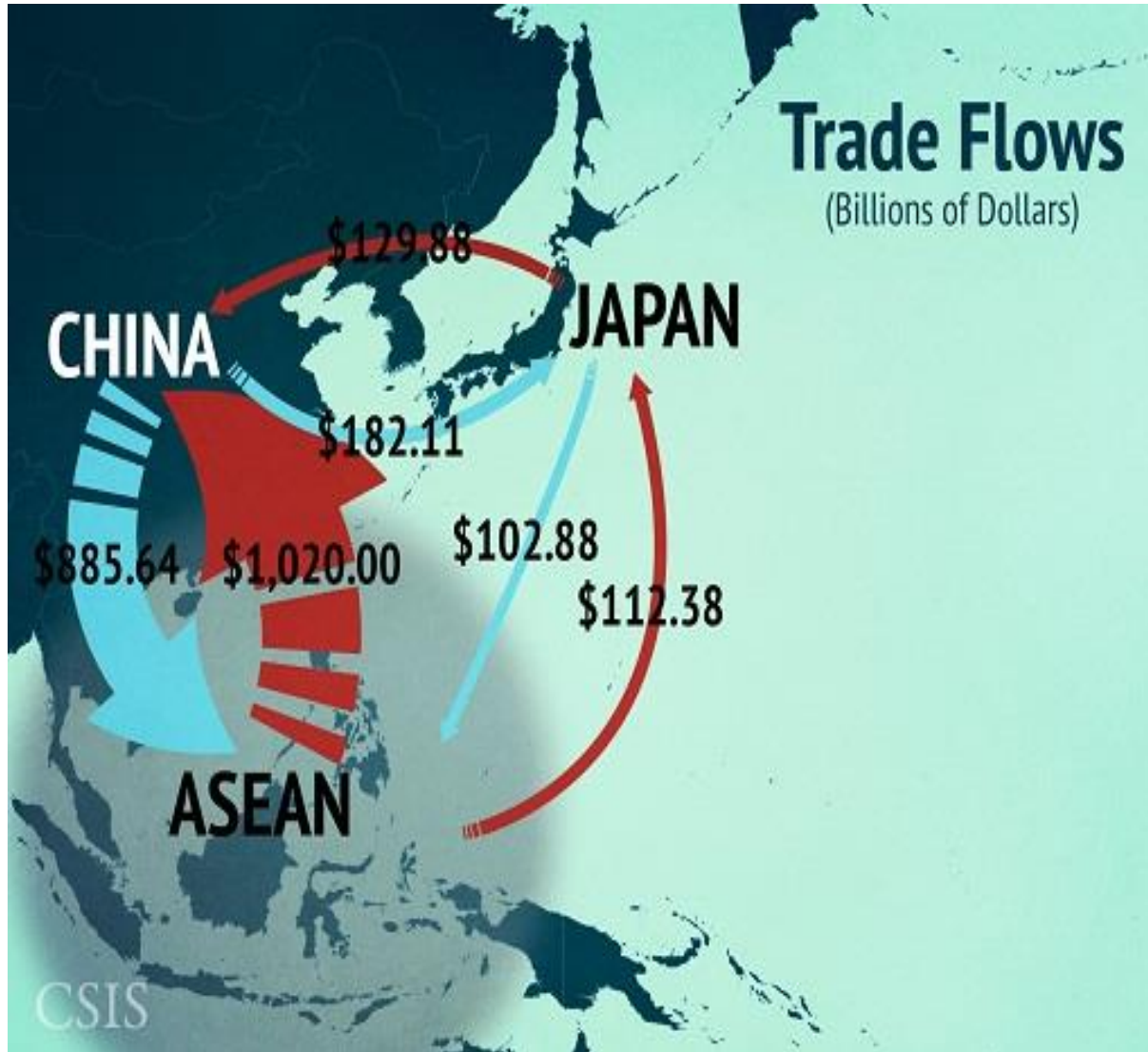
Military harbour: Large enough to receive tankers and fast attack craft



MAN MADE ISLANDS



TRADE FLOWS



Airstrip Comparison in the South China Sea

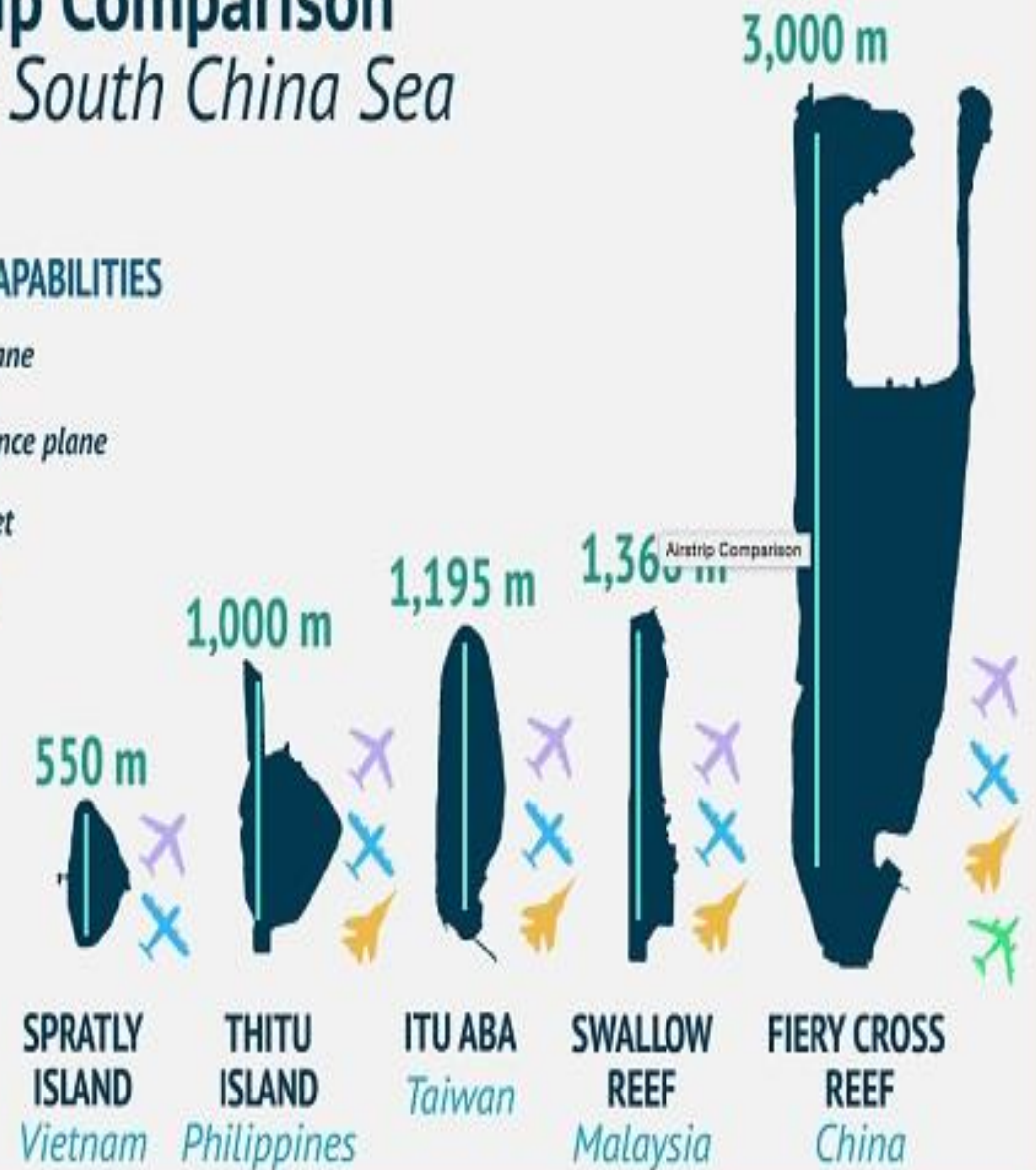
AIRCRAFT CAPABILITIES

Cargo plane

Surveillance plane

Fighter jet

Bomber

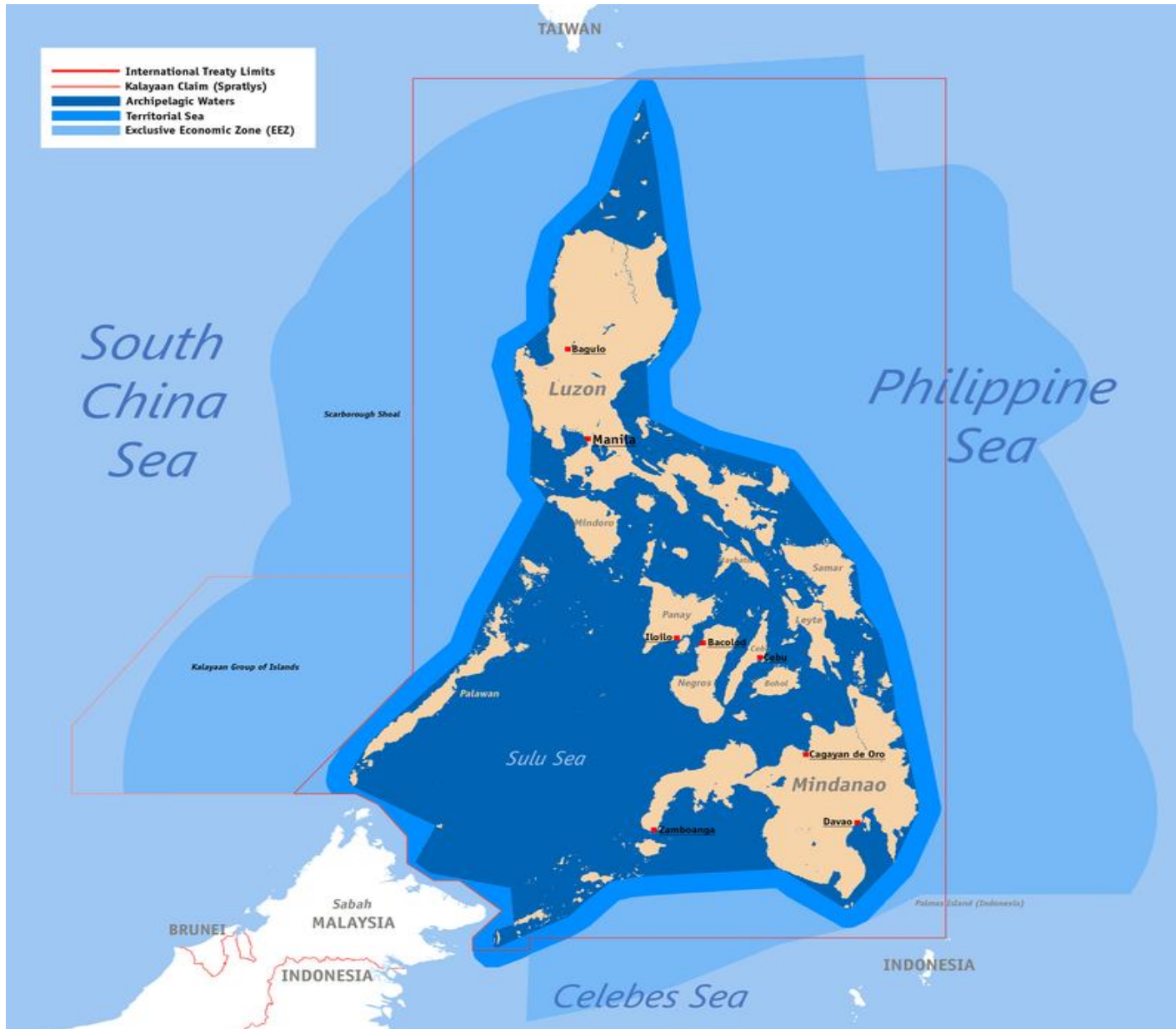


SCARBOROUGH SHOAL

- Claimants
 - China – Philippines
 - Taiwan
- China
 - 870Km
- Philippines
 - 210 Km – EEZ
- Reason
 - Fishing Grounds
 - Hydrocarbons
- Chinese claim
 - 1279AD – Survey – ‘Nanhai’
 - 1947 – Nine Dash Line
 - Minzhu Jiao – Huangyan
- Scarborough Standoff – 2012
 - Chinese Embargo



PHILIPPINES



SUBIC BAY BASE



- US base in Philippines
- Used extensively – Vietnam War
- 1991
 - Mt. Pinatubo explodes
 - Subic Bay is affected
 - American Fleet evacuates locals
- Friendship Treaty not ratified
- Subic Bay Base closes in 1992

- Current Status
 - Philippines invites US to use the base
 - Semi permanent base
 - Forward base for operations in South China Sea



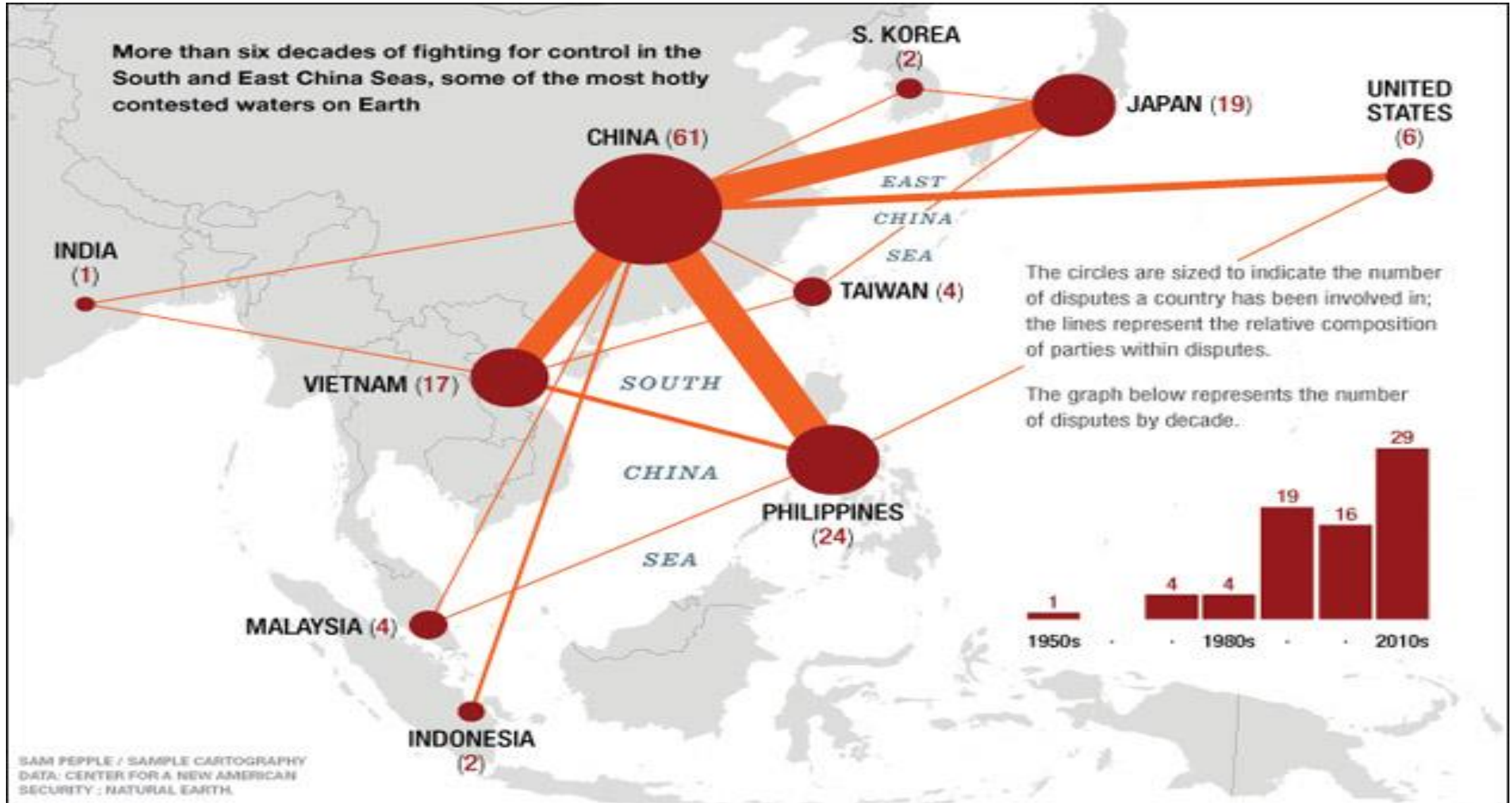
SCARBOROUGH SHOAL PROTESTS



SCARBOROUGH SHOAL PROTESTS



DISPUTE METER



INTERNATIONAL COURT — ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL

- 3 year case
- Not much support from traditional allies
 - United States
 - Western Powers
- Benigno Aquino initiates proceedings
- Engaged world class lawyers
- China boycotts proceedings
 - Cites UNCLOS Clause
 - Says it has NO mandate to rule
 - Mobilised support of 40 countries
 - Threatens to withdraw from UNCLOS
 - Lobbied court officials for judgment
- THE VERDICT
 - Dismisses doctrine of 'HISTORIC RIGHTS'
 - Nine-dash line incompatible with modern law
 - NO historical evidence - claims NULLIFIED
 - Violated sovereign rights of PHILLIPINES
 - Criticises Chinese 'RECLAMATION' efforts
 - Irreparable harm to maritime environment
 - Bulk of claims – LOW TIDE features
 - VERDICT is BINDING → ENFORCEMENT ??
- Chinese Reaction
 - Ruling is NULL & VOID - Worthless piece of paper
- REALITY
 - Huge Loss – Diplomatic isolation – Intl. Outlaw
 - Path for more such cases



CHINA TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

- China –Neighbors **14** (land) – **8** (Sea)
- Many disputes over land & sea
 - **Taiwan (Republic of China)**
 - Chinese Civil War – KMT – CPC
 - Paracel Islands
 - Spratlys
 - Vietnam, Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia
 - **1968 Oil discovery – Bigger than Kuwait**
 - **North Korea**
 - Yalu River
- **India**
 - Aksai Chin
 - South Tibet - Arunachal Pradesh
- **TAR – Tibet**
 - Annexed in 1950
 - Autonomous status
 - Dalai Lama
 - China Western Development
 - 70% Area
 - 30% Population
 - 20% GDP
- **Mongolia**



CHINA'S TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

Republic of China (ROC): Administrative Divisions & Territorial Disputes

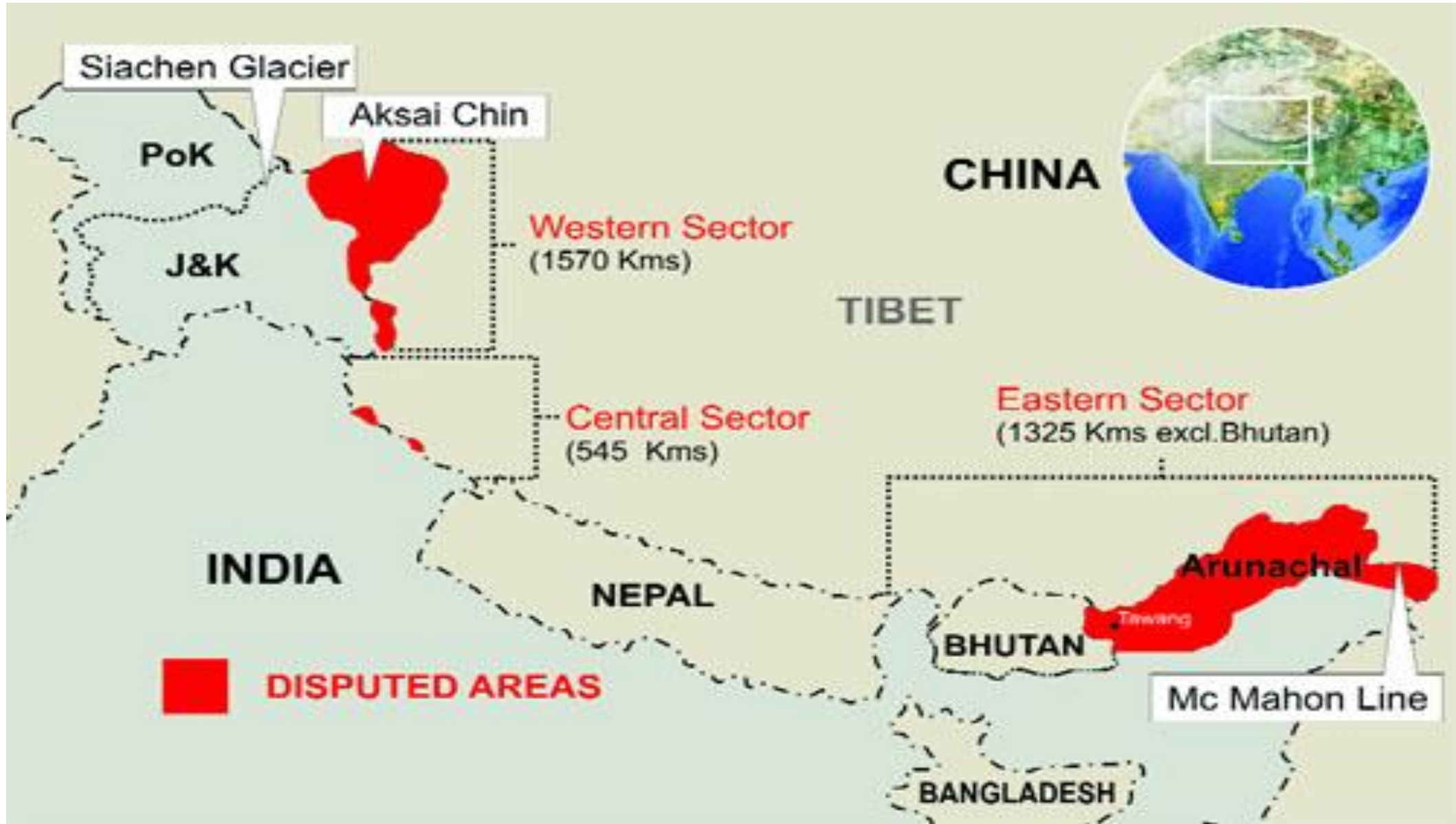
LEGEND
 ROC=Republic of China
 PRC=People's Republic of China



YALU — NORTH KOREA



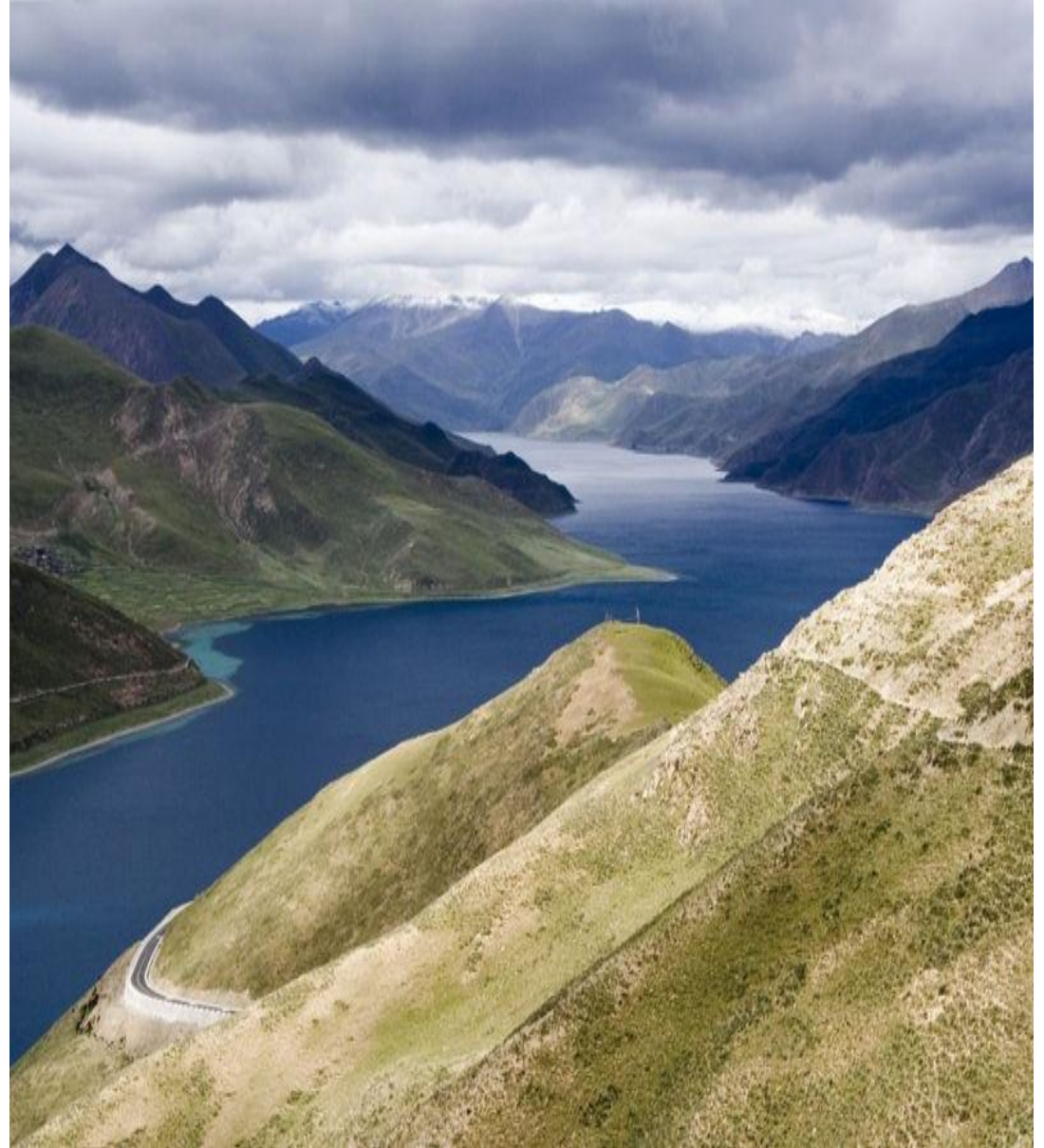
INDIA = AKSAI CHIN



MT. EVEREST



TAR



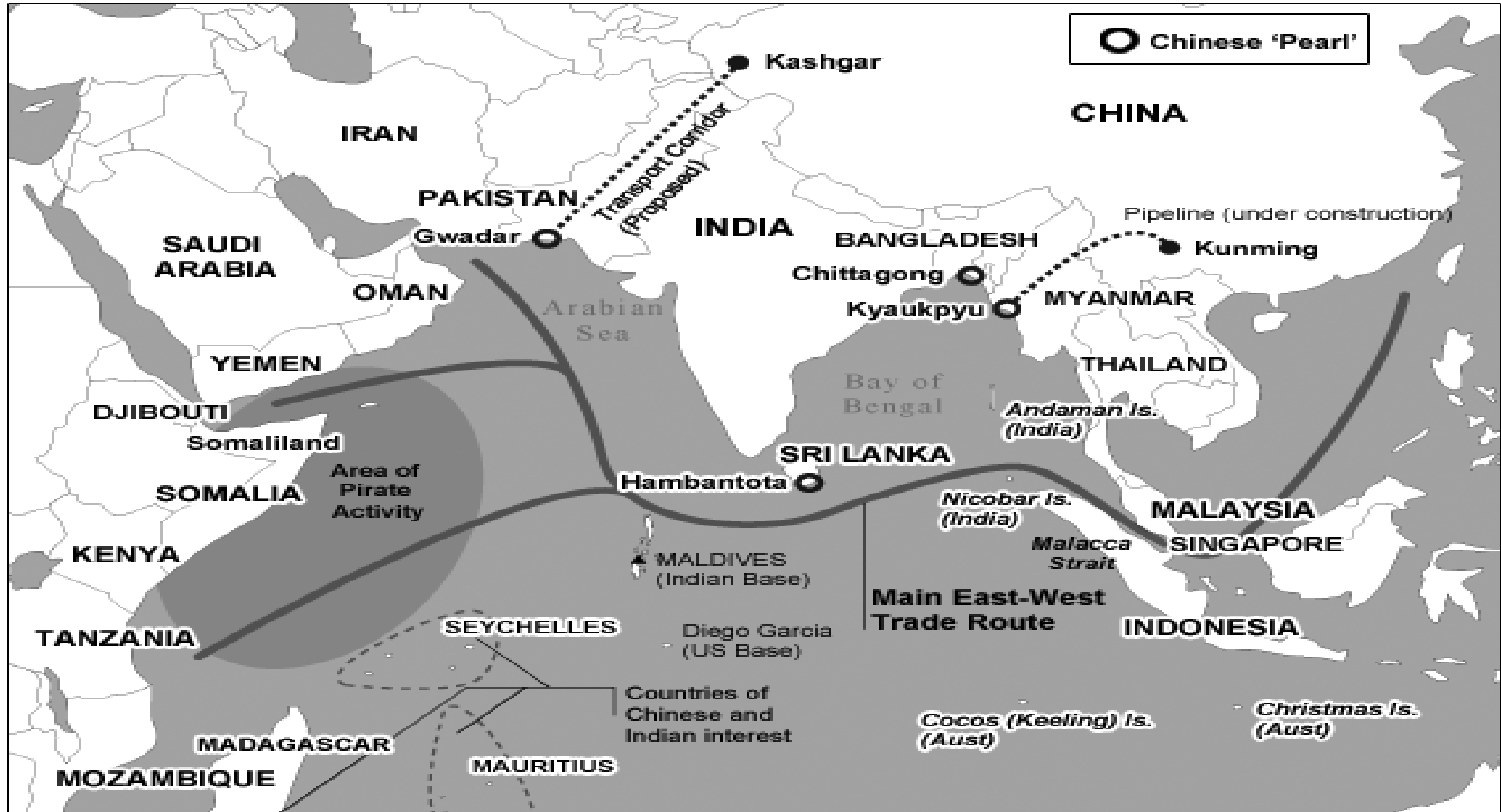
QINGHAI — TIBET RAILWAY



SECURING THE OIL SUPPLY CHAIN



STRING OF PEARLS – ECONOMIC CORRIDOR?



STRING OF PEARLS: CHINESE GEOPOLITICAL PLAY MILITARY OR COMMERCIAL?

String of Pearls is a geopolitical theory around China's intentions in the Indian Ocean. It refers to China's growing network of commercial & military establishments in the Indian Ocean: stretching from Africa & the Middle East in the west to mainland China in the east; uncomfortably close to India and through the ASEAN

China has always maintained that all commercial & military establishments are being developed only with commercial interests of securing the oil shipping lanes to meet it's oil & energy needs

(1) Sudan, (2) Pakistan, (3) Sri Lanka, (4) Bangladesh, (5) Myanmar, (6) Thailand, (7) Cambodia, (8) Spratly Islands

8 INFOGRAPHIC
information.simplified.



China's commercial advances in the Indian Ocean

- 1 Sudan**
Development of Sudan Port, \$ 10 billion investment
- 2 Pakistan**
Gwadar Port, \$ 1 billion investment
- 3 Sri Lanka**
Colombo Port, Hambantota Port, 85% Stake
- 4 Bangladesh**
Chittagong Port, \$ 8 billion investment
- 5 Myanmar**
Kyaukphyu Port, & Sino-Burmese Oil pipeline
- 6 Thailand**
Laem Chabang Port
- 7 Cambodia**
Sihanoukville Port & SEZ, \$ 3 billion investment

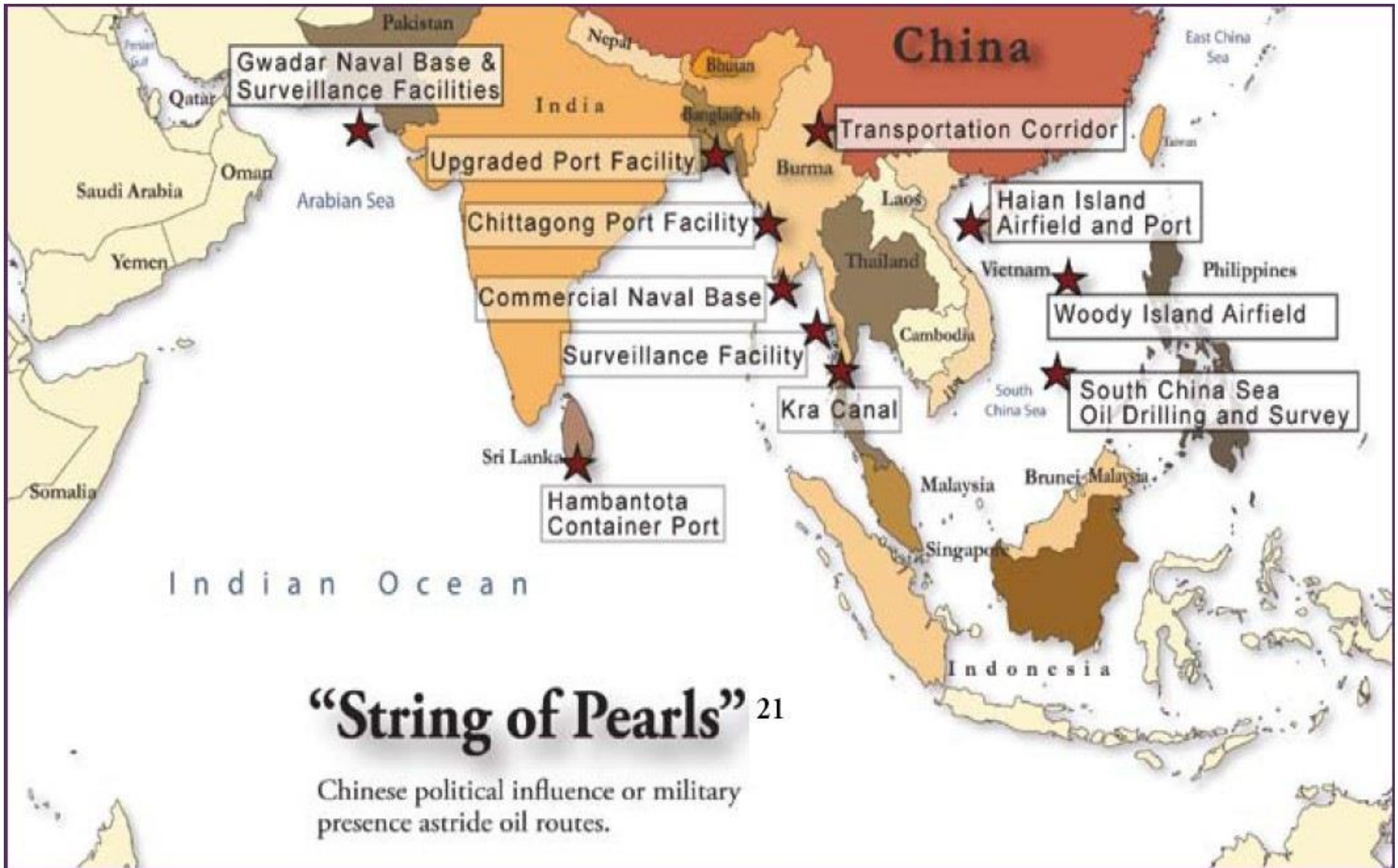


China's military advances in the Indian Ocean

- Pakistan**
Sino-Pakistan military deal to sell Chinese submarines to Pakistan **2**
- Bangladesh**
Sri Lankan Ports were recently used for refueling Chinese submarines
India very vocal in protest of this **4**
- Myanmar**
Unconfirmed reports of a Chinese naval base in Coco Islands, Myanmar have been around since the 90s **5**
- Spratly Islands**
China recently constructed an airstrip on the disputed Spratly islands **8**

Only time will tell what the real intention of building the String of Pearls is. But there is no doubt that China has established a strong network safeguarding its strategic interests, simultaneously providing it commercial and energy security





“String of Pearls” ²¹

Chinese political influence or military presence astride oil routes.

