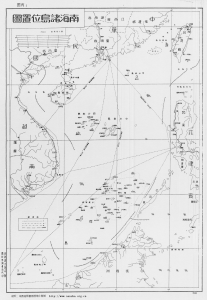
The dispute of south China sea became much significant since China's stance on this problem became much aggressive recently. Though PCA denied the China's claim, China's approach to the sea is unchangeable. Chinese government is keep pouring cement into the sea to make artificial islands, and they still oppress their neighboring states to get concession. China is executing illegal and inappropriate policies, and their aggressive stance is arousing the global society's attention. That is how Indo-Pacific project is presented.

[caption id="attachment\_33153" align="alignright" width="354"][](http://history.libraries.wsu.edu/history105-unangst-spring2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2018/01/onebeltoneroad.jpg) Figure 1. One Belt One Road[/caption]

Indo-Pacific project is a strategy to restrict China. It is an alliance of countries from India to the US, and it is an agreement to inhibit China's expansionism. The main point of this strategy is blocking China's economic plan, "One Belt and One Road", which is representation of China's hegemonic ambition: it is a policy that makes related countries economically dependent on China. Since there was a consensus between Indo-Pacific nations, Indo-Pacific strategy was presented, and this strategy is much uncomfortable for China[[1]](https://search.proquest.com/globalnews/docview/1962847734/B8A55F3476734B56PQ/1?accountid=14902). As south China sea is the entrance of the "One Belt", this region is much important to both China and Indo-Pacific alliance. China will keep its territorial claiming , and the alliance will keep restricting China. However, it is sure that south China sea will be eventually protected as international water. Recall that the Indian Ocean is protected as an international water. The global society will not tolerate the China's control on the sea. China also knows that it is difficult to take the sea. Rationally speaking, it is nonsense to claim a sea that borders 8 countries. However, China can not abandon its stance. The reason is that China's ideology is Sinocentrism.

Though China is a communist nation, China had no base to become communist nation. When China became a communist nation, China was not much industrialized, and the most people were farmers. Since Marxism is based on dictatorship of the proletariat, it was not right for China: farmers are classified as bourgeois class. Chinese government needed its own ideology to control the people, so the communist party made new ideologies such as Maoism. The base of the ideologies is Sinocentrism that is about rule of Chinese culture and recover of Chinese territory[[2]](https://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=CP71139580910001451&context=L&vid=WSU&lang=en_US&search_scope=WSU_everything&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,sinocentrism,AND&sortby=rank&facet=rtype,include,pbooks&mode=advanced&offset=0). Modern Sinocerntrism is especially focused on territorial recovery since China once lost its territories by great powers. A problems is that China tries to recover any territories that were related to China.

[caption id="attachment\_33171" align="alignleft" width="286"][](http://history.libraries.wsu.edu/history105-unangst-spring2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2018/01/1947_Nanhai_Zhudao1.png) Figure 2. Nanhai Zhudao[/caption]

The main point of China's claim is that China inherited the south China sea from Qing dynasty[[3]](http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.5305/amerjintelaw.107.1.0098.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A7dc6a4f0b1b7b8395b5f37407a6f6344). After the collapse of Qing dynasty, the Republic of China succeed to the nation. The Republic of China inherited the territorial rights and diplomatic rights, and the government declared the restoration of Qing's legacy. Nanhai, the south China sea, and Hainan were also included in the legacy. The government declared 11 dash line as the border of Nanhai, and it becomes 9 dash line after the People's Republic of China becomes the only China. For China, the south China sea is regarded as a subject to restore. Since Chinese people believe that the south China sea is apparently their territorial water, it is difficult to make China abandon their stance.

China's claim have certain weak points. First of all, Republic of China could not restore the south China sea. In 1971, People's Republic of China inherited the diplomatic rights of Republic of China: Republic of China became Taiwan, and People's Republic of China became the permanent member of the UN council. Until this point, Republic of China could not gain control over the south China sea.[[4]](http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2645651.pdf?refreqid=search%3Ada56b914589704fb718b28f59645093c). Since Republic of China could not gain control, the most regions of south China sea can not be claimed by People's Republic of China.  In addition, there was no sufficient evidence that the islands and the reefs of south China sea was owned by Qing dynasty. After world war 2, Republic of China claimed the south China sea, but the other members of the UN council did not accept it. Buszynski and Roberts explained that China suggested the inherited border while neighboring nations could not suggest their borders [[5]](https://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=CP51269738430001451&context=L&vid=WSU&lang=en_US&search_scope=WSU_everything&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,south%20China%20sea,AND&query=any,contains,dispute,AND&sortby=rank&mode=advanced&offset=0).  The border suggestion was not mutual, so the border could not be made.

[caption id="attachment\_33259" align="alignright" width="300"][](http://history.libraries.wsu.edu/history105-unangst-spring2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2018/01/southeast-asia-colonial-powers-small.jpg) Figure 3. Colonized south China sea.[/caption]

In fact, the root of dispute in south China sea is colonialism of European countries. The most countries of ASEA were colonized by European countries. Even China had to cede its territory to the great powers. After world war 2, European countries got no more power to maintain their colonies, so they left the colonies without appropriate decolonization process. The borders were not clearly made, and the governments were not supported. The biggest problem was that south China sea was still so important[[6]](https://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=CP51270733130001451&context=L&vid=WSU&lang=en_US&search_scope=WSU_everything&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,south%20China%20sea,AND&query=any,contains,dispute,AND&sortby=rank&mode=advanced&offset=0). South China sea is connected to Indian Ocean, so its geographical importance is clear. However, European countries did not make south China sea as international water. If south China sea was declared as a permanent international water, then the disputes would not go this big.

Since China's claim was not accepted, Chinese government changed the policy. They started to occupy the islands in south China sea. China have occupied Paracel islands from 1950s, and Spratly islands from 1988 [[7]](https://searchit.libraries.wsu.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?vid=WSU&search_scope=WSU_everything&tab=default_tab&docid=CP51269738430001451&lang=en_US&context=L&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&query=any,contains,south%20China%20sea,AND&query=any,contains,dispute,AND&sortby=rank&mode=advanced&offset=0). For those regions that islands can not cover, China have made artificial islands to cover the regions. China's occupying policy is getting more aggressive than before. China opened its market in 1990 and have experience remarkable economic growth. China became a rich country and got the economy to maintain strong navy. China's navy force is strong enough to occupy islands and reefs that are occupied by the other nations. For example, Philippines have occupied Scarborough reef from 1784, but Philippine would not be able to protect the reef when China determines to occupy the reef. In fact, China is likely to do so. China's stance on territorial disputes have been firm, and the stance will not be changed.

China's dominance on south China sea is already significant. China is practically controlling over the south China sea, so China has no reason to change their approach. In October 1979, China suddenly started to restrict access to the south China sea[[8]](https://search.proquest.com/docview/387009121?accountid=14902), and in December of the same year, Chinese government announced detection of gas in south China sea[[9]](https://search.proquest.com/docview/387025123?accountid=14902). It is clear that Chinese government detected gas before October. Chinese government needed time to confirm the existence of gas in the region, so they restricted access to the region. In December, Chinese government confirmed the existence of gas, so they announced the detection to claim ownership. While China is proceeding the series of processes, the neighboring nations did nothing. The nations might not even noticed that China found gas in south China sea. In fact, China have restricted the nations' access to south China sea.  China is especially restricting fishing. Chinese navy is permitted to fire guns when they detect any fishing boats that are not belonged to China. Even though south China sea is not EEZ of China, it is practically controlled by China. It seems China does not need the global society's approve.

China have been free to maintain their stance. Though China have been executing illegal and inappropriate policies, there was no remarkable restriction for China. According to Eric, "Russia and the U.S. have both withdrawn from the region[south China sea], leaving China as the dominant naval force"[[10]](http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2759767.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Ac472cc5a4048fbfe206523d72d07baeb). As China is the permanent member of the UN council, there are not many nations that are able to oppress China. Soviet and the US were only two powers that are able to restrict China's action, but both of them abandoned their leverage on south China sea. However, the biggest problem is that there is no major regional power around south China sea. Eric described, "many states in the area fear that Beijing intends to establish the South China Sea as a Chinese lake"[[11]](http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2759767.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Ac472cc5a4048fbfe206523d72d07baeb). Since the surrounding nations were recently decolonized, they have weak foundations. Their economies are unstable except Singapore and Vietnam, and their military powers are inferior to China. Frankly speaking, the balance is broken in south China sea region.

Indo-Pacific project is a good strategy, and it will protect south China sea as international water. It is impossible to change China's stance on south China sea since Chinese people believe that the south China sea region belongs to China and China actually has control over the regions. There is no regional power around south China sea that is able to inhibit China's expansionism, so regional powers such as India need to intervene. At the same time, there must be aids for the ASEA nations. By executing aid policies, the regional balance can be made. The main reason of continuous disputation is broken balance in south China sea region, so the balance must be recovered at first. In addition, southeast Asian nations need to make their own alliance. As colonialism put them into this problem, they need to build their own power.

**Endnotes**

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[2] Pohl, Karl-Heinz., and China the West in Dialogue. *Chinese Thought in a Global Context : A Dialogue between Chinese and Western Philosophical Approaches*. Sinica Leidensia ; v. 45. Leiden ; Boston: Brill, 1999.

[3] Zhiguo Gao, and Bing Bing Jia. "The Nine-Dash Line in the South China Sea: History, Status, and Implications." *The American Journal of International Law* 107, no. 1 (2013): 98-124. doi:10.5305/amerjintelaw.107.1.0098.

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[5] Buszynski, Leszek., and Roberts, Christopher B. *The South China Sea Maritime Dispute : Political, Legal and Regional Perspectives.* Routledge Security in Asia Pacific Series. London: Routledge, 2015.

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[7] Buszynski, Leszek., and Roberts, Christopher B. *The South China Sea Maritime Dispute*

[8] "AROUND THE WORLD China Declares Danger Zones." *The Globe and Mail,* Oct. 20, 1979. https://search.proquest.com/docview/387009121?accountid=14902.

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[10] Hyer, Eric. "The South China Sea Disputes: Implications of China's Earlier Territorial Settlements." *Pacific Affairs* 68, no. 1 (1995): 34-54. doi:10.2307/2759767.

[11] Eric, "Implication of China's Earlier Territorial Settlements"

**Illustrations**

Figure 1. One Belt One Road, Baidu, accessed Apr. 25, 2018, <https://baike.baidu.com/pic/%E4%B8%80%E5%B8%A6%E4%B8%80%E8%B7%AF/13132427/0/3c6d55fbb2fb4316d2703f4728a4462309f7d3a4?fr=lemma&ct=single#aid=0&pic=3c6d55fbb2fb4316d2703f4728a4462309f7d3a4>

Figure 2. Nanhai Zhudao, <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/43/1947_Nanhai_Zhudao.png>

Figure 3. Southeast Asia Colonial Powers, Christine Horn, <https://christinehornnet.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/southeast-asia-colonial-powers-small.jpg>