**Competing Territorial Claims in the South China Sea**

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The South China Sea has become a hotly contested region for territorial claims because of the rich fishing grounds, mineral resources, shipping lanes, and geo-political importance of this body of water. In this activity, you will explore some of the competing claims for the South China Sea from the countries that surround it and how these countries are exerting their influence in the region.

You can find all of the resources you need to look at various views of the South China Sea and territorial claims at http://www.southchinasea.org/. In this activity, I want you to examine at least three maps (see under the map tab) of the region shown on this website and expressing claims from different countries. Briefly describe each map (Name of map, what area does it cover, how is it made (hand drawn, satellite, GIS, etc.) and one major take-away you get from it.

1. 9-Dash Line Map – PRC, Hand-drawn map of the south China Sea, the map shows presumably China’s large claim to the area and its claim to nearly the entire region. The major takeaway from this map is how unfair it is to countries not named China to the seas partition. Malaysia, The Philippines, Vietnam, etc. Claims to the south china sea are the minimal distance from their coast and the rest according to the map belongs to China.
2. South China Sea Claims – Forbes, it's a much more developed hand drawn map as the previous, It should the overlapping claims to the sea in one map to show the locations of the south China sea which are heavily contested. The major takeaway is how so many countries have overlapping claims to the sea
3. Unclaimed Areas of the South China Sea – Ji Guoxing - it is a much more developed hand drawn map like the previous highlighting the many islands in the south China sea and the area of 200 nautical miles extended from each country and the “high sea” where no country is in range to claim the islands. It also gives the names of the nessary islands needed to claim to have access to the “high sea”. The major takeaway here is how good are these claims to the South China Sea if you don’t own the islands in it proving they are your lands.

Use the maps and other resources on this website to provide a brief (1-2 sentence) description of what each of the following countries uses to justify its territorial claims:

Malaysia: justifies its territorial claims in the South China Sea based on the Exclusive Economic Zone principle, which extends 200 nautical miles from its coast.

People’s Republic of China: uses historical claims, particularly referencing the 9-Dash Line, to justify its expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The Philippines: usess the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to support its territorial claims, particularly emphasizing its sovereignty over certain features within its EEZ.

Vietnam: uses historical presence, such as ancient maps and records to show ownership over various islands and features in the South China Sea.

When considering these claims, what do you think is the best way/set of criteria to resolve conflicting territorial claims in the South China Sea?

I believe if countries do not have citizens living on the high seas' islands excluding if the sea directly near its coast of a countries (the EEZ). No one has a claim to the sea as it is the public domain of all humankind, not owned by a single country. Given that answer is very native I would also argue that if a country can militarily control it with a base such as china they own it.