

THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH CHINA SEA TO INTERNATIONAL GEOPOLITICS

Anna Yunana Akinga*; Abubakar Yusuf Umar**; Danga Jamiu Yusuf***

*Nigerian Defence Academy Kaduna,
Faculty of arts and Social Sciences,
Department of History and War Studies,
Nigeria

**Nigerian Defence Academy Kaduna,
Faculty of arts and social sciences,
Department of History and War Studies,
Nigeria

**Nigerian Defence Academy Kaduna,
Faculty of arts and Social Sciences,
Department of History and War Studies,
Nigeria

Email id: jydanga@nda.edu.ng

DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2023.00006.X

ABSTRACT

The South China Sea, at first glance, seems like any other part of an ocean enclosed by a cluster of Islands and straits and covering a certain area. However, the geostrategic and economic importance associated with the ocean is tremendous and manifold. From busiest maritime trade ways to sea beds full of unlimited resources, this piece of Pacific Ocean is the power beaming with unlimited potential of geostrategic and economic supremacy for anyone having the power to dominate it. It is upon such background that this paper carefully evaluates the strategic importance of the South China Sea. The paper look at the brief history of the South Sea, Natural Resources endowed in the Sea, Territorial Claims among the countries, and the political, economic and military/Defence strategic importance of the Sea. The paper concluded that, the present of natural Resources and the high volume of trade in goods and services transported across the Sea make it an important and most busiest water way in the world, therefore, conflict over it among Asian countries and the world super powers is inevitable. This is because, whoever control the sea, will automatically have a significant influence and control over the world politically, economically andmilitarily.

KEYWORDS: *Geopolitics, Territorial, tremendous, geostrategic, supremacy, endowed.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. "Government of the People's Republic of China on the Matter of Jurisdiction in the South China Sea Arbitration Initiated by the Republic of the Philippines," published in 2014.
 2. Afzalur Rahim, M. *Managing Conflict in Organizations*, Transaction Publishers, (2011).
-

3. AP. "US concerned over China's 'interference' in South China Sea". Associated Press. Retrieved 21 July 2019.
4. B Pitlo III, Lucio. "ASEAN stops pulling punches over South China Sea". Archived from the original on 17 August 2020. Retrieved 16 August 2020.
5. Bill Hayton, *The South China Sea: The Struggle for Power in Asia*, London: Yale University Press, 2014.
6. Devetak, Richard, George, Jim, Percy, Sarah Virginia, *An introduction to international relations*. 1977- (Third ed.). Cambridge, United Kingdom. 2017-09-11.
7. Evans, Graham. *The Penguin dictionary of international relations*. Newnham, Jeffrey. London: Penguin Books, (1998).
8. Gregory B. Poling, "History of US involvement in the South China Sea" *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 7th June, 2022.
9. Hendrix, Jerry. "China should think twice before threatening to attack Americans". *Fox News*. (January 4, 2019).
10. John Taylor, "US Rebalance to Asia Pacific", *NDC Journal*, National Defence College Press, New Delhi, Jan 2016.
11. John Zumerchik; Steven Laurence Danver (2010). *Seas and Waterways of the World: An Encyclopedia of History, Uses, and Issues*. ABC-CLIO, 2010.
12. Jon Erickson; Ernest Hathaway Muller (2009). *Rock Formations and Unusual Geologic Structures: Exploring the Earth's Surface*. Infobase Publishing, 2009.
13. Jon Erickson; Ernest Hathaway Muller. *Rock Formations and Unusual Geologic Structures: Exploring the Earth's Surface*. (Infobase Publishing, 2009).
14. Lea, Homer. *Day of the saxon*, London: Nabu Press, (2010).
15. MacDonald, Kevin. "Evolution, Psychology, and a Conflict Theory of Culture". *Evolutionary Psychology*. 7 (2), (2009-04-01).
16. Quismundo, Tarra. "South China Sea renamed in the Philippines". *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. Archived from the original on January 12, 2012.
17. Randy Mulyanto. "Vietnamese ships in Indonesian waters show extent of Asean maritime disputes". *South China Morning Post*. Retrieved 2022-08-09.
18. Sarah Raine and Christian Le Miere, "Regional Disorder: the South China Sea Dispute", *The International Institution for Strategic Studies* (The United Kingdom, London: Routledge 2013).
19. Schearf, Daniel. "S. China Sea Dispute Blamed Partly on Depleted Fish Stocks." Archived 2021-08-26 at the Wayback Machine GlobalSecurity.org, VOA. May 16, 2012.
20. Shen, Jianming (2002). "China's Sovereignty over the South China Sea Islands: A Historical Perspective". *Chinese Journal of International Law*. 1 (1);, (2002).
21. Taylore Fravel, "China's Strategy in the South China Sea, article in contemporary Southeast Asia" a *Journal of International and Strategic Affairs*,

<http://taylorfravel.com/documents/research/fravel.2011.CSA.china.strategy.scs>. (Accessed March 5, 2016).

22. Taylore Fravel, China's Strategy in the South China Sea, Article in Contemporary Southeast Asia a *Journal of International and Strategic Affairs*, January 2011.
23. Taylore Fravel, China's Strategy in the South China Sea..... January 2011.
24. The Economist, The South China Sea, Making Splash, Jan 30th 2016, <http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21689633-taiwans-outgoing-president-further-roilstroubled-waters-making-splash>
25. Tom Allard; Bernadette Christina Munthe. "Asserting sovereignty, Indonesia renames part of South China Sea". *Reuters*. (14 July 2017).
26. Tønnesson, Stein. "Locating the South China Sea". In Kratoska, Paul H.; Raben, Remco; Nordholt, Henk Schulte (eds.). *Locating Southeast Asia: Geographies of Knowledge and Politics of Space*. Singapore University Press. 2005.
27. US Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John M. Richardson, John M. Richardson: "Maintaining Maritime Superiority" on YouTube, *Lecture at Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center*. / Feb 2019, minutes 38:22–41:25; 49:39–52:00.