South China Sea: Conflict Solution

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Ambiguous territorial claims in regions of the South China Sea have allowed contentious situations to develop between nations in the region.

There has never been an agreed upon claim over the region.

As a result, disputes in the area has been characterized by rising and falling periods of conflict.
1. THE PROBLEM

What makes this issue significant?
“China will never move an inch on its core interests of sovereignty and territorial integrity and will always stand up for that at any cost.”

- Li Hongmei, The People’s Daily, 2011
The Issues

➢ Sovereignty, everyone lays claim to the region.
➢ Economics, the region is in a strategic trade location and has various important resources.
➢ Military, everyone has military pressure in the region.
➢ U.S occupies the international waters in the SCS.
2. THE SOLUTION

How can we placate China and the U.S. while ensuring the economic prosperity of the entire region?
The Policy: First Steps

1. Negotiations
   a) Bring the nations to the negotiating table
      i) Precedent in the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea
   b) The involved nations then agree upon and sign a treaty.

2. Treaty takes effect
   a) South China Sea Treaty Regulatory Council is established under UN’s Economic and Social Commission of Asia and Pacific.
   b) South China Sea Investment Bank is Established.
   c) Demilitarization and investment in trade infrastructure in South China Sea
Elements of the South China Sea Trade Treaty

Signed by: U.S., China, Myanmar/Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines
Takes effect immediately
China supports North Korea denuclearisation
Demilitarisation and economic prosperity for South China Sea by 2025

Council Created as Subcommittee of ESCAP in UN. SCSTRC consists of 1 delegate from each member state and hold annual meetings to monitor adherence to treaty.
Council creates investment bank for SCS region to stimulate trade infrastructure (China contributes initial sum) Distributed proportionately.

If council finds member does not uphold treaty duties, or displays military intimidation near the SCS, nation given 1 year to address and solve issue.
If member nation does not resolve issue after 1 year, treaty is nullified, thus threatening remilitarization to keep nations faithful to treaty.
How Do We Define the South China Sea?

China’s Nine-Dash Line

International Law Zone
3. The Policy Impact
**Impacts**

**Short Term**

- Tenstion deescilates
- Investments begin in SCSTRC Investment bank
- U.S. and China begin demilitarisation and work together on North Korea’s denuclearisation

**Mid Term**

- Investments allocated to member nations proportionate to need (by GDP)
- Efficient use of resources by capable nations

**Long Term 2025-**

- Demilitarisation in South China Sea
- Trade infrastructure and prosperity grown in South China Sea Region
4. Identifying and Combating Potential Problems

What can go wrong, and how do we combat that?
Specific Allocations to Involved Parties

**United States**
1. Nuclear disarmament in North Korea
2. Eventual demilitarization in the SCS Zone
3. U.S. gets a transit pass for commercial vessels in the region

**China**
1. U.S. leaving the Chinese sphere of Influence
2. Mediate control over the region of the SCS
3. Energy security through access to oil

**ASEAN**
1. The economic growth they desire without military conflict through trade investment
2. Use of the SCS zone
3. Fair prices on oil proportionate to their GDP
Other issues...

*Issue:* The US and ASEAN fear China gaining too much power
- Counter: The U.N. regulatory subcommittee established for the region (SCSTRC) will check Chinese power
- If there is a violation that cannot be solved within one year the treaty becomes null and void.

*Issue:* The proposal is too radical
- Counter: This is conflict resolution, which varies from the norm.
- China is the strongest power in the region, the other nations haven’t been able to band together, other countries get benefits and we avoid military conflict
5. Conclusion
Concluding Thoughts

We believe that this is the most realistic way to spur rapid advancement while also preventing conflict in the region. No policy is guaranteed to work, but we must look to precedent and the social climate in the various nations involved and try to find the best solution possible.
Questions?
Sources


