



## China's Policy in the East Sea

Nguyen Ba Dien

School of Law, Vietnam National University

[nbadien@yahoo.com](mailto:nbadien@yahoo.com)

**Abstract:** Researching China's policy toward the South China Sea is a difficult but fundamental issue, because systematic research will show China's moves in the South China Sea both now and in the near future. The article will contribute to clarify China's policy toward the South China Sea in the current context.

### To cite this article

[Dien, N. B. (2019). China's policy in the East Sea. *The Journal of Middle East and North Africa Sciences*, 5(1), 10-14]. (P-ISSN 2412- 9763) - (e-ISSN 2412-8937). [www.jomenas.org](http://www.jomenas.org). 2

**Keywords:** China, Policy, East Sea.

### 1. The Geostrategic Position of The Eat Sea for China:

With its maritime strategy, maritime ownership, gradually dominating the ocean and rising into the world's one-world power, China, with its geographic position and huge population (about one quarter of the world's population) For the past 40 years, with great development in all fields of economy, science and technology, politics-diplomacy, national defense and security, to reassert the world power as well as the ambition of the island. Today, China is increasingly expanding its hegemonic ambitions in the region and in the world, in which sovereignty aspirations are seen as the foundation and source of strength for China to continue to realize further ambitions. by: becoming the world's number one power. This ambition has long been established in Chinese history and continues to exist today.

On the other hand, China has taken a silent strategy, but drastically reforms its openness to the economy, building internal forces, trying to avoid it Disagree or confront the United States when not needed. Thanks to the strategy of Implantation and remediation, to utilize and attract maximum capital and technology of the United States, Japan, and the Western countries, with the best practice, the direction, unification, and high concentration. The advantage of the followers in adopting the science and technology revolution, China has grown tremendously in a very short time. Over the 25 years spanning 1990-2014, China's economic growth rate exceeded 10 percent a year, surpassing Japan and becoming the world's second-largest economy since 2010. In the period 2004-2016 GDP China has grown four times from \$ 2,500 to \$ 10,000 billion and chased the United States. By the time President Donald Trump came to power on January 1, 2017, if the speed of economic development of the United States and China

remained as before, according to forecasts of the World Bank and IMF, only to five 2025 or at most 2030 China

will rise to replace the US to become the world's largest economic power. It is not only developing in quantity but also developing in quality, towards corporate governance, smart governance, lifestyle and civilization standards. the highest of the world. Thanks to its economic growth and technological development, China is also brave, confident and determined in defense spending, in dealing with its neighbors and in its international relations. to suit his new position. It is noteworthy that China is carrying out two major and ambitious strategies to become the world's No. 1 technological power in 2025 and the BRI to create a system. Its own economic and political system, in which China has a dominant role. The Ring Road Strategy, if fully implemented, will help to promote 6 close links in air, sea, road, rail, telecom network connections, financial services connections. China and about 80 countries in the world, extending from North Asia through Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Africa, parts of Western and Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia, population, one-third of GDP and one-fourth of world trade. Together with the BRI, China has repeatedly launched the Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Development Bank, consolidating and broadening the role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, joining the BRICS group of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (Phụng, 2018).

Addressing the current Eat Sea dispute, the main reason is that it originates from the strategic geo-strategic position of the South China Sea in China's strategy and ambitions for world hegemony. Being the most populous country in the world, with nearly 1.4 billion people while the land area is limited, with the expansionism of the Han, China recognizes that the sea and the ocean are the way of life. could help the country rise to international superpower status. The Eat Sea and the two archipelagos of Hoang Sa,

Truong Sa are vital, the golden fish tank, the pharynx, the life path, the oceanic axis, the cornerstone of marine power, the currency. the marine life of this country. Eat Sea has many strategic implications for China, as follows:

First, the Eat Sea has significant geopolitical significance in extending the living space and realizing China's maritime ambitions: In terms of geopolitical factors, the Eat Sea has a special role to play. It is important for China to realize its ambition to become a maritime powerhouse and a world power. To do so, China needs to expand its living space. Meanwhile, to avoid facing the face of Russia, a military superpower in the north; with India in the southwest, with its close allies Japan and Taiwan in the east, forcing China to shift south, gain control of the East Sea, to expand its space survival (Hai, 2004).

Second, with its vast natural resources, the East Sea is strategically important to China's socio-economic development: its location, geography, and climate make it particularly. The biodiversity is higher than that of other countries in the world, both in terms of species composition, ecosystems, and genetic resources, with about 11,000 species of organisms residing in more than 20 typical ecosystem types. In addition to marine resources, the Eat Sea also contains a great potential for petroleum resources as it is one of the five largest oil and gas reserves in the world with about 130 billion barrels of oil and natural gas. With abundant resources, the Eat Sea not only gives China enormous natural resources but also solves its energy thirst both now and in the future, The strong development of the Chinese marine economy, solving the need for employment of the people and improving and improving the quality of life for them.

Third, with its geo-strategic location, the Eat Sea offers tremendous benefits in maritime and inland shipping. The Eat Sea lies on the sea-lanes connecting the Pacific Ocean - Indian Ocean, Europe - Asia, Middle East - Asia. This is considered the second busiest international transportation route in the world. With such a geo-strategic location, the Eat Sea is considered to be the most important arterial road in the transportation of oil and gas and commercial resources from the Middle East and Southeast Asia to Japan, South Korea, and China. Every year, China has 29/39 maritime routes and about 60% of imports and exports, and 70% of imported oil is transported by sea through the South China Sea. Therefore, the Eat Sea is considered a strategic location, which is the basis for the exchange of goods of China. If the crisis breaks out in these seas, ships will have to cross South Australia, freight rates will increase five-fold and no longer be competitive in the world market. Besides, the East Sea is not only the exit of China but also the daily cashier that blocks the trade routes of competitors when needed (Hai, 2004).

Fourth, not only for the benefits of living space, socio-economic, the Eat Sea also has implications for China's security and defense: the Paracels and Spratlys of

Vietnam have their strategic position between the two major naval bases, Cam Ranh of Philippines and the Philippines, blocking the sea lanes from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean; an international shipping route from East Asia to South Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe; It is also an important external barrier and security barrier in China's southern frontier. Therefore, control of the East Sea, especially the Paracel Islands, Spratly Islands, China will be able to isolate the regional sea lanes and airspace and extend the territorial sovereignty of the East Sea, this would provide an important basis for the development of nuclear submarines, the construction of artillery and the development of garrisons that would help prevent military intervention by the United States, Japan, Australia, and India. in the south; Ensure the transport of troops, sea blockades and air protection during the Taiwan Strait War. With the cow tongue ambition, along with the reinforcement of military bases in the artificial islands in the East Sea, with an early warning radar system, Strategic change will have significant implications as these facilities will allow. the Chinese military to own the Eat Sea and reach out to the Pacific. Not only that, China after dominating the Eat Sea, controlling ASEAN, will dominate the Pacific region, round down the South Indian Ocean to bargain with India, move to South Asia and reach out to South Asia. to the world's most important oil region in the Middle East (Tuyen Quang Newspaper electronic, 2015).

Fifth, the Eat Sea is a strategic buffer in China's emerging strategy, as well as a major arena in its rivalry with the United States, rising to global hegemony. China needs to have areas of influence around the border -security buffer zone, requiring China to find ways to push the United States out of Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia. Due to the inability to compete with the United States on the military, China's major strategy is to avoid facing the United States directly, using pressure to win its neighbors, forcing them to leave their arms alone. of the United States. The Eat Sea is considered a strategic buffer in China's rising strategy, as well as the main arena in its rivalry with the United States, rising to the "global hegemony. In fact, through the disclosure of the Beaver Dna claim on May 7, 2009, which claimed about 80% of the Eat Sea area despite the deductions and proposed interpretations of many countries, China has demonstrated the scheming monopoly of the East Sea, from which to step up to dominate the world.

## **2. China's Policy Towards the Eat Sea in General and Eat Sea Dispute in Particular:**

Although a large country in the region and in the world with many achievements in economic development, science, and technology, is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council as a participant in the Convention on Law The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, however, is more widely known in the world as a nation with its own domination of ideas

and hegemonic aspirations. China maintains a policy of expansion and territorial sovereignty.

China's maritime policy in the East Sea has been formed and developed through a long history. In the earlier periods, China had no interest in the East Sea. Since the 1930s, China began to focus on the South China Sea as a strategic watershed and identified monopolies. This sea. From the 21st century up to now, due to the pressure of marine resources, ecology, and marine economy, China has adjusted its marine policy and strategy to expand the living space, scrambled for resources and confirmed its position in the East Sea. From 2007 up to now, the strategy of hiding waiting for the times or harmonious diplomacy has given way to a more assertive, proactive, aggressive and aggressive foreign and security strategy. squeeze with the disputed states in the region. In the longer term, it should be noted that China's interest in the East Sea is not simply a territorial expansion, a resource recovery for economic development, but also a meaningful sea control. with Southeast Asia and major powers like the United States, Japan, Australia. In other words, this is the focus of China's big chess to dominate East Asian countries and undermine the role of the United States. It should be noted, however, that the East Sea is not the ultimate goal of China's foreign policy, but a tool for China to undermine its role and credibility. control East Asia (Hai, 2004).

The content of China's maritime law policy on the East Sea is specifically expressed in the following aspects:

The marine law policy of the People's Republic of China is a reflection of the China's claim to maritime aspirations and aspirations; heavily nationalist, narrow chauvinism; It does not reflect the spirit of regional and global cooperation, which honestly reflects the views and aspirations of the national authorities, as a legal basis for China's illegal activities. in the sea.

The content of the law of the Chinese island sea has many points contrary to international law, especially in comparison with the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which infringes on the rights and interests of other countries including Vietnam.

Most of China's maritime claims are unilateral, non-scientific, in contravention of international law, or avoid or remove the provisions of international law that may disadvantage, bind themselves; seek to supplement its own rules of conduct, provide a legal basis for maritime expansion and consolidation of sovereignty claims.

China's policy and law system on the East Sea, in general, directly regulates the Paracel and Spratly Islands in particular and is the result of the practice of occupying the East Sea. China, as well as a fundamental legal basis for further realization and expansion of the country's sovereignty over the East Sea.

Chinese law is complex, multi-level, involved in state management in specific areas. China has not yet promulgated a law to regulate the unification of legal relations arising in the fields related to the sea and islands.

Many documents were built in the 80s and 90s of the 20th century, so far backward, no longer suitable, yet showing the spirit of regional and global cooperation, still weighing on reflecting fully the Oceanic expansion policy.

In conclusion, over the years, China pursued an effort to build a system of laws and apply international norms. The aim is to ensure that China is free to act without limitation in order to realize China's claims and ambitions. This has been reflected in many of their maritime laws. The historical interests of the PRC are laid down in law to provide a basis for the country to make its own exceptions and norms that are not in accordance with international law. Claims and aspirations to expand the sea, to the sea, together with the strategy of peaceful rise to become world hegemon has been and will continue to dominate the legal system of the sea of China.

In order to realize the Chinese dream, to make China the world's No. 1 superpower, first of all to realize the claim of the cowboy line, all fronts of politics - foreign affairs, economics - trade, security - defense, legal, intelligence, information - propaganda, ....; and in which quadrants- four key areas of focus are China, including a) the defense-security front; b) the economic and trade front; c) ideological-information-communication fronts and d) legal fronts. China has also launched the Silk Route Road Economic Roadmap - SREB and the Sea Silk Route of the 21st Century - MSR to gradually realize regional ambitions and the world, for example:

In the field of politics, foreign affairs, international cooperation: To realize the slogan China is strong and wish to become sea power, implement a great China, China has implemented a policy of power politics, forced diplomacy, based on a divide-and-out strategy to divide and deal with each ASEAN Member State, and to prevent hindering the formation of alliances between ASEAN or the US ...; Deliberately delaying, causing difficulties for the settlement of the South China Sea dispute; denies the multilateralisation of the East Sea issue; Implementing the three no strategy when a country unilaterally sue China (does not accept the jurisdiction of the Court, does not seek lawsuits, does not recognize and enforce the judgment of the Court) ... Besides, China The use of the set aside disputes scheme helps the country to avoid the delimitation of its sovereignty, while at the same time taking advantage of the time factor to provide an opportunity to assert and actualize its sovereignty claims at sea. In addition, China has focused on strengthening its state management of the sea by promoting the position and role of the head of state, and establishing a system of agencies including (i) Agencies playing a key role in the East Sea issue; (ii) Chinese diplomatic strategy building agency with the participation of Think Tanks agencies/organizations; (iii) System of enforcement agencies in the East Sea.

In the area of defense and security: China began to dream of expansion with the strategy of occupying the East Sea through the force of the line of the cow" by force,

suppressing the fishermen of other countries, modernize the Navy and increase its military exercises at sea, ready to use military power to solve maritime problems, especially for vulnerable states. In addition, China has applied a variety of military tactics to violate and influence the sovereignty of Vietnam and other countries, such as the island chain strategy; The East Sea light, Technique silkworms eat, China has also taken a two-step strategy to expand its influence to thousands of miles south and expose its forces to the depths of the Atlantic, of which: Step 1 is to build artificial rocks in 4 years (2013 - 2016) in 7 reefs of Truong Sa archipelago of Vietnam and build the large airports of Go Ma, Mach Mai, and Xu Bi . Step 2 is the process of militarization of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa. The desire of the cowboy line and the Sanya military base, together with illegal activities on Eat Sea entities, will allow the Chinese military to own the Eat Sea and reach out to the Pacific. Basically, China has basically completed its field-based and civilian seizure strategy on the sea, islands associated with population organizations, marine production, and mining organizations, and is lacking in every other country. Once deployed, China will be able to expand its influence southward and expose its forces to the depths of the Atlantic. Occupying the Eat Sea and expanding its influence and control over the entire Pacific Ocean, the future Indian Ocean Long-term strategy of China.

In the field of economy and trade: China actually promulgated the strategy of maritime economic power, interfering in petroleum, fisheries, tourism v.v..., lawful activities of the by way of economic divisions, manipulation of ASEAN, intervening in the economic path of nations, including Vietnam. seduce and seduce through the intensification of comprehensive cooperation, China is looking for ways to participate in the bidding and construction of key infrastructure of Vietnam, through which not only perform the action but also directly impact, manipulation to the construction market in China recently, China launched the initiative one ring, one road, 02/4/2015 with the support Financial support from the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank –ABII under the control of China and investment in building Asia's largest artificial canal through the Kra Isthmus of South Thailand.

In the legal field: China has always considered the legal aspect of China to be of special concern and priority. Accordingly, China will use international law and national law to assert the legitimacy of its activities and to fight for its interests. Tactics and strategies in the legal field used by China include i) attaching importance to building and strengthening the national legal system on the sea islands in order to legitimize the sea strategy and claim cow. ii) Maintaining the ambiguous tactics of historical nominalism to assert sovereignty claims to islands and rocks within the nine-dotted line, using the map aggression an interpretation of UNCLOS 1982 in favor of China, turning the disputed territory into a dispute for joint

exploitation, using internal law to consolidate and actualize claims at sea Lead the relevant countries into the trap with the signing of common declarations or agreements, focusing on the training of experts, especially international legal experts, research organizations and advocacy groups. It is planned for finding, creating arguments, grounds for claiming a cow tongue claim. a her, to fool people in the country and international public opinion; Identify the use of force against law enforcement.

In the field of communication: On the one hand, China conducts the construction of unauthorized information infrastructure, Strengthen the organization of cultural activities on the occupied islands. On the other hand, taking advantage of the media power to serve propaganda strategies and encroach on illegal sovereignty in the East Sea, Using the sophistry, anti-propaganda and promotion of all national and international propaganda channels to mislead the truth, blame other countries; expanding the types of information to disseminate and disseminate the irrational line of the bull claim to the whole world; set out the Three Kingdoms War strategy to propagate that they are a vulnerable nation that needs to create international interest and to show the weaknesses of other disputants, thereby persuading the public in on the legitimacy of its claim based on falsified arguments.

### 3. China's Role in the Eat Sea Sea Dispute:

First, China is the trigger of conflicts in the East Sea: From the importance of the islands in general and the East Sea in particular to the realization of the Chinese Dream - In the process of building and developing China, the policy of the island has been increasingly focused on the sea. By referring to about 80% of the Eat Sea area, including the Paracel and Spratly archipelagos of Vietnam sovereignty to the extent of claiming nine-way line, China has seriously infringed its sovereignty. Vietnam on these two archipelagos. To realize that claim, China has implemented a series of strategies, tactics and actions in practice such as using force to illegally occupy the Paracel Islands, Truong Sa of Vietnam; Illegally interfering in the exploitation of marine products, oil and gas, countries in the East Sea, Construct artificial islands and install works, artificial equipment on two archipelagos of Hoang Sa, Truong Sa of Vietnam and Scarborough Shoal of the Philippines; the construction of a restricted area around artificial facilities that affect the freedom of navigation within and outside the region, etc. These actions of China have raised the sovereignty disputes of the Hoang Islands Sa and Truong Sa with Vietnam; Disputes over the exercise of sovereign rights and jurisdiction of coastal states in the Eat Sea due to encroachment on China's bullet line. Examples are fisheries disputes; Disputes on marine scientific research activities; disputes over oil and gas prospection and exploitation, etc., disputes over the exercise of the right to freedom of navigation and freedom in aviation in international waters.

Second, China is the leading actor of the protracted and increasingly complex East Sea dispute: As a powerful economic powerhouse, the military giant, a permanent member of the Security Council The United Nations, is a citizen of the judiciary in most international jurisdictions, such as the International Court of Justice - ICJ, International Maritime Law Court - ITLOS, Lahay Permanent Arbitrator, ... China should actively use these institutions to deal with international disputes in general and East Sea disputes in particular, but in fact, the country is reluctant to end the dispute settlement mechanisms. concretely: With the statement dated 25 August 2006 to the United Nations, China has made reservations under Article 298 of UNCLOS, t It excludes paintings related to historical names and bays of history, delimitation of the sea, military activities and disputes that the United Nations Security Council (in the exercise of its functions It is the responsibility of the ICJ, ITLOS, the arbitral tribunal and the special arbitral tribunal established under Annex VII and Appendix VIII of UNCLOS 1982. In addition, China firmly maintains that the issue of the South China Sea must be resolved through bilateral dialogue, persevering in its stance on Hoang Sa "no dispute", rejecting any solution to the dispute. What is the peaceful settlement of sovereignty over this island, not accepting any solution through a third party? or the jurisdiction over the sovereignty over the Truong Sa archipelago, although the Vietnamese and other countries have repeatedly proposed (for example, the events of 1932, 1947). Most recently, China persisted in a four-point position when the Philippines filed a lawsuit against China at the International Court of Arbitration in accordance with Annex VII of the UNCLOS 1982, which: did not accept the jurisdiction of the Court; not engaged; does not recognize the verdict and does not enforce the judgment, judging it as a "rubbish". Moreover, after the Arbitral Tribunal ruled, the Chinese also mobilized nearly 100 experts in the fields under the chairmanship of the China International Law Association to publish the Work Against the Truth in the case of the East Sea with a length of nearly 600, which countered each of the arguments in the Arbitration Court's ruling. It can be said that China is the leading agent of the persistent dispute over the East Sea for centuries.

In addition, China is also one of the leading culprits of the complicated East Sea dispute that has become tense

by the country's unjust and illegal actions. Typically, the activities of aggressive and illegal intervention of China in the legal activities of Vietnam and other countries in the East Sea such as unplanned cut the cable ship Binh Minh and Viking 2 of Vietnam 2011 and 2012; Illegal drilling of HD 981 deep into the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Vietnam and the spraying of water cannons into Vietnam's fisheries and coastal police in 2014; Illegally detaining vessels and Vietnamese fishermen; prevent Vietnamese fishermen from storms in the area near the Paracel Islands; conduct exercises in areas under the sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of countries in the East Sea; Issue a fishing ban every year in the peak fishing season; to build artificial islands and to install artificial works and equipment on Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes.

Third, a number of other Chinese roles in the East Sea: China's spinning to the sea" strategy is a key factor in changing the security of the South China Sea and Asia-Pacific security; With the advantages of strategic economic and geographical resources, China has a great role in preserving the balance of power in the East Sea, preventing major interventions from major countries in the region; or become the main destabilizing factor in the East Sea, threatening peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world.

#### Corresponding Author:

Nguyen Thanh Minh, Ph.D.

Military Science Office, Vietnam Coast Guard, No 6 Tay Mo, Tu Liem South District, Hanoi, Vietnam.

E-mail: [thanhminh7589@yahoo.com](mailto:thanhminh7589@yahoo.com)

#### References:

1. Hai, D. T. (2004). *How should Vietnam resolve the "Geography Curse"?* Retrieved from: <http://nghiencuuquocte.org/2015/03/05/viet-nam-hoa-giai-loi-nguyen-dia-ly/>
2. Phung, K. (2018). George Washington resigned as Commander-in-Chief. Retrieved from: <http://nghiencuuquocte.org/#more-27317>
3. Tuyen Quang Newspaper electronic. (2015). The Communist Party of Vietnam in Tuyen Quang province. Retrieved from: <http://www.baotuyenquang.com.vn/>

Received December 7, 2018; revised December 14, 2018; accepted December 19, 2018; published online January 01, 2019