



## South China Sea



### Key Points

- **Physical Geography:**
  - **An arm of the western Pacific Ocean** that borders the Southeast Asian mainland.
  - **Bordered by** Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.
  - It is **connected by the Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea** and **by the Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea** (both marginal seas of the Pacific Ocean).
  - Comprise three archipelagoes, namely, the **Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, Pratas Islands and Macclesfield's Bank and Scarborough Shoal.**
- **Dispute:**
  - **China's Nine Dash Line:** Defines area claimed by China - by far the largest portion of the Sea.
  - **Scarborough Shoal:** Claimed both by the Philippines and China (known as Huangyan Island in China).

- **Spratlys:** Occupied by claimants, which consist of **Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, China and Malaysia.**
- **Paracel Islands:** Subject of overlapping claims by **China, Vietnam and Taiwan.**
- **Island Chain Strategy:** A geographical security concept crafted by the United States in the 1940s to deter China and the Soviet Union's maritime ambitions.
- **Recent Related Events:**
  - **US' Indo-Pacific Strategy**
  - **BrahMos Export to Philippines**
  - **Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS) Grouping.**
  - **First in-Person Meeting of Quad Countries**
  - **28<sup>th</sup> edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)**
  - **China's New Maritime Regulations for Foreign Ships**
  - **UNSC Meet on Maritime Security**

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