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The Battle of the United States and China in Becoming Hegemon Through South China Sea

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ABSTRACT

Natural resources, especially oil, will be the main commodity that will always be contested by many countries. All countries in the world are vying to become a hegemon country in order to become a ruler so that they are able to control other countries. This article is prepared using qualitative research and quantitative research where news and journals are the main sources. The seizure of the South China Sea justifies one of the country's characteristics, namely aggressiveness. This article will discuss the competition between the United States and China to become a hegemonic country through the South China Sea. With the depletion of oil reserves in the Middle East, the South China Sea will rank number one in being a contested area. Strategic shipping lanes also encourage many countries to claim the South China Sea.

Keywords: South China Sea, Hegemony, United States, China, Battle

1. Introduction

Here introduce the paper, and put a nomenclature if necessary, in a box with the same font size as the rest of the paper. The paragraphs continue from here and are only separated by headings, subheadings, images and formulae. The section headings are arranged by numbers, bold and 9.5 pt. Here follows further instructions for authors.

In International Relations, the word 'hegemony' will always be attached. Antonio Gramsci defines hegemony as a form of control exercised by the dominant class, in the Marxist sense of the group that controls the means of production; Gramsci uses "fundamental group" to stand euphemistically for "class" (Thomas R. Bates, 1975: 358). Hegemony is often supported by legitimating norms and ideas. The word "hegemony" is often used to describe a relatively dominant position. The term hegemon is also used to identify groups, classes, or countries that exercise hegemonic power.

The appropriate application of Gramsci's concept of hegemony is in the analysis of international relations. A hegemonic state with all existing powers and powers can indirectly regulate the policies of other countries. Because the ruling state has a strategic position in carrying out its foreign policy. The South China Sea is a strategic area bordering Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and China. In some parts there is overlapping jurisdiction between claimant states (Brunei Darussalam, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, and China) which makes the potential for conflict in this region quite high (Kemenlu RI, 2013). In recent years, the South China Sea has always been an issue that has attracted international attention. Starting from the military movements carried out by China to the delivery of aircraft carriers carried out by the United States. Each Minister of Foreign Affairs from each country submits a statement from each country.

During the Trump presidency, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a statement stating "In the South China Sea, we strive to maintain peace and stability, uphold freedom of the seas in accordance with international law, maintain the unimpeded flow of commerce, and oppose any attempt to use coercion or force to settle disputes. We share these deep and enduring interests with many of our allies and partners who have long supported a rules-

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based international order” (US State Dept, 2020)

The South China Sea has some of the most important shipping lanes in the world. The main route to and from the Pacific and Indian Ocean ports is through the Straits of Malacca. The South China Sea is a leading shipping lane with \$5.3 trillion worth of trade crossing its waters every year. The United States estimates that there are 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the South China Sea. According to international law, each country has the right to claim 12 nautical miles. Huge reserves of oil and natural gas have been discovered under the floor of the South China Sea.

2. Related Works / Literature Review

The hegemony of the USA started to erode as different countries regained their monetary energy and political balance all through the postwar decades. If China isn't always capable of task the hegemony of the USA, there's no question that the supremacy of the USA will keep to survive. Sharing the weight of different nations in international governance want now no longer cause every other spherical of energy transitions, both to yet another energy or to numerous powers (Chiang, 2015). This article examines the hegemony of the USA with a specific recognition on its dominant position in East Asia. Since maximum of the monetary improvement and country wide safety of Asian nations rely on the USA, the emergence of numerous nearby organizations (eg: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Free Trade Area of The Asia Pacific, etc.) will now no longer alternate the essential courting among America and Asia. . More importantly, the USA isn't always inclined to provide its energy to others thru the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the USA is attempting to make new policies for the destiny international order. The improvement of different institutionalized monetary networks in East Asia will now no longer weaken the dominance of the USA, however as a substitute give a boost to the present capitalist machine led with the aid of using the USA. What distinguishes the writer's writing is that the writer does now no longer give an explanation for the monetary improvement achieved with the aid of using the USA to come to be hegemony withinside the East Asia and South China Sea regions. Instead, the writer will speak the motives in the back of the USA and China's hobby withinside the South China Sea, and the way the USA and China's method to come to be hegemony thru the South China Sea.

In the Asia-Pacific region. China's fabric upward thrust into the ranks of the awesome powers has introduced with it positive expectancies and duties for awesome energy control that Beijing has attempted in numerous methods to fulfill (Foot, 2020). This article discusses that China's Rise has sparked developing hobby amongst British School theorists in assessing the awesome energy techniques followed to address Beijing's converting status, in addition to specializing in the extent of task posed with the aid of using China's upward thrust to what's typically diagnosed as United States hegemony. Despite handiest selecting a selective contestation of the fabric and normative pillars of the extant United States-led nearby order, Beijing has started to define its nearby imaginative and prescient and use its fabric powers in a manner that has caused the renegotiation of a number of the important thing establishments of the East Asian hegemonic order. What distinguishes the writer's writing is that the writer will now no longer give an explanation for approximately the upward thrust of China, however the creator will give an explanation for the motives for the USA and China to gain the upward thrust of hegemony thru the South China Sea.

Hegemony is created whilst the worldview of the ruling magnificence is accepted as a cultural norm for society (Hermann, 2016). This book as an entire gives a ancient review of the look at of hegemony. In the look at of organizational communication, the research of hegemony starts offevolved simultaneously with interpretive turns, as important tradition pupils check out how participants create and implement organizational meaning. There are 3 extraordinarily distinct, however occasionally overlapping, waves of studies on organizational hegemony. The first wave examines domination and departs from the neo-Marxist framework. The 2nd wave, regularly the usage of early poststructuralism, investigated resistance to hegemonic processes. In the modern 1/3 wave, new interpretations of dialectical anxiety and postmodern discursive procedures reframe the preceding domination-resistance binaries as struggles. What makes the distinction with the writer's writing is that the writer now no longer handiest explains what hegemony is however additionally explains the techniques taken with the aid of using the USA and China in turning into a hegemonic united states thru the South China Sea.

If the USA is to keep a optimistic position in stopping the outbreak of a cross-Strait conflict, it desires to enforce a method to save Chinese aggression towards Taiwan this is constant with United States hobbies and abilities, and that gives readability round existential issues. essential to save you nuclear escalation, in case of conflict (Hanlin, 2022). This record examines the continuing disagreements among China and Taiwan over the desirability of unification and the intensifying contention among the USA and China is straining the 3-manner courting. The inclusion of the idea of “included deterrence” withinside the 2022 United States National Defense Strategy is an affordable method to doing so. This might be advanced with the aid of using: reaffirming the USA' One-China policy; funding in traditional abilities which might be well matched with the geography of the Western Pacific and immune to China's army machine conflict concepts; clean indicators of the monetary and political outcomes of aggression towards Taiwan; and decreasing the USA' home vulnerability to Chinese embargoes and cyber attacks. What distinguishes the writer's writing is that the writer will now no longer give an explanation for the intervention achieved with the aid of using the USA towards those who disrupt balance and safety withinside the East Asia region, however the creator will give an explanation for the intervention achieved with the aid of using the USA and China withinside the South China Sea region.

This article appears at theoretical procedures to global political financial system and their claims to the worldwide hegemonic energy of the USA. These procedures have special theoretical assumptions approximately the idea of hegemony, and consequently they examine the worldwide hegemony of the USA in special methods. This method to the worldwide hegemonic energy of the USA is split into faculties: declinical faculties and anti-decline faculties (Hama, 2016). This article appears at theoretical procedures to global political financial system and their claims to the worldwide hegemonic energy of the USA. These procedures have special theoretical assumptions approximately the idea of hegemony, and consequently they examine the worldwide hegemony of the USA in special methods. The first assumes that the USA is extraordinarily declining as it has monetary rivals. The latter, however, argues that the USA continues to be a international hegemonic energy as it enjoys structural energy. This look at strongly helps the latter

method, and consequently argues that the USA continues to be a international hegemonic energy. What distinguishes the writer's writing is that the writer will now no longer evaluation the theoretical method in global political financial system however will use the hegemonic principle proposed with the aid of using Gramsci.

3. Material & Methodology

Research methodology is a collection of methods and procedures used in research to produce scientifically important data for the purpose of drawing conclusions. This study uses qualitative and quantitative methodologies to examine in detail the reasons behind the United States and China's interest in the South China Sea and the strategies adopted by the two countries to achieve their interests. Articles and news are the sources of this research, especially news of tensions in the South China Sea. Literature study was also used to collect data. The data analyzed will be carried out qualitatively by focusing on the country's view. Quantitative methodologies are of great importance and priority, in many cases requiring a large number of subjects to confirm and/or disprove research results. The qualitative methodology is built from an in-depth investigation of the South China Sea and its contents.

4. Results & Discussion

4.1. South China Sea Attraction

4.1.1. Treasures Beneath South China Sea

Table 1 Natural Resources in South China Sea (CSIS AMTI, 2012)

South China Sea Are	Potential Natural Resources Reserve
South China	1500 million barrel
South of Hainan Island	210 million barrel
Tonkin Bay	95 million barrel
South Vietnam	2847 million barrel
Sundanese Exposure	180 million barrel
Borneo/Sarawak	9260 million barel
Philippines	490 million barel

The South China Sea is an area that is seen as a flashpoint for regional tensions, especially in East Asia and Southeast Asia. Secretary General of The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) said "Tensions are so high that maritime areas risk becoming Palestine in Asia" (Surin, 2012). The sea area that is contested by many countries turns out to be a treasure trove.

4.1.1.1. Oil

The South China Sea area is estimated to contain oil reserves of approximately 7.7 billion barrels and with the highest estimate reaching 213 billion barrels. This amount is equivalent to the estimated oil reserves in Saudi Arabia, which is around 80 percent.

4.1.1.2. Natural Gas

Natural gas is a fairly abundant source of hydrocarbons in the South China Sea. Natural gas reserves are estimated at 266 trillion cubic feet and constitute about 60-70 percent of the Area's hydrocarbon resources. Most of the hydrocarbon fields explored in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines contain natural gas, not oil. Predictions of natural gas resources in this area are quite varied. The Chinese government predicts that the entire South China Sea has natural gas reserves of 2 quadrillion cubic feet, and it is predicted that with the right technology, China can produce 15 billion cubic meters of Liquefied Natural Gas per year. Gas resources in the South China Sea would be equivalent to

900 trillion cubic feet. The amount of natural gas in the South China Sea is equivalent to natural gas in Qatar, which is the third largest reserve in the world

4.1.1.3. Metal

Metal is important because it is the metal that provides the essential components for everything from cars, TVs, cell phones, computers, household appliances, and much more. The South China Seabed is potentially rich in precious metals and rare earth minerals. Professor Van Dover from Duke University stated “From a scientist's point of view, the South China Sea looks very interesting” (Drake, 2020). Polymetallic nodules are a potential source of rare metals, including manganese and cobalt, that accumulate on the ocean floor that can be used for key advanced technologies such as electric car batteries and cell phone components.

4.2. Trade Route

4.2.1. Oil Trade Route

Picture 1 South China Sea Trade Route (EIA, 2013)



More than 30 percent of global maritime crude oil trade, or about 15 million barrels per day, passed through the South China Sea in 2016. According to the United States Energy Information Administration, the South China Sea is a major trade route for the Middle East, accounting for more than 70 percent of total South China Sea crude oil shipments in 2016 (EIA, 2017).

Stretching from Singapore and the Straits of Malacca in the southwest to the Taiwan Strait in the northeast, the South China Sea is one of the most important energy trade routes in the world. Nearly a third of the world's crude oil and more than half of global liquefied natural gas pass through the South China Sea each year. The Strait of Malacca is the shortest sea route between African and Persian Gulf suppliers and Asian consumers. The strait is a transit point and has become important over the last two decades. In 1993, about 7 million barrels per day of petroleum products passed through the Malacca Strait.

The flow of crude oil in the South China Sea also comes from interregional trade, mainly from crude oil exports from Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. Intra-regional trade is distributed equally between Singapore, South Korea, Japan, and China, with less to the rest of Southeast Asia.

4.3. The United States Position on The South China Sea

Picture 2 US 7th Fleet (PACOM, 2022)



There are a number of things that make the South China Sea special, namely none other than the natural treasures in it. Every year 5.3 trillion USD worth of goods pass through the sea. One-fifth of that, 1.2 trillion USD, goes to the United States. China estimates the value of the resources at sea to be in the trillions of USD and calls it the “Second Persian Gulf”. It is understandable why the United States prefers to keep the most important sea routes for navigation. But the United States sees something bigger in the South China Sea, even bigger than oil and trade routes.

The weakening of the United States in East Asia could lead Japan and South Korea to more independence, by strengthening their armies and pursuing a foreign policy that was not influenced by Washington. China wants to weaken the United States, to create its own sphere of influence. The strength of the United States rests on the Seventh Fleet located in Yokosuka, Japan

The Seventh Fleet is the largest United States Navy based outside national borders and includes between 40 and 50 ships, 200 aircraft and 20,000 men, Navy and Marine Corps personnel (Deanna, 2022). The Navy's area of responsibility is the western Pacific Ocean, precisely the area China wants for itself. It's not new news that the Seventh Fleet has been involved in some friction with China: the Seventh Fleet's Stennis Carrier. Ahead of him, the destroyer Curtis Wilbur of the Seventh Fleet was dispatched into the South China Sea

In China's strategic thinking, this is the third Taiwan crisis that occurred in 1996. Taiwan is an island off the Chinese coast where national troops withdrew after losing the war with the communists in 1949 (Amy, 2020). In 1996, the Chinese Navy began purchasing submarines and destroyers from Russia, along with the development of new technologies and platforms to intercept US vessels. The ultimate goal of this power-building was not to win the naval battle against the United States, but to prevent it

The United States can be defined as a sphere of influence. East Asia is still a bustling economic region. 51% of the world's population is concentrated in the area between Japan and India and many countries where they are just starting to emerge economically, such as Vietnam and Indonesia. The trade potential is huge, but China will benefit more. This is because the political oppression of a country is of course also economic oppression. A German philosopher, Oswald Spengler said: "Industrial power provided military strength, which in turn ensured trade opportunities and resources to increase industrial power" (Spengler, 1920). Countries use trade ties to enhance cooperation and reduce trade risk. When East Asian countries have to deal with the Chinese giant politically, trade relations with China will take priority over the United States. This is why the United States is fighting China. For freedom of navigation in the South China Sea

The United States' response to China's desire for spheres of influence can be seen in the “Rebalancing in Asia” policy, which was first formulated by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in an article in 2013 entitled “America's Pacific Century” and was intended to safeguard the interests of the United States. America in East Asia (Hillary, 2011). This strategy is based on 6 guidelines: strengthening security alliances; valley ties with local powers, led by China; working with supranational agencies in the regions; expand trade and investment; establish a broad military presence; Promote democracy and human rights in the region. Clinton already

Hillary Clinton is no longer Secretary of State, but "rebalancing" still leads America's foreign policy. Because, along with the increase in military power in East Asia, America's presence in the Middle East and Europe is decreasing

4.4. China Position On The South China Sea

In Chinese culture, China is seen as the center of the world. It is found in the name: in Chinese the word for China is “Zhuang Gu”. The literal meaning is "middle kingdom" or "central kingdom" (Huang Xianfan, 1994:35). China is a nerve power in East Asia: Japan, Korea, Vietnam are influenced by China and are all part of Chinese cultural literature. Therefore, the autonomy that China wants goes beyond its national boundaries and encompasses, in rough generalizations, the space between the Straits of Malacca in Southeast Asia to the Yellow Sea between the Korean Peninsula and China.

According to China, all of these things must come back and be under its control. The sphere of influence, by definition, is the sphere where the interests of one power take precedence over other powers (Daniel, 2019). Currently, the only power competing with China is the United States. Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines to a lesser extent all rely on the United States as a counterweight to China. If China wants these countries to fall within its sphere of influence, it must weaken America's presence in those countries.

China does not have the sphere of influence recognized by the United States. But China has national interests in East Asia. A zone of influence that would include Taiwan, the East China Sea and the South China Sea. To secure his position and protect his strength from American aggression. These areas, especially the South China Sea, are as important to China as Eastern Europe is to Russia. China needs control of the sea to maintain its power.

The Soviet Union took over Eastern Europe by conquering territory from the Nazis and establishing puppet regimes in the new territories. Beijing must be aware that if they want a sphere of influence, they may have to take it by force, despite resistance from the United States. China's geography is pushing Beijing into direct confrontation with the United States over its sphere of influence in East Asia in general and the South China Sea in particular. China has an enormous coastline of several thousand kilometers that stretches from the Korean Peninsula in the north to Vietnam in the south. Along the Chinese coastline is a chain of islands that divides the sea in front of China into two seas. The eastern China Sea is surrounded by Korea, Japan and Taiwan, and the South China Sea is surrounded by Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

China needs control these days, especially in the South China Sea if it is to secure itself geographically. China's exports through the South China Sea reached 874 billion USD in 2016 (Anthony, 2019). Where cargo ships carrying goods from China to Europe and tankers carrying oil from the Persian Gulf to China pass. Without control of the South China Sea, any adversary could blockade China without coming close to its shores. The strategic threat to China is only made more serious by the fact that its main rival is the world's strongest naval power, the United States. The United States has 11 aircraft carriers, two of which are permanently stationed in East Asia. The United States' allies are also mostly the Navy.

Japan maintains a fleet that has a number of aircraft carriers, one of which is the JDS Kaga (DDH-184) which was inaugurated in 2017 (Ajai, 2017) Australia also has a fleet as does the United Kingdom, whose Royal Navy cooperates with the United States on patrols in the South China Sea (Lia, 2019). This signals China is facing a naval coalition that could blockade it, preventing its access to raw materials and preventing its trade with the world. Controlling the South China Sea would not only secure China's shipping lanes, but would also allow China to project its power into the Indian Ocean and Northeast Asia. Controlling the South China Sea would allow Beijing to send troops into the Bay of Bengal and challenge India, closing off Taiwan from the north, west, south, and threatening supply lines for Japan and South Korea, which also depend on tankers from the Persian Gulf for energy. If China succeeds in bringing Indonesia into its sphere of influence, it will be able to reach as far as Australia, projecting its power onto all of the United States' allies in the region.

4.5. Battle To Become Hegemony

Since the late 19th century, the United States has seen East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean as strategically and economically important Regions, and its main concern and intention is to maintain its hegemony there through political means, while creating military advantage. Since the beginning of the 20th century, the United States was not prepared to see another hegemonic power disrupt the balance of power in East Asia. An example of this is the policy stated in the Treaty of Portsmouth (1905), which ended the Russo-Japanese war.

The agreement reached through the mediation of President Theodore Roosevelt, left points of friction and disagreement between Russia and Japan for example on the Sakhalin Peninsula, which is divided between Japan and Russia and left a common border between the two enemies, as well as Korea and Manchuria which tried to prevent the strengthening of Japan (Christopher , 2007).

The aspiration for American hegemony in the Region, willing to prevent the entry of competing powers as other central players, created an overarching framework for understanding United States military involvement after World War II, particularly in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

China has indisputable sovereignty over islands in the South China Sea and adjacent waters, and enjoys sovereign rights. While China has never clarified the exact basis of the Nine Dash line's claim. The countries most affected by the Nine Dash Line claim are the littoral states of the South China Sea, in particular Vietnam, the Philippines, and other countries involved in fishing and hydrocarbon exploration in waters claimed by China.

At the heart of the disputed South China Sea is the question of ownership of hundreds of small islands, and their coral reefs. China and Taiwan claim sovereignty over almost all of them. The South China Sea occupies a strategic position, at the intersection of South, Southeast and Northeast Asia. The maritime route that crosses it is the shortest route between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, an important artery for international trade and energy resources. Regional destabilization or conflict can threaten the functioning of maritime trade, with serious impacts on the world economy. Therefore, each riparian country has an interest in the stability and security of maritime routes. Increased competition between Washington and Beijing is both a cause and a result of rising tensions in the South China Sea.

In this emerging era, the United States is the guarantor of relatively permanent and long-term stability, not only to its immediate allies but also more broadly, essentially setting Limits to what other countries' behavior is permitted or prohibited. The United States, far more experienced than China in all forms of power, would prove to be an extraordinarily capable predator. The abundance of oil and natural gas reserves in the South China Sea is the main destination of the two countries and is followed by shipping routes. Title hegemon will be the main target for both countries. Because with all available resources, hegemon countries can control and intervene in other countries. In this context, there are 2 endings: America controls China or China controls the United States.

No one can guess how the end of the power struggle, will it end in open war or will continue with unilateral claims. But one thing is for sure, neither of the two countries will back down or succumb to fighting over the South China Sea.

5. Conclusion

The South China Sea has always been a disputed area. A number of superpowers such as America and China are trying to intervene and claim the Area. The South China Sea does not only harbor fears of open war between countries. However, in the South China Sea there are many things up for grabs and none other than Natural Resources. Oil and natural gas are the main attractions of the South China Sea. Oil reserves in the Middle East are predicted to run out in the next 50 years and this makes many countries, especially the superpowers, look for other sources to ensure their respective oil needs. The country that controls the world's oil will control the world, this is supported by the strategic position of a country both in negotiating and trading. Then hegemony will be created through the practice of submission and agreement by being the strongest and able to control other countries. Because the true nature of the state is aggressive and a country can become a predator for other countries with such strong power.

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