

Territorial Dispute with China and Japan in the East China Sea on Senkaku / Diaoyu Islands

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ABSTRACT

The claims of China and Japan on Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands have made East China Sea a centre of global attention. This East China Sea issue is getting international attention due to the strategic agreement between US and Japan. This agreement enables US Navy to establish bases and patrol in the disputed area. China has shown deep concerns on such agreement. China perceives it a territorial threat to her sovereignty. The rich natural resources of island have urged both nations to claim it as theirs. Both nations claim that these islands are their integral part. This claim is supported by historical evidences from both sides. Also both countries want to establish a strong strategic position in Asia-Pacific region. The role of international Law will also be important to resolve this conflict.

Keywords: *claim, enables, global, integral, role, strategic, sovereignty, urged*

Introduction

Several territories such as the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, Kashmir, the South China Sea, Russia's European borders, Heglig and Abyei etc., are the cause of disputes between neighbouring countries over the issue of their political affiliation.(Mattes, 2016). The group of islands called the Senkaku Islands by the Japanese and the Diaoyu Islands by the Chinese contain a small cluster, covering an area of 6.3 km² at the East China Sea. These eight tiny islands are reportedly uninhabited and devoid of any human activity (Pan, 2007). This island chain has several rich resources of oil and gas, also there is a key shipping International maritime rout with surround rich fishing grounds (Reinhard, 2014). Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea were unclaimed when Japan asserted her rights over them in 1895 (Pan, 2007). The Japanese sovereignty on the island is legally based on the 1895 terra nullius principle in terms of current international Law. On the other hand, China claims that historical records prove the area had been hers since the era of Ming Dynasty (Arai, 2015). Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, occupied by Japan, claimed by China (Wiegand, 2015) actually close to Chinese continental shelf and in relative closeness to the Chinese mainland (Scoville, 2015). The Senkaku/Diaoyu islands are also very beneficial from the economic concern for China and Japan (Metraux, 2013). The UN Convention on its Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1994 is a way to resolve China and Japan dispute on the nautical boundary in the East China (Pan, 2007). Dispute in the East

Territorial Dispute with China and Japan in the East China Sea on Senkaku / Diaoyu Islands

China Sea between China and Japan are increasingly becoming a flashpoint in East Asia (Kim S. , 2012). Both China and Japan have provoked international law for their sovereignty claims on these islands (Hislop, 2013). Political and bilateral relations between China and Japan have been tainted for several decades due to this dispute (Wiegand, 2015). Japan and China need to stabilize their bilateral relations on Senkaku dispute, but Japanese policy is based on her alliance with the USA on this issue (McDevitt & Lea, 2013). Both nations have demonstrated increasing military and political confrontation over the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands (Kim C. S., 2015). Now, China is planning with an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, this could be another problem of cooperation between these two countries (Odgaard, 2015). Furthermore, China has several territorial disputes in different regions which are affiliated its territory.

The current paper aims to highlight the power politics played by China and Japan in the East China Sea region. Attempt will also be made to describe the economic and strategic significance of this territory for both countries. This study will encompass the role played by international powers such as; USA and UN in this conflict. Besides these international laws related to such conflicts will also be discussed. Both Chinese and Japanese perspective will be focus on this issue. From all the facts and figures the tentative solution to this issue will also be predicted.



Source: US State Department

Fig.1 East China Sea

Senkaku/Diaoyu in the East China Sea

Senkaku or Diaoyu Islands is the bone of contention between China and Japan. Due to this conflict mutual tension is escalating between both countries (Koo M. , 2010). The issue is fast turning into a big menace for the Asia-Pacific region. Experts on geopolitics, economics, defense and security fear the risks of war between two nations (Green, 2016). They suggest that this unresolved issue can lead to a catastrophic situation for world in general and for this region in particular. Therefore, they are of the view that immediate and amicable solution of this regional dispute is inevitable for lasting peace. A argue between Taiwan (Republic of China), China (People's Republic of China), and Japan guaranteed

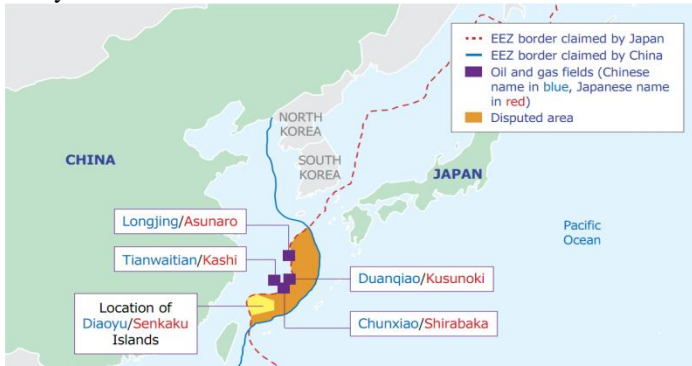
right away taking after Japan's affirmation that it would nationalize the Senkaku Islands (Chen & Hwang, 2015).

Disagreement started when China get back the islets to Japan later than defeat in the World War II (Pan, 2007). East China Sea border demarcation disputes additionally have ramifications for comparative clashes amongst China and a few nations around the region in South China Sea (Reinhard, 2013) Chinese strong conduct with regards to its center national eminence, amid the regional question in the South and East China Seas (Zhao & Qi, 2016). A small incidents was happen when in September 2010 conflict between China and Japan on a China's fisherman inductions in the zone near to Senkaku Islands confirmed strains over this regional issue (Smith S. , 2012) China has interest for expending energy which has provoked solid enthusiasm for resource cause from the continental shelf that keeps running under the East China Sea (Smith, 2012). The question is raised here either China or Japan have similar thought about legally safe position from the power for dispute on inhabited islands (Pan, 2007) for example, the Chinese blacklist of Japanese products in the consequence of the Senkaku/Diaoyu Island struggle in 2012 (Kilian, 2015) determination of island regional issues can advantage significantly from a basic valuation for how other little islands, additionally challenged, have had their circumstance determined in non-zero-total ways (Baldacchino, 2016). The historical backdrop of the Senkaku Islands inspection of additionally connected with China to the more extensive chronicled question about Japan's past animosity against China.

Currently, Chinese policies are based on conducting flights over the disputed island and enter in the Japanese Air Defense Identification Zone. Japans claim that China should also block its boats, naval or civilian, from entering the territorial waters around the island, otherwise an action that will evoke Japan to increase intensity on the dispute. (Favel, 2010) China's thoughts about strategic prevention are comparatively based on new weaponry system. Justice can be complex on the territorial issue from legal consideration; some components have answers of the questions on origin point of view which are the fair and possible ownership solution. Implementation and interpretations of UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and policy of "Acquisitive Prescription", reflect on the Treaty of San Francisco Peace refers to Japanese control over the Senkaku/Diaoyu dispute (Drifte, 2016). Some Chinese author describes that international law based on narrow perception which reflects the Shimonoseki's Treaty in 1895 which unrelated to the control of Japan (Lin, 2016).

Huge supplies of both oil and gas and control of these resources might be of vast use to the victor in this clash, but future economic benefits are only part of the story (Metraux, 2013) sovereignty of these islets might influence about 40,000 km of nearby Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as shown in Figure-1 vicinity and natural resources (oil and gas) control is also confer ownership for both parties (Pan, 2007)

Territorial Dispute with China and Japan in the East China Sea on Senkaku / Diaoyu Islands

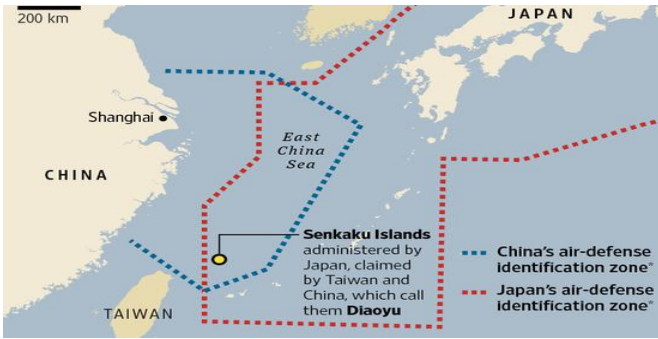


Source: Interfax) China and Japan both claims EEZ border over the Senkaku/Diaoyu

Fig.2 Potential gas and oil reserves and interconnected EEZ disputed area over the Senkaku/Diaoyu

Both, Japan and China are anxious to demand of great need of supplies of oil and gas control and these resources may be of a huge use to the defeater in this Senkaku dispute (Metraux, 2013). Other aspects in this kind highlight the Senkaku/Diaoyu dispute like a contest for site of economic and tactical significance (Koo, 2009). The naval force of China creating a submarine based near to the Senkaku which is highly concerns from Japanese point of view (Metraux, 2013). Regular Chinese surveying activities rankle the Japanese over the East China Sea, while Japan claims territorial belongings and Japan calls its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). In the other hand, US carve up Japan's concerns on the East China Sea dispute and rising of Chinese maritime and air capacities (Smith, 2012). Japan also much reinforced its navel force from last several years. According to naval expert James Hardy, US support Japan navy as supplied the aircraft caries and offensive firepower which is highly equipment of war (James, 2013).

Uemur used strategic theory in his paper by focusing on strategic culture and describing the Japan and China relationship on a referent stage thus, arguing that strategic culture is an essential factor in understanding a states' perception based on its foreign policy formulation (Uemura, 2013). An incident was happened on 11th September 2012, when Japan government purchases the islands from its private owners. On the same day, riots occur in 52 cities in China against the purchase People began to attack Japanese cars, Japanese shop. The dispute has become more intense because Chinese people were unhappy with this act of Japan. They have been announced to refuse to buy Japanese goods. In the light of above mentioned description about Senkaku/Diaoyu territorial dispute ,it seems that both nations will take this issue as long until resolve. They consider their sovereignty on this dispute island, due to get beneficial purpose and illustrate their stability in the region.



Source: The Wall Street Journal

Figure.2 Air Defense Identification Zones (ADIZ)

Politically, Chinese policy is based on strategic prevention include diplomatic, armed forces, trade and industry, geographically, and scientific and technical mechanism of state power. China's conception is still extra extensive and takes military and non-military mechanisms of state power (Wu & Zou, 2015). China declares the opening of air traffic limitations in November 2013 building on the East China Sea, Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) binding the largest part of the East China Sea as shown in Figure.2. The act has been become an attempt from China to force Japan to acknowledge that dispute between Beijing and Tokyo (Baldacchino, 2016) Cold politics and hot economic existing paradox provide a narrow understanding about china's behavior towards Japan on the Island. Furthermore, Japan's thought that fails to explain China's rational behavior on the sovereignty over the Senkaku/Diaoyu as it matters is necessary for maritime security and economic interest (Jash, 2016). China's expanding interest for energy which has provoked solid enthusiasm for resource cause from the continental shelf that keeps running under the East China Sea. Additionally, the rising numerous Chinese nautical offices, and also the non military personnel offices arrange the collaborations in the East China Sea amongst Japanese and Chinese interests (Smith, 2012).

As Dutton said in his testimony about China's strategy on power over the seas and expanding military capabilities and increasing law enforcement. Also, have deep strategic roots on emphasis on the political and economic stability. These strategic roots are based on cultivate by China's past approach to dealing with its security concern. Currently, china continues use this approach by developing continental strategies (Dutton, 2014).



Figure.3 Implication for the USA

Territorial Dispute with China and Japan in the East China Sea on Senkaku / Diaoyu Islands

The United States (US) role is so prominent in this matter because both US-Japan are partners as Mutual Cooperation and Security since 1960. Due to an increased intervention in the Asia Pacific region and its strategic alliances with distinguished forces in this region, the US has responsibility to play a part of mentor and facilitator between China and Japan over the conflict. The US president assured his assistance in case of any oppression from China (James S. , 2014) . But the US has no position to decide about Japan's belonging of this disputed territory. The US President's statement about the island when he visited Japan in 2014, if both nations recognize the US will take the responsibility of the islands. The US also wants to present itself to absolve conflict over sovereignty on the island and especially has concern relationship between China and Taiwan (Sullivan, Work, & Gas, 2016). Instead of Chinese conception, which is still extra extensive and takes military and non-military mechanisms of state power (Wu & Zou, 2015). The US interest also came when China announced ADIZ in the ECS in 2013 (Sebok, 2014) and seems that China is violating international laws by drawing baselines around the Senkakus and re-affirming the interest of the People's Republic of China over the islands (Garlicki M, 2014). Including Senkaku island ADIZ overlaps Japanese ADIZ, Chinese authorities intimidated the planes entering the zones must identify Chinese authorities if not "Chinese armed forces will take defensive measures" against them (Sebok, 2014). Currently, the Chinese are considering illegal agreements which are signed between Japan and the US on the Senkaku islands against the violation of China's territorial sovereignty (Drifte, 2016). On the other hand, some Japanese nationals in China were captured for unlawful activities in the vicinity of Chinese military bases. Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State declared that the Senkaku Islands will be controlled under the security of the US-Japan security arrangement. This emergency thrived into a noteworthy security debate not just for Tokyo other than to Washington as well (Smith, 2012).

Conclusion

It is clear that the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands dispute is not just a territorial dispute. This matter involves several other significant factors also like economical, political, and national, alike International security. Somewhat, settlement of this dispute defiantly will be the influence on the Asia-Pacific region directly and indirectly. Both parties believe about each other that somehow weaken the other interest in this conflict, and creating hedging in foreign policy affairs. Ever since China and Japan have the territorial dispute in the East China Sea both policies around the utmost efforts avoiding any potential pessimistic visage effect in the managing of the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands dispute. International statutes of both China and Japan are directly relevant to dispute over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands. Also it seems highly unlikely that both China and Japan could take armed action to claim sovereignty over the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands. On the other hand rising domestic pressures is also facing by both governments to establish military control over the territory. This dispute is belong to all aspect regarding the legitimacy of Chinese and Japanese domestic and central governments and also related to their foreign relations in international community. Currently, China is observe as a fast rising economic threat for the Japan in the region, perhaps Japan and US alliance in this issue is to cease dominance of China. The lack of appropriate foreign policies on this issue is also a factor of unresolved this matter properly. The dispute is ardently and broadly discussing in the recent scenario both countries

leaders keenly claim the sovereignty and legal rights of territorial acquisition and maritime boundary in the East China Sea. Further, there was a gap to define the rule of adjudication and weakness of International law for a final settlement of the disputes. As, in modern and contemporary international law could be a way to solve this matter on a legitimate and historical basis. In the final investigation, the financial desirability of directly developing the natural resources in the East China Sea and the continental shelf surrounding the Senkakus/Diayou must be impartial by the both China and Japan against slight political considerations. Furthermore, China could decide to increase its pragmatic transactions with unrecognized states to include Taiwan, but this course of action seems doubtful.

Territorial Dispute with China and Japan in the East China Sea on Senkaku / Diaoyu Islands

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Territorial Dispute with China and Japan in the East China Sea on Senkaku /
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