



*Contemporary Issues in National Security –
A View from the Pacific*

13 February 2024

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*Chinese Naval Power
on Display*

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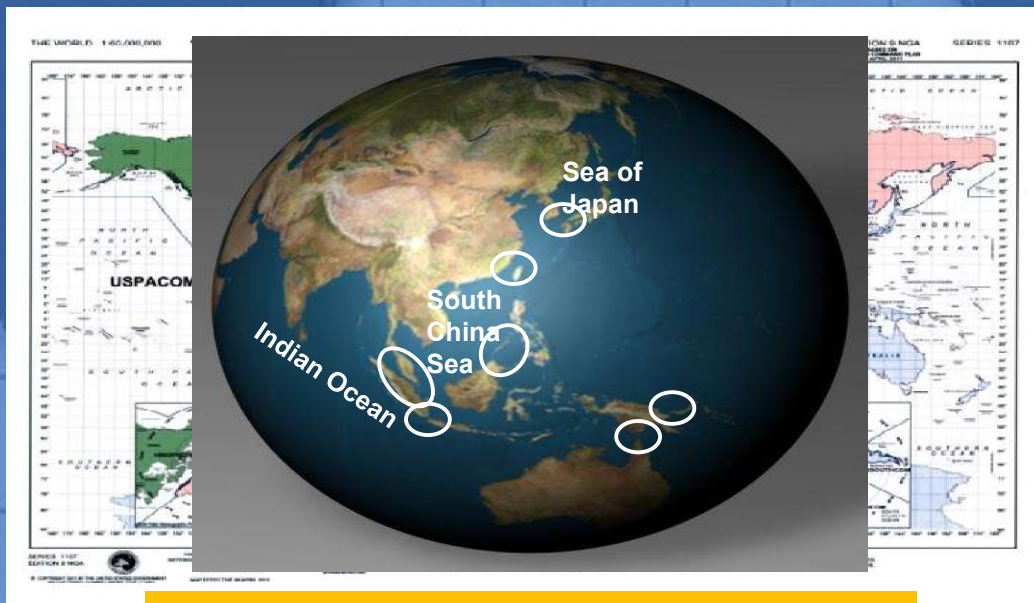
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Realities, Challenges and Opportunities

- The Context of Indo-Pacific Realities:
 - A view informed by history, shaped by current trends, and complicated by the challenges of changing power relationships.
- Challenges:
 - The post-World War II framework of formalized security agreements: stability for entrepreneurship, free trade, rules-based system/institutions...are now openly challenged.
 - US strategic and economic leadership in question (now)

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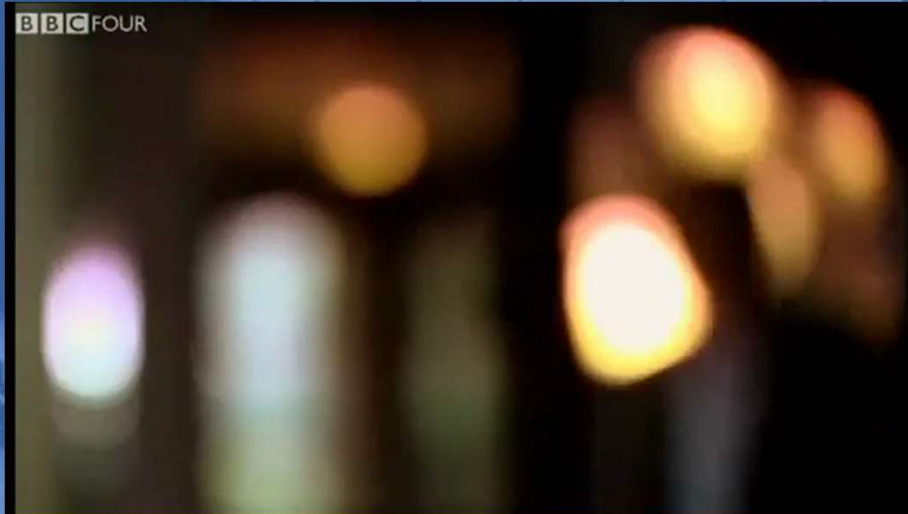
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Health & Wealth Data



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An Asian Economic Miracle...



Port of Tokyo



Port of Singapore

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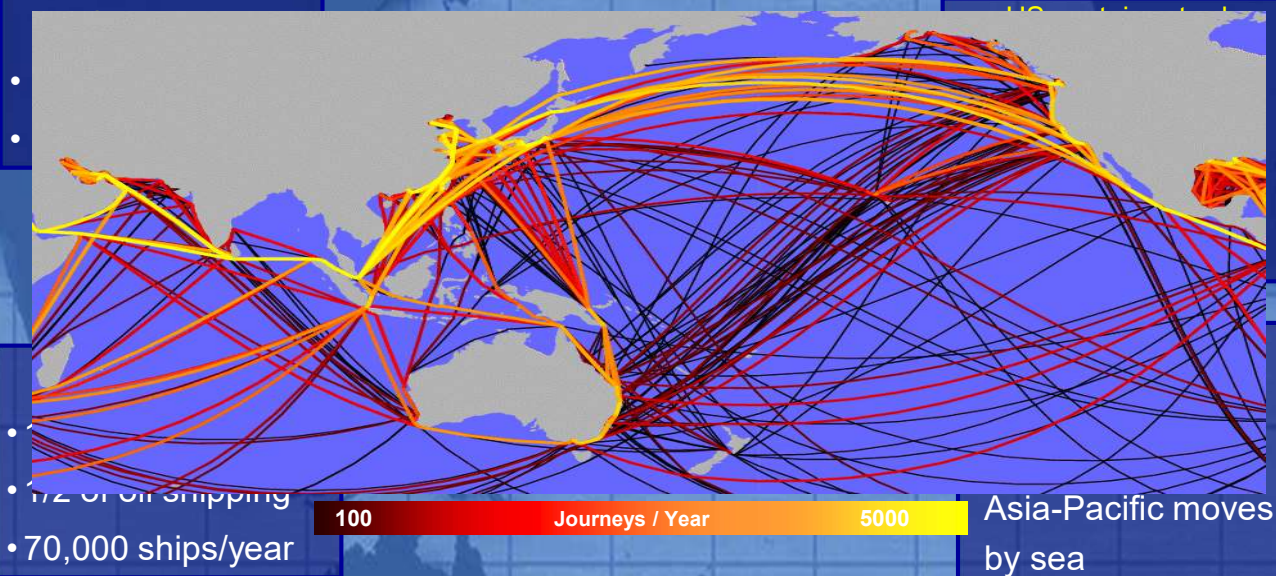


Port of Shanghai

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World Economies depend on access to the Global Commons



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Shifting military and economic balances create risk and friction

******in each domain******

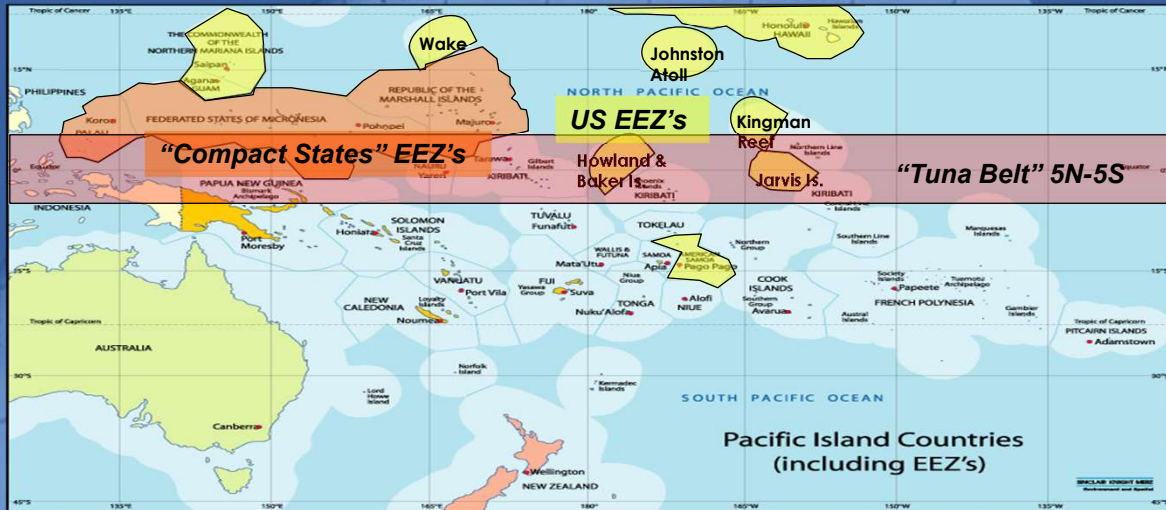
- Historic boundary disputes
- Strategic Surprise/Flashpoints
 - Korean Peninsula
 - South China Sea
- Anti-access/area denial
- Technology advancements
- Weapons proliferation
- Transnational threat actors
 - Cyber espionage, hactivism, crime

- Competing regional demands
- Flat or declining budgets
- Increased operating tempo
- Declining material condition after 30 years of combat ops
- Vulnerable corporate/national network infrastructure (Solar Winds/Colonial Ransomware)

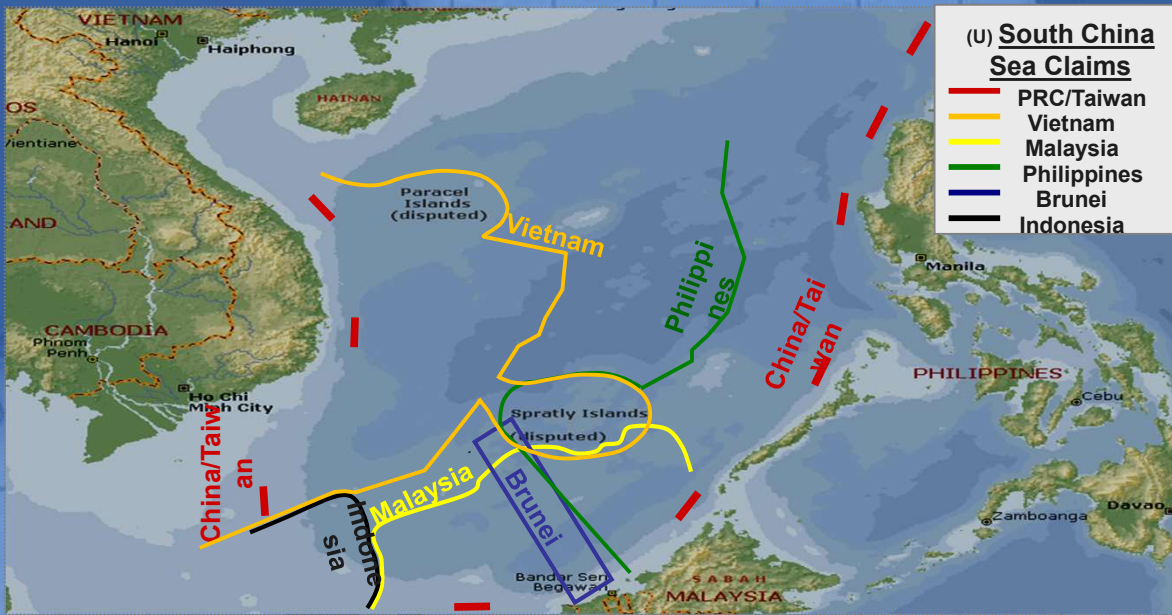
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World Health & Wealth depend on access to resources



South China Sea Claims



The Challenge of the Cyber Domain

- “We don’t know who’s inside our networks. We don’t know what information has been stolen. We need to get serious about this threat to our national security.”

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science & Technology

How China is Engaging the Region: A Whole-of-Government Approach

Soft Power

Hard Power

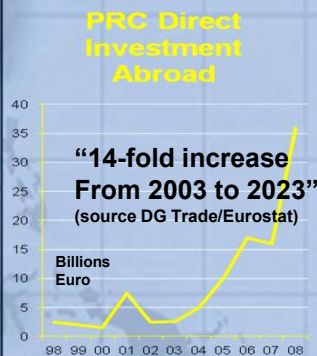
Strat Communication

Economic Investment

“Lawfare”

Military Capability

“Washington should discard its deep-rooted Cold War mentality and concepts of maritime hegemony”
ADM (Ret) Yi

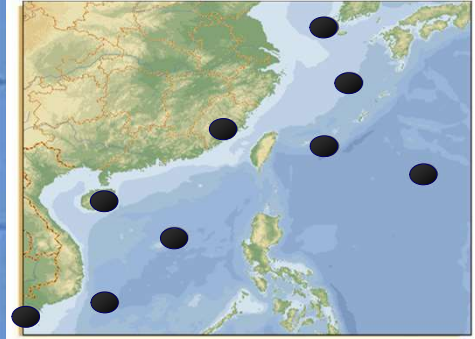


- 2000-2023: Five to ten-fold increase in modern systems
- More out of area deployments
- Vastly improved proficiency
- Increased C2 and cyber sophistication

“Strategic contests require a strategic response”

- **Understanding Game Objectives**
 - Freedom of Movement
 - Economic development
 - Conflict resolution
 - Protection of Intellectual Property (IP)
- **Geography Matters**
 - Yellow Sea/Ryukyus (NE Asia)
 - Luzon Strait, Spratly Islands (SE Asia)
 - Philippine Archipelago
 - Strait of Malacca
- **Rising tensions in physical space (e.g., South China Sea) and cyber domain**
 - Cable cutting, fisherman abductions, etc.
 - OPM Hack (20+ million records, fingerprints)

The game of GO:
The Chinese perspective of
Strategic Thinking



Objective of “GO” is to surround your adversary by occupying key areas of the board

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The Result of the Chinese Strategy



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The Future of US Led International System

- An emboldened China (examples of '20-'23 headlines)
 - “In a lot of the world, the clock has hit midnight: China is calling in loans to dozens of countries from Pakistan to Kenya.”
 - “China and Russia: The Guns of April” (Black Sea/SCS Ex)
 - “Beijing Accelerating Timeline for Possible Invasion of Taiwan,”
 - “China to US: Back Off and Calm Down”
 - “China’s Message to America: We Are an Equal Now.”

• *US leadership openly challenged*

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International Partners



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Questions



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