

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Explain the salient features contours of US 'rebalancing' policy and China's assertive policy in South China Sea and latter's dispute with regional countries. Critically evaluate.

OUTLINE:

- 1) Introduction.
- 2) Salient contours of US 'rebalancing' policy.
- 3) China's assertive policy in South China Sea.
- 4) China's dispute with regional countries.
- 5) Conclusion.

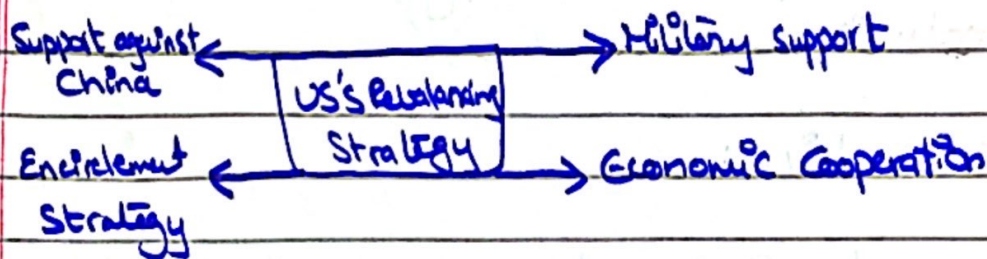
Introduction:

US and China have been involved in great power competition since China has begun to rise and challenged US global hegemony. China has started to exhibit assertive policy in South China Sea and has disputes with South East Asian countries. According to a scholar, "China claims offshore islands in South China Sea rather than claiming the entire sea."

Salient Contours of US 'rebalancing' Policy:

US follows an encirclement policy to counter China:

US has developed good ties with China's neighbouring countries. It has good ties with Philippines, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam. It also supports these states militarily and has around 10,000 troops in the region. Following are the ways through which US supports East Asian Countries:



Military Support by US to East Asian Countries:

US provides military support to South East Asian countries. For instance, US has established its base in Guam. Moreover, it has also provided South Korea with "THAAD" BMD system which would directly aid in striking China ~~via~~ through South Korea.

Providing Nuclear Submarines to Australia:

In order to rebalance vis-à-vis China, US has come up with an agreement named as "AUKUS". These are nuclear-powered submarines which will be provided by UK and the US to Australia. It can be equipped with ballistic missiles as well.

India: The Net-Security Provider in Indo-Pacific Region:

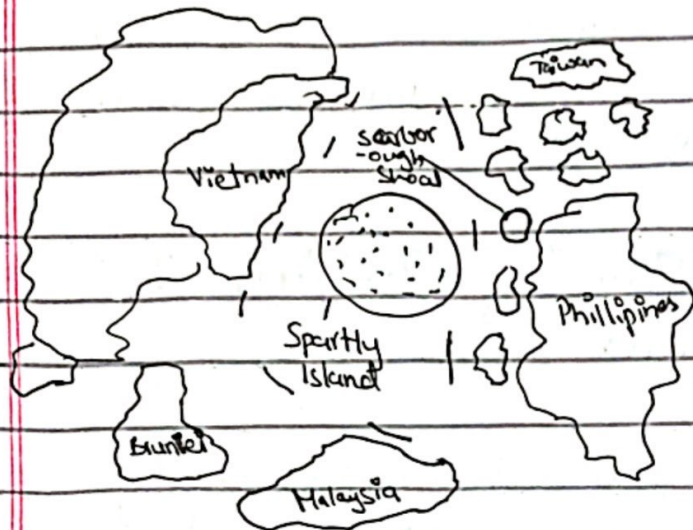
US has made India the net-security provider in the region as a rebalancing policy. It has provided India with military equipments and India has been involved in Indo-Pacific MALABAR and MILAN military exercises to counter China.

China's Assertive Policy in South China Sea:

China after gaining power has started to make its claims in South China Sea and it also claims Exclusive Economic Zones of other countries as well.

5 Nine Dash Line:

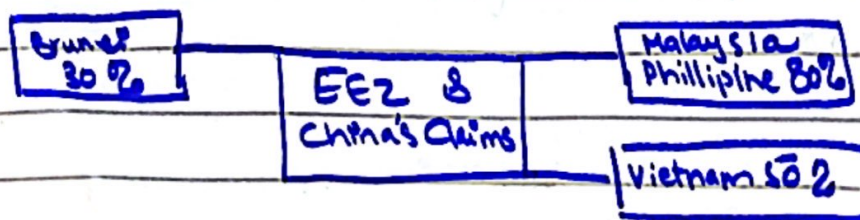
Through Nine-Dash Line, China asserts its claim over different Islands in South China Sea.



The nine dashes include EEZs of Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and China recently added 10 dashes - ~~or~~ means that it considers Taiwan to be its part.

How much part of each country's EEZ does China claim:

Following are the statistics which show China's claim in other countries' EEZ.



China asserts Claim in SCS by following its own Law of Sea:

China does not follow the international Law of Sea — United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea. It has its own Law of Sea which it follows. Resultantly, it adds Taiwan as an another dish in the NDL and it according to a feature in Times Magazine, China has embelzoneed its Chinese passports with a new map, while adding NDL.

China's Dispute with Regional Countries:

China-Philippine Dispute:

China and Phillipine ~~it~~ have historical claims over SCS. China considers the Yuan Dynasty to be the ~~ex~~ owner of Scarborough Shoal formerly and it was previously named as Huang Island. Both states have engaged in a tussle as well. In 2024, Phillipines saw Chinese aircrafts flying over SCS.

China-Vietnam Dispute:

China and Vietnam have also claimed over SCS. Both states have their rivalry due to China's claims over Vietnam's EEZ. China claims Spatly Island as

Under the control of Qing Dynasty while rejecting Vietnam's claims. Vietnam has put military and diplomatic efforts to deal with China's assertive policy in SCS.

China-Taiwan Rivalry:

China and Taiwan already have a strong rivalry due to China's claim over Taiwan. Hence, the rivalry shall intensify as China added Taiwan as the "10th" dash to the Cow's tongue or Nine-dash line. In response to the unprecedented support of US for Taiwan, China has been modernizing its military and naval ships.

Conclusion:

Therefore, China-US competition has taken another turn in South China Sea and only time will decide who rules the South China Sea and how US would react upon it. Will this Cold War turn into a hot war with exchange of attacks? It is a question posed by renowned scholars as well. To avoid any catastrophe, US and China should avoid any military confrontation.