

ONE WHO CONTROLS THE SEA CONTROL THE WORLD

I-INTRODUCTION

Thesis statement

Control of sea provides geo political, geo economic and geo strategic edge to a state to dominate the world.

II-GEO-POLITICAL CONTROL OF WORLD BY CONTROLLING THE SEA

1- Controlling connectivity and Dominating the world.

a- Control of strait of Hormuz as control of Hydrocarbons

b- strait of Malacca and control of cyber warfare

2- Safety of states linked to sea

a- case study; UK in 20th century

b- case study; US in 21st century

3- Power Domination through Naval Presence

→ a tool to control the world

a- case in point; China's containment in Pacific ocean

III-Geo-Economic Control of the World by Controlling the Sea

1- Controlling trade routes and its link with economic control of the world

a- Provides way to control Oil and Hydrocarbon trade.

2- Sea provide Bases for Economic Imperialism

a- Case study; US Blockade of Iraq and Libya

III- Geo strategic Domination and Control of world By Controlling the Sea

1- Surveillance through sea and Dominating the World

a- Case in point; Russia's strategic motives to Annex Crimea

b- US Naval Presence in Strait of Malacca for containing China

2- War time Significance of Seas

3- sea as a Launching Pads as strategic Dominance

a- Case study; US attack on Iraq, Afghanistan through seas

IV- CONCLUSION

THE ESSAY

Barry Buzan, the famous security analyst of 21st century, predicted in his article "The Asian Century" that 21st century will be the century of Asia. The question arises what makes Asia so special?

Is this energy rich zone of Asia which can change the fate of the continent? No, as the energy rich zones have been discovered in Europe and Africa as well.

Is this growing economic power of China which has ability to change the fate of sub-continent?

No, as the US still holds more military, technology and economic power than China.

Then what makes Asia so important ^{and relevant} in world politics in modern era? The answer is, the

connectivity through sea routes in form of straits and canal is the major factor which makes Asia so relevant in power politics.

The analysis of all the ongoing international conflicts reveals that all these conflicts try to control the waters in one or other

way. Iran-Israel conflict revolves around strait of Hormuz, Yemen-USA conflict revolves around Bab-el-Mandeb, Russia Ukraine conflict revolves around warm waters of black sea and china Taiwan conflicts revolve around strait of Malacca and South China sea. This shows that status quo and revisionist powers are keeping their military and navy presence in seas in pretext of conflicts. Seas hold geo-political, geo-economic and geo strategic relevance in 21st century and therefore, the control of sea gives political, economic and strategic control and edge to a state over other states.

To begin with, one major way through which the control of seas gives a control over world is the control of connectivity. Sea routes are major form of connectivity across the globe. Straits and canals hold great importance as they link the major part of the world. For example, strait of

Hormuz is the only link of Persian Gulf, the most hydrocarbon producing region. Control of Strait of Hormuz means the control of hydrocarbon transport. Without hydrocarbon, no state can survive for long. Likewise, Strait of Malacca connects the Europe to the chip producing state of Taiwan. Chips hold key relevance in modern and cyber warfare. Thus, control of connectivity means control of hydrocarbons and chip, backbones of any warfare. So seas provide provide control over backbone of modern warfare through control of seas.

Likewise, control of sea provides a safety to the states. According to the Aristotle, security of state having sea is far greater than ^{land} locked states. The idea of Aristotle is still valid in modern day. For example, Great Britain remained world power for more than 200 years because it controlled the sea and was called as queen of the sea. Naval supremacy of Britain ensured it remain super power for almost 200

DATE: _____

6

DAY: _____

years. Same is the case of United States of America (USA). USA is surrounded by Atlantic ocean. This gives an edge to USA as she cannot be easily attacked due to vast Atlantic. Atlantic provides a natural safety barrier to USA as it provided to the UK in 19th century. Furthermore, US has ensured its naval and military presence over Pacific, Atlantic and Indian ocean. This control of waters by United States has kept the US as a super power ^{due to} ~~proving~~ pivotal role of ^{control} the world.

In the same way, Naval presence in modern world is a symbol of dominance, power and control. Naval drills and military exercises in seas are conducted to assert and manifest the military muscles of a state. For example, to counter China in Pacific region, US has been conducting military exercises in Pacific region along with its allies. The aim of these exercises is to warn China and stop it from doing any aggression in Taiwan. In the same

DATE: _____

7

DAY: _____

way, alliances are also underway in oceans to counter the opponent. For example, QUAD is an alliance of four states including USA, Japan, India and Australia. This alliance has been made to exert and show the naval power of US and to contain China in Indo-Pacific region. Provision of nuclear sub-marines to Australia is a manifestation of naval power by United States. Likewise, I2U2 is another alliance made to counter China. It contains Israel, India, UAE and USA. It has been called as Asian QUAD by China. These power manifestations, as described by security analysts, have been successful so far to stop China from annexing Taiwan.

Like political control, economic control of the world is also linked to the control of sea. Trade routes of the world can be controlled by controlling the sea. Most of the trades of commodities is done through the sea routes. Hydrocarbon trade holds great significance in this

regard. For instance, 80% of Hydrocarbon import ^{from} Gulf states is directly dependent on strait of Hormuz. Likewise Russia, which is the largest gas importer and 2nd largest oil importer, depends upon black sea for exporting its oil and gas. So, in case of conflict, strait of Hormuz and red sea hold great importance as most of the world economies are directly or indirectly depend upon these sea transport routes. For instance, during Israel Iran conflict of 2025, the temporary closure of strait of Hormuz led to increase in oil prices across the globe, showing the economic importance of sea routes.

Another important way through which sea offers a way to control the world is that it offers tools for economic imperialism. Since world war II, economy has been weaponized by western states and sea routes offer a way to materialize the imperatives of economic imperialism. This is done in a number of ways. Firstly, blockade is used to

to influence of states which have to be punished. Blockade is used as punitive measure through the platform of UNSC by world powers. For example, in 2003, United States of America imposed blockade on Iraq which destroyed the economic ability of Saddam Hussein's government. Hence, Iraq fell for America in no time. Likewise, China has been trying to use the US model of economic imperialism in South China Sea to control the Taiwan, but US has successfully contained China's aim till now through alliances. ~~At~~ Similarly, in 2012, US imposed an economic blockade on Libya and successfully undermined Qaddafi government's ability to control the US backed rebels. These examples manifest that sea routes are major source of economic imperialism and are a control tool for controlling the world.

Apart from geo-political and geo-economic angles, sea offers geo-strategic edge to states which are vital to dominate over the world. Seas provide an important strategic significance to do surveillance against the competitors.

DATE: _____

(10)

DAY: _____

For example, USA, which is a strategic competitor of China, has ensured the presence of its naval force in Pacific region for the purpose of surveillance. Likewise, Russia invasion of Crimea in 2014 had strategic motive to get the warm water access. Middle East, which is a region having huge strategic importance, holds a number of United ~~Nations~~ ^{states} naval bases. To counter the US influence, Russia has also established its naval bases in Middle East including Syria. The presence of heavy military, technology and navy ^{in sea} is a manifestation that controlling the warm waters or seas has a strategic edge to dominate the world.

Seas also hold significant importance during conflicts. Warships provide a strategic edge to states over others. Likewise, the presence of nuclear submarine and advanced nuclear navy has great importance during war times. Control of sea routes and magnificent naval power let the Britain undefeated in 19th century. US has been playing through the same card ~~the~~ ^{since} world war II. China

and Russia in cold war 2000
and Russia in cold war avoiding
the direct confrontation with US
due to presence of US naval fleet
across the globe. So, US controlled
the world because it controlled
the sea.

Lastly, sea provides a space
for launching the effective strikes
against a state. Hence, they act as
a launching pad to attack and
dominate over the enemy. For example,
United state used its naval
warships to attack the Iraq
and Afghanistan in 2003 and
2001 respectively. Likewise, when United
states aimed to attack to Iran
in 2025, it moved its naval
warships near Iran in Arabian
sea. The attack using naval bases
and warships provide an opportunity
to win and have less
collateral damage. The bases and
warship provides the jets the
facility to do refuelling thus
decreasing the chances of collateral
damage to the pilots and jets.
Hence naval supremacy with fine

control over seas provide a tool to dominate the world.

In a nutshell, the control over sea provide a state a vast dimensions to execute its strategical and economic plans. Thus, sea control provides an upper hand to state to control the economy and strategy. It not only helps a state to flourish in peace time and assert its dominance but also provide a edge to state in war times. In era of nuclear sub-marines and cyber security, naval dominance and sea route monopoly provide a missing link to world powers to dominate the world.