

Model United Nation



- RESEARCH REPORT FOR MUNOH 2014
- THE SECURITY COUNCIL
- VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL,
ALEXANDROS ARISTIDOU

Alleviating the conflict between China and Japan caused by the legal status of the Senkaku Islands:

Background:

The Senkaku islands or else known as Diaoyu Islands are located in the East China Sea, South-West of Japan and on the East of the Chinese mainland. (See map). The islands are uninhabited. They consist mainly of five islands. The largest island, Uotsurishima, covers 3.8 square kilometres. Together, the Senkakus cover 5.5 square kilometres. These minor features in the East China Sea are located approximately 120 nautical miles northeast of Taiwan, 200 nautical miles east of the Chinese mainland and 200 nautical miles southwest of the Japanese island of Okinawa.



Chinese Claim:

Overall the Chinese claim is mainly based on the history of the islands, and thus points out that the islands were discovered and found by China first. Based on books from the 15th and 16th century China provides the world with evidence that the island's first "owner" was them. Moreover the Chinese claim the Senkakus as rocks. In more detail:

The Chinese government claim that the Senkaku islands were first discovered, named and used by Chinese. And as an evidence China points out that the islands original name first appeared in "Shun Feng Xiang Song" (Voyage with a tail wind), a guidebook for seafarers published in 1403.

China also points out that a chart in a Chinese book published around 1561 describes Uotsurishima (an island of the Senkakus) as part of the defensive zone of the Ming Dynasty. (The ruling dynasty of China for 276 years (1368–1644)).

It also cites "Chuzan Seikan," an authenticated history book of the Ryukyu Kingdom (today's Okinawa), completed in 1650, which says Kumejima island is part of the kingdom's territory but from Taishoto, one of the Senkaku Islands, and to the west don't belong to the kingdom. (Taishoto is the easternmost island among the Senkakus).

Japanese claim:

The Japanese government accepts that the islands might have been found by China but insists that all the documents that China provides do not prove that China had controlled the islands at any time. Moreover the Japanese government claims that the Senkaku Islands had been Terra nullius (land belonging to no one). The islands have passed to Japanese rule in the early 1895 after Japan successfully defeated China in a short war. The islands have been ruled by the Japanese from 1895 until 1945, where the United States of America took control up until 1972 where the islands returned to the Japanese under the Okinawa Reversion Agreement.



‘
Japanese Soldiers in the
First Sino-Japanese War’

History:

Since 1895 after the First Sino-Japanese War which saw the Japanese as the winners, the islands have been under the rule of Japan. In 1945 the islands came under US control after the Japanese surrendered at the end of the Second World War. In 1971 Japan and the United States of America signed the Okinawa Reversion Agreement, and in 1972 Japan officially retained control of the islands. Moreover in the past years the islands have been used by the Chinese for navigation purposes. The Japanese around the 1900 constructed a fish processing plant employing 200 workers but after business failure (1940) the islands remained deserted since then. In 1969 the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East Identified potential oil and gas reserves. But also since 1972 the Chinese have officially began to declare the islands for reasons stated above. The island group consists of five uninhabited islets and three barren rocks.

The Dispute:

Since 1972 when Japan took over the islands again, the Chinese have been actively declaring the islands. There was a lot of bargaining until 1999 where countries did not use punitive measures, but they also did not resolve their differences. We can refer to it as an ongoing conflict. But in 1999 large numbers of oil and gas was found in the Senkaku islands, and thus in 2003 a Chinese oil company built a platform near Senkaku. As a response the Japanese took a license for taking the Senkaku islands. In September 2012 a



new disputed began when the Japanese bought three of the five Senkaku Islands from private Japanese owners. This new purchase by the Japanese government cost them nearly \$ 30 million. This action caused massive tensions between the Japanese and the Chinese. Chinese protests began to

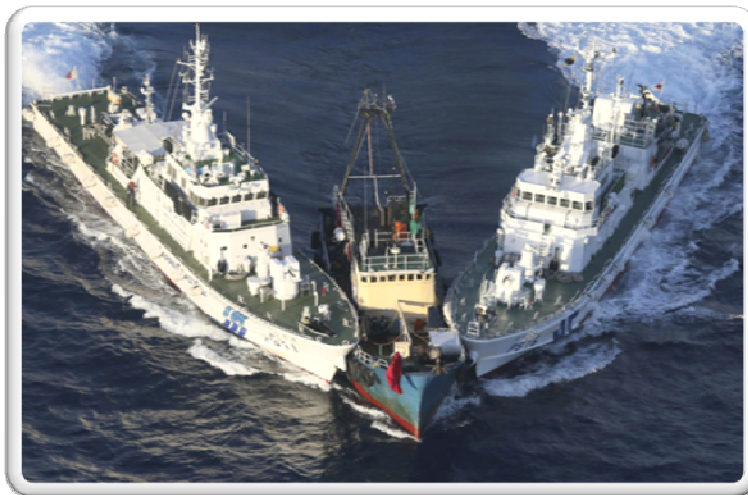
increase massively and the people in China claimed that the islands belonged to them since ancient times.

The protests in China were massive but even the leader of China Hu Jintao sent a note to the prime minister of Japan stating that 'Nationalizing islands would be illegal'. Furthermore the protests in China wrote a message to the world stating that Japan stole islands from China. In September and October of 2012 protests increased massively in Beijing, people in china stayed nights and days outside the Japanese embassy protesting and shouting anti-Japanese slogans. But even worse Chinese people started destroying Japanese properties and flags. . On September 17, a group of Chinese fishing vessels sailed to the Senkaku Islands to demonstrate China's jurisdiction over the islands.

Furthermore, some activists from Hong Kong raised the PRC flag on the islands.

Japan began its first military expansion in more than 40 years, breaking ground on a radar station on a tropical island off Taiwan to resist China's <http://www.theguardian.com/world/china>'s claims of ownership of nearby islands which led to increased tensions.

In the last 10 years but most importantly in the last 4 years there were a lot of events happening around the islands which caused increased tensions between the countries. One of the major events that took place in 2008, when a Taiwanese fishing boat and a Japanese patrol vessel collided. The passengers were released, but the captain was detained for three days. Later in June Japan apologized and agreed to pay NT\$10 million (US\$311,000) as compensation to the owner of the boat. Moreover on 7 September 2010 a Chinese fishing boat collided with two Japanese Coast Guard patrol boats in disputed waters near the islands. The collisions occurred after the Japanese Coast Guard ordered the trawler to leave the area. After the collisions, Japanese sailors boarded the Chinese vessel and arrested the captain Zhan Qixiong. Japan held the captain until 24 September.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku_Islands_dispute - cite note-133 Each country blamed the other for the collision. And the disputed grew even bigger and larger and fears of war were in place.



The United States Position:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfFccinQvIY>

Since the agreement between USA and Japan where the islands went to the Japanese rule, the United States of America have been supportive of Japan. Various USA presidents have stated in the past that the islands belong to Japan. Even though some of the US actions lead to a conclusion that the States want to have a neutral position and as president Obama stated quoted from the Guardian “We don’t take a position on final sovereignty on the Senkakus but historically they’ve been administered by Japan and should not be subject to change unilaterally. My hope is that Chinese will continue to engage with the US and other countries. We don’t take a position on this piece of land or this piece of rock but we do take a position on the peaceful resolution of these disputes.”

- President Kennedy said for the Ryukyus that he recognizes the Ryukyus to be a part of the Japanese homeland.
- The US senate stated in the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan and Washington would defend Japan in the event of armed attacks.
- In April 2014 the United States begun patrols over the islands to ensure the security.
- In Mid-April the president of the United States Barack Obama visited Japan and held talks with the Prime Minister. Mr Obama stated that he is supportive of Japan in the dispute and that in case of a war USA will support the Japanese as stated in article 5 of their post-war agreement.



What is next?

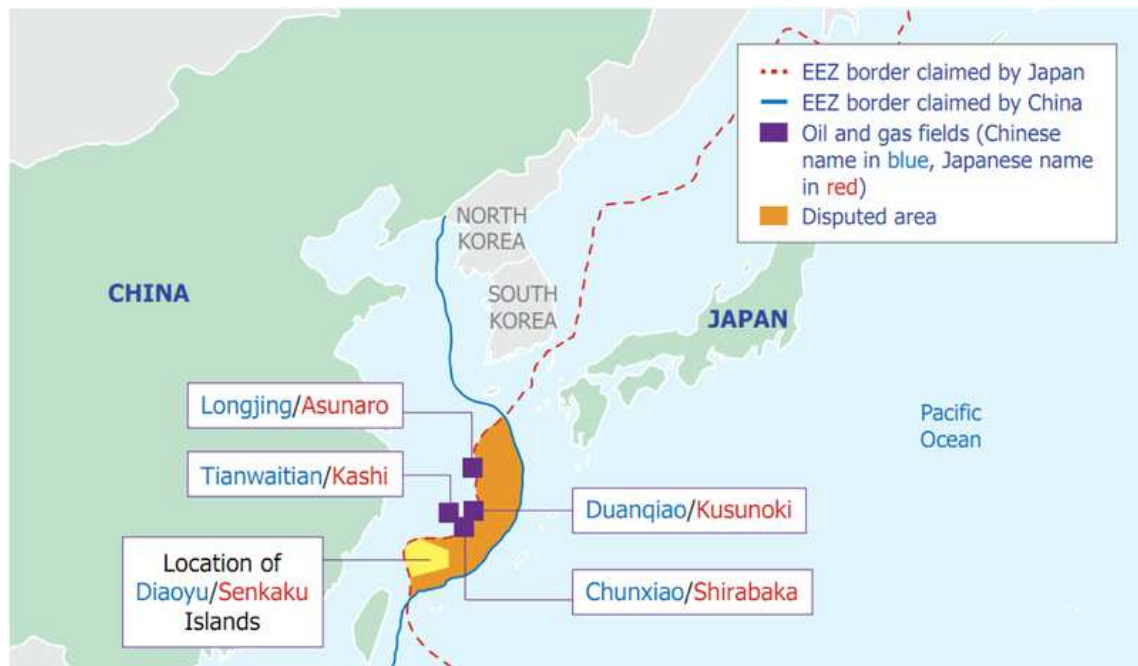
The conflict is ongoing for quite a time but especially since 2012 the issue is on “fire”. China is unhappy about the way foreigners handle the situation and tries to prove to the UN that the islands belong to the Chinese but this leads no-where. Throughout the last years there has been massive propaganda in both sides against one another. As mentioned above, in China people that were protesting have used violence against the Japanese and it seems that the Chinese government and the authorities didn’t act. These have worsened the relationships between Japan and the Chinese but as years pass and the conflict is ongoing more and more people are being Victims of these massive propaganda in Schools but also in the internet. The conflict needs to be resolved now to avoid long-term negative effects on the relationships between Japan and China, but most importantly to avoid a third World War that will be catastrophic for our planet.

Possible Solutions:

First of all it is Vital that a solution is being carried out as soon as possible. The UN must avoid war as a first aim. AS stated in the UN charter article 2-3, solutions to disputes are to be found by peaceful negotiations. Possible actions that the UN might adopt:

(UN organization involved: UNCLOS)

- Ask for all countries involved to agree to withdraw all their military ships and airplanes in order to restore peace and limit the possibilities for a conflict to arise.
- Clarify If the Senkakus are considered islands or rocks.
- Fishing should be allowed to all Countries in order to keep businesses depending on the Senkaku area working, avoiding unemployment and business failure.
- At last the total area is to be divided between China and Japan in a fair way (agreed in the Security Council), and borders to be placed that will be guarded by the UN peacekeepers for the nearest future.



USEFUL WEB SITES:

.Online news pages e.g. (BBC, the guardian)

.The United Nations official page.

. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/Diaoyu-Islands.html> (Chinese Media)

. <http://japandailynews.com/tag/senkaku/> (Japanese Media)

.YouTube videos. E.g.

[.http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32LGpAmu0jg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32LGpAmu0jg)

[.http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbboWSHfHR8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbboWSHfHR8)

[.http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=5G4oRoL58Qg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=5G4oRoL58Qg)

[.http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbMSjxkm30U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbMSjxkm30U)

➤ DON NOT FOREGET TO CHECK YOUR COUNTRIE’S OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE DISPUTE.

Good luck on your position papers,

Best Wishes,

Vice-President of the Security Council,

Alexandros Aristidou

