

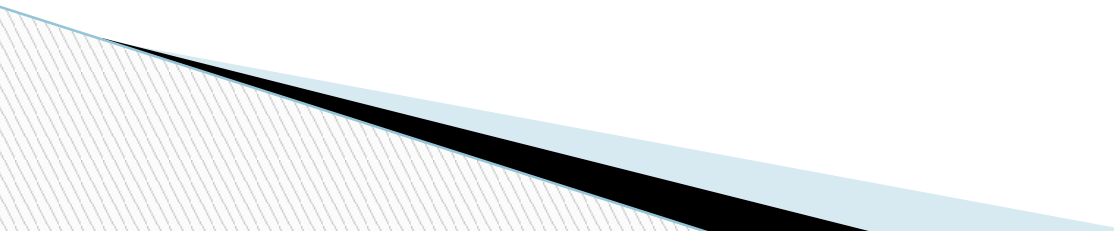
# South China Sea tensions



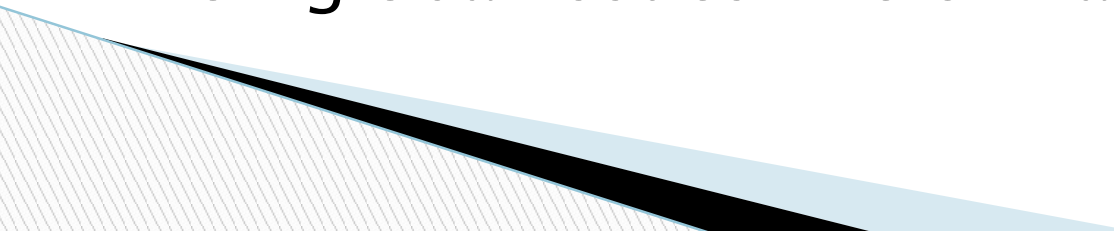
# South China Sea



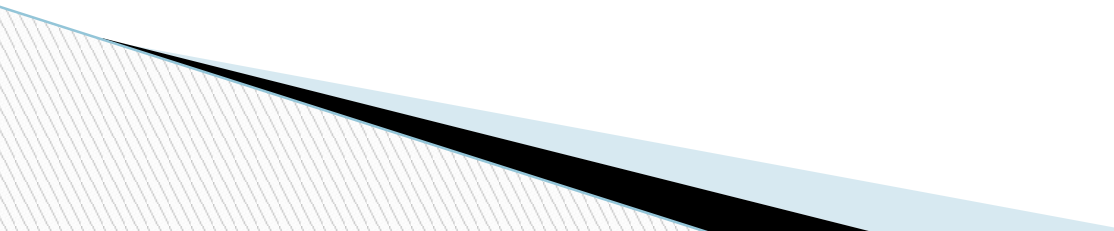
# Why is it disputed?

- Natural resources – oil and gas. “Industrial revolution of Asia”
  - Fisheries – particularly important between China and Philippines.
  - Control of trade routes.
  - Exclusive Economic Zones
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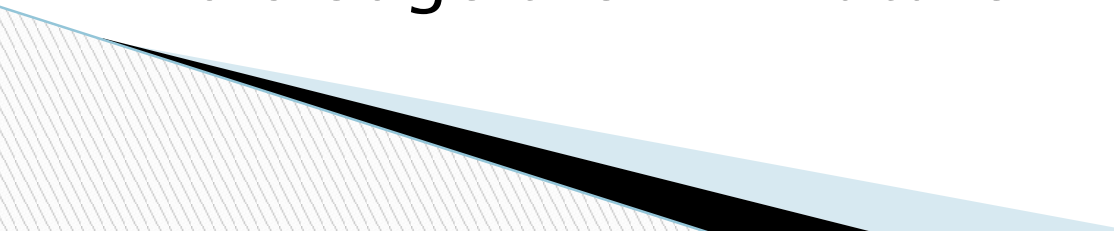
# Interests of Western states

- South China Sea extremely busy trade route – 5 trillion in trade passes through annually. U.S wants unimpeded passage for commercial shipping. Escalation to conflict could be extremely detrimental to economic interests.
  - US credibility among Asian states.
  - Relationship with China – wants cooperation on global issues like climate change.
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# Actions and goals of China

- ❑ Building military bases – questions over purpose. Potential for aircraft deployment, missiles and missile defences. China claims “self-defence facilities.”
  - ❑ Chinese shows of strength – e.g launching missiles
  - ❑ Construction of artificial islands – increases power projection.
  - ❑ Chinese navy and coastguard attacking and expelling fishermen from other countries – e.g Vietnam
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# Actions/Goals China cont.

- ▣ ADIZ – “East China Sea air Defence Identification Zone” – China trying to restrict aircraft travel in sea.
  - ▣ China far weaker in East China Sea – Japan has a defence treaty with U.S.
  - ▣ The more *de facto* control China controls over the South China Sea region, the harder it is to dislodge them in future.
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# Domestic opinion in China

- Government has successfully used state-controlled media and subtle propaganda-themes and tones in media and news reporting/discussion – to stoke hyper-nationalistic sentiments.
  - Distracts from domestic problems – makes dissent seem “anti-Chinese”.
  - CCP identity – the party having its own sphere of influence and wanting people ideologically aligned with them.
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# SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE

## Reaction

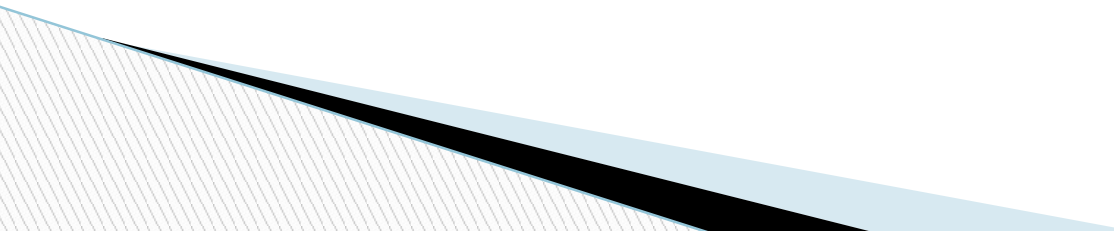
- US strengthening cooperation with Vietnam.
- Other SEA A security of the US.
- US sending including activity, to



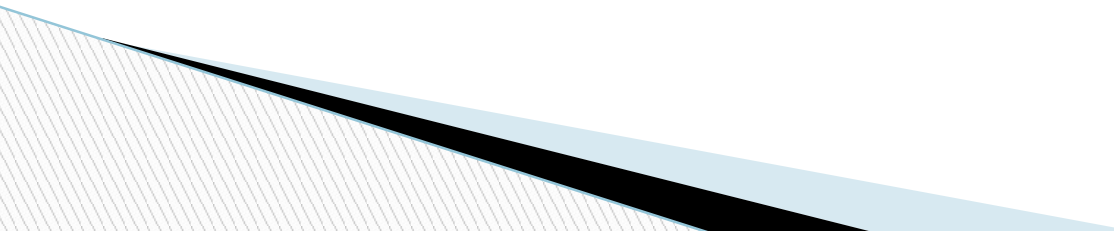
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# General IR principles

- Who are the stakeholders involved – this doesn't just mean states, but the individual stakeholders within those states, and their importance (fishermen play a very important role in Vietnam's economy, for instance).
  - What do stakeholders want – what is directly affected by the motion, and what could be indirectly affected?
  - How do the stakeholders relate to one another, and how? Do they have a power dynamic, trade with them, have cultural influence?
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# IR principles cont.

- What is the domestic situation within those states – how will the motion affect it? How does the government react to the domestic situation (e.g crackdowns and further oppression, or making concessions?)
  - What are the motivations of the government – both realist and constructivist.
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# Example motion

- THBT the US should withdraw from East Asia and cede regional hegemony to China.