South China Sea dispute

Geography

- The nine-dotted line was originally an "eleven-dotted-line," first indicated by the then Kuomintang government of the Republic of China in 1947.
- The disputes include the islands, reefs, banks
- other features of the South China Sea, including the Spratly and Paracel islands
- The nine-dash line area claimed by China overlaps the exclusive economic zone claims of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam
- South China Sea may contain 17.7 billion tons of crude oil

Tribunal verdict

- Case was brought before Hague tribunal under UNCLOS by Philippines
- China's claims to historic rights, or other sovereign rights or jurisdiction, with respect to the maritime areas of the South China Sea encompassed by the relevant part of the 'nine-dash line' are contrary to the Convention
- China has in the course of construction over South China Sea has aggravated and extended the disputes between the Parties
- Both Parties are obliged to comply with the Convention

International Interest

- The area is also one of the busiest shipping routes in the world.
- more than half the tonnage of oil transported by sea passes through the South China Sea
- The United States itself has not signed UNCLOS, but has accepted all but Part XI as customary international law.
- South China Sea free to access is in the US's economic and geopolitical interests.

Countries Stand

- **China**
  - It wants largest portion of South China Sea under nine dash line
  - It claims historical evidence to further its claim
- **Taiwan**
  - It also cites nine dash line for its claim over South China Sea
- **Vietnam**
  - It says it rules Paracels and Spartlys since 17th century
- **Philippines**
  - Geographical proximity is main basis for their claim
- **Malaysia**
  - It claims that area falls under its EEZ
- **Indonesia**
  - Indonesia has repeatedly asserted its position as a non-claimant state in the South China Sea dispute, and often positioned itself as a "honest broker".