

US GEOSTRATEGIC CONTROL OF SEAS AND OCEANS

To play a decisive role, geostrategic/ geostrategy, a prominent part, to take control of, to tighten someone's grip on, asset, military deployment, **80% of the world's population lives within 100 miles of the coast, 70% of the world surface is water, 90% of global trade VOLUME travels through water.**

I/ US GLOBAL PRESENCE IN SEAS AND OCEANS

A-Importance of seas and oceans

Since the 1982 Montego Bay convention, to share, legitimate, illegitimate, legal, illegal, a strait, a canal, seas, oceans. UN decision, continental shield

B-US naval presence

Military bases in the Pacific for example, some fleets stationed near geostrategic places like the 5th fleet near Hormuz and The 7th fleet near Malacca. **Overseas facilities utilized by U.S in allied countries : Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia....**

II-SOME KEY PLACES

1-The key role of the Hormuz strait

Key role, oil trade, **Hydrocarbons**, natural gas, Iran, Iranian threat, to threaten, **to blockade, to blackmail**, mine, dissuasive, to deter from, **a means of dissuasion or a deterrent. To put pressure on, to have control over**, narrow, maritime routes, tankers, **to deter someone from+ING**,

ABOUT THE ARTICLE STUDIED IN CLASS : Trump's USA wondered if it was still worth maintaining US presence in the Gulf as the Cold War is over. It is costly. But it ended saying it was worth it to keep control of oil trade, avoid **an OIL CRISIS**- to maintain power, hard power, hegemony, to secure

2-US PRESENCE IN ASIA

The key role of the Malacca strait

Official military alliances : Japan, Philippines, South Korea
Some partnerships : India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia
64 ships present in the region

Tensions in South China sea :

The Spratley Islands dispute:

A reef, a dispute over something, to settle a dispute. Oil and natural gas off-shore deposits, artificial, a busy route, maritime traffic, military infrastructure, artificial reefs, military purpose.

The OBOR or BRI program: the article explained:

- It could be seen as a **threat** by the USA but such a view **underestimates** the **Hard and Soft US** power
- It brings opportunities to countries **hosting** Chinese infrastructure as it is based on 4 trillion\$ investment (many countries could never afford this!)
- For OBOR China takes **advantage of** bad relations the USA has with Iran and Russia and plans to associate these countries into OBOR.
- The article suggested a **more pragmatic** and less aggressive strategy from the USA: there is a risk to push many countries into China's arms. It says it should focus more on economy and not so much on geostrategy and diplomacy, especially as OBOR encourages cooperation between states.

3- FUTURE KEY ISSUES

a-Routes to the Arctic :

melt, melting, icecap, to tighten someone's grip on, Russian presence, to grab an opportunity to take advantage of

The article about the USA in the Arctic

-The USA has started a **Freedom of Navigation Operation (FONOP)** against Russia

-Russia has **5 chokepoints** on the main route so it could block the traffic so It is a threat

b-seaborn/ maritime cables

PRISM, spying program, to spy on someone, the NSA, to collect information, the Internet, a tool, to investigate something, to track someone down, underwater cables