

Neg

We negate

We observe Chinese regional hegemony is unavoidable. Economic factors and the desire for the 9-dash line have lead **Xi Jinping** to declare they will not yield even a single inch of the South China Sea. Indeed, **Tarabay of CNN 18** concludes China's economic power and US's unpredictability make this transition of power unavoidable.

Thus, Our Sole Contention is Ensuring a Peaceful Transition

Swaine Carnegie Endowment '13 writes China has two objectives in the region. While they want to engage in diplomacy with other regional states to peacefully solve disputes, they must also oppose American involvement to maintain public support. When these objectives contradict themselves, China has no choice but to oppose American involvement at the expense of diplomacy.

Fortunately, **Lendon of CNN 17** reports US military power has steadily decreased in the Western Pacific despite intermittent shows of power, thus removing this binary. Overall, **Valencia of the South China Morning Post 17** concludes the two countries have settled into a sense of normalcy despite the current level of tensions, making the chance of conflict negligible.

Unfortunately, affirming increases American involvement and reignites conflict in 4 ways.*

First is through legal warfare within UNCLOS

Mattis of the War on the Rocks 18 explains China has employed a multi-pronged approach of diplomacy, legal action, and a notable lack of military force to pursue their claims. However, **Chanock of the Journal of Law, Technology and Public Policy 15** confirms American involvement causes China to support their claims militarily instead of through UNCLOS. Specifically, accession takes away this option as **Ku of Hofstra University 18** writes American presence in the treaty would act as direct opposition to China, turning the diplomatic table into a battleground.

second is preventing diplomacy outside of UNCLOS

Wooley of William College 18 reports China has begun diplomacy in 25 Southeast Asian countries to garner regional support. However, US accession would stop this as **Vanecko of Naval War 11** confirms American involvement would increase, thus forcing China to posture **per Swain**. Indeed, this interference and posturing would halt talks as the **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** has repeated current peace talks will only continue without foreign

interference. Diplomacy is key as **Pejsova of the EU institute for Security Studies 15** concludes dialogue is the only* way to solve resolve the South China Sea dispute.

third is by suing china

Cornell International Law Journal 13 writes accession would lead to American legal action against China through the UNCLOS tribunal to fight Chinese actions. However, it would be ineffective as American involvement angers Chinese officials, and **Rahman of Forum for International Studies 17** finds even if China loses the lawsuit, there would be no enforcement. **Mollman of Quartz 16** confirms China would posture in response to any American attempt at dispute resolution. For example, the 2016 lawsuit resulted in little progress, only serving to accelerate China's militarization.

fourth is by empowering hardliners,

Per **Fish of Asia Society 16**, the majority of the Chinese populous favors negotiations. Unfortunately, they are also in favor of pushing out American influence. Affirming pushes them towards military action as **Fuchs of National Interest 16** writes US presence in UNCLOS plays into the narrative of hardliners in China who view the treaty as a vehicle for advancing US interests. This increases public support for conflict as **Zhang of Foreign Policy 12** corroborates, playing into the hardliners' hands leads to destabilization making* conflict more likely, and jeopardizing diplomatic action.

Overall, **Buszynski of the Conversation 17** concludes decreasing US presence removes the prospect of conflict, bringing peace and stability to the region.

There are two impacts

First is trade

Hoffman of Bloomberg in 2018 explains the shipping of food by sea is concentrated on vulnerable trade routes like the South China Sea that, when disrupted, become "chokepoints" in the global supply. This causes food prices to surge, which **Reuters in 2011** contextualizes pushes 44 million people into extreme poverty. Fortunately, **Heydarian of the Asian Review 18** reports China and other Asian nations are negotiating resolutions to protect regional trade.

Second is conflict

Per **French of the Atlantic 14**, While the risk of conflict is currently low, a more aggressive China could lead to an invasion on a smaller country in the region like Vietnam or the Philippines. Even small conflict would be devastating as **Stout of Time Magazine 14** reports China's current aggression is similar to the 1980 Vietnam invasion that took 50,000 lives in 6 weeks.

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