

Jeremy and I affirm.

Our First Contention is China

[Lee '15 of Vox](#) reports, China has constructed dozens of islands in parts of the South China Sea belonging to nations such as Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

China insists it is the rightful owner of 90% of the sea, and is artificially extending its coastline in order to exercise legal authority over these waters.

[CFR '18](#) continues, satellite images have shown China installing military sites and moving missiles and jets onto the islands.

However, [Duong '15 of the CSIS](#) explains, UNCLOS does not allow China to use artificial islands to claim more territory, because islands are only entitled to a safety zone of 500 metres.

The global response to Beijing's behavior has unfortunately come up short.

America has attempted to use its navy to stop expansion, but [Townshend '15 of the Guardian](#) argues, China knows that Washington would never risk military confrontation over tiny islands, and does not take its deterrence seriously.

Regional action has also failed, as [Stratfor '17 explains](#), China has approached countries in Southeast Asia individually and used its economic leverage to prevent them from forming a meaningful coalition.

UNCLOS is the solution, as [De Tolve '12](#) of the Naval Law Review finds, US ratification would restore US credibility and combat the narrative that America is hypocritical for enforcing international laws it doesn't follow itself.

According to [Vanecko '11 of the Naval War College](#), accession would show our allies that we are fully committed to a global partnership. He furthers that UNCLOS already offers a framework for discussion and dispute resolution, making it an ideal forum for multilateralism.

[Gates '15 of the Diplomat](#) argues, the United States is the only actor in the region with the resources and relationships needed to build an enduring solution.

[Vanecko notes](#), China would be receptive to multilateral dialogue because it doesn't want to risk disrupting its vital trade partnerships. [Townsend](#) adds, Beijing is more concerned with maintaining a positive reputation than it is with the South China Sea, because it knows that being recognized as a pariah could cause international rejection of its long-term interests, such as the Belt and Road Trade Initiative.

Beijing has historically chosen strategic relations over territorial ambitions. [Sheng '14 of UChicago](#) explains that since 1949, China has resolved 15 of its 19 disputes with neighbors by offering concessions, giving up territory to avoid the formation of a counterbalancing coalition.

Without an international solution, states will protect themselves. [Heiduk of the German Institute for International Affairs '17](#) verifies that the most common reaction by Southeast Asian states to China's expansion has been an arms buildup. Military expenditure in Southeast Asia has risen by 57 percent, and in absolute terms, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia have more than doubled their military spending.

The impact is poverty.

[Dunne of Middlesex University states](#), defense spending has a direct opportunity cost on welfare spending and productive sectors of the economy.

[Albritton of Northern Illinois University](#) contextualizes, in Thailand, for every dollar increase in military spending, there is a corresponding one dollar and fifteen cent decrease in development programs aimed at improving agriculture, water resources, or transportation.

[Khan '15 of the University of Islamabad](#) confirms that in Myanmar, a high defense budget diverted resources away from healthcare and education, leaving it the least developed and second poorest country in Southeast Asia.

Ultimately, the [UN in 2018](#) reports, if poverty reduction efforts in ASEAN are not scaled up sustainably, 30 million children could soon face malnourishment.

Contention Two is Foreign Aid

If the US were to accede UNCLOS, [Article 82](#) mandates it pay royalties for all economic activity in the extended continental shelf, at a rate which increases every year and caps at 7 percent. This revenue would go to poor, landlocked countries.

[Ferland '12 of GCaptain finds](#) that royalties would be significant, amounting to trillions of dollars.

According to [ThinkProgress](#), the treaty provides the US a permanent seat on the ISA council, effectively giving it veto power over how distribution would occur, because proposals require unanimous approval by a council.

Royalties would help the poor. [The OECD](#) warrants, foreign aid offers the resources necessary for job creation, social services, and infrastructure investment.

[Katarina '14 of the Technical University of Denmark confirms](#) that, in a 50 year study of 36 Sub-Saharan African countries, aid had a statistically significant positive effect on GDP in 27 cases.

The [World Bank](#) corroborates that a 1% increase in aid results in an increase in public investment equal to 0.7% of the country's GDP and a decrease in poverty by 3.6%.

Ultimately, [Oxfam](#) calculates that an addition of \$10.8 billion to the USAID budget, could save 4.4 million children's lives via long-term public health improvements. On a larger scale, countless more deaths can be prevented.

Please affirm.