

Forum: *Security Council (SC)*

Issue: The question of contributing to easing tensions between China and Japan regarding to the Senkaku conflict to prevent military escalation.

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Introduction

The Senkaku conflict concerns a territorial dispute between the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Republic of China/Taiwan (ROC) and Japan.

The Senkaku Islands have been under Japanese control since 1895 except from the period from 1945 to 1972 when they were under control of the United States of America. However, in the 1970s the PRC and ROC requested the Senkaku Islands to be returned back to their control as it is argued that there is evidence of previous Chinese possession of the Senkaku Islands.

Both parties claim the Senkaku Islands as their rightful territory. There has been no significant advance in solving the dispute or making an agreement that ensures a peaceful status quo to end violence and allow for finding diplomatic solutions. The reasons as to why PRC, ROC or Japan are interested in the Senkaku Islands are not only of a military nature as the Islands are further valued by citizens of both of the involved nations; consequently, activists from both parties want their nation to be in control which is why they illegally entered the islands several times.

While there have not been any incidents before the 1990s, several dangerous encounters between the Chinese and Japanese military have occurred in the last years, intensifying tensions between the affected parties, risking escalation with war as a possible outcome.

Definition of Key Terms

Territorial dispute

A situation in which it is not clear to which nation a certain territory belongs, causing tensions and making it difficult to be administrated as usually all the nations involved try to make their claims.

Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ)

Refers to an air space that is radar monitored and that may extend over a nation's territory, in which all aircrafts will be intercepted if they do not identify themselves. They are not controlled by any international body or defined in any international treaty.

Senkaku Islands

A group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea located north east of Taiwan with a surface of around 7. Senkaku Islands is the Japanese name while the Chinese name is Diaoyu Islands.



Background Information

History

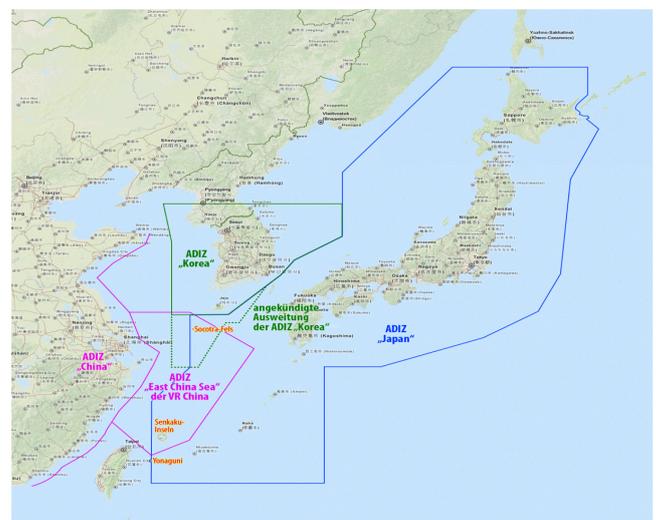
The territorial requirements on the Senkaku Islands have a long history in China and Japan. In China the Islands were demanded as part of Chinese territory in around 1530 for the first time. In the 1780s also Japan mentioned the Islands as part of an international ocean route in some Maps of the Japanese Government.

The first real conflict arose in the first Sino-Japanese war when Japan declared the Islands as Japanese territory after their victory. This dispute between China and Japan was specially lighted when a high oil occurrence under the Islands was detected in the 1960s. Economical interests of both states brought the conflict to another level and also are the main and most basic reason for the current escalation.

Escalation

Of course the conflict had a lot of escalations in the past but we will deal with the most current point of escalation.

This specific point is the declaration of an ADIZ over the Senkaku Islands by the Chinese Government. That did not just displease Japan, because the territorial conditions are not clarified yet, but also aroused a lot of presence of the international media.



Process of escalation

The ADIZ was exlaimed by China on the 23rd of November 2013. In consequence every flight over the Islands needs to be registered by the Chinese Government now. Two days later, on the 25th of November 2013 an US-American B-52-Bomber passed the ADIZ of China. The Bomber was unarmed and the Chinese Government was informed about the upcoming flight. Also Japanese and south Korean Bombers passed the Chinese ADIZ following the same rules of action. Hereupon China announced the transmission of tactical aircrafts in the ADIZ on the 28th of November. These activities of China, Japan and even some other participants aggravated the conflict enormously. The Chinese air force disclosed the high readiness relation to air activities of Japan in the ADIZ in front of the press. Chinese public media called the situation a cold war in the concerned territory. In contrast the Japanese Government expressed to react smooth and steadfast.

The USA became increasingly involved in this conflict and members of the US-Government claimed to be more reticent in the conflict, especially because China even planed to expend the ADIZ any agreements with Japan or other States.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
June 17 th , 1971	The control over Senkaku Islands are handed back to Japan by the United States of America triggering chinese protest
August 12 th , 1978	Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty was signed setting aside the dispute for it to be resolved at a later time
November 23 rd , 2013	Chinese ADIZ was exlaimed
November 25th 2015	Military activities off he United States in the ADIZ

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Since the PRC and the ROC have officially claimed the Senkaku Islands in 1970, following attempts have been made by the involved nations to solve the territorial dispute. Shortly after the discovery of possible oil and gas reserves in the proximity of the Senkaku Islands in 1969 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), the PRC and the State of Japan held bilateral talks to discuss joint development of resources in the seabed, which ulti-

mately failed. In 2008, similar talks were held and the involved parties agreed on the joint development of resources, but this agreement only included the areas surrounding the Senkaku region. In 2010, the governments of Japan and the PRC agreed to establish a military hotline to simplify the communications between their respective armed forces, but this was not realized since. The ROC and Japan have made an agreement regarding fishing rights in 2014.

Possible Solutions

As tensions between the PRC and Japan could potentially grow every day passing without a feasible solution made, the resolution past must take on this issue step-by-step and must proceed with utmost care.

As currently the Senkaku Islands are surrounded by military vessels, which operate in close proximity to each other, a military escalation is a likely and unpleasant possibility. So the first objective should be to ease tensions between the involved nations. Likewise the resolution could recommend the reduction or demilitarization of the region. Also the cooperation between the involved nations could be suggested.

The ultimate goal for most resolutions is to solve any type of issue peacefully, so both sides should be able to make their respective point. This general procedure should also be utilized for this resolution and so the involved nations should discuss this topic. Furthermore the cooperation with UN personnel could be implemented in the resolution to solve the dispute. They could monitor the current situation or even administrate the islands.

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