
Tensions in the South China Sea.

❶ Cartoon on the Chinese claims in the South China Sea, published by the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 30 December 2017.



❷ Excerpts from a speech by General Wei Fenghe, minister of national defence of the People's Republic of China, during the Shangri-La summit in Singapore on 2 June 2019.

(...) Lately we see a growing backlash against globalization and a surge of protectionism. A certain country champions unilateralism, puts its own interests before others, withdraws from international treaties and organizations. Aren't there many countries suffering from the willful infringement and sanctions?

5 (...) China shall follow the path of peaceful development, which is a solemn commitment to the people of China and the world. This has been written into the Constitution of the Communist Party of China and the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, thus reaffirmed as the will of the CPC and the state. If this is not even convincing enough for some people, then we don't know what they would believe? Over the past 70 years since the founding of the PRC, China has never provoked
10 a war or conflict, nor has it ever invaded another country or taken an inch of land from others. (...)

I visited the US last year. American friends told me that Abraham Lincoln was the greatest American president because he led the country to victory in the Civil War and prevented the secession of the US. The US is indivisible, so is China. China must be and will be reunified. We find no excuse not to do so. If anyone dares to split Taiwan from China, the Chinese military has no choice but to
15 fight at all costs for national unity.

➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, explain the geopolitical tensions in the South China sea.