

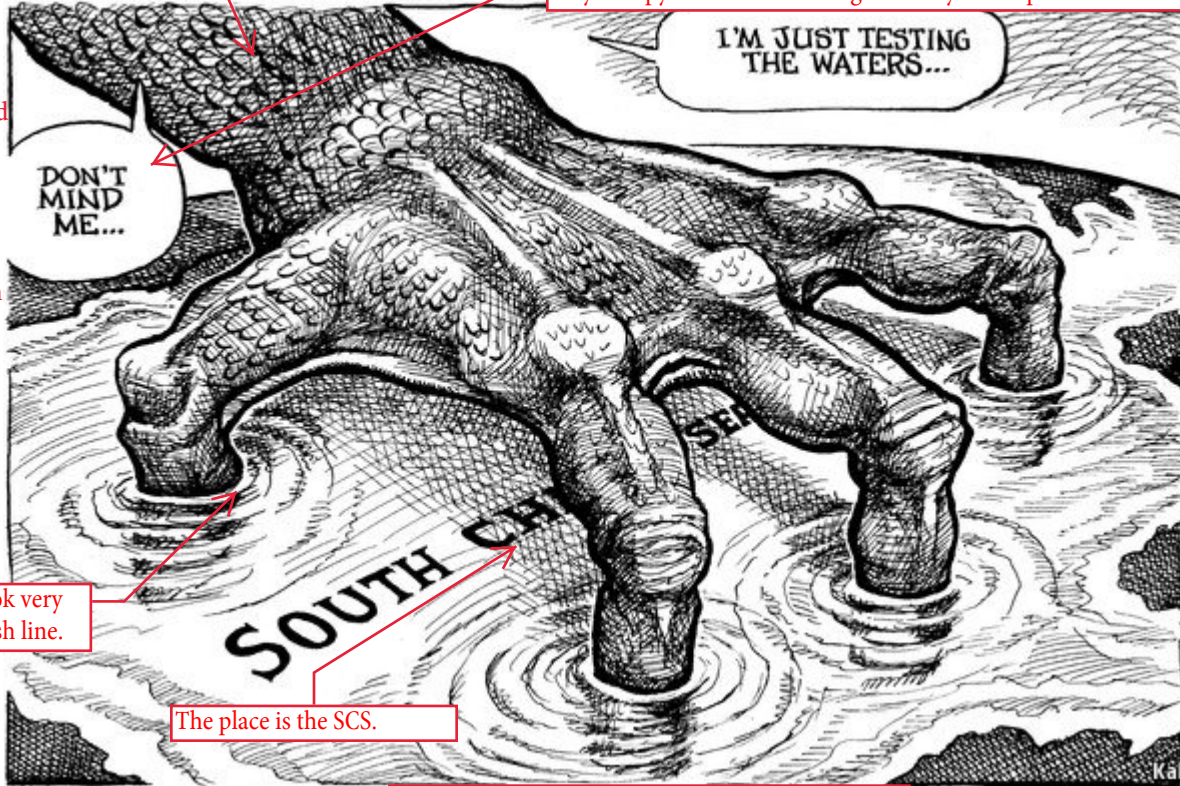
Here, we've got two opposed viewpoints: the Filipino newspaper mocks the Chinese claims in the SCS, while the Chinese statesman and general justifies those claims. It is all about Chinese imperialism and about the "nine-dash line" which encompasses more than 80% of the SCS.

Tensions in the South China Sea.

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

A sharp criticism of Chinese imperialism: the Chinese pretend to be innocent, while they occupy the area with a large military buildup.

Looming large, a dragon's paw: it occupies a large part of the cartoon, just like China claims most of the SCS.



UNCLOS= United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. (aka Montego Bay, 1982).

China has occupied islands at the expense of the Philippines. Filipino fishermen were expelled from some of their traditional fisheries. The Philippines argue that China does not respect the UNCLOS.

The distant toes look very much like the 9-dash line.

The place is the SCS.

The context: the Trump administration.

The Trump administration had withdrawn from the Paris accord on global warming.

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**?
 A criticism of the USA by China.

(...) 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 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 fight at all costs for national unity.

Chinese resolve to reconquer Taiwan. They consider that Taiwan is in a state of secession, and that Chinese unity is foremost.

➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, explain **the geopolitical tensions** in the South China sea.
 It's a very threatening statement.

China is peaceful (not imperialistic)

A comparison with the American Civil war. It shows the