

South China Sea oil disputes escalate

China has opened a new front in its South China Sea dispute, claiming offshore oil and gas blocks within the internationally-recognised exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of both Vietnam and the Philippines

Paracel Islands:

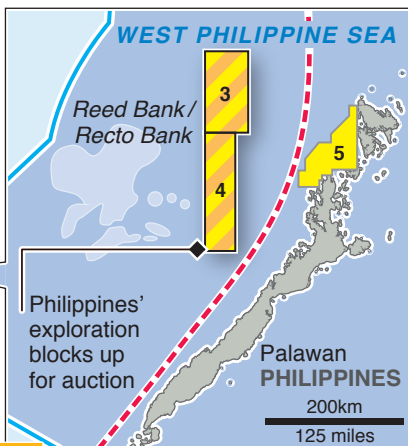
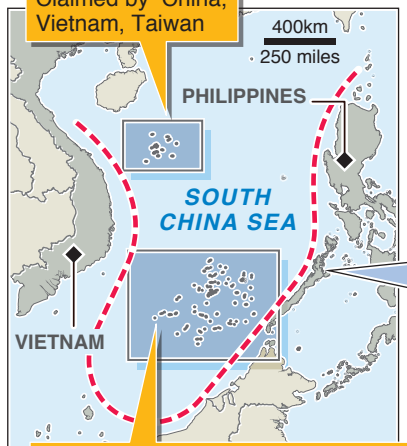
Claimed by China, Vietnam, Taiwan

--- Chinese claim line

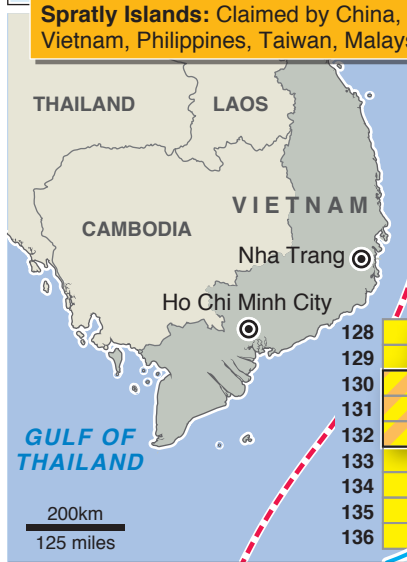
— 200-nautical-mile EEZ



Oil and gas blocks claimed by China



Spratly Islands: Claimed by China, Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia



Joint oil exploration ventures with Vietnam government

India: ONGC Videsh Block 128

Russia: Gazprom 129-132

Canada: Talisman Energy 133-136

Vietnam: PVEP 148-149

U.S: ExxonMobil 156-159