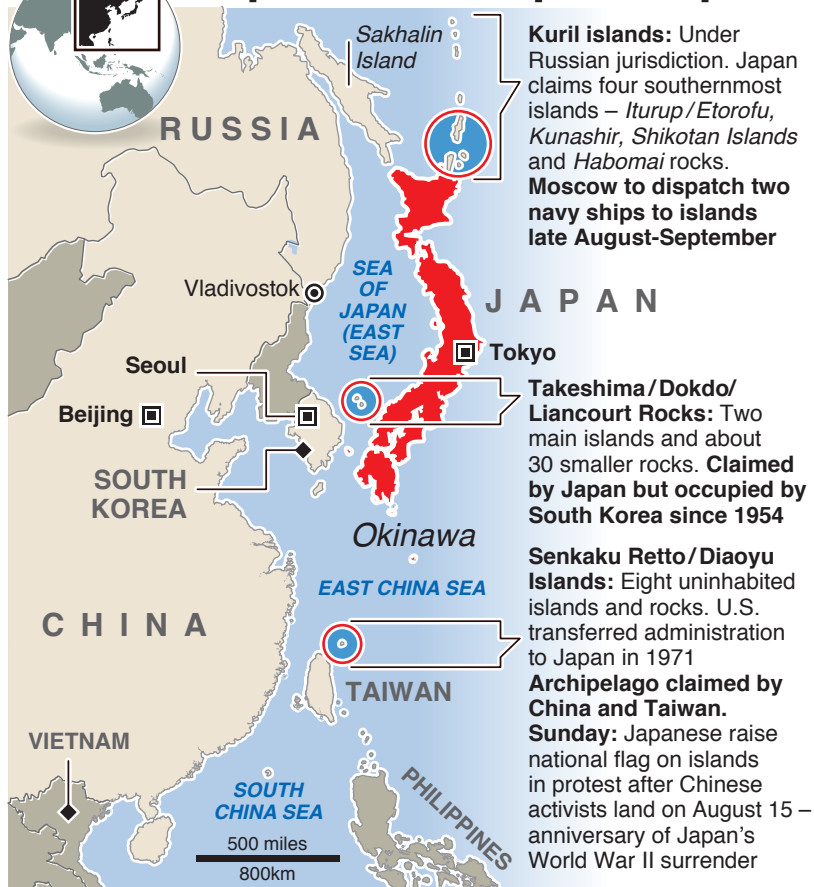


Japan's islands disputes deepen



Kuril islands: Under Russian jurisdiction. Japan claims four southernmost islands – *Iturup/Etorofu*, *Kunashir*, *Shikotan Islands* and *Habomai rocks*.

Moscow to dispatch two navy ships to islands late August-September

Takeshima/Dokdo/Liancourt Rocks: Two main islands and about 30 smaller rocks. **Claimed by Japan but occupied by South Korea since 1954**

Senkaku Retto/Diaoyu Islands: Eight uninhabited islands and rocks. U.S. transferred administration to Japan in 1971

Archipelago claimed by China and Taiwan.

Sunday: Japanese raise national flag on islands in protest after Chinese activists land on August 15 – anniversary of Japan's World War II surrender