

# U.S. treaty protects Japan's disputed islands

President Obama has said that disputed islands in the East China Sea – controlled by Japan but also claimed by China and Taiwan – are covered by a defence treaty which obliges the U.S. to act if they are attacked



*Senkaku / Diaoyu  
Eight uninhabited islands  
have total area of 7 sq km*



**U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY (1960):** Article Five covers all territories under Japanese administration

## RIVAL CLAIMS



**JAPAN:** Incorporated Senkaku into its territory of *Nansei Shoto* in 1895 after surveying islands for 10 years and finding them to be uninhabited. After World War II, Nansei Shoto put under U.S. trusteeship by 1952 *Treaty of San Francisco* before being returned to Japan in 1971



**CHINA:** Says Diaoyu has been part of its territory since ancient times, serving as important fishing grounds administered by Taiwan. Taiwan was ceded to Japan in 1895 but returned in 1952, when China argues Diaoyu should also have been returned