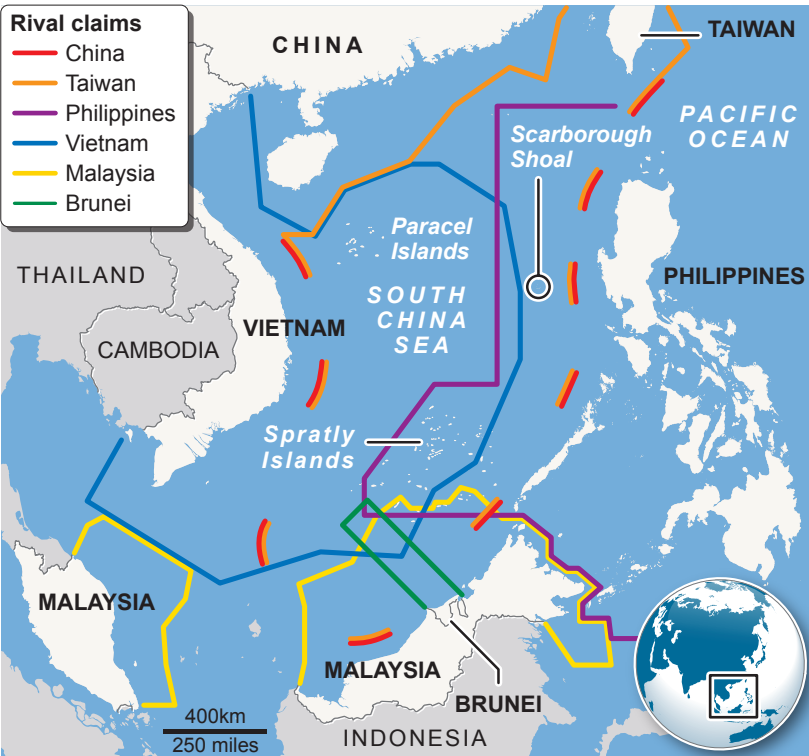





South China Sea disputed claims




 **CHINA:** Says territorial claim – defined by “nine-dash line” detailed on 1947 map – dates back to ancient times. Claims are mirrored by Taiwan. China’s policy of island-building and construction of military installations and airstrips has strained geopolitical tensions

 **VIETNAM:** Says documents prove it has actively ruled over both Paracels and Spratlys since 17th century, and that China never claimed islands before 1940s

 **U.S.:** Says it opposes restrictions on freedom of navigation and unlawful sovereignty claims – seen by many as aimed at China

 **PHILIPPINES:** Bases claim to Spratlys on geographical proximity to islands. Manila has taken China to UN tribunal to challenge Beijing’s claim to waters within nine-dash line, including Scarborough Shoal – which China seized in 2012

 **MALAYSIA, BRUNEI:** Both lay claim to territory that falls within their economic exclusion zones, as defined by *UN Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)*