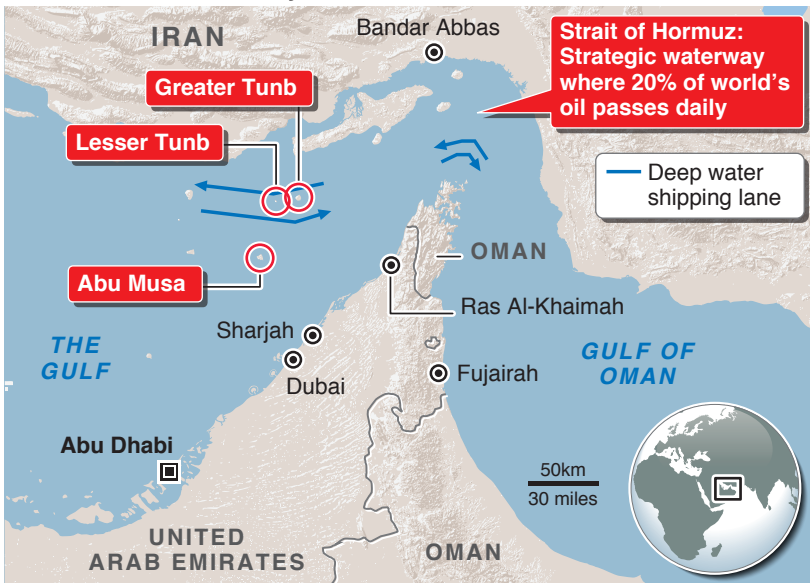


# China holds stance on disputed Gulf islands

A political row is brewing over China's perceived support for the United Arab Emirates over three strategic Gulf islands claimed by both Iran and the UAE



## HISTORY OF ISLAND DISPUTE

■ **1971:** Iran takes control of **Abu Musa**, **Greater Tunb** and **Lesser Tunb** one day before UAE gains independence from Britain – islands' former colonial power

■ Iran says islands belonged to successive Persian empires, while UAE claims that Arab traders ruled them for centuries before British arrived

■ **1992:** Talks to settle dispute collapse. Iran begins cementing its military presence on islands

■ **Dec 2022:** China angers Iran by issuing joint statement with **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** member states calling for efforts to resolve dispute

■ **Jun 2024:** China expresses support for efforts of UAE to reach "peaceful solution" to issue