The Eagle and the Dragon: War in the South China Sea

“Politics is war without bloodshed while war is politics with bloodshed” (Mao Zedong)

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**Letter From the Team**

Welcome Delegates!

Get ready to participate in William Mason High School's fourth annual Model UN conference! A great place to start is this background guide, but additional research for more information about your assigned delegate, position, or country is highly encouraged!

Who are we? We are a group of delegates like yourself who have been given the wonderful opportunity to formulate this committee! After being avid delegates for the past few years, we have invaluable experience about the inner workings of a Model UN conference, and hope to provide you with a smooth, yet challenging experience.

If you’re new to Model United Nations, get ready for a highly enjoyable and rewarding experience where you build new friendships, expand communication skills, and learn the true meaning of leadership. Essentially, each member assumes the role of a U.N. delegate within a committee. In each committee, many issues will arise based on the circumstances at hand. Delegates will need to resort to their critical thinking and teamwork skills to resolve each conflict, forming allies and strategic solutions. In this particular committee, you will strengthen your influence within the South China Sea—a hub of global trade, strengthening relations with allies to monopolize on trade. If you have any questions, feel free to email the crisis team at modelun.club@masonohioschools.com

Sincerely,

Your Crisis Team
Position Paper Policy

What is a Position Paper?
A position paper is a brief overview of your position stance on the topics being discussed in a particular committee. Though there is no specific format the position paper must follow, it should include a description of your position’s role and perspective on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your position has taken, and potential solutions that your position would support.
Your position paper should not exceed one page, and should all be combined into a single document per delegate. Be creative but stick to your role!
For a Crisis Committee, position papers are especially recommended, as it helps with organization and country position.

Formatting
Position papers should:
— Include the name of the delegate, his/her country, and the committee
— Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with a 12-point font size and 1-inch document margins
— Not include illustrations, diagrams, decorations, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
— Include citations and a bibliography, in any format, giving due credit to the sources used in research (not included in the 1-page limit)

Due Dates and Submission Procedure
Position papers for this committee must be submitted by midnight on January 23, 2019.
Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as your last name, your first name and send it as an attachment in an email to modelun.club@masonohioschools.com, with the subject heading as your last name, your first name — Position Paper.
Each position paper will be manually reviewed and considered for the Best Position Paper award. Position papers are NOT mandatory.
Crisis Notes

Delegates,

In order to help you take action in the wake of any events, we need your cooperation for working with us. Throughout the duration of the committee, you can write notes to crisis to gain information or make decisions. These notes can be anything from mobilizing troops, gaining intelligence, establishing your viewpoint, or maybe even an assassination. ;) They're definitely a lot of fun to use and are extremely encouraged in order to better your experience at the conference. But, before you send your notes, think about these 5 questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Make sure you establish these so that we can gain insight on what you’re actually trying to accomplish and guide you along the right path.

An example of a subpar crisis note:

“Send troops to X location.”

While this note tells crisis what you want to do, it does not set a larger agenda or purpose.

For example, if you were to send a note like this, ask yourself how you can make your note more specific before sending. Think about asking yourself questions like:

- How many troops are to be sent?
- When should they be sent?
- What is their short term objective?
- Is this action to be kept secret, or are you going to put out a press release?

This subpar crisis note, but improved:

“I would like to send X amount of troops to X location as soon as possible, but during the night so they will remain undetected. I would like to be sent a report before their departure with the final numbers, as well as the equipment they have brought with them. Upon their arrival, I would like an updated report on the surroundings and supplies. Please ensure this action is carried out with the utmost secrecy.”

If you have more questions about crisis notes, we would recommend checking out Best Delegate, they have awesome resources about crisis and Model UN in general!
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Introduction

The heart of Eastern trade lies nestled in Southeast Asia, guarded by mainland China on one side and a smattering of island countries on the other. Even more than a coveted hub of international trade, the South China Sea is a highly contested national treasure.

The body of water spans nearly 1.5 million miles and reaches depths of over 16,000 feet, but its value and meaning for surrounding countries often runs much deeper. There are six countries that claim jurisdiction over some part of the Sea, each citing historical and economic significance as justification for their control over the waters.

In fact, the region has long been a source of dispute over power and free trade. In the 16th century, the budding trade empire of Portugal established a strong base of Asian trade there, first opening the Sea to commerce with Western nations. The Dutch wrested economic power from the Portuguese a century later and began to advocate the value of Mare Liberum, the free sea.

As imperialist powers grew in the 1600s, so did interest in the profitable Sea, drawing attention from the British Empire, which attempted to open trade within the region to no avail. With the Chinese Empire weakened by the Sino-British Opium Wars, however, Western powers forced free trade with China in and around the Sea with the 1842 Treaty of Nanjing. Due to the invasion of foreign economic interests, Asian states effectively lost control over trade in the area. During the World Wars, attention was directed elsewhere, and the region experienced relative peace.

When China regained its economic momentum in the 20th century, however, it began to quickly claim territory and waters in the Sea to its advantage. Nearby states soon followed suit. Now, the year is 2021 and the region is still highly disputed, with rising tensions in recent years making conflict nearly impossible to avoid.

After a violent encounter between Chinese and Vietnamese ships, the states in and around the South China Sea must convene in attempt to respond to the conflict and balance the interest of peace in the region with their own economic and political motives.
Claimants of the Territory

Brunei

Since 2014, Brunei has operated under strict Islamic Sharia law. The leader of the country is the Sultan, who is also Prime Minister and holds absolute executive power.

Brunei's main trade partners include Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, China (PRC), and Singapore. It is a part of multiple trade blocs, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Trade continues to account for a large part of the nation's economy, with oil and gas making up more than half of the GDP and 90% of government revenue. Brunei relies heavily on trade with other countries due to its low production abilities. Its major industries are almost entirely dominated by petroleum and natural gas, mined from the regions surrounding the nation, namely in the South China Sea.

In 2018, in the midst of the Bruneian recession and a firm Chinese claim on the Sea, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and the Chinese president Xi Jinping struck a deal in which Brunei would continue support for the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China would invest in diversifying Brunei's economy in turn.

Brunei must decide how to balance its economic ties with China and its diplomatic claims in the Sea.

Federation of Malaysia

Operating as a constitutional monarchy, the country is divided into nine states, or Sultanates, each of which are headed by a hereditary ruler, and 4 other federal regions.

Malaysia’s economy relies on rubber, palm oil, and manufacturing industries, trading mainly with China, but also Japan, Singapore, and the United States. A mix of private enterprise and government control has served the country well, with relative economic stability in recent years. Malaysia takes part in several trade agreements, including APEC, ASEAN, and the CPTPP.

In addition, the Malaysian economy is heavily based in exports and surged in growth in the 2010s. Its system is very open and diverse and has resisted downturns in the past.

Economic growth, however, has emboldened Malaysia's resistance of China's dominance of commerce in the South China Sea. In recent actions, Malaysia has stated that it does not believe there are any overlapping claims between itself and Chinese claims in the Sea. New leadership in both the United States and Malaysia have prompted a clean slate of interaction between the two countries. Both must decide whether to cooperate on a pre-written path or to establish new and different bilateral relations.

Overall, Malaysia must balance its claims on the Sea, its trade-based economy, political interests, and various international relations in response to Chinese aggression.
Republic of Indonesia

Indonesia’s population must be met with economic growth in order to sustain job security and employment rates. Currently, the Indonesian economy is considered one of the most robust in Southeast Asia. Its main industries include mineral fuels, animal or vegetable fat, electrical machinery, rubber, machinery, and mechanical appliance parts.

Its maritime resources remain largely untapped, and with the economy at a relative standstill, many consider resources in the South China Sea to be a possible catalyst for needed economic growth. The nation has attempted to increase foreign investment through infrastructure and increased regulation, but the economy stumbled in 2018 when the currency lost significant value. Experts are not yet concerned about a dire economic crisis, but the Bank of Indonesia has hiked up interest rates as a corrective measure.

In terms of trade, Indonesia is well-connected, exporting mainly to the United States, China, Japan, and Singapore. It takes part in APEC and ASEAN. Indonesia increasingly relies on fisheries in the South China Sea due to pollution and overfishing in near-coast waters. The future of its economy will largely be determined by the willingness of the government to expand economic ventures and create new sources of income and jobs.

In general, Indonesia takes the middle ground in international affairs, but with newfound aggression from China, it should evaluate its economic priorities and own social issues in calculating its response.

Republic of the Philippines

In 2016, Rodrigo Duterte was elected to office, running on strict anti-crime policy and a distaste for “traditional” government. Duterte notoriously carried out a war against drugs, and from July 2016 to December 2017, over 12,000 people were killed. The President was further accused of supporting extra-judicial killings as a way to curb crime, and prompted questions and concerns from human rights groups about due process of the law and violent treatment of citizens by police.

In terms of foreign policy, Duterte shied away from traditionally close relations with the United States in favor of strengthening ties with China.

Despite being a member of APEC and ASEAN, the Philippines neglected its responsibilities under Duterte’s administrations; the President skipped several ASEAN meetings, prompting rumors of an end to Philippine commitment to regional cooperation.

The Philippines would struggle without support from surrounding nations, however, due to its import-based economy. Mainly, the country does business with China, the United States, Hong Kong, Japan, and Singapore. Electronics assembly, aerospace, manufacturing, and shipbuilding make up the bulk of Philippine industry, leaving it with a GDP of $189 billion.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The Vietnamese economy is unique. In a mixed socialist-market system, the government plays a great role in financial planning and development, but profit is still driven by supply and demand. Although the system is eventually meant to result in full socialism,
state-run businesses traditionally have problems with growth and success, lagging behind the fast-paced markets of other Asian countries.

Growth has been observed despite state regulation, however, due to Vietnam's commitment to economic prosperity and cooperation between nearby countries. Its main trading partners are the United States, China, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore.

The nation has made commitments to APEC, ASEAN, and the CPTPP. It is especially important to note that Vietnam relies on direct foreign investment for economic stimulation, tying Vietnamese prosperity closely with the prosperity of its neighbors and trading partners.

Relations between Vietnam and China are tense due to continued disputes over economic zones in the South China Sea. However, in 2017, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang met with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi to discuss economic cooperation.

Recently, ties between Vietnam and the U.S. have grown closer militarily. Vietnam must reflect on its need for economic growth, its responsibility in regional cooperation, and strategic diplomatic interests in order to respond appropriately to Chinese aggression against its claims.

Republic of China (Taiwan)

The United States remains one of a small group of countries that maintains relations with Taiwan, and in this case, they are strong. In 2017, the U.S. announced a $1.4 billion arms sale to the island, and Taiwan continuously relies on the security provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act. Under the Trump administration, as Chinese-American relations soured, Taiwan and the U.S. seemed to grow closer.

Despite military tension between the PRC and the ROC, Taiwan relies heavily on Chinese trade for its economic sustainability. Trade between the two amassed $181.76 billion in 2017, and over 30% of Taiwan's trade relies on the mainland.

Taiwanese industry is made up of electronics and information technology, as well as petroleum refining, chemicals, and textiles. Apart from China, its main trading partners are Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines, the United States, Malaysia, and Thailand. It takes part in over forty organizations, including APEC, and is highly involved in regional trade and economic cooperation.

Its claims in the South China Sea are indicative of its aims of cooperation and prosperity in the region. Claims on the Sea have been a tender point between China and Taiwan, leading Taiwan to rely on the United States for support in tense standoffs and defense. In response to aggression, Taiwan must evaluate its priorities as largely unrecognized country, an economic superpower, and an American asset in order to carry out the policy it sees as best.

People’s Republic of China (Mainland China)

Despite questionable policies, China maintains strong trade relations with much of the world. Exporting mainly to the United States, Hong Kong, Japan, Germany, and South Korea, China raked in $2.27 trillion in just outgoing trade in 2016 alone. Dealing in computers, broadcasting equipment, phones, and electronic equipment, as well as textiles, China leads a massive economic system and drives much of the trade that travels through the South China Sea.

By 2018, accusations of unfair Chinese trade practices had caused a trade war between the two nations, with tariff levels reaching over $250 billion in American restrictions. Tensions only rose in the economic sector after 2018, with China slapping on billions
more in tariffs, causing American farmers and consumers to suffer. Even after the end of the Trump administration, Xi Jinping refused to back down, maintaining hard-line a economic policy that the United States only matched.

The U.S. and China are now effectively locked in economic warfare, with diplomatic solutions unable to resolve the damage done to both markets. As a key player in the South China Sea, China will carry out its actions outside of the committee, hoping to gain ground in its conflict with the United States and its allies. It believes that pursuing expansion into the Sea is integral to getting Chinese economic growth to appreciate and portraying a strong image to surrounding countries and its own citizens. Much remains to be decided in response to China's aggression, but China will not back down from its claim or its goals without significant resistance.
Present Day Claims by Country

Brunei

In 2018, Brunei theoretically abandoned its claims in conflict with Chinese claims. They had included the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone with features such as Bombay castle, Louisa Reef, Owen shoal, and Rifleman bank of the Spratly Island chain. These claims had been mainly refuted by China, but Brunei has come into conflict with Malaysia over their claims. Since then, however, they have collaborated with China and Malaysia and given up claims in the area.

Federation of Malaysia

Malaysia’s claims include dozens of islands in the Spratly Archipelago, many of which are built up from small rocks. These claims are disputed by most of the other countries in the South China Sea including China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Brunei. In 2009, Malaysia and Brunei began to build their relations and since have started to work together within their disputed areas.

Republic of Indonesia

Indonesia’s main claim is its exclusive economic zone. The Northern reaches of this was renamed by them as the “North Natuna Sea”. Their claim is mainly disputed at its Northern part by China. The reason for its renaming is due to this territorial dispute.

Republic of the Philippines

The Philippines claim much of the Spratly Islands and eastern part of the South China Sea. Their claim is disputed by China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Vietnam’s claim includes the Paracel Islands, much of the Spratlys, and much of the exclusive economic zone off its coast line. Its claims are mainly disputed by China. In recent years, China and Vietnam have had disputes over the Paracel Islands.
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Republic of China (Taiwan)
Taiwan currently occupies Itu-tuba or Taiping island in the Spratlys and has at one point laid claim to a u-shaped line much like the 9 Dash Line but has since based its claims less on history and more on the law of the sea (UNCLOS).

People’s Republic of China (Mainland China)
The People’s Republic of China have laid claim to almost all of the South China Sea with their 9-Dash-Line. Their claim is based off of historical context but is not considered valid by much of the world. They also have built many artificial islands out of reefs and outcrops. Their claim is disputed by almost every country bordering the South China Sea, and they are in constant disputes with most of them.

Economic Agreements
Economic agreements in this region include the CPTPP, the ASEAN, and the APEC. The CPTPP, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, is a free trade agreement including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The CPTPP began as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and included all current members along with the United States. The United States pulled from the deal to avoid outsourcing to developed countries like Vietnam. This led to a most of the intellectual property rules of the agreement to be scrapped, but the partnership still allows for freer trade between member states.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was founded to promote cooperation in the region in 1967. Member states include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. ASEAN comprises of three pillars; The Political-Security Community, the Economic Community, and the Socio-Cultural Community.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, is an economic forum of Pacific countries with the goal of creating sustained economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. Member states include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, the People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, The United States, and Vietnam.

Rising Tensions
Lately in the South China Sea, nations have been clashing not only on claims on the sea, but also on taxes. There’s been an ongoing tax war between China and the US, and due to this, economic relations between the two are more tense than ever before. Due to the Chinese government being unwilling to reach a compromise with the United States to solve this issues, the tax war between the two has reached its heights, providing yet another reason for the United States’ being pulled in to this war.
In addition to this, Japan has also been in opposition of Chinese claims because of the US-Japan Alliance. Now, Japan’s involvement in the area despite no claims of its own in the sea shows a lot about the current state of the region. Japan, along with many ASEAN nations, are joining forces to manipulate conflict in the South China Sea against China. The extensive resources that Japan can provide to the US and allies, such as Japanese patrol boats, will play a huge factor in the battle between the two sides.

To expand more on ASEAN, this group of Southeast Asian countries used to have very strong economic ties with China. This led to a huge economy boom for both China and these nations. However, due to trade deficits of countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei, amounting to over $1.2 billion in all of these such nations. In fact, as Chinese investment in these ASEAN nations has also decreased over the past years, it is evident that the trade deficit had no chance of being removed in the first place, as far as with help from China, and no balance between the money spent on imports and money gained from exports was ever gained in many of these nations.

This, as well as conflicting claims to areas in the South China Sea, has led to immense tensions between ASEAN and China, and the US was thus pulled in to all of this because of its ongoing tax war with China. All of these economic disputes have led to rising tensions in the South China Sea, and is one of the reasons why this issue has been taken so far as war due to it being imperative to solve the conflicting claims in the region.

**Current Situation**

As part of the agreement that Vietnam signed with its American allies following the events that transpired in the years prior, they began conducting Freedom of Navigation cruises. During a routine Freedom of Navigation exercise conducted by the Vietnamese Coast Guard, off of the Spratly Islands, a Chinese warship, the Yinchuan got dangerously close to CSB-8020. CSB-8020 was a US Coast Guard cutter bought for Vietnamese use in 2017. It had a contingent of marines aboard to reinforce the garrison on a nearby island, and to provide support if things went south. This led to a tense standoff, where the Yinchuan closed even further in an attempt to get the CSB-8020 to leave the claimed waters. While this was going on, both ships had pointed weapons at each other, and were ready to fire. When the two ships bumped, a shot was fired, and though it is unclear who shot first, gunfire was soon exchanged at close range. The Yinchuan had a major firepower advantage, though in anti-ship missiles, which were not effective at such a close range.

This short and brutal action left CSB-8020 burning and foundering in the shallow waters and the Yinchuan with a heavy list and a mangled superstructure, forcing it to beach on a claimed island. With one of their warships sunk, and ~40 of their ~100 injured men dead or dying, the government of Vietnam issued an ultimatum to the Chinese, seeking reparations and for the Chinese to renounce all claims in the region. The Chinese ignored the ultimatum and in response, Vietnam declared war on the Chinese.

In response, the Chinese immediately cut all diplomatic ties and stopped all trade with Vietnam and its allies. In response, the CCPA (Coalition to Combat PRC Aggression), was formed, including Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and other members. The highly controversial inclusion of the Republic to China to the coalition greatly angered the PRC, because it meant that all of those countries implicitly recognized Taiwan as an independent nation in direct opposition to China.
Topics of Debate

1. Responding to the incident of aggression through diplomatic, economic, and/or military action.
2. Permanently resolving disputes over economic and political claims in the Sea in order to avoid future aggression, possibly through:
   a. resource sharing, inter-military communication, or international arbitration

Questions to Consider

❖ How should Southeast Asian nations respond to Chinese aggression? Which forms of diplomatic, economic, and military action can best assuage or carry out the conflict?

❖ What resources could aid the quest to do so, and which countries should focus on which regions of the South China Sea?

❖ What factors are there for each nation to take into account when responding to aggression in the Sea? How will each nation's government and economic system be affected by conflict? How will each nation's people feel about conflict?

❖ How does international law limit the use of force in international waters?

❖ How could future conflict in the Sea be avoided?
## Positions

***Note: Since this is a hypothetical committee, all positions below are positions elected in the future. We recommend focusing research on each position title and respective powers.***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positions</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Robert Frostmore - US Secretary of State</strong></td>
<td>Frostmore is a veteran and served in Afghanistan and Iraq. After witnessing the US being bogged down in foreign warfare firsthand, Frostmore strives to stop the US from getting heavily and directly involved in the conflict. As Secretary of State, he conducts negotiations which relate to foreign affairs, personally negotiates treaties and agreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shailene Brock - US Trade Representative</strong></td>
<td>Having lived through the aftershocks of the tumultuous oil crisis in 1973, Brock was inspired to start a career in economics, with a goal to ensure that US trade continues to flow. This involves maintaining trade between the US and its allies, and maintaining amicable relations with neutral countries. As the US Trade Representative, she negotiates directly with foreign governments to create trade agreements, resolve disputes, and participate in global trade policy organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yovan Prasetyo - ASEAN Representative</strong></td>
<td>This representative of ASEAN has been advocating for the ASEAN claims in the region for his whole term in office. His job is to carefully manage all of the claims of ASEAN—claims that conflict with not only China, but other member states as well. He has the power to call the alliance of these nations into a war against China. However, he must also act in the best interests of all of ASEAN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ngo Huy - Vietnamese General Secretary</strong></td>
<td>Due to the Vietnamese Casus Belli being one of the ships being sunk, Huy would favor full military action against the Chinese. He seeks swift vengeance against opponents and aims to forge agreements that secure Vietnamese protection. As General Secretary, Huy must consider what is best for Vietnam, as any wrong step could lead to the nation’s demise.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pham Lu - Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade</strong></td>
<td>Pham Lu seeks to stabilize Vietnam in order to preserve strong government control of the economy. While Lu seeks military action as a good way to appease enraged Vietnamese citizens, he prefers peaceful agreements in order to allow for the continuation of trade. As Minister of Industry and Trade he must consider what is best for the future of Vietnamese trade and his country.</td>
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<td><strong>Maria Galangcha - Filipino Foreign Policy Advisor</strong></td>
<td>Duterte's warmth toward China comes from Maria Galangcha and others’ counsel to the President to make advantageous connections with nations in support of his administration. Though this seems to be China at the moment, Galangcha seeks power and protection from whichever side can offer more in military prowess and kind promises.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jason Tan - Philippine Secretary of Trade and Industry</strong></td>
<td>Jason Tan rose to power during Duterte's administration in early 2017 and has wavered in and out of the public eye. Tan seeks to improve the nation's stature by boosting Philippine trade and industry to greater heights. He aims to preserve trade routes and resources in the South China Sea for the Philippines and its close trade partners while maintaining a strong, clean image for the country.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aati Samanakara - Malaysian Minister of Defense</strong></td>
<td>The Malaysian government is formally against conflict in the sea, as well as militarization of the region by China and the United States. Aati Samanakara is a strong nationalist, and has encouraged the growth of the Malaysian military and strong military ties with Singapore.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aafaq Adiputera - Malaysian Minister of Economic Affairs</strong></td>
<td>Adiputera believes China should be a regional leader in trade, and that a steady economy in the region is crucial to Malaysian prosperity. As Minister of Economic Affairs, he works toward stabilizing and maximizing the economic prosperity of Malaysia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shu Chen - Taiwanese Minister of National Defense</strong></td>
<td>With rising tensions in the area, Shu Chen came to power and has gained significantly more power with the increase of military spending. He is in close contact with United States defense officers and depends heavily on US weapons. However, Chen does not believe that war is the only option but continues to prepare for the possibility of war.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ting Wei - Taiwanese Minister of Foreign Affairs</strong></td>
<td>Ting Wei has lived through many of the turbulent times in Taiwan’s history. One of his most prominent goals is to reunite with China, regardless of government structure. He believes in a united China, no matter the cost, sovereignty or blood.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mahyadi Panggabean - Indonesian Minister of Trade</strong></td>
<td>Panggabean is one of the few who have taken notice of the dire state of the Indonesian economy and realized the need for changes in economic policy. His main goal is to secure a way for Indonesia’s economy to grow, whether that be through the relatively untapped South China Sea region they claim or other methods.</td>
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<td><strong>Haris Nutiyion Indonesian Secretary of State</strong></td>
<td>Indonesia in the past and present has been a part of the non-aligned movement. Therefore, Nutiyion has maintained a pro-neutrality stance in the past. With recent aggression from China, he, along with many other Indonesian officials, may have to reevaluate their position.</td>
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