



# Geopolitics and Maritime Territorial Disputes in East Asia (Routledge Security in Asia Pacific)

By Ralf Emmers

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Geopolitics is a crucial element in understanding international relations in East Asia, with major and medium powers competing for influence. This book examines geopolitics in East Asia, focusing in particular on its major, contentious maritime territorial disputes. It looks in particular detail at the overlapping claims between Japan, China and Taiwan over the Senkaku/Diao yu Islands in the East China Sea as well as the Paracel Islands claimed by China, Taiwan, and Vietnam and the Spratly Islands involving Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam in the South China Sea. The book offers a comparative study of the East and South China Seas by arguing that their respective circumstances are influenced by similar geopolitical considerations; factors such as territory, natural resources and power competition all impact on disputes and broader regional relations. It is precisely the interplay of these geopolitical forces that can lead to the rapid escalation of a maritime territorial dispute or reversely to a diffusion of tensions. The book considers how such disputes might be managed and resolved peacefully, despite the geopolitical conditions that can make co-operation on these issues difficult to achieve. Ralf Emmers examines the prospect for conflict management and resolution by identifying catalysts which may contribute to improving the climate of relations.

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## **Geopolitics and Maritime Territorial Disputes in East Asia (Routledge Security in Asia Pacific) By Ralf Emmers Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #4129625 in Books
- Brand: Routledge
- Published on: 2012-05-11
- Released on: 2012-10-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .47" w x 6.14" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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#### Review

'Emmers' analysis is not only up to date but is also competently realized..." - *Stein Tonnesson, PRIO, Contemporary Southeast Asia Vol. 32, No.1 (2010)*

#### About the Author

**Ralf Emmers** is Associate Professor and Head of Graduate Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research interests are in security studies, international institutions in the Asia Pacific, and the international relations of Southeast Asia. His publications include *Non-Traditional Security in the Asia-Pacific: The Dynamics of Securitization* and *Cooperative Security and the Balance of Power in ASEAN and the ARF* (Routledge). He is co-editor of *Security and International Politics in the South China Sea: Towards a Cooperative Management Regime*; *Order and Security in Southeast Asia: Essays in Memory of Michael Leifer* (both published by Routledge) and *Understanding Non-Traditional Security in Asia: Dilemmas in Securitization*.

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