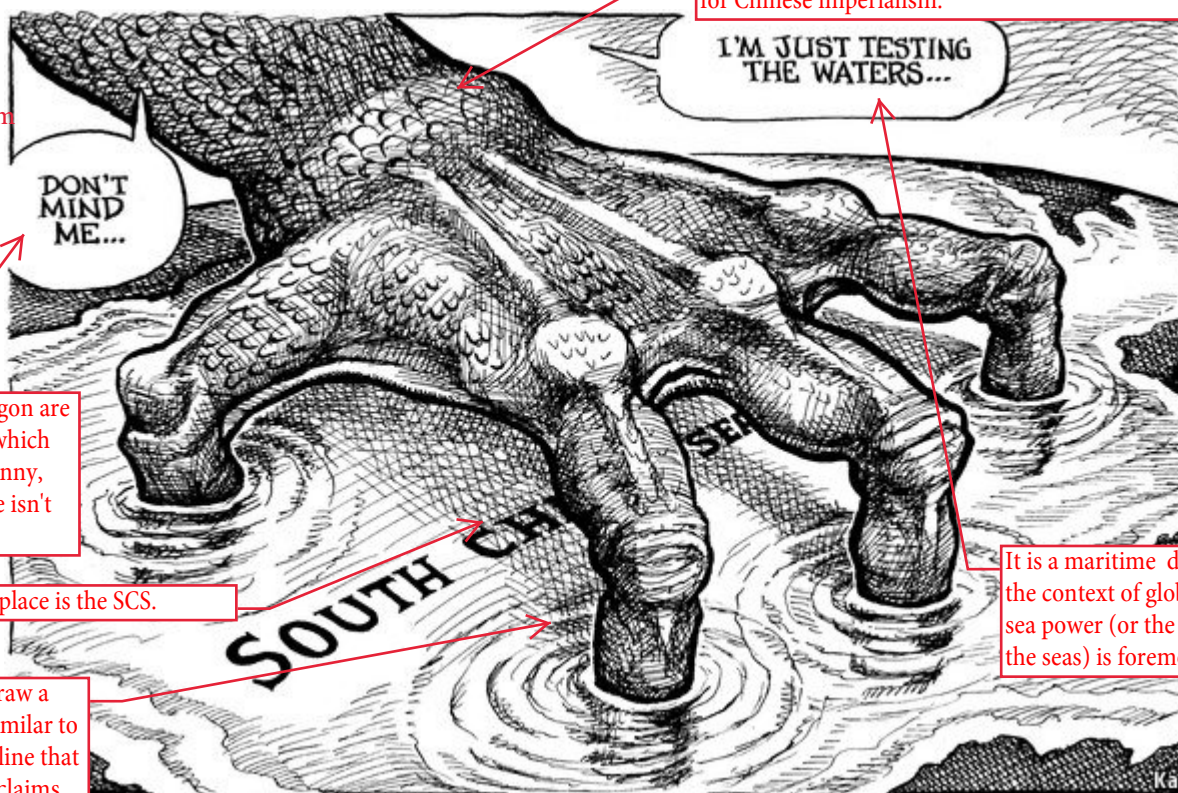


Our documents exemplify two opposed viewpoints: on the one hand (doc 1), a Filipino cartoon, which criticizes Chinese imperialism. On the other hand, a vindication of the Chinese claims by a Chinese statesman and military leader. Geopolitics is the science of tensions and conflicts in international relations. We are going to see that the SCS is a hot spot.

Tensions in the South China Sea.

❶ Cartoon on the Chinese claims in the South China Sea, published by the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** on 30 December 2017.



A dragon's paw occupied a large part of the cartoon. It stands for Chinese imperialism.

The Filipinos protest because China's imperialism is likely to deprive them of their territorial waters and EEZ.

The words of the dragon are an understatement, which makes the cartoon funny, even though the issue isn't that funny.

The place is the SCS.

The dragon's toes draw a broken line, very similar to the 9-dash line, the line that represents Chinese claims in the SCS.

It is a maritime dispute. In the context of globalization, sea power (or the control of the seas) is foremost.

China is currently occupying the area, especially in the Paracels and Spratly islands, now under Chinese control.

❷ Excerpts from a speech by **General Wei Fenghe, minister of national defence of the People's Republic of China**, during the Shangri-La summit in Singapore on 2 June 2019.

It's an official Chinese viewpoint.

(...) Lately we see a **growing backlash against globalization** and a **surge of protectionism**. A certain country champions unilateralism, puts its own interests before others, **withdraws from** international treaties and organizations. Aren't there many countries suffering from the willful infringement and sanctions? <=> a criticism of the Trump administration. Trump had withdrawn the US from the Paris accord on global warming.

(...) China shall follow the path of **peaceful development**, which is a **solemn commitment** to the people of China and the world. This has been written into the Constitution of the Communist Party of China and the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, thus reaffirmed as the will of the CPC and the state. If this is not even convincing enough for some people, then we don't know what they would believe? Over the past 70 years since the founding of the PRC, **China has never provoked a war or conflict, nor has it ever invaded another country or taken an inch of land from others.** (...) **China has never provoked a war or conflict, nor has it ever invaded another country or taken an inch of land from others.**

I visited the US last year. American friends told me that Abraham Lincoln was the greatest American president because he led the country to victory in the Civil War and prevented the secession of the US. The US is indivisible, so is China. China must be and will be reunified. We find no excuse not to do so. **If anyone dares to split Taiwan from China, the Chinese military has no choice but to fight at all costs for national unity.**

Chinese resolve to reconquer Taiwan. They consider that Taiwan is in a state of secession, and that Chinese unity is foremost.

> Using the documents and your knowledge, **explain the geopolitical tensions in the South China sea.**

It's a very threatening statement: war is an option!