Flow of Discussion

- Introduction
- Setting the Scene: disputes
- Stakes and Northeast Asia
- Shared Element
- Concluding Remarks
Complicated Setting

- Northeast Asia perspective on SCS dispute?
- Perspectives of Northeast Asian countries
  - Parties and non-Parties in the dispute
  - Costs of engaging or disengaging
  - Different security threat perceptions
  - Regional institutions – ASEAN and Trilateral Cooperation (?)
  - How to define region – NEA, SEA, East Asia, Indo-Pacific etc.
- Going beyond imaginary SEA/NEA division
- A shared element in both
Setting the Scene in SCS and ECS

- Centre of Gravity plagued by disputes
  - Regional and global
- South China Sea dispute
  - Various layers
- East China Sea
  - Senkaku/Diaoyudao
  - Overlapping ADIZs
  - Delimiting EEZs and Socotra rock
Stakes at Risk

• Economic stakes
  • Economic growth and energy demands
  • Imported energy dependent NEA: transit and sources
  • Drying up fishing stock and fishery in the region
  • Trade dependency and safety of trading routes

• Strategic Stakes
  • SCS and Regional hegemony
  • Military implications
  • Defining regional order
Element shared by SEA and NEA

- Argument
  - Great explanations and analyses existing
  - Illuminating an often forgotten aspect

- China
  - In both SCS and ECS maritime disputes
  - Geographical factor
  - Grievance, confidence
  - Is China an exception?
Regional countries and nationalisms

• What fuels ever increasing tensions in the region?
• Relatively young nation-states
  • Nation-states mostly born after WWII
  • Sense of sovereignty, national interests and nationalism
• Cold-War constraints
  • Limited interactions: between/within blocs
  • Imperatives of nation-building and economic growth
  • Putting potential disputes aside: SCS, Senkaku
Regional Countries and Nationalisms

- Post-cold war context
  - Environment: No more Cold-war constraints
  - Instrument: Rapid economic growth and confidence
  - Nature: Young nation-state with strong nationalisms
  - European nation-states in the 16th and 17th centuries?

- One big dispute
  - NEA/SEA, SCS/ECS division?
  - Different aspects of a big dispute
  - A particulate stage of historical development
Conclusion

• Maritime dispute in the region
  • Economic, strategic, military issues
  • Expression of full-blown nationalisms
  • No SEA and NEA division

• Regional countries at a cross-road
  • Cooperation among countries
  • Shared sense of threat or crisis
Thank you