

## **ABSTRACT**

# **THE GEOPOLITICS OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE AND ITS EFFECTS TO REGIONAL TENSION WITHIN 2015 TO 2020**

By

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The South China Sea is a large expanse of ocean with significant geopolitical and geostrategic value. The values that the South China Sea possesses have attracted numerous states to claim ownership of the maritime territories of the seas. China which is one of the current global superpower, has laid claims towards a majority of the South China Sea with its nine-dash line, such a claimant over large swaths of territory have of course triggered negative responses from various states, not only located within the South China Sea periphery but also from the world's other superpower which is the United States.

The ensuing territorial disputes within the South China Sea have been an ongoing matter for quite some time. Many states are geopolitically motivated to stake their claims within the region, and also defend their maritime sovereignty as dictated within the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea. Now tensions between the two superpower have risen to a dangerous level, Southeast Asian states are still adamant on defending their claims within the South China Sea, geopolitical influence upon the disputes and tension within the region have begun to show.

*Keyword: Geopolitics, South China Sea Dispute, China, United States, Regional Tension.*