

**Sino-Japanese Territorial Disputes in East China Sea (2010-2017)**

**A Strategic Hedging Perspective**



**Thesis of B.S. Degree in International Relations**

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## Declaration

### Supervisor's Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge:

- The research work and the dissertation was completed under my direct supervision.
- The dissertation/thesis represents the original work of the candidate.
- The contribution made by the supervisor was consistent with normal supervisory practice.

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### Candidate's Declaration

I, Maryam Mahmood, student of B.S. International Relations, session 2013-2017, declare that this dissertation titled “ Sino-Japanese Territorial Disputes in East China Sea (2010-2017), A Strategic Hedging Perspective” is original work and has not been printed, published or submitted in any form anywhere else in Pakistan or abroad.

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This is to certify that Ms. **Maryam Mahmood**, I.D. No. **13001188004** has completed this dissertation titled **Sino-Japanese Territorial Disputes in the East China Sea (2010-2017), A Strategic Hedging Perspective** and has orally examined in front of the Defense Committee.

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## **Acronyms**

A2/D2 – Anti-access /Area Denial

ADIZ – Air Defense Identification Zone

APEC – Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Summit

ASEAN – Association of South East Asian Nations

ASDF – Japan’s Air Self-Defense Force

BMD – Ballistic Missile Defense

CCP – Chinese Communist Party

CTBT – Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

CICA – Confidence-Building Measures in Asia

DDF – Dynamic Defense Force

EA – East Asia

EAS – East Asia Summit

ECS – East China Sea

EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone

FA – Fisheries Administration

LOCE –Littoral Operations in Contested Environments

MS – Marine Surveillance

MSDF – Maritime Self-Defense Force

NDPG – National Defense Program Guidelines

OBOR – One Belt One Road

ODA – Official Development Assistance

PEF – Pacific Economic Forum

PLA – People’s Liberation Army

ROC – Republic of China

SDF – Self Defense Forces

THAAD – Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

USA – United States of America

## **Abstract**

The territorial disputes between China and Japan under the light of theoretical framework of strategic hedging are seen. The territorial dispute of Diaoyu/Senkaku islands escalated to the point where the international players have to interfere. Theory suggests that countries prepare for an unforeseeable threat but still economic relations are not affected.

Since 2010, Sino-Japanese conflict have fitted into a picture of political and military hedging in which both China and Japan claim territories, modernize military technology, develop diplomatic relations and continue their economic relations. This thesis gives history of the territorial conflicts between China and Japan, then discusses application of strategic hedging in territorial conflicts, then discusses Japanese and Chinese perspectives separately. This is a qualitative study and direct content analysis has been used as an analysis. At the end findings and recommendations are given after content analysis. Findings and recommendations suggest that each country should try to resolve the matter by international law to avoid the escalation of the problem and the spill over in their economic relations.

**Keywords:** Sino-Japanese maritime territorial conflicts, Diaoyu/Senkaku islands, economic interdependence, strategic hedging.

## **Introduction**

East China Sea is located in the East of China, has an area of 290,000 square miles (750,000 square km) and borders with Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. The East China Sea contains Taiwan Strait, Ryukyu Islands, and Cheju Island. The region is rich in hydrocarbons and natural gas and oil, fishing area, and millions of dollar of trade flow. East China Sea area alone has sixty to hundred million barrels of crude oil as well as a whopping one to two trillion cubic feet of gas. Japan is the country which has taken a stand against the increasing assertiveness of China in region and it is evident through skirmishes in Diayou(Chinese name)/Senkaku(Japanese name)Island between two countries.