

The Militarization of Strategic Waterways and China's Crude Oil Maritime Routes

By [South Front](#)

Global Research, August 25, 2015

[South Front](#) 24 August 2015

Region: [Asia](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Oil and Energy](#)

In July, China regained its status from the U.S. as the world's biggest crude oil importer. Overseas purchases by China rose to 29.49 million metric tons in June, a 27 percent increase from May. That's equivalent to about 7.2 million barrels a day. The most of this oil China imports through the Malacca Strait which Chinese navy doesn't control. This fact impacts China into a complex situation when it has to militarize the South China Sea to control the Malacca Strait or resigns oneself with the fact that its energy market is controlled by foreign countries.

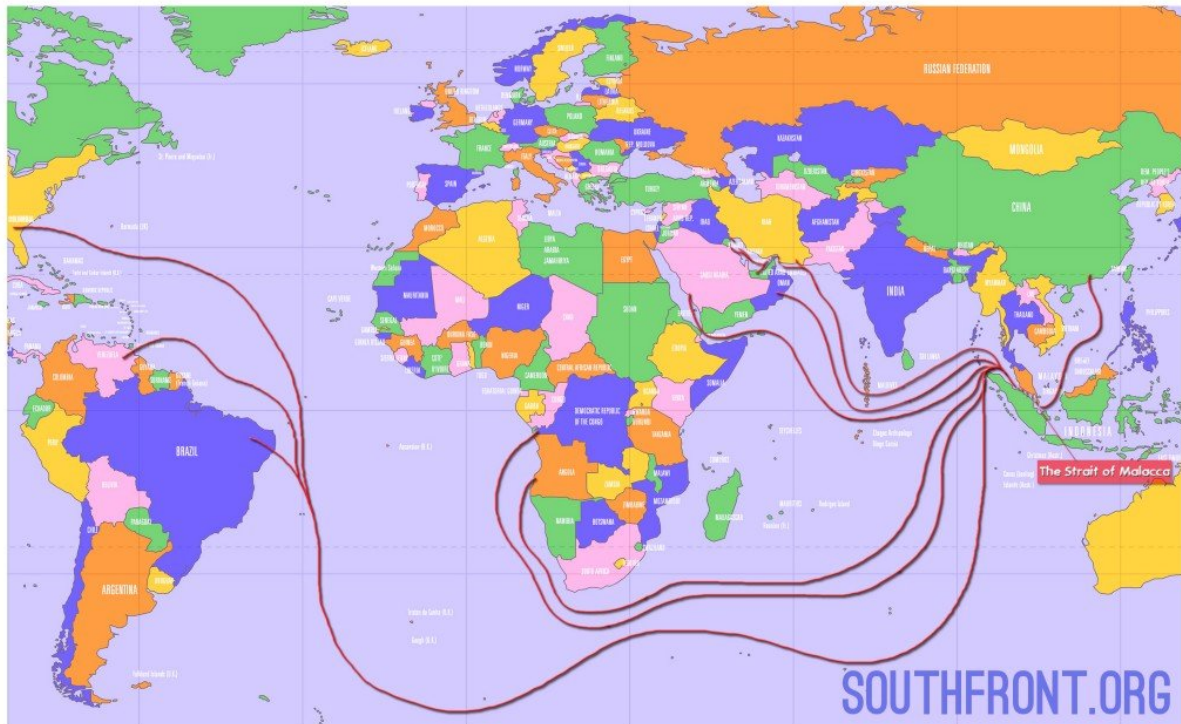
Meanwhile, the USA adds muscle, seeks friends in the South China Sea standoff against China.

Washington's aim is to maintain full control on the all crucial maritimes routs and it isn't ready to make an exception on the Malacca Strait.

So far this year, the U.S. has conducted joint exercises with naval forces in Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. All those countries have territory that borders the disputed South China Sea. Other joint exercises are planned later this year. While no one mentioned China by name, the increasing number and complexity of joint exercises in the region forms a part of the U.S. strategy to counter China's interests in the region.

China's crude oil transporting maritime routes

Saudi Arabia	Oman		Iran	UAE		Colombia	Brazil			
1.184 million barrels per day	0.962	0.74	0.666	0.666	0.296	0.296	0.222	0.222	0.148	0.148
	Angola		Iraq		Venezuela		Kuwait		Congo	



The Strait of Malacca. From an economic and strategic perspective, the Strait of Malacca is one of the most important shipping lanes in the world. The strait is the main shipping channel between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Over 94,000 vessels pass through the strait each year, carrying about one-fourth of the world's traded goods, including oil. From 77% to 80% of China's oil import flows through it.

Sources: FACTS Global Energy, Global Trade Information Services, Inc

[Click to see the full-size high resolution map](#)

The original source of this article is [South Front](#)

Copyright © [South Front](#), [South Front](#), 2015

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **South Front**

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca