

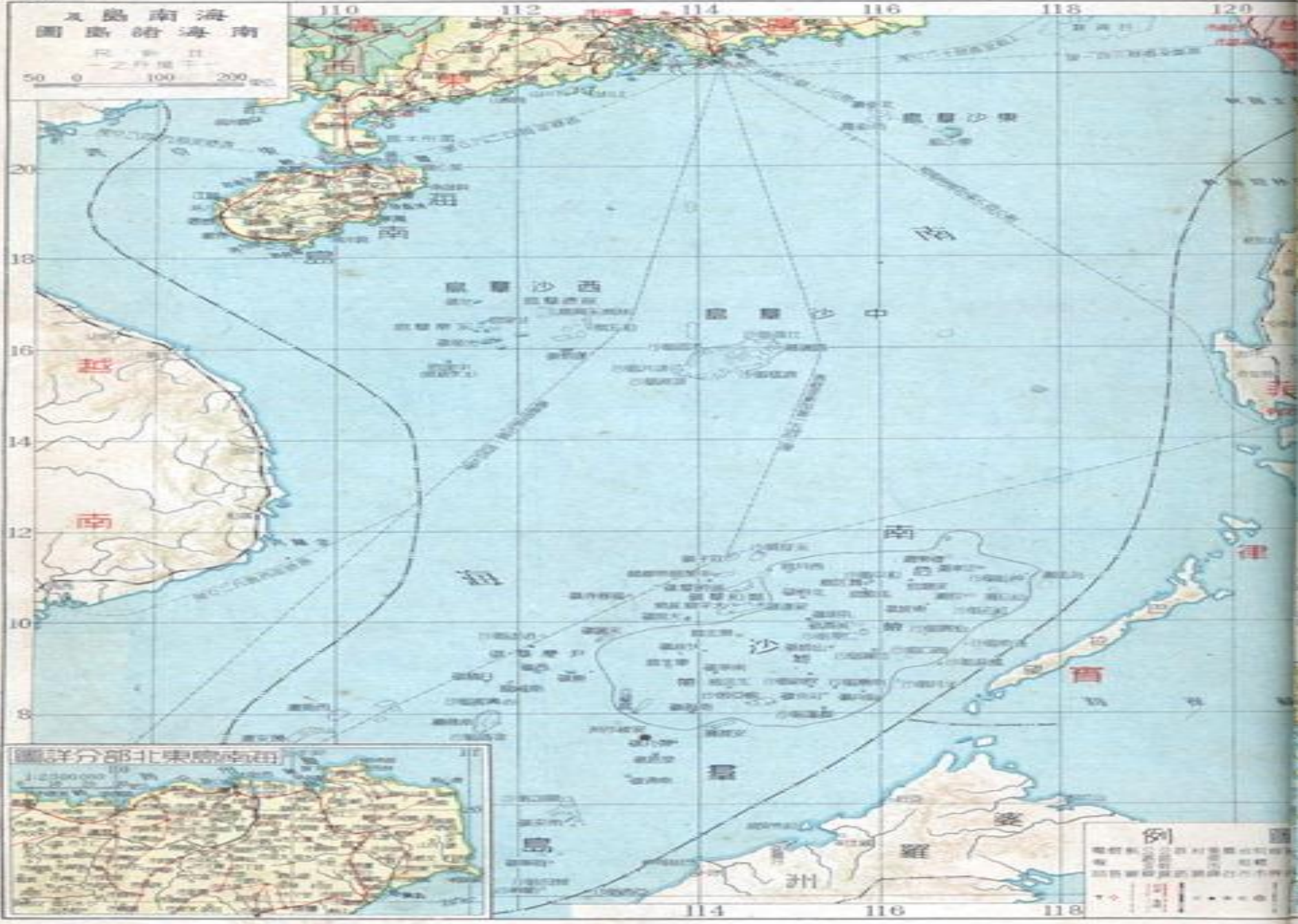
# Taiwan's South China Sea Orientation: Challenging Perspectives

Fu-Kuo Liu, Ph.D.

Institute of International Relations  
National Chengchi University

# 南海諸島及西島圖

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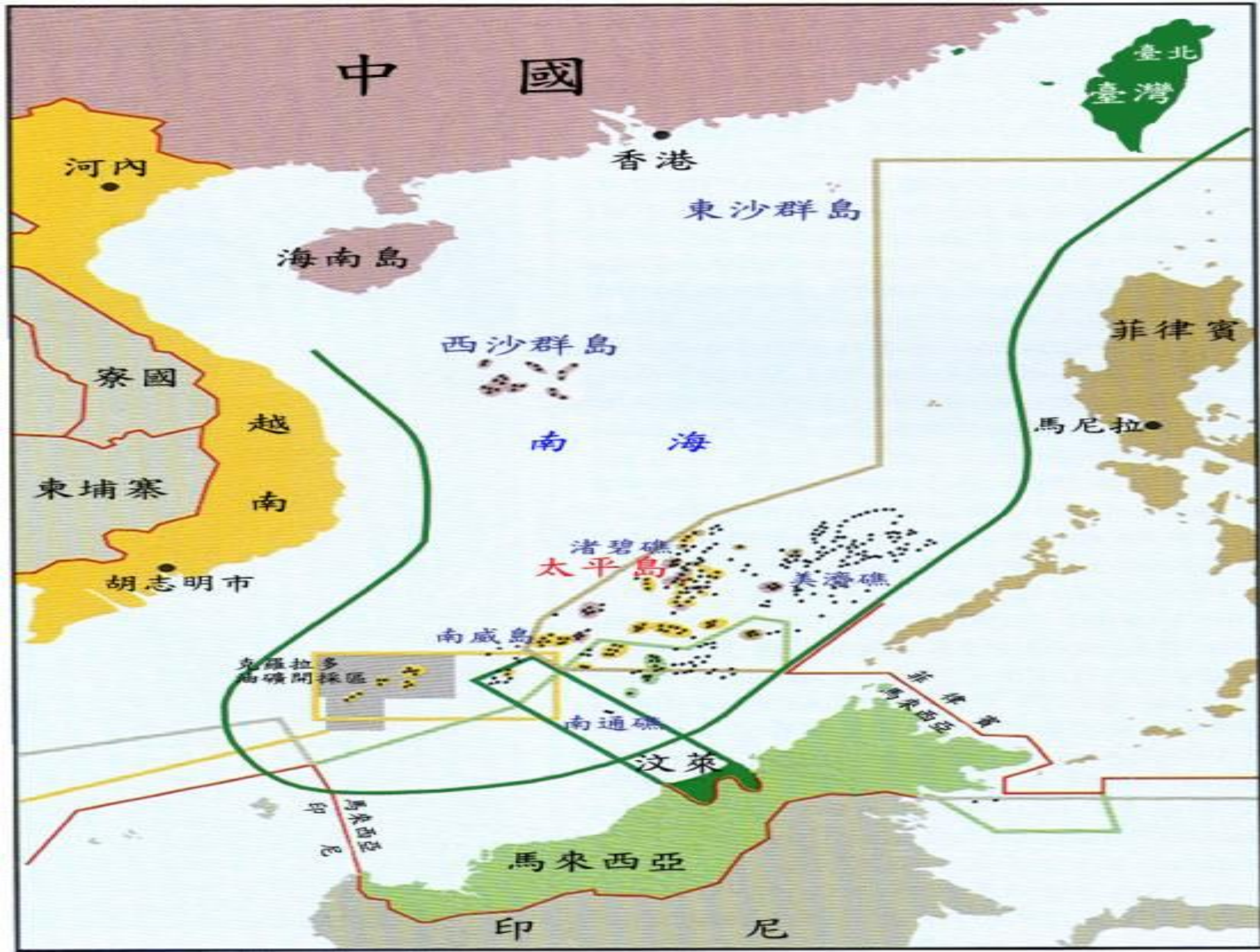


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— 陸地  
— 領海  
— 專屬經濟區  
— 公海





南海诸岛  
比例尺  
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# Taiwan's Interest in the South China Sea

- Integrity of sovereignty
- Strategic extension
- energy searching
- domestic politics
- regional engagement
- Cross-strait rapprochement

# The U-Shaped Line

- In 1947, it was drawn by ROC according to the then international legal norms and reflected the international political reality after the WW II. The area within the line was identified as historical water.
- The ROC Government did not make it clear how this line was based upon and what it really means. (room for future negotiation)
- The debate going on: the national border line vs. the line defines land territory
- The line exists long before UNCLOS was concluded in 1982
- ROC's sovereignty over the area within the line remains unchanged

# Questions on the U-shaped Line

- The definition of the line is not clear.
- The line was drawn based on the traditional international law and is not quite in consistence with UNCLOS
- No clear distinction from the sea and islands within the line
- No direct definition on the water within the line

# New Way Forward

- The Cross-strait Approach to define the U-shaped line
- Regional coordination on redefining the U-shaped line in accordance with UNCLOS
- Different regime to be developed for identifying EEZ, continental shelf, contiguous zone, territorial sea in the SCS.
- Completed consultation among all claimants before negotiation

# Concluding Remarks

- Taiwan's important role in the SCS should be respected and recognized.
- Based on the traditional legal claim, Taiwan would be willing to join regional mechanisms to find ways of accommodating with UNCLOS.
- Before any positive progress can be agreed upon, all claimants should refrain from provocative actions on the ground.