

Offshore Control: **A Military Strategy** **for an Unlikely Conflict**

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Strategy's Role

- Assure allies
- Deter China
- Win if required

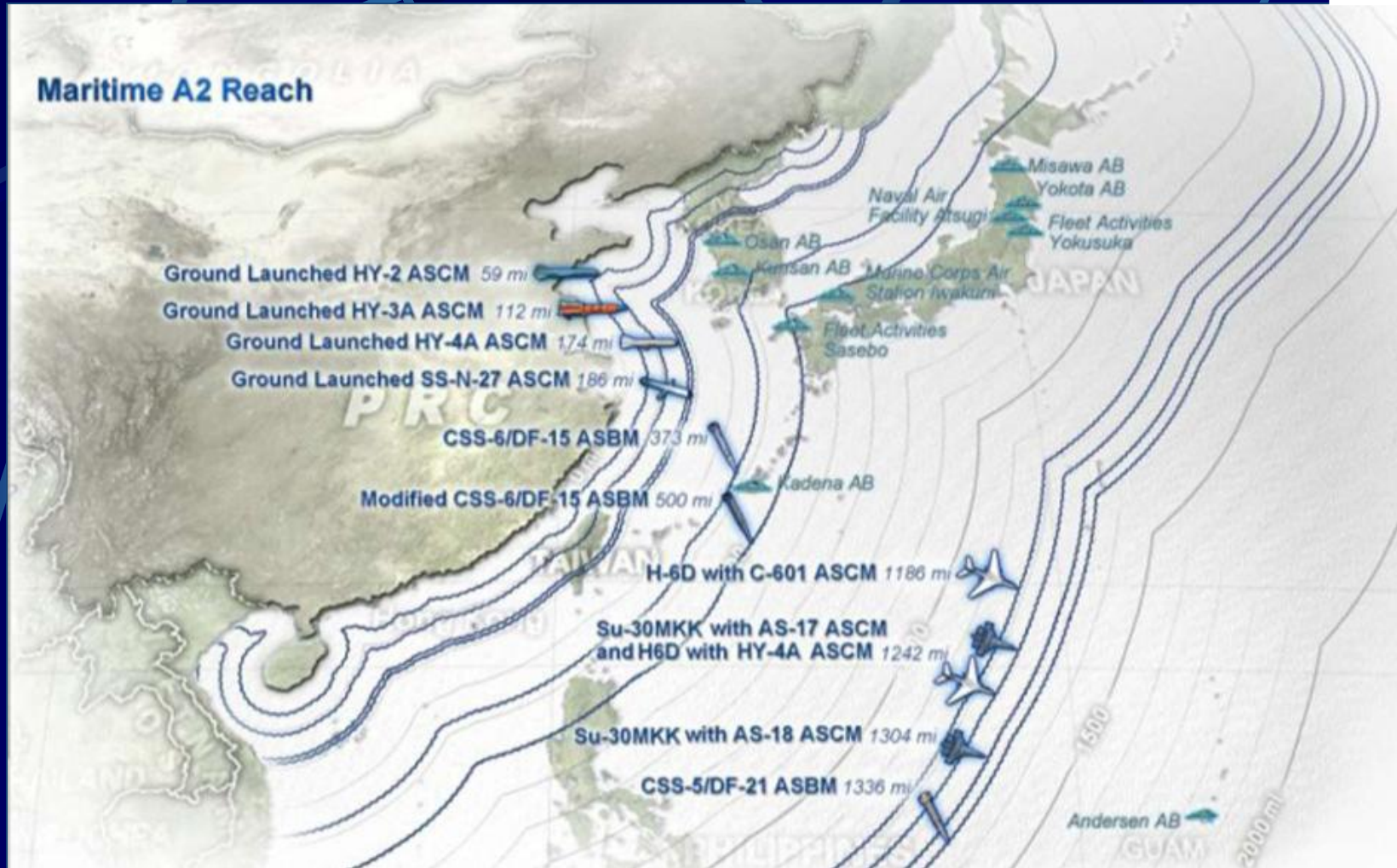
Strategy Requirements

- Feasible
 - Affordable in peacetime
 - Executable now
- Credible
 - Transparent - reduce uncertainty
- Slow escalation
 - Reduce value of first strike
 - No “window of opportunity”
- Best strategy can't be beaten pre-war

Offshore Control – Defend, Deny, Dominate

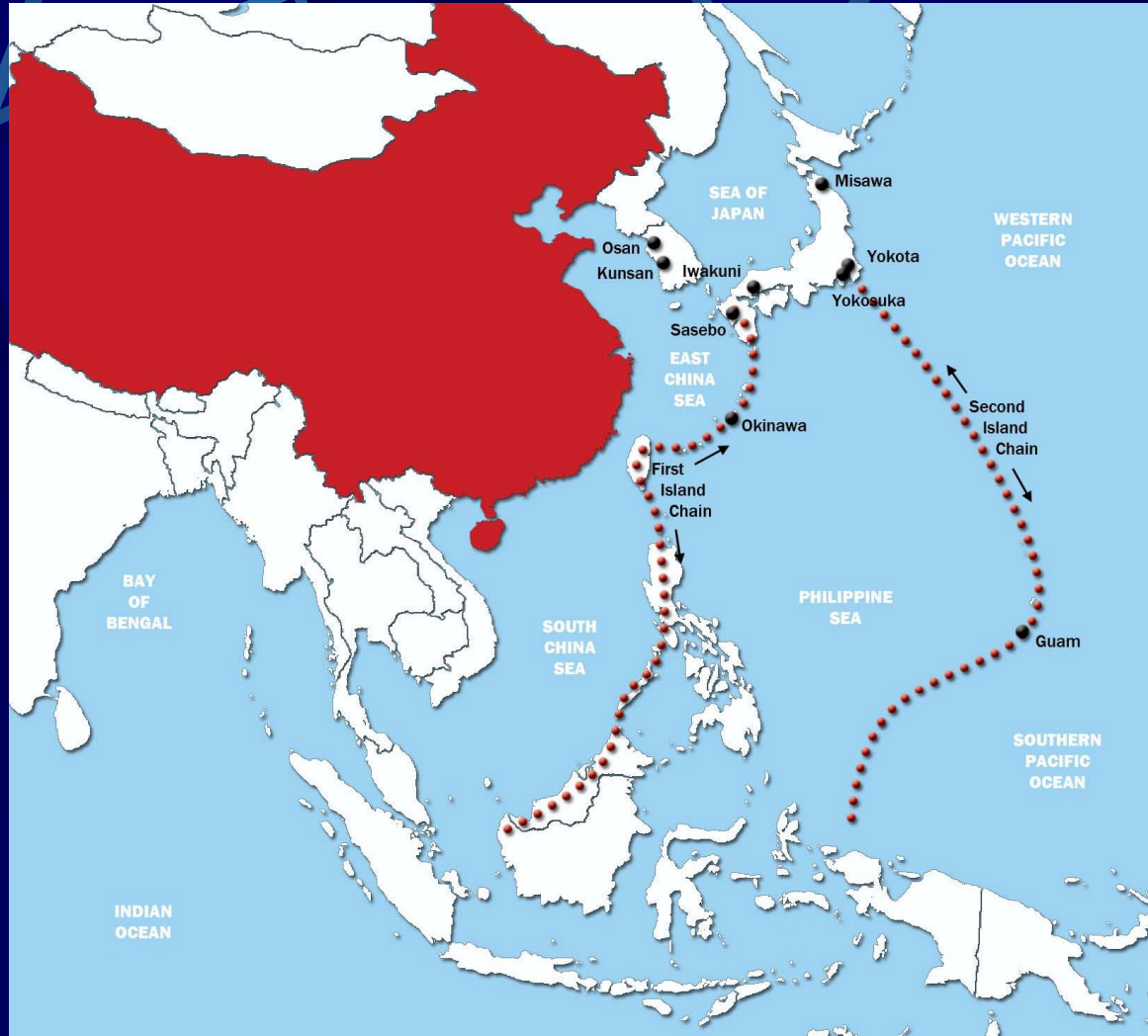
- Defend 1st Island Chain
- Deny inside the 1st Island Chain
- Dominate outside 1st Island Chain
 - Goal is make China's exports non-competitive
 - Identify and control top 1000 ships
 - Rebuild global economy
- Theory of conflict termination

China's Anti-Access

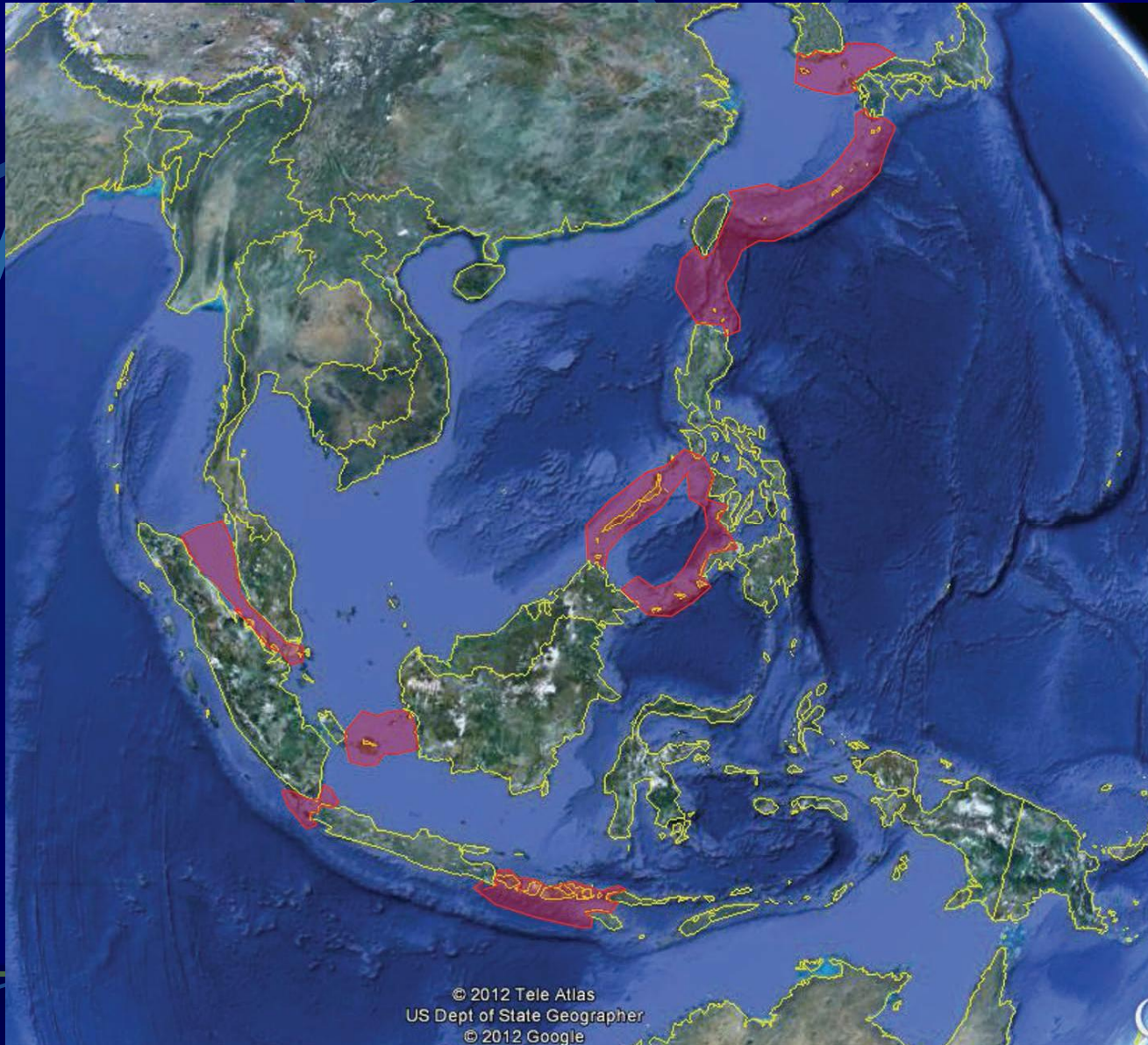


Source: Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Operational Advantage = U.S.



ASM at Chokepoints

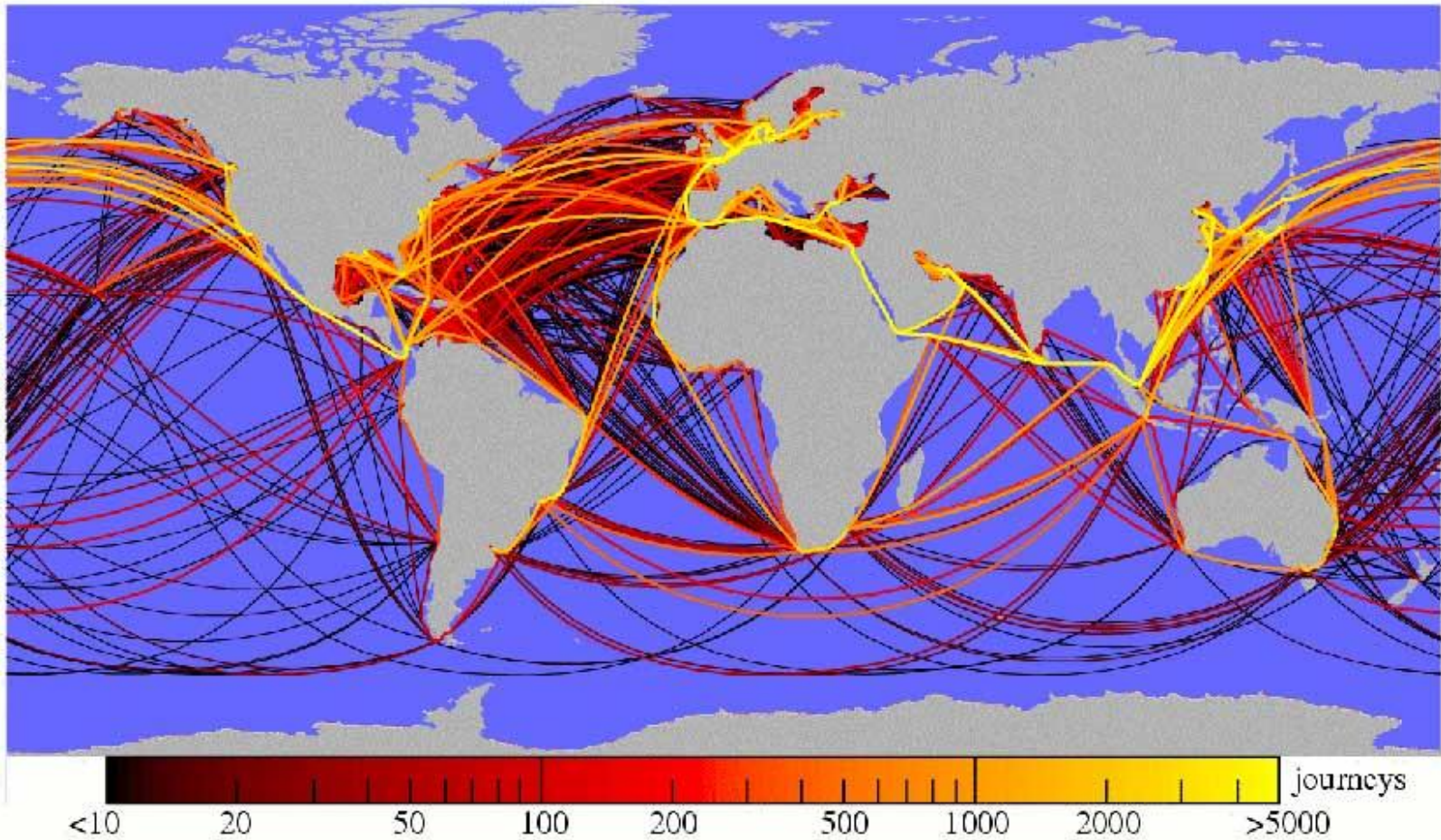


Strategic Advantage = United States

www.theodora.com/maps



Global Trade Routes



Means

- Available today
 - Geography – A2/AD works both ways
 - Submarines, limited air, ASCM, mines (if we develop) – inside 1st island chain
 - Combined defense – 1st island chain allies that will permit it
 - Air, surface navy, Marines – outside 1st island chain
- Future –
 - Small, many, and smart
 - Alternatives to space and cyber

3D: Capability + Volume



**120+ materials – 100X
faster**

= 10,000 drones/day

Changes balance between powers

Slocum Glider



- Transoceanic
- GPS guided
- Commercial

**Plus aerial
delivered mines**



Ways

- Economic strangulation
 - Energy blockade will NOT be decisive
 - 1000 ships – exports and imports
- Concentric circles
 - Deny – inside 1st island chain; fallback is Malacca, Sunda, Lombok, N & S Australia, Eastern Pacific
 - Defend – 1st island chain (where invited)
 - Dominate – outside 1st island chain

Ends

- China chooses to end war
 - Same as four previous CCP external conflicts – Korea, India, USSR, Vietnam
- “We taught them a lesson.”
 - Similar end to P-3 crisis

Clearly NOT “win decisively”

Deter China

- Peacetime
 - Encourage economic growth
 - Expense of defeating; no vulnerability gap
 - No short war
- Crisis
 - No 1st strike incentive
 - US cannot initiate
- Wartime
 - Unsolvable problem

Deter China

- Play to Chinese fears
 - Malacca Dilemma
 - CCP legitimacy
- Avoid Chinese motivations
 - Century of humiliation

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