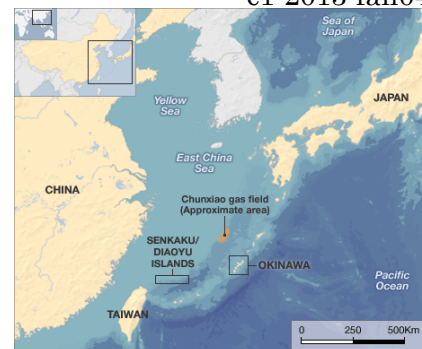


## Q&A: China-Japan islands row



←The row concerns eight small islands or rocks in the East China Sea

1) Ties between China and Japan have been repeatedly **strained** by a territorial row over a group of islands, known as the Senkaku islands in Japan and the Diaoyu islands in China. The BBC looks at the background to the row.



### What is the row about?

2) The eight **uninhabited** islands and rocks in question lie in the East China Sea. They have a total area of about 7 sq km and lie northeast of Taiwan, east of the Chinese mainland and southwest of Japan's southern-most prefecture, Okinawa. They matter because they are close to strategically important shipping lanes, offer rich fishing grounds and are thought to contain oil deposits. The islands are controlled by Japan.

### What is Japan's claim?

3) Japan says it surveyed the islands for 10 years and determined that they were uninhabited. That being the case, on 14 January 1895 it erected a **sovereignty** marker that formally incorporated the islands into Japanese territory. The Senkaku islands became part of the Nansei Shoto islands - also known as the Ryukyu islands and now as modern-day Okinawa prefecture.  
 4) After World War II Japan **renounced** claims to a number of territories and islands including Taiwan in the 1951 Treaty of San Francisco. But under the treaty, the Nansei Shoto islands came under US **trusteeship** and were then returned to Japan in 1971, under the Okinawa **reversion** deal.  
 5) Japan says that China raised no objections to the San Francisco deal. And it says that it is only since the 1970s, when the issue of oil resources in the area emerged, that Chinese and Taiwanese authorities began pressing their claims.

### What is China's claim?

6) China says that the Diaoyu islands have been part of its territory since ancient times, serving as important fishing grounds administered by the province of Taiwan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that this is "fully proven by history and is legally well-founded".  
 7) Taiwan was **ceded** to Japan in the Treaty of Shimonoseki in 1895, after the Sino-Japanese war. When Taiwan was returned in the Treaty of San Francisco, China says the islands - as part of it - should also have been returned. But Beijing says Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek did not raise the issue, even when the Diaoyu islands were named in the later Okinawa reversion deal, because he depended on the US for support.  
 8) China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says the issue should be **shelved** for future settlement and that the two sides should try to prevent it from becoming "a disturbing factor" in bilateral ties. There have nonetheless been **sporadic** incidents over the islands. Separately, Taiwan also claims the islands.

### What sparked the most recent row?

9) In April 2012, a fresh row **ensued** after **outspoken** Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara said he would use public money to buy the islands from their private Japanese owner. A group of Hong Kong activists sailed to the islands in August - they were detained and later sent back. Several days later, at least 10 Japanese nationalist activists also landed on the islands. The Japanese government then reached a deal to buy three of the disputed islands from the owner - a move it said was to block Mr Ishihara's more provocative purchase plan. 【04/29/2013/BBC】

row: 紛争 strained: 緊張した uninhabited: 無人の sovereignty: 主権 renounce: 放棄する trusteeship: 信託統治 reversion: 復帰 cede: 譲歩する shelf: 棚上げる sporadic: 散発的な ensue: 続く outspoken: 率直な、無遠慮な

### ★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. Why are ties between Japan and China have been repeatedly restrained?
2. Please say something about disputed group of islands mentioned in the article
3. What should Japan do to improve its relationship with China and vice versa?
4. Why is there a renewed flare-up in tension between China and Japan?
5. Do you think the nationalization of Senkaku islands in Japan was a good idea? Why or Why not?
6. Make sentences using the following words : row, strained, uninhabited, Sovereignty, renounce, cede, shelf, sporadic, ensue and outspoken.

NEWS de TALK by PHILOS

尖閣諸島を安定的に維持・管理するため、2002 年小泉政権は地権者と賃貸契約を結びました。その 10 年後の昨年、国有化された尖閣諸島。中国との関係改善の糸口はまだ見えていません。