



RESEARCH PAPER

Strait of Malacca and the Maritime Security: Safeties of the Regional Powers

¹Hajra Bibi*, ²Um-e-Aimen and ³Hina Farooq

1. MS Scholar, Department of Politics & IR, GC Women University Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan
2. MS Scholar, Department of Politics & IR, GC Women University Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan
3. Bachelors in International Relations, GC Women University Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan

Corresponding Author

hussnainhaider206@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The Malacca strait, which links the Pacific and Indian oceans, is vital to regional security and maritime trade. The security issues that the Malacca strait, one of the busiest and most significant maritime commerce routes in the world, faces and how these affect shipping stability both locally in Southeast Asia and internationally. In order to address the various issues surrounding marine security in the Malacca strait, this paper examines the interests and roles of both global and regional actors, including China, India and Japan as well as Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. It looks at how different parties cooperate and disagree as well as how well-suited current regional frameworks and international marine rules are to dealing with security challenges. In order to provide safe passage for international trade, maintain regional stability, and balance the interests of several stakeholders, this article suggests potential solutions and policy proposals for enhancing maritime security in the Malacca strait.

Keywords: Maritime, Policy, Regional Security, Security Challenges, Stability, Stakeholders

Introduction

The Strait of Malacca is an important maritime chokepoint that has a big impact on international trade. It connects the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and allows the passage of about 25% of the world's traded products, including essential energy sources like oil and liquefied natural gas. For large Asian countries like China, Japan and South Korea, ensuring its security is essential to preserving unbroken trade flows and economic stability. However, maintaining marine security in this vital chokepoint presents formidable obstacles that affect regional stability and transcend national borders. But because of its strategic significance, the strait is also a focal point for regional issues including marine crime, piracy and geopolitical disputes between powerful nations fighting for dominance. Protecting this vital shipping route while tackling issues like territorial disputes, environmental threats and preserving equilibrium in the face of great power competition requires cooperative security measures among littoral states like Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore as well as collaborations with international actors.

Geographical limitations and a high traffic density make it susceptible to terrorist threats, marine robberies and piracy, endangering both economic stability and ships. Furthermore, the strait's closeness to Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia creates difficult regional security and sovereignty issues that call for a careful balancing act between national interests and cooperative security measures. Additionally, navigational difficulties raise the risk of environmental catastrophes like oil spills, which have the ability to destroy local communities and ecosystems. The region's economic reliance on this trade route, together with the necessity of coordinated international efforts and regional coordination, highlights how crucial it is to keep the Malacca strait secure in order to protect both regional stability and worldwide trade.

Diverse political interests, overlapping claims to sovereignty, and the requirement for efficient collaboration between littoral governments like Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore as well as large international entities further complicate the issue. In order to address the maritime security of the Malacca strait and contribute to the larger security architecture in Southeast Asia, cooperative regional mechanism, all-encompassing policies and enhanced naval capabilities are needed to reduce threats and guarantee the safe passage of vessels (Ghani, Ahmed & Muzaffar, 2017).

Literature Review

Malacca Strait is considered the most or one of the busiest and important waterways in world. Subsequently, the increased vulnerability of shipments in the area from piracy and armed robberies to navigational and safety issues that prompted littoral as well as user states to undertake a series of initiatives which had played an important role in ensuring better security for ships transiting through these waters over recent years. The Malacca straits states, however, long in resistance to sovereignty infringements today remain users of many user state security assists and other financial incentives. (Simon, 2011).

The prevalence of piracy and terrorism as well instability in the region made representatives from around global commerce imagine this strait to be dangerous from shipping. Few of nations, regional and international agreements something has been tried to address this situation with a variety. The harsher reality is problematic maritime and political background serves as the main obstacle to asserting and guaranteeing freedom of navigation within this part of seas. At its core, this study assumes an assertion that valid commerce and criminals and international terrorist associations all utilize the sea either to transport goods, people and money (Davis, 2006).

Among the many security issues the strait faces are smuggling, terrorism, and piracy. It emphasizes both worldwide alliances with nations like US, China and Japan as well as regional cooperation initiative between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. It draws attention to programs like the Coast Guard Forum, the regional Maritime Security Initiative and Malacca Strait patrols. Notwithstanding advancements, issues including information sharing, resource scarcity, and sovereignty disputes still exists. In order to guarantee safe travel and regional stability, it examines how effective maritime security cooperation necessitates consistent dedication from regional states, international partners, and organizations (Massey, 2008).

The subject of maritime jurisdiction in the Strait of Malacca and Singapore is delicate and complicated. Because of its limits the scope of what a cooperative regime for safety and security might ordinarily include, this claim may make multilateral cooperation in the straits more difficult. It concentrates coastal government's sovereign interests in ensuring security in their internal sea and archipelagic seas. Some of the ability and knowledge required to ensure safety and security in the straits are lacking in the littoral governments. It introduced measures to control the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in areas adjacent to the Straits. It developed cooperative arrangements, including agreed guidelines, for protecting vessels most at risk of hijacking (Bateman, Raymond & Ho, 2006).

Terrorism and Piracy continue to threaten marine security in this area, affecting trade and stability on regional and global scale. It highlights that strong collaboration between regional countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand as well as backing from global stakeholders, are necessary for successful countermeasures. These countries may fight these security risks together by resolving jurisdictional issues, improving intelligence sharing, and launching joint patrols. Additional regional assistance is also required to combat and stop maritime terrorism and piracy in the Malacca Strait

however the US's plan to send troops to assist in patrolling these straits may infringe upon the sovereignty of the three littoral states (Pulungan, 2010).

Along with the difficulties of juggling national interests, preserving sovereignty, and resolving resource restrictions among the littoral states of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore, it focuses on enduring problems like terrorism, smuggling, and piracy that jeopardize this vital maritime route. These difficulties frequently undermine group efforts to successfully protect the Strait. Regional international organizations along with non-governmental and commercial organizations, have responded to the threads of terrorism and piracy through a variety of initiatives, demonstrating the significance of Strait of Malacca to the global community (Zulkifli et.al, 2020).

Greater influence and occasionally rivalry in the region have resulted from regional powers perception that the Strait is crucial for economic interests and energy security. On the other hand, littoral states place a higher priority on preserving their sovereignty and managing security threats like terrorism and piracy in their territorial seas. In order to maintain peace in the Malacca Strait, it emphasizes the necessity of a cooperative security framework that strikes a balance between the strategic objectives of regional powers and the concerns of littoral governments regarding their sovereignty. The development of countries that rely largely on intercontinental trade has been greatly aided by the Straits of Malacca. Not only are the littoral states concerned about navigation safety, but so are the main user states, including China, Japan and India (Ismail, Sani, 2010).

The interest of major nations with a stake in the Strait's security as well as those of the littoral states that border it. It demonstrates the strategic importance of these straits and examines the variety of present and potential threats to their security. Parts of the security are narrow and shallow, which creates a natural bottleneck that could cause an oil leak, collision or grounding. Since several Southeast Asian republics have organizations with ties to the Al Qaeda group, the Strait of Malacca cannot be free from possible terrorist threats. So, it is impossible to overlook the terrorist dangers to the Strait of Malacca. One state cannot secure the maritime environment on its own; rather, all of the states in the region must cooperate and understand one another (Karim, 2007).

Security cooperation for Malacca Strait is essential as it is one of the main commerce routes in the world. Political, economic and ideological factors are all included in this strategic stance. It focuses on the role of regional security initiatives, the disparities in commitment and capability among the participating countries, and the continuous attempts to enhance law enforcement, surveillance and crisis response in the area. It highlights the participation of outside countries like US and China as well as the function of regional organizations like the ASEAN Regional Forum. In addition to tackling the political and practical challenges of bringing all parties' interest into alignment to guarantee the Straits' long-term security and stability, it stresses on the significance of multilateral collaboration, information sharing and the joint patrols (Saeri, 2019).

The international community as well as the littoral governments place great strategic, political and economic emphasis on the Strait. It provides a comprehensive viewpoint on Strait of Malacca security. It outlines the magnitude of the difficulties littoral states confront in maintaining Strait security and promotes a comprehensive strategy for doing so. There are numerous hazards to the Strait of Malacca that affect the littoral states as well as anybody else with an interest in the Strait. Human trafficking and the smuggling of firearms and illegal items are further security risks to the Strait. The long and narrow coastline of the Strait has physical characteristics that encourage the growth of these kinds of activities (Khalid, 2006).

Material and Methods

This research methodology implemented for a study appears to be the most critical aspect as it determines not only the nature of the study but also influences its outcome. The method employed in the proposed search is qualitative. To find patterns and themes pertaining to marine dangers including piracy, territorial disputes, and terrorism, as well as the function of regional cooperation mechanisms like Malacca Strait patrols, the data will be subjected to thematic analysis. Different secondary sources of documents like books, articles and internet sources would be used to collect the data for this research.

Results and Discussion

The Strait of Malacca is strategically located on the trade routes between the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. The 805-Kilometer waterway, straddling the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra in Indonesia, is an incredibly narrow passage which is one of the busiest passages on the global with more than an 80,000 vessels passing through every year. It is strategically positioned near China, India and ASEAN nations; the strait appears to be powerful point in economic as well as military strategy. The Strait of Malacca is one of the most important chokepoint in the world for trade and energy resources because it provides safe transit from china's oil sources, which are vital to its high-energy economy. Consequently, it has become the Centre of intensified geopolitical, sea lanes from being disrupted by piracy, terrorisms and military competition. The strait is also the sight of natural and man-made incidents due to how narrow it is, its close land masses only add more complexity to the strategic importance of our southern door. Importantly, then the Strait of Malacca remains key for global trade, energy security and international geopolitical jockeying. The narrow width of the Malacca Strait and its location in close proximity to land are factors that exacerbate maritime threats, ranging from acts of piracy to potential military encounters. The strait is patrolled by regional and international naval forces to ensure safe passage of goods. Piracy, particularly in the later 20th and early 21th centuries, highlights the need for combined international cooperation to secure this very important part of nation's jurisdiction.



Figure1. Strait of Malacca-high risk areas are attacked by pirates in Southeast Asia

Maritime Security Challenges in the Malacca Strait

Numerous maritime security risks threaten international trade and regional stability in the Strait of Malacca, one of the busiest and most strategically critical maritime chokepoints in the world. In addition, because the region holds geopolitical significance and because some sensitive political locations are located relatively close, maritime terrorism is becoming an increased concern. This might have disastrous economic implications for the nations bordering the strait as well as for international trade in general if terrorist organizations were to target commercial vessels, obstruct trade, or bar access to the strait altogether. Geopolitical disputes are also prevalent within the Malacca Strait, especially when they involve significant regional powers like China, India and ASEAN countries. Fears about the region becoming a militarized zone as well as the potential conflicts due to control or the lack of freedom of navigation are seen in the light of increasing naval presence of China with a desire to secure its energy supplies from the Middle East.

Piracy and Armed Robbery

Piracy and violent robbery have historically been serious issues in this important waterway; pirates frequently target ships for ransom, cargo theft, or hijacking. In addition to endangering the crew members' safety, these attacks impede the efficient movement of commodities including manufactured goods, oil, and liquefied natural gas. Piracy has significant financial implications because it disrupts shipping operations, which raises shipping insurance premiums, increases security, and causes delays, all of which drive up the cost of goods for customers throughout the world.

The presence of piracy incidents, which include cargo robbery and hijacking, has long been a significant concern in the area, especially on the west side of the strait near Indonesia and Malaysia. By forcing shipping businesses to take extra precautions like rerouting vessels, investing in armed security guards and strengthening onboard security technology, the prospect of piracy not only results in financial expenses but also fosters an atmosphere of insecurity that deters trade. Because the waters around the strait are frequently under the jurisdiction of several governments, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore cooperation between these countries is essential, and the pirate issue further exacerbates regional instability. However, it has proven difficult to put into practice a cohesive and successful strategy against piracy due to disparate national reactions and variations in enforcement capacities. International cooperation has therefore become essential, resulting in programs like anti-piracy agreements and combined naval patrols that have decreased instances but not completely eradicated the menace. The main issue in the Malacca Strait is the rise in armed robberies and piracy that occurred between 1999 and 2000s. According to the International Maritime Bureau's annual report, there were 300 piracy occurrences worldwide, with 169 of those cases occurring in the Strait of Malacca and 68 other occurring in Indonesia. Security concerns in the Strait of Malacca have received a lot more attention since the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 and multiple bombing incidents that occurred in Indonesia between 2003 and 2009. One worry about this issue is whether terrorism and piracy are planned for political purposes in order to eventually disrupt one of the most significant straits in the world. The word "Strategic" which is associated with the Malacca Strait also carries a rather unfavorable meaning. Along the Malacca strait coast, namely in Riau and the Riau islands, a transit area before travelling to Batam, a port of departure to Malaysia or Singapore, there are a lot of non-military incidents including piracy, illegal migration, drug trafficking and human trafficking. Physically the Malacca strait is also complicated. The world commerce area across the strait is not particularly large. This strait has narrowed in the Philippines Strait, as was mentioned in the beginning. This constriction could divert attention from the Malacca Strait's security because it is extremely congested, which could lead to piracy and even terrorist attacks. From the 1990s through the 2000s, the Malacca

Strait has seen a significant increase in the number of trade or merchant ship hijackings. According to IMO, there were 25 hijacking cases in 1994. In 2000s, there were 220 attacks, while in 2003, there were only 150 attacks.

Terrorism

A terrorist strike on one of the main ports in the area, or on the Strait of Malacca might have a significant economic impact not only locally but globally as well. Although, the likelihood of a terrorist assault happening is minimal, the consequences might be extremely great. For instance, if terrorists were to seize control of a ship carrying a very poisonous or volatile cargo, there may be catastrophic results in term of fatalities, infrastructure devastation, and environment harm. Although the frequency of armed attacks and piracy against ships in the straits may indicate the tactics terrorists might use to attack a ship, it is crucial to distinguish between terrorism and piracy, and there is scant evidence linking terrorist and pirate organizations. Nonetheless, evaluations of the dangers of a terrorist strike in the strait should be informed by research on armed robbery and piracy in the area. There is another physical problem in the Malacca strait where the water is shallow just 25 meters deep. Terrorists probably profit from this shallow zone by capturing big ships and sinking them there, which stops international trade. The tragedy can still occur even though experts have differing opinions about the terrorists' hijacking of the ships. The Malacca strait security issue arises not only because of its position and cruise traffic, but also because littoral states have differing opinions about how safe the strait should be. For example, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia all have different ideas on how to address this security concern. The United States and India unilaterally sent their warships to escort American commerce vessels crossing Malacca based on such interpretation.

Ecological Disasters & High Risk Vessels

One of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, the Malacca strait is plagued by a variety of serious ecological problems, mostly brought on by fast industrialization and human activities. One of the biggest issues is overfishing, which damages local fishing communities and marine biodiversity by depleting fish stocks and upsetting the food chain. Because so many ships pass through the area, oil spills and chemical pollution pose a serious threat to the strait's marine ecology. Ecosystems suffer as a result of all these contaminants poisoning the waterways, killing marine life and smothering coral reefs. Mangrove forests and coral reefs, which are crucial for biodiversity, have been seriously harmed by pollution, dredging and coastal development. The tremendous biodiversity of the strait, which includes threatened species like dugongs and sea turtles, is coming under more and more threats. Furthermore, habitat loss and rising sea temperatures brought on by the development of ports and industrial infrastructure exacerbate the problems caused by climate change. Both marine life and the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on the strait for trade and fishing are at risk due to these ecological catastrophes. Ecological hazards brought on by industrialization and heavy transportation. The environmentally delicate, highly bio diverse ecosystem that borders the straits is currently under danger due to the growth of shipping activity along the shipping channel and the quick expansion of the coastal regions. The Malaysian government spent EUR 22 million to establish a vessel traffic management system and EUR 11 million to install 256 nautical aids to guarantee safety in the narrow and shallow straits. Oil tankers make up around 36% of the ship that cross the strait. They increase sewage, oil, ballast water and other solid waste releases into the ocean. The littoral states are left to pay for navigational safety measures and deal with the fallout from oil spills and other shipping-related pollutants, while the rest of the world benefits from the waterways.

Small vessels, including tugs and barges, gas carriers and chemical and product tankers are more vulnerable to attacks. They have also played a significant role in the

quantity of hijackings and crew member kidnappings for ransom. Some of these ships transport dangerous or extremely volatile goods that might be exploited by terrorists. Special attention should be paid to the security of these vessels, especially when they are in inshore seas. This includes potential recommendations for collaboration among the littoral nations. This vast amount of world trade, including raw resources, consumer goods, and energy, passes via the small river that links Pacific and Indian oceans. The majority of the ships that pass through this strait are bulk carriers, cargo ships, and enormous tankers. Criminals choose vessels with valuable cargo, especially those carrying commodities with high monetary worth or oil tankers. This highlights the strait's vulnerability even more because of its narrow and crowded layout, which forces several ships to sail near one another and makes evasive manoeuvres nearly difficult. To ensure the safe passage of international shipping, these hazards call for increased security, international cooperation, and monitoring.

Malacca Strait and Regional Powers

A vital marine waterway connecting the Indian and Pacific oceans, the Strait of Malacca is a body of water that lies between Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. It has mostly affected trade between China, Japan and Europe as well as the majority of global energy exports, particularly the movement of oil from the Gulf States into Japan. It serves as the foundation for ASEAN economic bloc, which is emerging as one of the developing world's major hubs for growth. But this strategic importance has also raised a number of security issues. Since the surrounding governments gained their independence, diplomatic attempts to control the strait have been a source of contention. Due to trade and shipping, the area has rapidly become more industrialized and urbanized in recent decades. The emergence of growth triangles such as SIJORI (Singapore, Johore, and Riau) which have promoted regional cooperation further emphasizes the strait's economic potential. A fault-finding nautical chokepoint, the Straits of Malacca facilitates the transportation of raw materials and lubricant while linking East Asia to global markets. Its deliberate meaning is to serve as a focal point for competition between global and territorial powers such as China, Japan, India and US.

Japan

As a major consumer state and larger business-related capacity, Japan heavily depends on the uninterrupted flow of strength equipment across the straits. Since around 80% of Japan's oil imports come from the Middle East, the country's financial stability depends on allure freedom. The attraction of the country's remote location and lack of domestic resources, which necessitate the safe passage of ships carrying food, lubricant and natural resources highlight Japan's reliance on maritime trade. A vital route for transporting Japanese made goods to Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Australia is also the straits. Japan has actively supported territorial cooperation and antagonistic-robbery activities to ensure the safety of these water lanes. The Japanese coast guard participates in joint exercises with its Southeast Asian counterparts, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency regularly funds training programs for maritime experts. Japan has also taken a well-known role in multinational efforts to stop piracy. In order to promote information sharing with neighboring governments, including ASEAN countries, China, South Korea and India, it initiated the regional cooperation agreement on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The initiative's information sharing center situated in Singapore helps the domain better handle marine warnings by facilitating ideas. Japan has also supported the international maritime organization in its efforts to investigate and combat instances for piracy. Japan still has difficulties deploying attractive maritime self-defence forces in the area, despite their efforts. Japan has a unique interest in ensuring their safety, as seen by its confidence in the Strait of Malacca. Japan's financial stability and military hardware would be at risk if there were any disruptions at this crucial chokepoint. As a result, Japan remains committed to fostering territorial cooperation and maintaining

initiatives that enhance maritime security while navigating the intricacies of ancient and geopolitical movement, frequently across water. Japan seeks to strike a balance between its budgetary needs, local support and international cooperation through attractive civilian-led initiatives.

India

India, a major South Asian power, has significant and well-considered interests in the Strait of Malacca. This crucial naval chokepoint is traversed by more over 50% of India's business, making allure safety essential to the stability of the country's corporate sector. India has serious concerns about the growing risks of maritime disorder and the perils of thievery to a certain extent. Some unexpected developments in the Singapore have obvious safety implications for India, given its proximity to its maritime areas of interest. It is also of internal interest that India is having trouble ensuring the safety and exposure of this earth-dug route. In order to assert the freedom of the strait, India supports active collaboration. Joint patrols and local cooperation are seen by the nation's administration as crucial endorsements of allure freedom interests, which extend to this fault-finding nautical arena. India has established itself as a supporter of provincial security measures by exchanging attractive and growing knowledge in naval security. Since a large portion of India's work and lubricant imports pass through these waters, controlling the Sea Lanes of Communication is essential to India's goal of becoming a suitable global financial power. This requirement motivates India's collaboration with the US, which includes cooperative security projects. These initiatives reflect India's growing appeal and importance as a major provincial performer. Allure and keen interest in the straits have been also been impacted by India's concerns for freedom and strength. This necessity of protecting these rivers is highlighted by nation's increasing reliance on energy imports from Southeast Asian nations with independent governments, such as Vietnam, Indonesia, and Myanmar. The Strait of Malacca, which extends from the Persian Gulf to Southeast Asia, is one of the lengthened sophisticated rules that New Delhi's processes undoubtedly grasp.

China

Each year, the strait's strategic importance to china grows. Currently, the Middle East accounts for over 60% of China's imports of crude oil. Due to china's heavy reliance on the straits of Malacca for energy transfer, the straits are one of its most important SLOCs, which it needs to protect, particularly from adversarial foreign naval forces. The commercial and economic lifelines into and out of the quickly growing economies of East Asia, especially China, are less important than the Strait of Malacca. Since the straits of Malacca have developed into an essential international waterway for both commercial and geopolitical mobility, china's sovereignty over the area would lessen the likelihood of US hegemony. More than 80% of china's energy imports and 90% of its trade are transported via the Straits. As a result, maintaining the safety and security of the strait is crucial for the nation. China must maintain a commanding presence in the Strait of Malacca. China could defend its oil supply and maritime trade inside Southeast Asian nations since the Strait of Malacca serve as the primary entry point to East Asia from the west. Furthermore, china does not possess any strategic oil reserves. To deal with such situations, china's top strategists have therefore chosen a two-pronged approach. As a first step, they intend to develop a land-based oil and gas delivery network to counteract the excessive reliance on sea routes. By avoiding the Malacca strait, land pipelines might significantly lessen the need for oil imports by sea and establish a redundancy and to be ready to manage the situation should it occur, china is increasing its naval presence in and around the Strait of Malacca. Consequently, it has recognized that the nation's economy is at risk in the absence of the reserve. China is therefore committed to maintaining the crucial straits open and protecting the ships transporting crude oil as they pass through the chokepoint from the Middle East.

Littoral States

Resources, defense, ports, shipping, tourism and the facilitation of international trade are all dependent on the straits for Malaysia. Straits that serve Malaysia's so-called western corridor run parallel to the country's industrial heartland. Making ensuring it has total authority over the straits of Malacca is Malaysia's main goal. In order to secure the strait, Malaysia believes that an additional regional force is unnecessary and that its presence would violate its sovereignty. Due to its reliance on maritime commerce, Malaysia has prioritized protecting the environment and guaranteeing navigational safety in addition to combating piracy. Malaysia appears opposed to acknowledging that other nations view the Malacca strait as an international sea channel that they are entitled to utilize. On the contrary, they believe that the littoral governments have always had the duty to protect and preserve the waterway.

Similar to Malaysia, the straits of Malacca are significant from an Indonesian socioeconomic standpoint. Indonesia may place more importance on monitoring its vast marine borders, resolving maritime border disputes, combating maritime crimes, resolving maritime border disputes, combating maritime crimes and halting environmental degradation than it does on combating piracy. The country's involvement in antipiracy efforts in the Strait of Malacca is limited, in part because the main victims of piracy there are just transitory traffic with minimal economic benefits to Indonesia. Additionally, Indonesia is constrained in its ability to supply equipment to combat the menace of piracy. Insufficient financing for the Indonesian air force significantly impairs Indonesia's ability to maintain maritime security.

Due to Singapore's central location in the Strait of Malacca and its heavily reliant economy on trade, it must pay close attention to piracy in the strait of Malacca. In addition to its long-standing suspicion of Malaysia and Indonesia, who are primarily Muslim, Singapore has made the security of the straits a top concern, which has prompted it to pursue tighter ties with outside partners particularly the US and Japan, sometimes to the detriment of its neighbors. Singapore has significantly deeper strategic, security and economic ties as a result of its strong support for the US war on terrorism. With the exception of joint operations, Singapore already has the most competent naval and marine security forces in Southeast Asia and doesn't need as much outside help with equipment and training. Unlike Malaysia and Indonesia, Singapore a third littoral state, is fervently seeking a larger US presence in the straits. It views the importance of a US presence in the Asia-Pacific area not only from a business standpoint but also as a military check to preserve peace and stability. It aggressively looks for methods to maintain US involvement in the area.

Conclusion

The Strait of Malacca is becoming increasingly important strategically. The Strait of Malacca continues to be a vital waterway and economic sea route today. The Strait of Malacca continues to be a vital conduit of international trade, accounting for more than one third of all maritime traffic as globalization spreads around the world. One may argue that the Strait of Malacca has played a significant role in the growth of countries that rely significantly on trade between continents. Not only are the littoral states concerned about navigation safety, but so are the main user states including China, Japan and India. Their efforts to protect their own unique strategic interests are reflected in their statement of concern in the safety of the Strait of Malacca. In order to attain a comprehensive security scenario and address the underlying causes of criminal activity ashore, the littoral governments must work together more closely in order to eradicate marine criminal activities. The importance of the straits of Malacca to the world community is demonstrated by the international attention given to security concerns there, regional international organizations, along with non-governmental and commercial organizations,

have taken a variety of actions to combat the threats posed by piracy and terrorism. Furthermore, there are other threats to the safety of the area in question besides piracy and terrorism. The issue of maritime boundary delimitation has not been resolved despite all efforts to control the situation in the Strait of Malacca.

Recommendations

- Adopt a thorough strategy for environmental preservation, safety and maritime security in the Strait of Malacca.
- Help port authorities increase their ability to prevent armed robberies of ships and other maritime crimes in port approaches and anchorages.
- Create cooperative agreements including established protocols, to safeguard the vessels most vulnerable to hijacking.
- Implement policies to limit the spread of light and small arms in the strait's surrounding areas.
- Through a number of multilateral agreements, such as the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships and the Malacca Strait Patrol, the littoral states of Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia can further their regional cooperation with the participation of other nations, including China and India.
- To ensure against terrorist threats and the unlawful smuggling of goods through ports, invest in contemporary port security infrastructures, such as biometric checking, automated security systems, and cyber security.
- Guarantee that all of the region's states especially the bigger one abide by international agreements like UNCLOS while making claims and conducting business there.

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