



Conclusion

67. Clearly, there is nothing “historical” or “right” about China’s 9-dashed line claim. The 9-dashed line claim is based not on historical facts but on historical lies. Since the start of the Song Dynasty in 960 AD until the end of the Qing Dynasty in 1912, a period of 952 years or almost a millennium, the southernmost territory of China has always been Hainan Island based on all official and unofficial maps of China. After the establishment of the Republic of China in 1912, the Constitutions adopted by China from 1912 to 1946 consistently declared that the territory of the Republic of China remained the same as the territory of the Qing Empire. As late as 1932, the Chinese Government in a *Note Verbale* to France reiterated to the world that the southernmost territory of China is Hainan Island. These unilateral declarations of China are binding on China under international law. The southernmost territory of China under its imperial dynasties was always Hainan Island, and has remained so under several Constitutions of the Republic of China.

68. Neither the Spratlys nor Scarborough Shoal appeared in any Chinese dynasty maps, as obviously the Spratlys and Scarborough are several hundred miles farther south to Hainan Island. In fact, the Spratlys are more than 600 NM, and Scarborough Shoal is more than 500 NM, from Hainan Island, at the other end of the South China Sea. The Chinese claim today that Scarborough Shoal is the Nanhai island where Guo Shoujing erected a celestial observatory is a double lie because China already officially declared in 1982 that Nanhai is in the Paracels, and it was physically impossible for Guo Shoujing to have erected an observatory in Scarborough Shoal.

69. Numerous ancient maps made by Westerners, and later by Philippine authorities, from 1636 to 1940, consistently showed that Scarborough Shoal, a.k.a. Panacot and Bajo de Masinloc, has always been part of Philippine territory. Scarborough Shoal has never appeared in a single ancient Chinese map throughout the long history of China. Neither is there any historical record of any Chinese expedition to Scarborough Shoal. In contrast, the Spaniards and the Americans extensively surveyed Scarborough Shoal during the time they were the colonial powers in the Philippines.

70. In sum, China’s so-called “historical facts” to justify its 9-dashed lines are glaringly inconsistent with actual historical facts, based on China’s own historical maps, Constitutions, and official pronouncements. China has no historical link whatsoever to Scarborough Shoal. The rocks of Scarborough Shoal were never bequeathed to the present generation of Chinese by their ancestors because their ancestors never owned those rocks in the first place.