



# STUDY GUIDE

## WHY AMERICA'S MILITARY MUST BE STRONG

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**KEY TERMS:** civilization      barbarism      tyranny  
totalitarianism      Fascism      Free World

<b>NOTE-TAKING COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <i>during</i> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	<b>CUE COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <i>after</i> the video.
<p>What happens when America's armed forces are powerful, focused, and feared?</p> <p>How has the American military contributed to fighting Fascism in the Middle East?</p> <p>What happens when America's military is weak?</p>	<p>How has the American military been instrumental in allowing freedom and democracy to exist?</p> <p>What is it about the American military that keeps totalitarian threats in check?</p>

## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- In the beginning of the video, Dr. Roberts informs us that, "...the United States military has repeatedly made the difference between Civilization and Barbarism... [and that] a militarily strong America is the one indispensable prerequisite for a peaceful and prosperous world." What exactly does he mean by this? Why has this been the case? Why hasn't any other nation been as critical to the survival of the Free World?
- Dr. Roberts specifies that, "In the past century alone there have been four great threats made to peace, democracy and freedom. Each of them have come from enemies that hate and fear what the United States stands for..." Why do you think that these people hate and fear America's values?
- Dr. Roberts explains further that, "In each case it has been the US military that has been a principal force protecting the Free World from the tyranny these threats have sought to impose." Considering that, historically, tyranny has proven incompatible with civilization, yet democracy has proven to help civilization thrive, why do you think that some regimes attempt to implement totalitarianism? Which values do you think drive tyrannical regimes to conquer and subjugate, and how do those values compare to those of the Free World?
- We learn that, "All this [the victories over totalitarianism] has come at great cost -- in lives and money." Do you think that the victories were worth the expenditure, in lives and money? Why or why not? What would the price of failure have been?
- Dr. Roberts concludes the video with a stark warning: "With China rearming massively and posing a growing threat to Western interests and values around the world, and the threat of Islamist fascism still upon us, it is well to learn the central lesson of the past half-century of human experience, which is that for her own sake and that of those who love freedom everywhere, the United States must be militarily pre-eminent." What will China and the Islamic Fascists likely do if the U.S. downsizes and weakens its military? How long do you think tyrannical threats to civilization will exist? Why?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: South China Sea

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Challenging Chinese Claims, U.S. Sends Warship Near Artificial Island Chain,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What is China doing in the South China Sea? Why do you think that China is doing that? What impacts could China’s claims and actions have on the Free World?
- What is America doing in response? Do you think that America’s military is strong enough, currently, to handle its de facto mandate of limiting threats of communist tyranny on the Free World? Why or why not?
- In the video, Dr. Roberts states, “When US armed forces are strong, however, even a superpower like the Soviet Union has to acknowledge its own internal contradictions and inability to overawe the West.” How do you think China compares as a superpower to the Soviet Union? Do you think that China also lacks the ability to ‘overawe the West?’ Why or why not? What do you think is going to happen in the coming years in the South China Sea, in regards to China’s territorial claim and any military actions it may take to assert its claimed sovereignty? How do you think America’s military will respond? Why?



# QUIZ

## WHY AMERICA'S MILITARY MUST BE STRONG

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1. It's no exaggeration to say that a militarily strong America is the one indispensable prerequisite for a peaceful and prosperous world.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. The US defense budget – which is by far the largest in the world – has been \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. grossly misused
  - b. ineffectual to world peace
  - c. moderately effective
  - d. well spent
  
3. Before the Second World War, when America had only the \_\_\_\_\_ largest army in the world.
  - a. 8th
  - b. 14th
  - c. 26th
  - d. 34th
  
4. When America's armed forces are \_\_\_\_\_, focused and feared, the globe is a \_\_\_\_\_ than when she is weak, unprepared and vacillating.
  - a. weak; better place
  - b. powerful; better place
  - c. disorganized; safer place
  - d. contained; safer place
  
5. What mutation of Fascism rose after 9/11?
  - a. Soviet Communism
  - b. Nazism
  - c. Fundamentalist Islamist terrorism
  - d. None of the above



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/27/world/asia/challenging-chinese-claims-us-sends-warship-near-artificial-island-chain.html?action=click&contentCollection=Asia%20Pacific&module=RelatedCoverage&region=Marginalia&pgtype=article>

[Asia Pacific](#)

## Challenging Chinese Claims, U.S. Sends Warship Near Artificial Island Chain

By [HELENE COOPER](#) OCT. 26, 2015

Photo



A satellite image from March showed work on an emerging artificial island at Mischief Reef, part of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. China has been turning submerged reefs into islands to bolster its territorial claims. Credit Center for Strategic International Studies, via Digital Globe

WASHINGTON — A [United States Navy](#) destroyer entered waters near the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea late Monday, Defense Department officials said, directly challenging [China](#)'s claims that the [artificial island chain](#) is within its territorial borders.

The Lassen, a guided missile destroyer, sailed within 12 nautical miles of the islands, making a long-anticipated entry into the disputed waters, an American military official said. American officials did not inform their Chinese counterparts as they planned the provocative maneuver, saying that to do so would have undercut their message.

“You don’t need to consult with any nation when you are exercising the right of freedom of navigation in international waters,” John Kirby, the State Department spokesman, said at a news conference.

Mr. Kirby said that such a challenge to what he called a questionable sovereignty claim was “one of the reasons you have a navy — to be able to exert influence and defend freedom of navigation on international waters.”

[China](#) has been reclaiming land in the South China and East China Seas for several years, and the projects in the vicinity of the Spratlys have come under increasing criticism from the United States and its regional allies, including the Philippines. The United States and several Asian nations dispute the legitimacy of the islands built by China.

As news of the American maneuver circulated in Beijing, China’s foreign minister, Wang Yi, urged the United States to “think twice before taking any reckless action,” China’s national broadcaster, CCTV, reported.

The Obama administration did not make an immediate announcement of the maneuver, and Pentagon officials would only confirm that it had occurred, as they forecast weeks ago.

The White House declined to share any details about the operation, referring questions to the Defense Department. But Josh Earnest, the press secretary, noted that [President Obama](#) stood next to President Xi Jinping of China at a Rose Garden news conference last month and said that the United States would operate, fly or sail anywhere that international law allowed.



“That certainly includes the ability of our Navy to operate in international waters,” Mr. Earnest said. “This is a critically important principle, particularly in the South China Sea, because there are billions of dollars of commerce that flow through that region of the world every year — maybe even more than that — and ensuring the free flow of this commerce, and that freedom of navigation of those vessels is protected, is critically important to the global economy.”

American officials had said for the last month that the Navy would send a surface ship into the waters claimed by China, a vow widely viewed as a signal to the Chinese that most of the rest of the world does not recognize its claim on the island chain. Mr. Obama approved the move this month, administration officials said.



The president signaled the Navy maneuver last month at the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, when he said that the United States had an “interest in upholding the basic principles of freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce and in resolving disputes through international law, not the law of force.”

China, in what some Asia analysts interpreted as a gesture to pre-empt the American naval maneuver, sent warships into United States territorial waters in August. [Five Chinese ships came within 12 miles of the coast of Alaska](#) while Mr. Obama was visiting the state.

But American military officials said that the two maneuvers were not comparable, citing international maritime laws that allow passage such as the Chinese transit near Alaska if there is no other passageway for a ship to reach its destination.

In the case of the Spratly Islands, one American military official said, there were several other routes that the United States destroyer could have used, but the military deliberately chose to enter the waters that China claims as its territory.

In recent years, China has been claiming large parts of the strategic waterway by enlarging rocks and submerged reefs into islands big enough for military airstrips, radar equipment and lodging for soldiers, American officials said.

Although China claims much of the South China Sea as sovereign territory, the 12-mile zone around the new islands is particularly delicate because international law says that artificial islands do not have sovereign rights up to the 12-mile limit.

The United States had not traveled close to the Chinese-occupied islands in the South China Sea since at least 2012. In May, a [United States Navy](#) surveillance plane flew near three of China’s five artificial islands but did not go within the 12-mile zones. Chinese Navy radio operators warned the Americans to leave the area.

Jane Perlez contributed reporting from Beijing.