

National Boundary and Maritime Defense Line West of the Chogyo/Tiuyu(釣魚) Islands for Min & Shin (Mdr. Ming & Qing) Empires 借問國疆何處有，牧童遙指釣臺西

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Chinese records from the end of the 16th century defined the chain of islands off the Hokkien (Mdr. Fujian) coast including the Matsu, Wuku (Mdr. Wuqiu) and Penghu Islands, as the front line of coastal defence. The Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands route connects Ryukyu and Hokkien by a straight line east and west, with the Matsu Islands sitting at the western entrance. This puts the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands far outside the limits of China's coastal defence line. The officially recognized territory of both the Min and Shin Empires extended only as far as the continental coastline, with the exception of the island territories of Kainan (Mdr. Hainan) and Taiwan prefecture. Officially speaking, all other islands fell outside Chinese territory. This would remain the status quo until the early years of the Republic of China.

西元十六世紀末開始，福建沿岸島鏈如東湧(馬祖列島)、烏丘、澎湖等，成為明清兩國海防前線。釣魚臺航線東西連接福建及琉球，其最西入口就是馬祖列島的東湧。釣魚臺遙遙位於明清海防界限之外。明清官修方志諸本一律規定其領土到大陸海岸為止，只有海南島及清國臺灣府是例外。其餘一切島嶼基本上都在國界之外。這個狀態一直延續到中華民國初年。

Professor Ishiwi is an Associate Professor at the Nagasaki Junshin Catholic University in Japan and a Special Researcher with the Cabinet Secretariat Commissioned Research Project on the Documents Relating to the Senkaku Islands. His works include: "Senkaku Refutation Manual 100", 2014, Shukousha Publication, 《尖閣反駁マニュアル百題》，集廣舎; "Three Discussions on Chogyosho/Tiuyutsui History, Handout material of The 4th Research Forum on The East China Sea Problem, The Tokyo Foundation & Institute of Japanese Studies in Chinese Academy of Social Sciences" 2016, 《釣魚嶼史三議》，東京財團、中華人民共和國社會科學院日本研究所，第四屆東シナ海問題研究會發布資料; and "The True History of Senkakus, China Can Not Refute", Sekihei (creator), ISHIWI Nozomu (supervise historical documents), Fusosha Publishing Inc., 2017 (石平《中國が反論できない眞實の尖閣史》，いしみのぞむ監修史料，扶桑社)。

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