



The background of the cover is a map of the South China Sea region. It shows the coastlines of China, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Malaysia. Key island groups like the Spratly Islands, Prata Islands, and Scarborough Shoal are marked. A red box highlights a specific area in the Spratly Islands. The title 'ASIAN WATERS' is written in large, dark red, serif capital letters across the top half of the map.

# ASIAN WATERS

**The Struggle Over the  
South China Sea & the Strategy  
of Chinese Expansion**



**HUMPHREY HAWKSLEY**

**OVERLOOK**

# ASIAN WATERS

## The Struggle Over the South China Sea & the Strategy of Chinese Expansion

HUMPHREY HAWKSLEY

*15 color images and 5 maps*

In the sphere of future global politics, no region will be as hotly contested as the Asia-Pacific, where great power interests collide amid the mistrust of unresolved conflicts and disputed territory. This is where authoritarian China is trying to rewrite international law and challenge the democratic values of the United States and its allies. The lightning rod is remote reefs and islands from which China has created military bases in the 1.5-million-square-mile expanse of the South China Sea, a crucial world trading route that this rising world power now claims as its own. No other Asian country can take on China alone. They look for protection from the United States, although it, too, may be ill-equipped for the job at hand. If China does get away with seizing and militarizing waters here, what will it do elsewhere in the world and who will be able to stop it?

In *Asian Waters*, award-winning foreign correspondent Humphrey Hawksley breaks down the politics—and tensions—that he has followed throughout this region for years. Reporting on decades of political developments, he has witnessed China's rise to become one of the world's most wealthy and militarized countries, and delivers in *Asian Waters* the compelling narrative of this most volatile region. Can the United States and China handle the changing balance of power peacefully? Do Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan share enough common purpose to create a NATO-esque multilateral alliance? Does China think it can even become a superpower while making an enemy of America? If so, how does it plan to achieve it? *Asian Waters* delves into these topics and more as Hawksley presents the most comprehensive and accessible analysis ever of this region.

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