Introduction

On December 16th, 1971, Sri Lankan’s Prime Minister Sirimao Bandaranaike, led the nations of the world in ratifying resolution 2832 - Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. This resolution forms the foundation of the issue at hand by calling for: the demilitarization of the seas and airspace of the region, dialogue between the ‘Great Powers’ (United States of America, China, Russia, etc.) and increasing cooperation of Indian Ocean States, the permanent members of the Security Council (P5) to without alliances to address regional security, sovereignty, and freedom of the seas.

However, the ratification of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace was only the first step in the arduous history of attempting to implement the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (IOZOP) successfully. To this day, the vision of the IOZOP has yet to be realized by the world and implemented as a whole. The array of foreign and regional powers within the region continue to create a spectrum of conflicting interests and developments that work contrary to the IOZOP's goals. The manifestation of these conflicting interests is the continued foreign intervention in the region, and conflicts over influence and economy (specifically China's Belt and Road Initiative).

The vast expanse of the Indian Ocean and its Marginal Seas is host to a diverse array of issues, unique to the sub-regions of the Indian Ocean. Throughout the history of the IOZOP, such conflicts have served as the justification for foreign powers to maintain military presence and influence in the region under the pretext of ensuring regional stability. Particular areas of focus include territorial disputes in the Horn of Africa, instability and rising tensions within: the Arabian Gulf/Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Malacca, and securing seaways within the Red Sea. The recent conflicts have led to an uptick in foreign and regional military presence, preventing effective implementation of the IOZOP.

It is the mandate of the First General Assembly to come together and create consensus on this issue in order to ensure regional and global security, via its pursuit of regional cooperation, economic stability and development and disarmament in both subregions and the Indian Ocean region as a whole.
Definition of Key Terms

Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean spans 6,200 miles from Africa to Australia; its Northwestern borders are defined by the Horn of Africa, and Arabian Peninsula and its Eastern Borders are the Malay Peninsula and Indonesian islands. The Indian Ocean connects three distinct continents with 36 littoral states on its coast or its marginal seas coast.

Red Sea

The Red Sea is a marginal Sea of the Indian Ocean connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The Red Sea is between the Suez Canal and Bab el-Mandeb strait. It includes littoral states of North Africa and the Middle East. Similar to the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea is a key waterway facilitating trade via the Suez Canal and is of key interest to foreign powers and littoral states.

Gulf of Aden

A separate gulf of the Arabian Sea which is between the Southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula and the Northern side of the Horn of Africa. It connects the Arabian Sea and the greater Indian Ocean with the Red Sea. This feature is defined by the coast of Yemen in the North, Somalia to the South, Djibouti to the East and the Arabian Sea to the West.

Arabian Sea

The Arabian Sea is an Indian Ocean marginal sea, located between the western tip of the Arabian Peninsula and Eastern edge of India. It makes up a part of the Northern Indian Ocean and includes the Middle East and Asian states as littoral nations. This sea connects the Persian Gulf and its oil exports to the Indian Ocean and the greater Indo-Pacific trade as a whole.

Arabian Gulf/ Persian Gulf

A Gulf or extension of the Arabian Sea separated by the Strait of Hormuz. Its borders are defined by Iran, Iraq and other Arabian Peninsula Nations. The gulf produces 30% of the world’s marine-traded oil, which is why many nations are focused on guaranteeing this sub-regions stability and security to maintain energy exports.
Strait of Hormuz

The Strait of Hormuz is the body of water connecting the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea. The Basin Countries of the Strait of Hormuz include the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran, and Oman. Recently, the Strait of Hormuz has faced rising tensions as a result of actions by Iran, and the capture of foreign shipping vessels in the Strait. This has led to an increase in Foreign Presence in the region.

Regional Powers

Regional Powers in this paper will refer to littoral nations of the Indian Ocean and its marginal seas.

Foreign Powers

Foreign Powers in this paper classifies nations, with a presence in the Indian Ocean or its Marginal Seas, that are not littoral nations.

Blue Economy

The Blue Economy was coined as a “sustainable ocean economic paradigm...” by the UNDP. It details the promotion of economic growth via investment in the ocean and its sectors. These sectors include maritime transport of goods (oil, cargo, etc.), aquaculture, fishing, tourism energy and more. The Sustainable Development Goals govern this growth to prevent the destruction of the oceans and the livelihoods of those who are dependent on it. In the context of the issue, the Blue Economy drives both Foreign powers investment and interest in maintaining a regional presence to secure trade. It also encourages the development of Regional powers.

Delimitation

Delimitation is the process of defining the borders of nations. It is defined under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which details the process of disputing maritime borders concerning a nation's shoreline, and other geographical proof they provide.

Marginal Seas

Marginal Seas are divisions of a greater ocean, partially enclosed by geographic formations like Islands, submarine ridges etc. In relation to the Indian Ocean, this includes the aforementioned Marginal Seas such as the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, Arabian Gulf/Persian Gulf and others, including the Gulf of Aden and Bay of Bengal.
The Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (IOZOP)

UN A/RES/2832 passed in 1971, designating the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace for “all-time...” It calls for ‘great Powers’ (UK, US, Russia, China etc.) to halt the expansion of and remove military installations and presence. Furthermore, it calls for Indian Ocean nations, Permanent Members of the Security Council and other maritime powers in the Indian Ocean to abstain from military alliances, the use of naval power for influence or to threaten other nations sovereignty, while respecting freedom of the seas as designated by the International law. Finally, it addresses the creation of an agenda, and focus on implementing this declaration.


UNCLOS is the governing UN Document defining international law of the sea. It details the rights and duties of states in regard to their marine territory. UNCLOS covers an array of issues pertaining to this subject, defining territories, addressing disputes, economic practices, freedom of the sea.

Zone of Peace (ZOP)

As referenced in the IOZOP, a Zone of Peace (ZOP) refers to the “demilitarization, denuclearisation, and exclusion of military competition of various forms.” (cite direct) The goal of Zones of Peace is to address foreign intervention and aggression in regions, that results in regional tensions and conflict between foreign and regional powers.

Territorial Waters

Territorial Waters are defined under UNCLOS, as 12 nautical miles from a nation's baseline. Such waters are areas where nations have complete sovereignty over the sea, airspace, and seabed.

Background Information

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

To this day, the implementation of the IOZOP has not occurred. The failure to effectively and successfully implement this agreement is evident today; with the current situation not reflecting the aspirations of the agreement - to remove foreign influence and military presence in the region. The implementation of this issue in the past is detailed in the “Previous Attempts to solve this issue" section. The aforementioned section will also
discuss the reasons that implementation has been so arduous. The subsequent parts of this section will deal with current conflicts preventing implementation of the IOZOP.

The Indian Ocean and Marginal Seas

The Indian Ocean is a vast oceanic body spanning three continents. It connects the Indo-Pacific trade, making it extremely important to the global economy. A third of bulk cargo, two-thirds of the world's oil, and half of all container traffic pass through the Indian Ocean. Not only that, but the region is comprised of the future of the world's economy with nations such as India, and other growing economies. However, regional instability continues to prevent littoral states from receiving full benefits from their geographic location. Furthermore, instability in the Indian Ocean has made it a priority for foreign powers to intervene to maintain the stability and security of their trade in the region.

These regional instabilities and tensions can be divided into the Marginal seas of the Indian Oceans. They are the result of shifts in regional politics whose conflicts have resulted in the present political situation. This report will break down the major regional disputes currently affecting the issue.

The Red Sea and Bab el Mandeb

The Red Sea is a marginal sea of the Indian Ocean, it is instrumental in the transport of natural resources to Europe via the Suez Canal. Current conflicts in the region, have resulted in the Gulf of Aden not being conducive to safe trade. The major conflict is in Yemen. Yemen borders the North part of the Gulf of Aden. The internal conflict is a threat to ships in the region traveling to the Red Sea. Another conflict has been the introduction of a Sudanese-Turkish naval base in the Red Sea.

These conflicts have resulted in foreign intervention, with the implementation of the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) which patrols the Bab el-Mandeb. This also includes Turkey's expansion in the region with its naval bases. This goes against the IOZOP, which specifically calls for the removal of foreign military presence and not building new naval or military installments. Regional powers such as the UAE, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia have worked together to form agreements and work towards regional stability with the Riyadh agreement and other negotiations that are working towards solving the current conflict in Yemen. Middle Eastern nations have also come together to ensure security within the Red
Sea. Despite this, many littoral states are faced with internal issues that will continue to contribute to regional instability and a justification for foreign intervention if not addressed.

**Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden**

**Piracy**

The Gulf of Aden is responsible for the transport of oil to the Red Sea via Bab el Mandeb. The Horn of Africa borders the south of the Gulf of Aden, in the past regional instability manifested in the form of Somalian piracy. It disrupted international trade in the region, by severely threatening trade vessels. However, it also served as a pretext for foreign powers to ignore the IOZOP. This issue was successfully addressed by an international naval coalition, which again directly contradicts the IOZOP and the removal of foreign powers' naval presence. This is a constant trend that will be evident throughout this report. Foreign navies have continued to remain in the region to maintain stability. Unfortunately, a new issue now threatens African stability and the security of the Gulf of Aden.

**Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya)**

In 2014, Somalia sued Kenya marking the beginning of ICJ case 161 - Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya). The case is over 100,000 sq. km of disputed territory, which hosts large deposits of natural resources. The significance of the issue is that this decision will not only redefine access to the Indian Ocean between the two nations but the stability and cohesion of the African region.

Already, Kenya and Somalia have been unable to resolve the case outside of court and have proceeded to eliminate diplomatic communication. This conflict is exacerbated by foreign investment, as Kenya and Somalia compete to attract foreign investors for resource rights in the disputed area. This has fuelled the rise in tensions. It again illustrates why the IOZOP was conceived. The influence of foreign investment works against the IOZOP's goal to prevent the escalation of conflicts as a result of foreign powers. The lack of cooperation between Kenya and Somalia has allowed Al-Shebab a terrorist group based in Somali to prosper, creating an immediate threat to regional stability. Depending on the ruling, if Somalia should win, it could lead to a domino effect of cases on Delimitation. Kenya could contest sea borders with Tanzania, a trend that will continue down the coast.
The current situation in the Horn of Africa is destabilizing the region and the Gulf of Aden. Further devolution of the situation will strike a blow to African cohesion and cooperation preventing positive dialogue on IOZOP.

The Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz

The Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf is the origin point of 30 percent of the world’s crude oil traded by sea, and it has gifted its littoral states with vast amounts of resources. However, the area is rife with conflict not only in the Gulf but within its chokepoint, the Strait of Hormuz.

Strait of Hormuz

On July 10, 2019, Iran initiated a standoff with the HMS Montrose over a British BP oil tanker at the North Entrance of the Strait of Hormuz. This was the beginning of an increasingly volatile situation in the region. A timeline of Iran's actions in the Strait of Hormuz can be found later in the paper. The capture of foreign ships and issues with other member states has escalated regional tensions. These actions have directly resulted in foreign intervention and a disregard for the IOZOP.

Foreign Intervention

As a result of Iranian action, a multitude of nations increased their regional naval presence to secure the transport of natural resources from this crucial area. For example, the United States and its regional allies have created the aforementioned International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) to patrol the Strait of Hormuz. Japan has also sent a self-defense force to protect Japanese oil tankers. It is a perfect example of how regional tension and instability allow the IOZOP to be ignored since they allow foreign powers to intervene. Iran has worked to address this issue through its Hormuz Peace initiative and its calls for the removal of foreign presence, which is in line with the IOZOP. Despite this, Iran's past actions have inflamed tensions in the Middle East preventing a productive and positive dialogue between nations that is needed to implement the IOZOP.

Qatar Diplomatic Situation

Another area of regional conflict is the current Diplomatic Situation with Qatar. The coalition of Middle Eastern nations that severed diplomatic and economic ties with Qatar under Saudi Arabia over terrorist funding. Although the event has not resulted in overt foreign intervention via naval power or another breach of the IOZOP, it has resulted in the decay of diplomatic ties in the Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf. Similar to the situation with the Strait of Hormuz.
Hormuz, to implement the IOZOP, regional peace and stability must be accomplished before such a concept can be discussed or implemented.

**Arabian Sea**

The Arabian Sea is a prime example of foreign powers, exacerbating regional tensions. This sub-region experiences tension and conflict between Pakistan and India. Within the Arabian Sea, tensions can only be quelled if some agreement can be reached between Pakistan and India, or a common interest can be found in regards to the IOZOP.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor along with multilateral naval exercises have intensified competition between India and China and its ally Pakistan. This has resulted in a struggle for influence and economy in the region between India and China. China is a prime example of a foreign power increasing regional conflict and tension, their investment in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean as a whole has driven India to build up their naval and economic presence making them appear to seek hegemony and undermining their support for the IOZOP. Chinese investment has also resulted in the unsustainable development of regional nations leaving them indebted to the Chinese and unable to address a growing financial obligation to China. It illustrates the foresight of the IOZOP, and why the current economic investment by foreign nations particularly China prevents the successful implementation of the IOZOP since it increases regional tensions and does not protect littoral states from foreign influence.

**Strait of Malacca and South East Asia**

The Strait of Malacca is a key trade route in South East Asia facilitating the bulk of Indo-Pacific Trade. It is the lifeline for nations such as Japan and South Korea that depend on it for the transport of oil and other natural resources from the Indian Ocean. Its importance has led to inter and intra-regional cooperation to strengthen security. This is seen in Indian naval cooperation with Singapore, Indonesia, and other Southeast Asian States. It is also why China has taken interest in the region to maintain one of its major supply routes of natural resources. Although such cooperation appears to be positive, it works against the IOZOP. The IOZOP established that no military alliances should be formed, meaning that current joint-naval operations like the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the previously mentioned exercises violate the Zone of Peace.
Major Countries and Organizations Involved

China

China historically has shown its willingness to cooperate with the IOZOP. When it was first ratified in 1971, China was the only Foreign Power willing to remove military installations. Granted, this was likely because China did not have the influence it has today. Today, China has expanded its military presence through its Military Support Base in Djibouti, and overpowering economic presence in the region. China has become the main trading partner for many Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. It is also responsible for the building and management of ports in countries such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Maldives. The sheer scale of investment in the region is a result of the Belt and Road Initiative, which is the roadmap for their economy in the Indian Ocean and abroad. However, Chinese investment is by no means sustainable, already the debt racked up by receiving nations has allowed China to control the previously mentioned ports and influence over the nation. If nothing is done to address this issue, it will leave regional nations with massive amounts of debt, and a damaged economy.

China has also created the current issue with India, which has sought to contend with Chinese influence in the region. This rivalry has led to the naval militarisation and policy shift in India to focus on building ties with other nations. China must be considered when discussing the IOZOP, because of its economic grasp on many regional nations. The IOZOP must be implemented to protect the littoral states at risk of suffering, as a result of foreign influence like China's.

India

The Indian Subcontinent juts straight out into the Indian Ocean and is the main power in the region. India supported the IOZOP since the beginning, however, Indian actions such as its 1988 nuclear tests, and naval militarisation demonstrated that India did not entirely support it. This was the beginning of India’s contradictory relationship with the IOZOP.

India is one of the strongest regional powers. It has worked to expand its navy with a plan to have 200 ships and 500 aircraft in the future to maintain security. It has worked to forge military alliances with nations such as Thailand, Singapore, and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and multi-alignment to counteract Chinese influence. The Indo-Sino conflict over influence in the region has increased tensions and influenced present Indian foreign
policy in the form of the 'Look East' policy. India has shown the desire to maintain amity between neighboring states, and the implementation of the IOZOP. However, India's support of the IOZOP is viewed as a means to establish regional hegemony by ousting China.

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

The IONS as stated previously first convened on 14 February 2008. It is an initiative that brings together the littoral nations of the Indian Ocean Region with the aim of "increase maritime cooperation among the navies of the littoral states...". The IONS serves as an international forum for discussion on maritime issues, and transparency to create solutions between countries.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

The IORA was founded on 7 March 1997. It is an intergovernmental organization tying together the multitude of Littoral states spanning three continents to convene annually on the topics and issues of policies, projects, and Working Groups recommendations to “improve the lives of people within the Indian Ocean Member States." It is a key international organization promoting dialogue between the different regions of the Indian Ocean nations in one consolidated forum.

Iran

Iran is a nation within the Persian Gulf and is responsible for the recent uptick in tensions in the region. This is a result of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard’s seizure of oil tankers via the Strait of Hormuz. This has increased foreign naval presence in the region to deter Iranian aggression. Iran's actions in other areas of foreign policy, such as the funding of certain groups in conflict zones like Yemen have put them at odds with other nations in the Middle East. As such its actions represent one regional issue which prevents the effective and productive discussion and implementation of the IOZOP as a whole.

Japan

Japan historically supported the IOZOP. Japan supports stability in the Indian Ocean since it relies on safe trade for the bulk of its gas and oil. In response to the escalating situation in the Strait of Hormuz, Japan has dispatched a self-defense force and participated in
joint-naval exercises with India. Like many of the nations mentioned, such actions create short-term stability but prevent the implementation of the IOZOP, which will create lasting stability independent of foreign intervention.

Kenya

Kenya is the other nation involved in the Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya). Kenya is the economically stronger of the two and has had close relationships in the past, with Kenya supplying 4,000 troops for the African Union Mission in Somalia which aims to combat the terrorist group Al-Shebab. Kenya stands by its claim which has been the same for the past 100 years and has already sold resource licenses to parts of the contested waters.

Pakistan

Pakistan has been involved in this issue from the beginning like many other nations. At the time when the agreement was being developed, it advocated for a denuclearisation clause which failed. Pakistan has hampered the IOZOP because of its continued conflict with India and the development of nuclear arms to match India. This regional conflict extends to the sea and trade, as a result of the China-Pakistan Trade Corridor which is another part of the Belt and Road Initiative. China's influence in Pakistan has increased tensions with them managing Gwadar Port and receiving support from the Pakistani Government. Pakistan and India must find speaking terms if the hope of implementing or discussing the IOZOP is to be had.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has both helped and hindered the implementation of the IOZOP. Their recent success with the Riyadh agreement in Yemen and cooperation with Middle Eastern allies to secure the safety of trade in the region should be commended. Their efforts to stabilize portions of the middle east region are also steps toward the implementation of the IOZOP. Despite this, a significant obstacle remains, the current diplomatic situation with Qatar and its relationship with Iran. Both examples are regional feuds fuelling tension and preventing dialogue which is necessary for true peace to be achieved in the Indian Ocean. The IOZOP can only be implemented if all nations come to the table and do their part to address the issue as a whole, which cannot be accomplished if a nation is ostracized or nations are in indirect conflict.
Somalia

Somalia is a nation in the Horn of Africa; in 2014, it initiated ICJ proceedings over sea boundaries against Kenya. The president of the nation recovering from its past as a failed state, Mohamed Abdullahi, has maintained a hardline stance on the issue and has not been amiable to solutions aside from the ICJ ruling. Somalia is supported by nations including the UK and Norway who are interested in the potential natural resource available in their Indian Ocean territory.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has been a key player in the IOZOP since the beginning. In 1971 Prime Minister Sirimao Bandaranaike, championed resolution 2832. Sri Lanka also served as the Chairmen of the United Nations Conference of Law of the Sea 1973. Despite having an instrumental role in this idea's conception, recent events have shown a shift in Sri Lankan Policy. Sri Lanka's involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative and Chinese owned port has created high debt to China, and Chinese influence. Sri Lanka has also been in talks with the US about a military partnership. By allowing foreign influence, Sri Lanka is no longer actively working towards the initial ideas set out by them in the past.

United States

The United States maintained strategic regional interest, since before the IOZOP was conceived. In the 1980s, they argued that the lack of 'harmonization of views' prevented the implementation of the IOZOP. The US and other foreign powers (France, UK) also worked to maintain their presence to prevent a power vacuum and regional destabilization. As a result, the US has traditionally held the role of ensuring regional security through naval bases like Diego Garcia and its allies across the region. This role of maintaining security is demonstrated in the US-led coalition in the Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Sea to protect cargo ships and its actions in Sri Lanka to create a military agreement. The US also has close ties with India and other nations within the region. Although it is the US's prerogative to combat Chinese Economic expansion, the current administration has not done much to curb such activity. The maintenance of US forces in the Indian Ocean shows that the US is still unable to make the necessary concessions to implement the IOZOP, which focuses on removing foreign powers, influence on the region.
### Timeline of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 December 1971</td>
<td>The General Assembly passed resolution A/RES/2832(XXVI), or the <em>Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-Present</td>
<td>The General Assembly establishes the Ad Hoc committee on the Indian Ocean.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 December 1982</td>
<td>United Nations passed the Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which is the governing treaty regulating international seas, territories and other matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1995</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Rim Initiative established.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March 1997</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is created, also known as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 December 2001</td>
<td>General Assembly passed resolution A/RES/56/16, on the topic of <em>Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 February 2008</td>
<td>The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) convenes for the first time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2017 - Present</td>
<td>Boycott of Qatar by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, the Maldives, Mauritania, Senegal, Djibouti, the Comoros, Jordan begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 July 2017</td>
<td>Chinese People’s Liberation Army’s navy establishes first military support base in Djibouti.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2018</td>
<td>Pakistan gives China management over the Gwadar Port.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2018</td>
<td>Egypt, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Jordan establish a Red Sea cooperation entity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 May 2019</td>
<td>Iran is blamed by the US for attacks on two tankers in the Strait of Hormuz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 July 2019</td>
<td>Naval standoff between the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Royal Navy frigate HMS Montrose, over the British Heritage a BP oil tanker at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 July 2019</td>
<td>Iran seizes three oil tankers operated by the British, the Stena Impero and Mesdar only releasing the Mesdar with a warning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 October 2019</td>
<td>Japan dispatches self-defense force to Strait of Hormuz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing negotiations on a US - Sri Lankan millitary cooperation pact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Relevant UN Treaties and Events**

- **Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, 16 December 1971** *(A/RES/2832)*
  - This was the initial agreement created by Sri Lanka that created the idea of the IOZOP. Its goals are mainly focused on the creation of a conference to finalize and implement the IOZOP, reduce and to remove foreign influence, and millitary presence in the region.
- **Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace (Establishment of Ad Hoc Committee onIndian Ocean), 15 December 1972** *(A/RES/2992)*
  - Reaffirmed international commitement to the IOZOP, and established the Ad Hoc Commitee on the topic. The Ad Hoc commitee would work towards a conference to finalize the IOZOP, and worked to harmonize views on the issue.
- **Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, 11 December 1979** *(A/RES/34/80 A-B)*
  - Renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Commitee on the IOZOP to work towards a conference to implement the IOZOP. It enlarged the Ad Hoc Commitee inviting the...
Permanent members of the UN Security Council, and set a date for the first IOZOP conference in Colombo.

  - The governing document for International Maritime Law. A thorough document encompassing most elements of the sea from legal jurisdiction and boundaries, the rules for merchant and naval vessels, rights to navigation and more. It serves as the basis for modern maritime law and disputes of oceanic territory.

  - Urged the Ad Hoc Committee to intensify efforts on issues identified by the IOZOP working and prepare a final document for the 1990 conference.

  - Requested the Ad Hoc Committee Chairman to continue with informal consultations with committee states. Reiterated the commitment of all nations involved to the IOZOP. However, the resolution fails to call for substantive action aside from reiterating past action on implementing the IOZOP, and encouraging continued work in the Ad Hoc Committee.

- **Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya)**, 2014 (ICJ Case 161)
  - ICJ Case regarding 100km of disputed territory between Somalia and Kenya. Kenya argues that the past territorial line is still valid, while Somalia believes that the line should follow Somalia’s coast. The proceedings have been delayed till next year.

### Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

#### Declaration and Implementation of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The first attempts to solve the issue of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, are the above-mentioned resolution with the same title. These resolutions brought the idea into UN vernacular and debate. Although unsuccessful at creating an IOZOP, the agreements prevented the region from devolving into another arena of the cold war and a subsequent struggle for power and arms. Despite the resolutions themselves address the issue and advocate for its implementation, it was a conflict of interests between Indian Ocean states and Foreign Powers that ultimately led to the stagnation of progress on this issue.

#### Problems with Progress
After the passing of RES/2832 in 1971, the international committee was seized on the matter. Nations like China, Sri Lanka, and Bulgaria expressed the need for the conference to be held soon, however, those attempts were stalled by intervening western nations. Nations like Australia expressed the opinion that although preparations were complete, agreement on the main issues of the IOZOP had to be reached. The instigators of the impasse were the western States. The US, France, and the UK expressed the viewpoint that the current geopolitical situation of the Indian Ocean throughout the 1970s and 1980s was not conducive to the implementation of the IOZOP. They argued that the lack of consensus on viewpoints would result in a ‘superficial solution’ to the issue. The western nations also viewed that the IOZOP infringed on Freedom of the Seas, even though it only inhibited the movement of foreign military vessels in the Indian Ocean.

Finally, there was a failure to curb foreign intervention in the region. Western Powers continued to maintain their naval institutions and presence in the region under the pretext that they were maintaining regional stability, a continuing trend for the region in the future.

**Current Events Contribution to the Continued failure of Implementation**

The interventionist attitude of foreign powers and the seeking of influence in the region has persisted since 1971. The continual regional conflict between neighboring states in all sub-regions of the Indian Ocean such as Africa, the Middle East, and between Pakistan and India have maintained an insecure region. As such it has allowed foreign powers to maintain their military presence preventing the successful implementation of the IOZOP. The development of foreign military presence along with regional agreements like the IONS and multilateral military exercises both work against the goal of the IOZOP to eliminate military alliances.

Another facet of the issue is increasing foreign economic presence throughout the region. Like foreign intervention, it increases instability in the region through unsustainable investment policies that leave nations with high debt giving foreign powers large amounts of influence.

**Possible Solutions**

In a search for solutions to the Implementation of the IOZOP, the founding principles of the Declaration of the IOZOP (A/RES/2832) must be reinforced. All nations must strive to remove foreign powers’ military presence and installations, abstain from military alliances while maintaining freedom of the seas and the sovereignty of nations. To achieve these goals nations must first address the issues...
referenced in the previous section. Strategies to successfully implement the IOZOP is to address questions of sub-regional security and stability in the Indian Ocean region, to create an amicable environment in which regional cooperation on the base ideas of the IOZOP can occur. This issue is as vast as the expanse of the Indian Ocean, and as such, there is the need for multifaceted solutions that address the subtle issues within individual regions. Solutions to the sub-regional conflicts mentioned in this paper will be addressed below, along with international solutions.

In regards to the Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya), there is a need to find solutions aside from the future ICJ ruling. Foreign powers must work to address how picking size continues to exacerbate tensions in the region. Along with finding ways to create economic interaction in hopes of working towards a mutually beneficial economic agreement which will pave the way for a diplomatic solution. Support of these nations to stabilize the sea near the Horn of Africa and East African trade in the region. There is also the need to develop coast guards and naval forces to enable Africa to maintain stability and security in their region of the Indian Ocean and allow for the eventual removal of foreign powers.

Within the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, there is a need to strengthen littoral states' bonds, in the interest of mutual security and economic benefits of these two marginal bodies of water. Along with the strategic withdrawal of foreign powers, that simultaneously prepare regional powers to maintain security and stability of the region.

The situation in the Persian Gulf and Strait Hormuz calls for increased diplomacy. Current conflicts and tensions such as the situation with Qatar and Iran's actions must be addressed via regional diplomacy not the intervention of foreign powers. Agreements should work to find a common economic goal that benefits the region as a whole, and reducing the need for foreign presence.

Indo-Pakistani tensions must once again be addressed in the context of the issue. Although improbable, it is necessary to evaluate and aim to denuclearize the region. Furthermore, the international community must take into account China's actions in the regions and the need to address its economic investment and its effect on increasing regional instability and tensions.

Given the increase of Chinese Influence and competition with India, intergovernmental progress must be made to find solutions acceptable for both sides regarding the regulation of trade and investment in the region. As well as, addressing the unsustainable development of Indian Ocean nations fuelled by Chinese Investment that disregards the effects of debt on a nation's ability to grow and maintain its sovereignty.
If these regional sources of Indian Ocean instability can be resolved then a cohesive international response on the issue can occur. This would include working to address the initial concepts set forth by the IOZOP, via a renewed focus on the issue with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, the IORA, and other regional organizations of cooperation. Encouraging sustainable investment by nations, and the encouragement of inter and intra-regional trade while maximizing the trade benefits received by littoral states.

Only through member states' efforts to stabilize and refocus efforts on the original goal of the IOZOP can this vision for the Indian Ocean by truly realized.

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