

ASIA'S VIOLENT CONFLICTS

In Asia, where more than half of the world's population lives, numerous conflicts are simmering that would have global consequences were they to escalate.



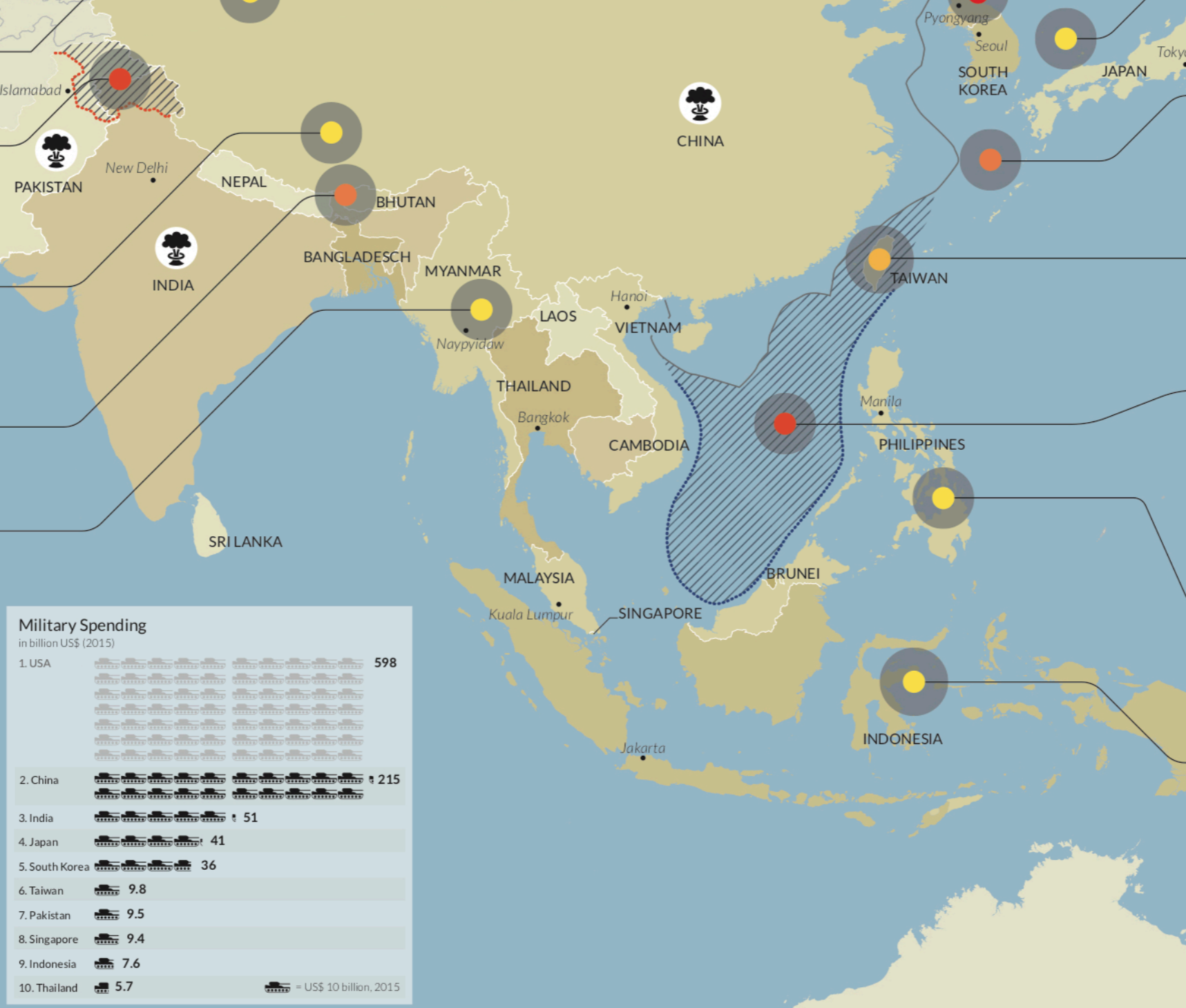
Xinjiang
Time and again, the long-simmering tensions between China's authorities and the Uighurs, a Muslim minority, have turned violent. Hundreds have died in ethnic riots and attacks.

Kashmir
Conflict parties: India, Pakistan
Both India and Pakistan claim Kashmir, an area the size of the UK. They have waged three wars since 1947, most recently in 1999, which have resulted in more than 70,000 casualties.

Tibet
For many in the west, Tibet symbolizes the oppression of religious minorities in China. Since 2009, 146 Tibetans have died as a result of self-immolation.

China / India
Territorial disputes between the rival Asian giants go back decades, with the most recent military stand-off taking place in Doklam in 2017.

Myanmar (Burma)
The government of Myanmar is accused of committing genocide against the Rohingya, a Muslim minority that the authorities have deprived of their statehood.



North Korea
Conflict parties: South Korea, North Korea, USA, China, Russia
The isolated regime of Kim Jong-un has developed its nuclear weapons program and missile technology to the point that it is now – according to its own claims – able to strike targets in the USA.

Liancourt Rock
Conflict parties: South Korea, Japan
The contested rocks (Korean: Dokdo / Japanese: Takeshima) are the symbol of the two countries' historically difficult relationship.

East China Sea
Conflict parties: China, Japan, Taiwan
The disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands are the territorial flashpoint for the historically very fraught relationship between China and Japan.

Taiwan
Conflict parties: China, Taiwan, USA
The People's Republic views Taiwan as a renegade province and insists that other countries endorse a "One China" policy. The USA offers Taiwan military protection.

South China Sea
Conflict parties: China, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan
China claims 90% of the South China Sea, while neighboring countries claim parts of the area that is one of the world's most important sea routes. In recent years China has built up artificial islands and increased its military presence.

The Philippines
Ongoing conflict between the government and Muslim groups in the southern Mindanao region.

Indonesia
Conflicts between individual groups and the government, including in Papua, West Papua and Poso. Recurring attacks on ethnic Chinese.

USA
The USA has traditionally considered itself a Pacific power. With Barack Obama's so-called "Pivot to Asia," the country sought to reinforce its position as the region's dominant power, partly to halt China's growing assertiveness.