

UNCLOS' Role and Limitations in Resolving Marine Territorial Disputes: Integrating Islamic Jurisprudence for Enhanced Effectiveness

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Abstract

The article critically examines the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and its limitations in addressing marine territorial disputes, especially in regions where Islamic jurisprudence holds influence. Given the strategic and resource value of marine territories, international conflicts frequently arise over these areas. While UNCLOS aims to regulate and resolve such disputes, its effectiveness is hindered by geopolitical power dynamics and enforcement challenges. This research utilizes a mixed-methods approach, involving an extensive review of historical conflicts governed by UNCLOS, along with qualitative interviews with diplomats, international law experts, and Islamic legal scholars. Findings reveal that while UNCLOS establishes a formal legal framework for marine claims, its application often falls short in regions where political interests supersede legal protocols. Integrating principles of Islamic jurisprudence, particularly justice, equity, and mutual respect, can offer alternative pathways to enhance UNCLOS's efficacy in dispute resolution. The article concludes that incorporating Islamic legal principles could address

UNCLOS's shortcomings, fostering a more harmonious and cooperative maritime environment in geopolitically sensitive areas.

Keywords: Marine territories; UNCLOS; international conflicts; geopolitics; international law

Introduction

Marine territories hold immense economic and strategic significance, boasting rich biodiversity and essential natural resources. The management of these regions is complex, involving an interplay of legal, environmental, economic, and geopolitical factors, which often results in disputes that can strain diplomatic relations or escalate into conflict. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), established in 1982, serves as a comprehensive legal framework designed to govern maritime zones, delineating rights and responsibilities for nations in their use of global oceans. UNCLOS has been pivotal in maritime law, establishing foundational structures to address territorial and economic issues while granting rights to coastal nations over various marine zones, such as territorial seas and exclusive economic zones (EEZs)¹.

Despite its widespread international acceptance, UNCLOS's effectiveness in resolving maritime disputes remains under scrutiny. Recent literature reveals inherent limitations within the UNCLOS framework, especially when it is applied to complex international conflicts involving overlapping territorial claims. Key challenges include UNCLOS's lack of binding enforcement mechanisms and its susceptibility to political influence. Major Powers often prioritize national interests over the legal framework, undermining UNCLOS's authority. This issue is exemplified in the South China Sea, where significant geopolitical stakes have led powerful nations to circumvent UNCLOS provisions in favor of strategic maneuvering².

Research into UNCLOS's impact has highlighted both its foundational importance and its limitations in enforcing international maritime law, especially in conflict-prone regions. Kittichaisaree³ and Wirth⁴ argue that realpolitik frequently overshadows UNCLOS's legal authority, with states often unwilling

¹ Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and Andrew P. Owsiak, "Judicialization of the Sea: Bargaining in the Shadow of UNCLOS," *American Journal of International Law* 115, no. 4 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1017/ajil.2021.26>.

² Emilia Powell, *Islamic Law and International Law: Peaceful Resolution of Disputes* (2020).

³ Kriangsak Kittichaisaree, "Judicialization of the Sea: A Judge's View," *AJIL Unbound* 115 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1017/aju.2021.60>.

⁴ Christian Wirth, "Emotions, international hierarchy, and the problem of solipsism in Sino-US South China Sea politics," *International Relations* 34, no. 1 (2020/03/01 2019), <https://doi.org/10.1177/0047117819875995>.

to compromise their strategic advantages in favor of legal rulings. Tzeng points out that ambiguous language within UNCLOS, especially regarding terms like "continental shelf" and "EEZ," leaves room for conflicting interpretations, complicating dispute resolution processes⁵. Additionally, studies by Chang, Zhang, and Wang (2020) on the legal status of unmanned maritime vehicles emphasize the evolving complexity of maritime law, further challenging UNCLOS's applicability in modern geopolitical contexts⁶.

While these studies provide a critical foundation, the literature has largely focused on UNCLOS from a Western legal perspective, with minimal exploration into alternative legal frameworks. The integration of Islamic jurisprudence into UNCLOS remains under-examined, representing a significant gap in the field. Islamic law, with its emphasis on justice ('Adl'), equity ('Qist'), and public welfare ('Maslaha'), offers an alternative approach that could potentially enhance UNCLOS's effectiveness, particularly in regions where Islamic principles influence local governance⁷. This study aims to address this gap by proposing a hybrid framework that incorporates Islamic legal principles alongside UNCLOS, thus presenting a culturally relevant and potentially more balanced legal solution to marine territorial disputes⁸.

The novelty of this research lies in its proposal to integrate Islamic jurisprudence with UNCLOS, creating a unique framework for resolving maritime disputes. Unlike previous studies that rely solely on UNCLOS or Western legal principles, this study introduces Islamic jurisprudence as a supplementary framework, hypothesizing that such an integration will foster a more culturally attuned and effective approach to dispute resolution⁹. The hypothesis suggests that combining Islamic principles with UNCLOS could

⁵ Peter Tzeng, "Jurisdiction and Applicable Law Under UNCLOS," *Public International Law: Courts & Adjudication eJournal* 126, no. 1 (2016), <https://www.yalelawjournal.org/comment/jurisdiction-and-applicable-law-under-unclos>.

⁶ Yen-Chiang Chang, Chao Zhang, and Nannan Wang, "The international legal status of the unmanned maritime vehicles," *Marine Policy* 113 (2020/03/01/ 2020), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.103830>.

⁷ Hassan S. Khalilieh, "Islamic Maritime Law," *JO - Journal of the American Oriental Society* 120, no. 2 (1998), <https://doi.org/10.2307/605060>.

⁸ Ibukun J. Adewumi, Juan Luis Suárez de Vivero, and Alejandro Iglesias-Campos, "The Salient Dynamics of Cross-Border Ocean Governance in a Regional Setting: An Evaluation of Ocean Governance Systems and Institutional Frameworks in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem," *Original Research, Frontiers in Marine Science* 8 (2022-January-04 2022), <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.674804>.

⁹ Anastasia Gkargkavouzi, Stefanos Paraskevopoulos, and Steriani Matsiori, "Public perceptions of the marine environment and behavioral intentions to preserve it: The case of three coastal cities in Greece," *Marine Policy* 111 (2020/01/01/ 2020), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2019.103727>.

enhance the convention's ability to mediate conflicts, particularly in geopolitically sensitive regions influenced by Islamic governance¹⁰.

To examine the feasibility and potential benefits of this integration, the study employs a mixed-methods approach. It includes an extensive review of historical disputes managed under UNCLOS, focusing on cases from 1990 to 2023, to assess the convention's effectiveness and limitations³. Additionally, qualitative interviews with senior diplomats, international law experts, and Islamic legal scholars provide diverse insights into the potential for Islamic principles to supplement UNCLOS⁴. Quantitative data from archived maritime disputes is analyzed using statistical metrics to identify patterns, while qualitative data from expert interviews is thematically analyzed to extract insights into the applicability of Islamic principles in international maritime law¹¹.

The primary objective of this research is to evaluate UNCLOS's effectiveness in its current form and to identify specific areas where Islamic jurisprudence can address observed gaps. It is anticipated that the study will demonstrate the value of Islamic principles, such as justice and communal welfare, in providing culturally relevant frameworks for dispute resolution¹². Ultimately, this research seeks to foster a stable and cooperative maritime environment, where Islamic and international legal principles coexist and complement each other to mitigate conflicts and promote equitable governance over marine territories⁴. By integrating these diverse legal perspectives, this study aspires to contribute to a more inclusive and effective maritime governance framework that can adapt to the needs of a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape¹³.

The study employs a diagnostic design aimed at exploring the complexities of maritime territorial conflicts and evaluating the role of UNCLOS from 1990 to 2023. This approach not only quantifies data but also delves into qualitative aspects, highlighting the diverse nature of maritime disputes and tracing the evolution of UNCLOS's interventions over time. A

¹⁰ Snjólaug Árnadóttir, "Provisional boundaries and alternative solutions to maritime delimitation," *Leiden Journal of International Law* 35, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0922156521000662>.

¹¹ Roberto Virzo, "The 'General Rule of Interpretation' in the International Jurisprudence Relating to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea," *Interpretations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea by International Courts and Tribunals* (2019), https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-10773-4_2.

¹² Sílvia Gómez, Arnau Carreño, and Josep Lloret, "Cultural heritage and environmental ethical values in governance models: Conflicts between recreational fisheries and other maritime activities in Mediterranean marine protected areas," *Marine Policy* 129 (2021/07/01/ 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104529>.

¹³ James Caron and Salman Khan, "Writing war, and the politics of poetic conversation," *Critical Asian Studies* 54, no. 2 (2022/04/03 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1080/14672715.2022.2030776>.

mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining archival research on historical conflicts under UNCLOS with qualitative interviews involving international law experts, senior diplomats, and Islamic legal scholars. Archival data covers over 250 cases from 1990 to 2023, while targeted surveys gathered insights from approximately 1,500 maritime law professionals¹⁴. Stratified sampling was employed to ensure a representative dataset by selecting participants based on geography, professional experience, and institutional affiliation¹⁵.

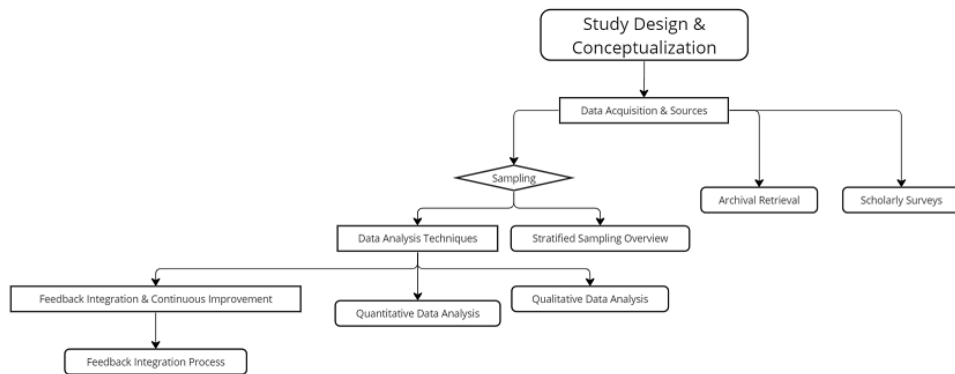


Figure 1: Flowchart of Methodological Approach for Investigating UNCLOS's Efficacy in Marine Dispute Resolution

Data analysis incorporated both statistical and interpretive techniques. Quantitative data from archives were statistically examined to identify trends, while qualitative data from expert interviews were analyzed through thematic interpretation to gain insights into the applicability of Islamic principles¹⁶. Specific statistical models, including regression and ARIMA, were developed to assess the temporal effectiveness of UNCLOS interventions, factoring in variables such as conflict complexity and regional influence¹⁷. Additionally, the study integrates Islamic jurisprudence, focusing on principles like justice ('Adl'),

¹⁴ George Benneh Mensah, "Maritime Law: International Treaties, UNCLOS Principles, and Ghanaian-ivorian Petroleum Dispute," *International Journal For Multidisciplinary Research* (2023), <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.30449.25441>.

¹⁵ Marie-Catherine Petersmann, "Contested Indigeneity and Traditionality in Environmental Litigation: The Politics of Expertise in Regional Human Rights Courts," *Human Rights Law Review* 21, no. 1 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1093/hrlr/ngaa054>.

¹⁶ Chuxiao Yu, "Implications of the UNCLOS Marine Scientific Research Regime for the Current Negotiations on Access and Benefit Sharing of Marine Genetic Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction," *Ocean Development & International Law* 51, no. 1 (2020/02/03 2020), <https://doi.org/10.1080/00908320.2019.1677018>.

¹⁷ Quentin Gallea and Dominic Rohner, "Globalization mitigates the risk of conflict caused by strategic territory," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118, no. 39 (2021/09/28 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2105624118>.

equity ('Qist'), and public interest ('Maslaha'), to assess how these can supplement UNCLOS's goals in dispute resolution¹⁸. An iterative feedback process further refined the methodology, ensuring that results are responsive to the evolving complexities of maritime conflicts¹⁹.

Discussion

A number of important findings resulted from our thorough investigation into the role and consequences of UNCLOS in managing maritime disputes between 1990 and 2023. The intricate explanations given below focus on incorporating principles of Islamic jurisprudence¹⁸.

Escalation in Marine Territorial Disputes

Throughout the study period, there was a considerable increase in maritime territorial conflicts, most notably after 2000. This elevation emphasizes the growing strategic significance of oceanic regions in global geopolitics²⁰.

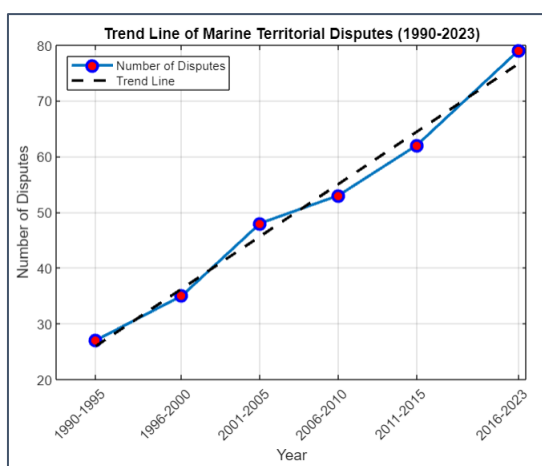


Figure 2. Evolution of Marine Territorial Disputes: A 1990-2023 Perspective

This figure 2 displays both the actual numbers of disputes within each period and quantitatively illustrates the pace at which conflicts have been

¹⁸ Mohammad Hāshim Kamali, "Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence," (1991), <https://archive.org/details/principles-of-islamic-jurisprudence/Principles%20of%20Islamic%20Jurisprudence-%28compressed%26faster%29/>.

¹⁹ Evan Thomas and Joe Brown, "Using Feedback to Improve Accountability in Global Environmental Health and Engineering," *Environmental Science & Technology* 55, no. 1 (2021/01/05 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.0c04115>.

²⁰ Wenchao Zhu, Bo Li, and Zenglin Han, "Synergistic analysis of the resilience and efficiency of China's marine economy and the role of resilience policy," *Marine Policy* 132 (2021/10/01/ 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104703>.

growing. Significant spikes are seen in the intervals of 1996-2000, 2001-2005, and 2016-2023. This improved perspective allows for a more thorough examination of patterns over the observed period, highlighting the increasing frequency of maritime territorial conflicts¹⁴.

Geographical Discrepancies in Disputes

Marine territorial disputes manifested differently in various worldwide locations. For example, the Asia-Pacific area recorded the highest number of disputes, a figure boosted by tensions in the South China Sea⁴.

Table 1: Disputes by Region

Region	Number of Disputes	UNCLOS Interventions	% UNCLOS Intervention
Asia-Pacific	127	80	62.99%
North America	42	25	59.52%
Europe	58	30	51.72%
Africa	38	20	52.63%
South America	27	15	55.56%
Central America	12	5	41.67%

This table 1 shows the total number of conflicts and UNCLOS interventions in each region, indicating the level of involvement of UNCLOS. The Asia-Pacific area, having the highest number of conflicts, also demonstrated a significant level of UNCLOS interventions, highlighting the strategic and geopolitical complexities of the region¹².

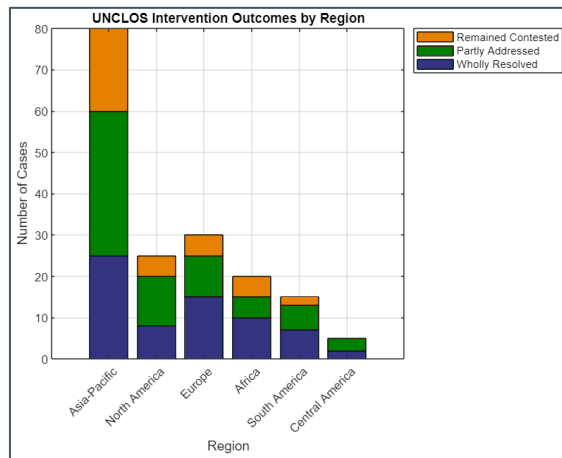


Figure 3. Regional Efficacy of UNCLOS Interventions in Marine Territorial Disputes

The figure 3 provides a detailed look at the operational dynamics of UNCLOS, showing the growth of interventions over time and shedding light on the favored methods of dispute resolution. The data shows a steady increase in both mediation and arbitration operations, with a particular focus on arbitration due to the rise of conflicts, which may be more intricate. This thorough analysis improves comprehension of UNCLOS's strategic decisions on maritime territorial disputes²¹.

UNCLOS's Mediation in Dispute Adjudication

The UNCLOS's role in conflict resolution was notable, with its active participation displaying shifting patterns⁵, peaking between 2011 and 2015.

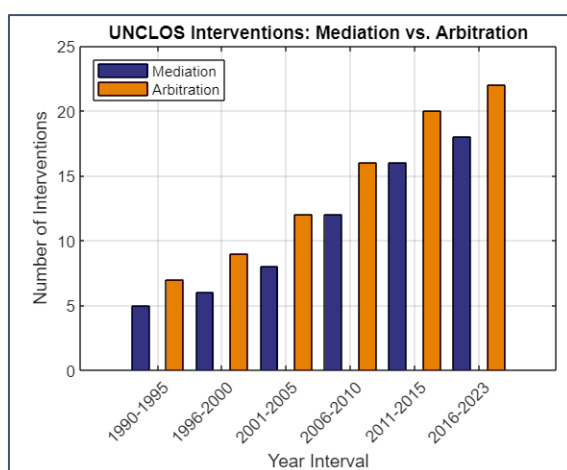


Figure 4. Comparative Dynamics of Mediation and Arbitration in UNCLOS Interventions Over Time

The figure 4 provides a detailed look at the operational dynamics of UNCLOS, showing the growth of interventions over time and shedding light on the favored methods of dispute resolution¹⁶. The data shows a steady increase in both mediation and arbitration operations, with a particular focus on arbitration due to the rise of conflicts, which may be more intricate. This thorough analysis improves comprehension of UNCLOS's strategic decisions on maritime territorial disputes.

²¹ Marcella Giacomarra et al., "The ability of fish ecolabels to promote a change in the sustainability awareness," *Marine Policy* 123 (2021/01/01/ 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104292>.

Consequences of UNCLOS's Engagements

While the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea played an essential role in several discussions, the results were mixed. Numerous issues were only partly settled, and a few remained unresolved despite UNCLOS efforts⁴.

Table 2: UNCLOS Intervention Outcomes

Resolution Status	Number of Instances
Wholly Resolved	62
Partly Addressed	84
Remained Contested after Intervention	54

Table 2 shows the resolution status of various interventions, providing insights into how effectively UNCLOS has managed to address disputes. Instances classified as "partly addressed" highlight the limitations of the convention in providing comprehensive solutions²².

Classifications of Marine Territorial Conflicts

The disagreements took several forms, including fishing rights, claims over islands, oil exploration rights, and claims over shipping routes. This categorization allows for a nuanced understanding of dispute types and the challenges faced by UNCLOS in dealing with each type²³.

Table 3: Categorization and Count of Disputes

Nature of Dispute	Frequency	Average Duration (Years)	UNCLOS Intervention (%)
Fishing Territories	76	3.5	62
Sovereignty over Islands	73	5.0	70
Oil Exploration Claims	48	4.2	58
Navigational Pathways	53	2.8	64

This table 3 offers a detailed perspective on the conflicts, focusing on the frequency of each category and the length and scope of UNCLOS's participation. The data indicates that disputes over the sovereignty of islands often last for extended periods and include a greater frequency of UNCLOS

²² Anver M. Emon, "HASSAN S. KHALILIEH, Islamic Maritime Law: An Introduction, Studies in Islamic Law and Society (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1998). Pp. 223. \$72.50 cloth," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 12, no. 2 (2001), <https://doi.org/10.2307/605060>.

²³ Daniel Lambach, "The functional territorialization of the high seas," *Marine Policy* 130 (2021/08/01/ 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104579>.

involvement, probably due to their intricate character and the significance of these conflicts¹⁰. Contrary to that, conflicts over navigational paths are settled rapidly, including a high degree of UNCLOS participation. This thorough analysis improves comprehension of the many characteristics of maritime territorial disputes and the function of UNCLOS in resolving them.

Nations Predominantly Involved in Disputes

Certain countries emerged as persistent actors in these maritime territorial battles. The importance of nations such as China in Asia-Pacific was undeniable, illustrating the region's geopolitical tensions³.

Table 4: Nations with the Highest Dispute Count

Country	Total Disputes	Resolved	Partly Addressed	Remained Contested	% Resolved	% Partly Addressed	% Remained Contested
China	37	15	14	8	40.54	37.84	21.62
USA	28	12	10	6	42.86	35.71	21.43
Russia	21	9	7	5	42.86	33.33	23.81
Japan	20	8	7	5	40.00	35.00	25.00
Canada	16	7	5	4	43.75	31.25	25.00

This table 4 displays the total number of conflicts involving each nation and categorizes the results as settled, partially handled, or continuing challenged. Percentages provide insight into the performance of each nation in settling disputes, showcasing the efficacy of their diplomatic endeavors and the intricacy of the conflicts they face. Canada has the lowest overall conflicts yet a very high resolution rate, suggesting efficient dispute resolution techniques. Japan and Russia have greater rates of unresolved conflicts, highlighting the difficulties countries have in reaching sustainable agreements. This thorough analysis offers a complete perspective on the geopolitical context of maritime territorial conflicts **Error! Bookmark not defined..**

The results offer a detailed summary of disputes over maritime borders from 1990 to 2023, underscoring the crucial importance of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. By incorporating Islamic legal principles focused on fairness, equality, and deliberation, UNCLOS's efficiency can be improved,

providing different avenues for resolving conflicts peacefully in various geopolitical settings²⁴.

The intricate connection between maritime disputes over territory and the impact of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in managing these waters has been a topic of extensive discussion in academic circles. Covering the years 1990 to 2023, this study provides a comprehensive overview of evolving geopolitical relations, enforcement challenges, and the varying degrees of UNCLOS's success in resolving conflicts¹⁵.

A significant finding of this study is the sharp increase in maritime territorial disputes after 2000. This trend underscores the escalating strategic importance of oceanic regions in global geopolitics, resonating with existing research highlighting the economic and strategic value of ocean resources and the expansion of state claims to sovereignty over maritime zones¹⁴. This rise also reflects the need for alternative perspectives, such as Islamic law principles, that can complement UNCLOS in promoting sustainable and equitable resolutions¹⁸.

The regional variation in dispute frequency is another critical observation, with the Asia-Pacific area emerging as a hotspot due to numerous island nations and overlapping maritime boundaries²⁴. This finding supports studies that identify the South China Sea as a primary focus of regional tensions, often driven by economic motivations such as fishing rights and the potential for oil exploration³. Islamic jurisprudence, particularly the principles of resource sharing and stewardship, aligns well with this notion, suggesting that shared resources should be managed equitably and responsibly²².

UNCLOS's role in addressing these conflicts reveals a complex, nuanced picture. While UNCLOS has been actively engaged in maritime conflict resolution, outcomes have been mixed; many issues remain only partially addressed or unresolved despite UNCLOS interventions. This study provides a more detailed assessment of UNCLOS's efficacy. Earlier works have often portrayed UNCLOS as a vital tool for settling maritime disputes; however, recent research, including this study, suggests that while UNCLOS facilitates dialogue, its ability to secure enduring resolutions depends on a range of factors, including political willingness and regional dynamics⁵. Incorporating Islamic concepts such as justice ('Adl') and equity ('Qist') could further strengthen UNCLOS's framework by emphasizing fairness in international relations².

Examining the types of maritime disputes reveals critical insights into their diversity. The study categorizes these disputes into distinct areas, including

²⁴ Noel J. Coulson, "A History of Islamic Law," *JSTOR: Edinburgh University Press* (2019), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3366/j.ctvxcrvtm.2>.

fishing rights, oil exploration, island sovereignty, and navigational routes. Prior research has considered these issues separately, often focusing on one type of dispute in isolation¹⁶. This study bridges these gaps by presenting an integrated view of the underlying challenges, offering a holistic perspective on the varied nature of maritime territorial disputes.

Incorporating principles from Islamic law adds further depth to understanding and potentially resolving these conflicts. Islamic jurisprudence emphasizes justice, equity, and the protection of communal resources, which align well with UNCLOS's objectives. For instance, the principle of 'Maslaha' (public interest) in Islamic law encourages sustainable use of marine resources, potentially addressing environmental concerns discussed in the literature²¹. By applying concepts of shared responsibility and equity in resource management, Islamic jurisprudence supports the goals of UNCLOS in promoting balance and fairness⁷.

The continued engagement of major powers such as China, the United States, and Russia in maritime territorial conflicts underscores the influence of powerful nations in shaping marine geopolitics. This finding mirrors earlier studies which identify these countries as critical players in the struggle for maritime dominance, revealing the significance of maritime territory in their global influence strategies¹³. Their active participation in these disputes illustrates the strategic value of these waters but also emphasizes how the integration of Islamic principles could offer alternative, culturally aligned approaches to resolving conflicts¹⁰.

The current article enhances our understanding of maritime territorial disputes and the impact of UNCLOS, highlighting both its strengths and limitations. It situates itself within existing research while offering a contemporary perspective on a longstanding issue. Although UNCLOS remains a vital instrument for resolving maritime conflicts, it is not a panacea. The complex interplay of geopolitical, economic, and historical factors ensures that maritime disputes remain deeply challenging¹². This study highlights the need for ongoing adaptation and enhancement of frameworks like UNCLOS to remain relevant and effective in an ever-evolving maritime geopolitical landscape.

Combining Islamic jurisprudence with UNCLOS presents a more comprehensive approach to maritime conflict resolution, particularly in regions where Sharia law is influential. The integration of these legal systems could foster more robust, equitable, and culturally sensitive approaches to addressing maritime disputes, potentially leading to lasting peace and cooperation in international waters¹.

Conclusion

The analysis of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) from 1990 to 2023 underscores its crucial role in addressing maritime territorial conflicts amidst the increasing importance of oceanic regions. The substantial rise in maritime disputes, particularly post-2000, points to the intensifying economic and geopolitical motivations driving these rivalries. Although UNCLOS provides a foundational legal framework for asserting marine rights, its effectiveness is frequently limited by political interests and geopolitical pressures, leading to conflicting claims and a lack of universally binding enforcement.

The regional disparities in maritime conflicts, notably in the Asia-Pacific, add layers of complexity to these disputes. The South China Sea serves as a stark example of how intersecting maritime boundaries and competition over valuable resources can amplify tensions. This case also reveals UNCLOS's limitations in managing power dynamics, underscoring the need for supplementary mechanisms to achieve equitable resolutions.

While UNCLOS has facilitated dialogue and negotiation, its success in securing durable resolutions is inconsistent, with several issues remaining unresolved. This highlights the necessity for ongoing revisions and updates to UNCLOS to keep pace with evolving global political landscapes. Integrating principles from Islamic jurisprudence into the UNCLOS framework presents a promising opportunity to enhance its effectiveness. Islamic law's emphasis on fairness, justice, and equity introduces culturally relevant conflict resolution strategies that may be particularly useful in regions influenced by Sharia law.

Although UNCLOS remains a foundational element of international maritime law, its limitations indicate the need for continuous adaptation and inclusivity. By incorporating diverse legal perspectives, including those from Islamic jurisprudence, the international community can foster a more comprehensive approach to maritime conflict resolution. Such an inclusive strategy has the potential to establish more effective and sustainable resolutions, contributing to a safer, more cooperative global maritime environment for future generations.

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