

EURASIAN MARITIME GEOPOLITICS



Kent Calder, Director of the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies, Johns Hopkins University(SAIS)

Introduction



Strategic island chains of the Pacific



The western entrances to the Strait of Malacca



The Bay of Bengal in its Indian Ocean context



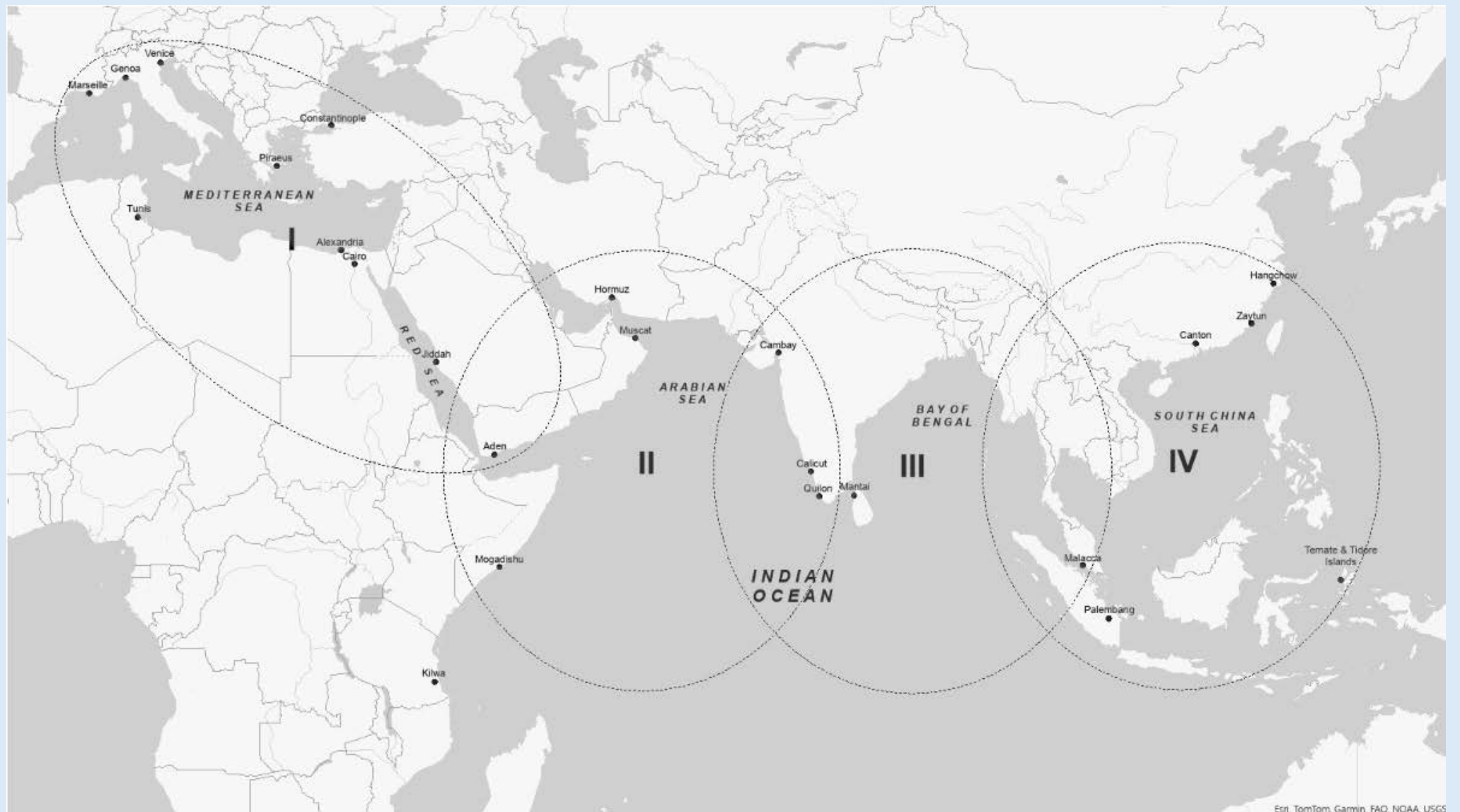
The emerging Arctic sea lanes



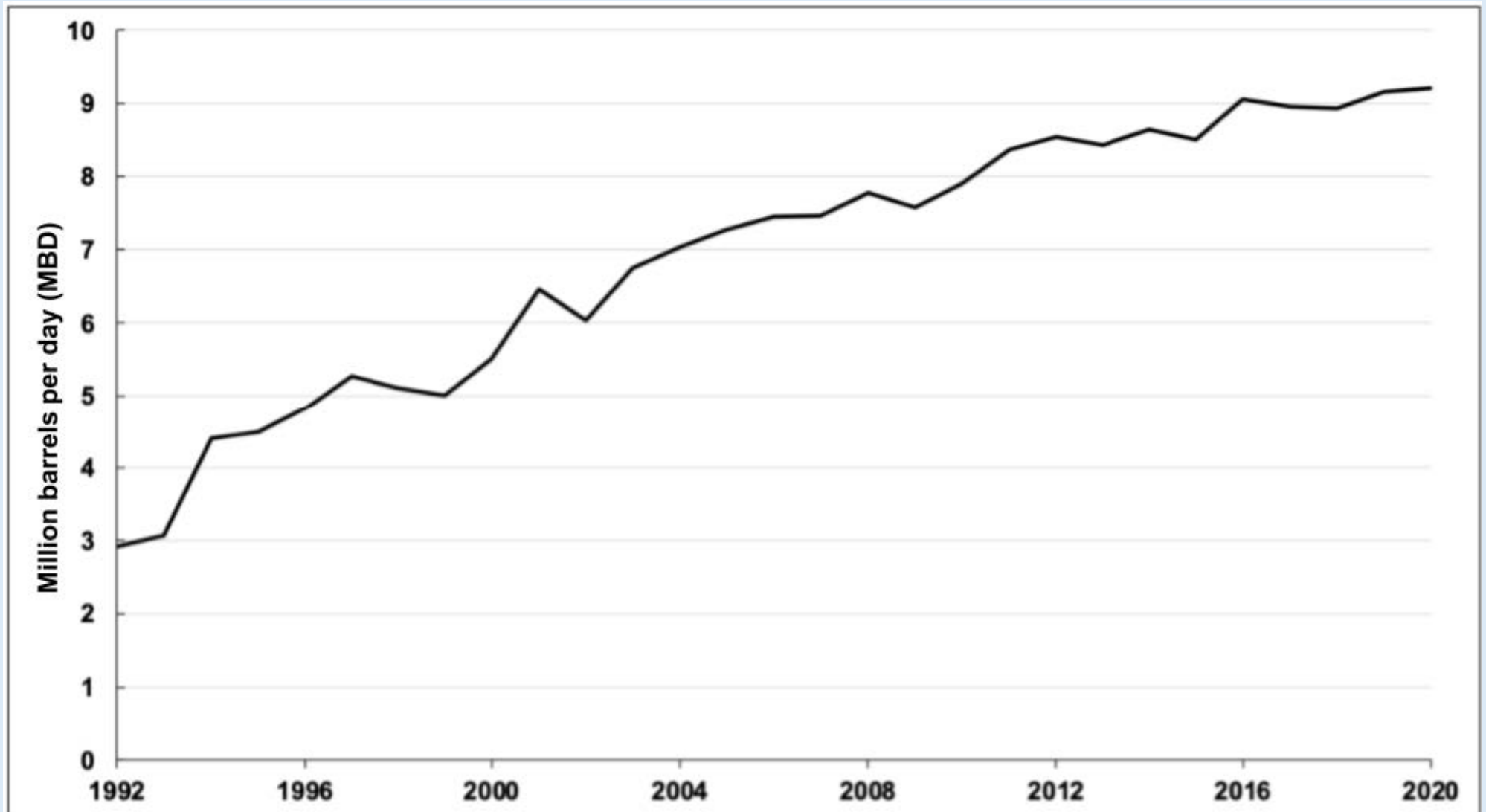
From the Indian Ocean to Europe

<u>Functional Role of the Sea Lanes</u>	Information Society Catalyst					
	Communications Infrastructure					
	Energy Supply					
	Imperial Control					
	Commerce					
<u>Period</u>		Pre-European (~1498)	European Colonial Dominance (1500–1950)	Asian High Growth (1955~)	Infrastructure Building (1975~)	Information Revolution (2015~)

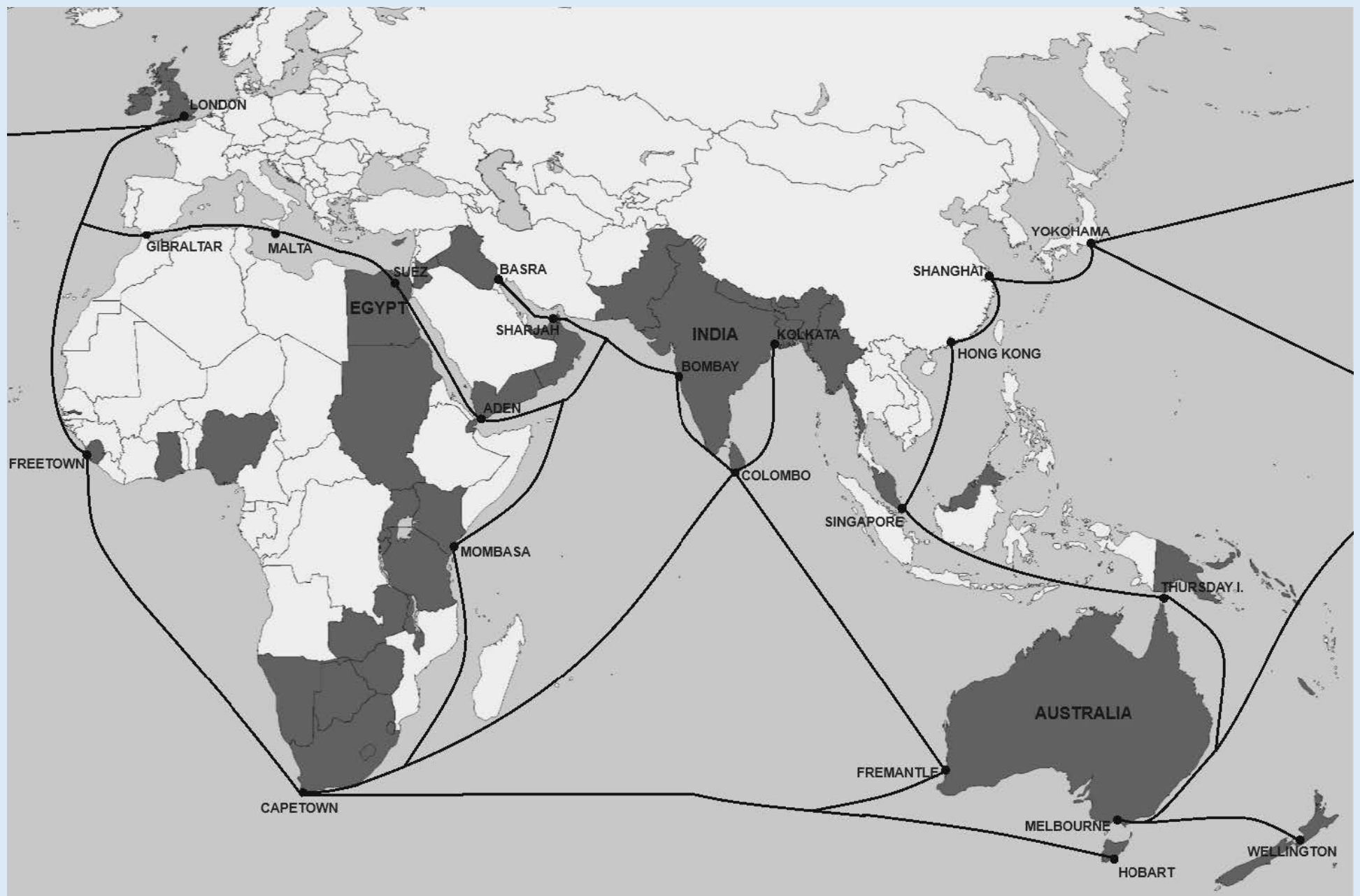
Broadening geo-economic functions of the Eurasian sea lanes



The “three circuit” trading system of the medieval Indian Ocean



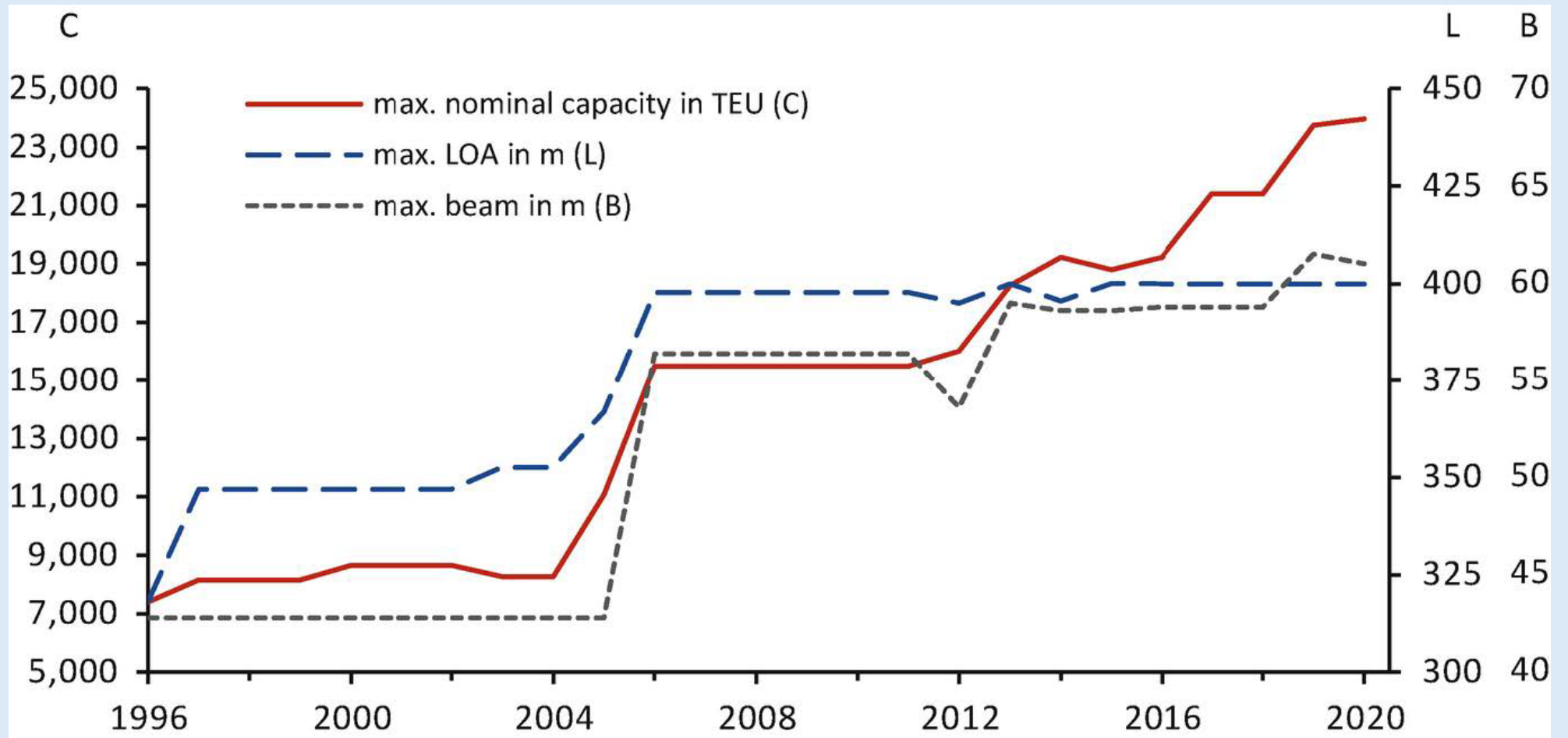
Rising Northeast Asian oil imports from the Persian Gulf
(1950–2020)



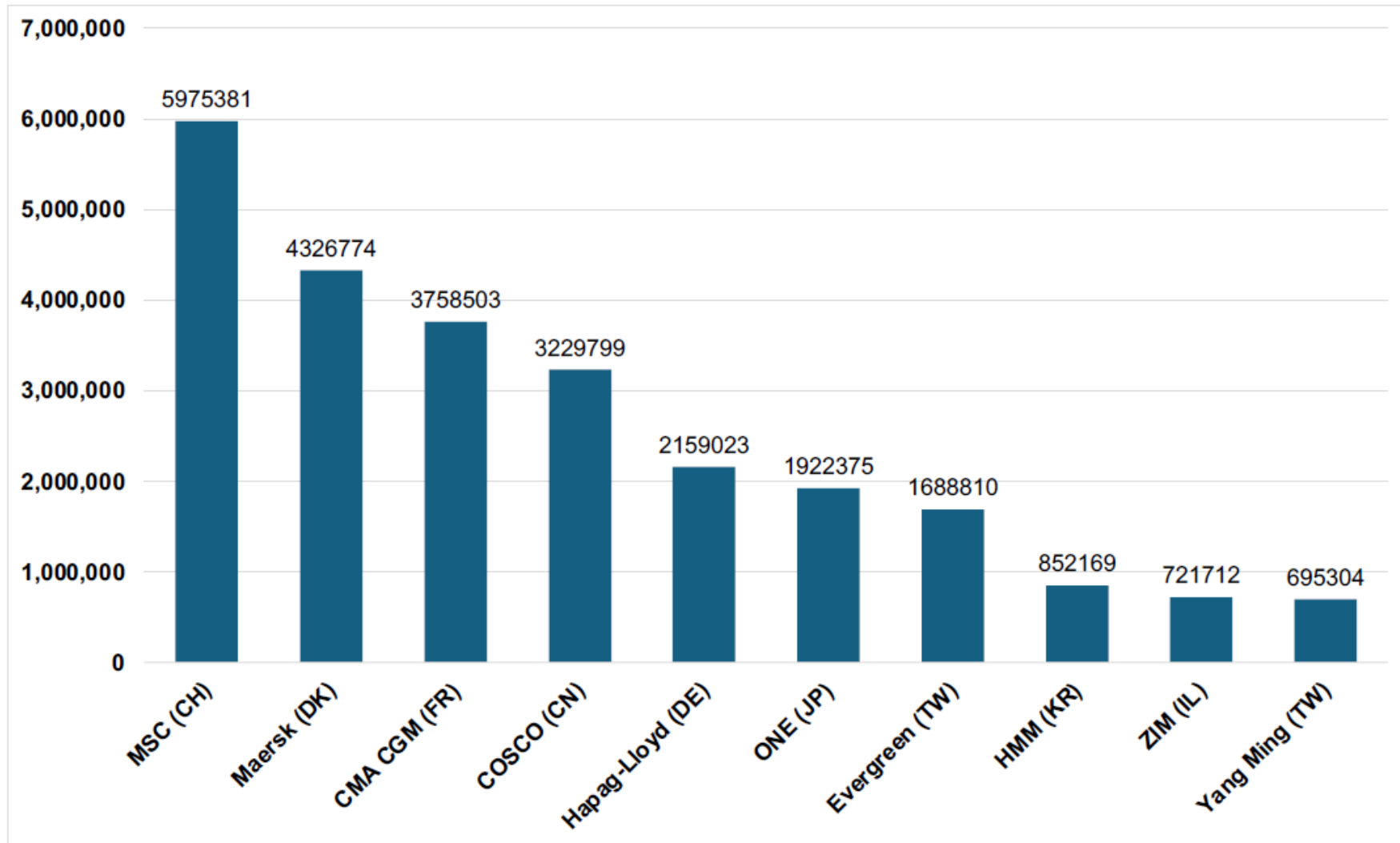
Eurasian sea lanes as lifelines to the British Empire (1930) 11



Diego Garcia in strategic context



The steady expansion of global container ship capacity
(1996–2021)



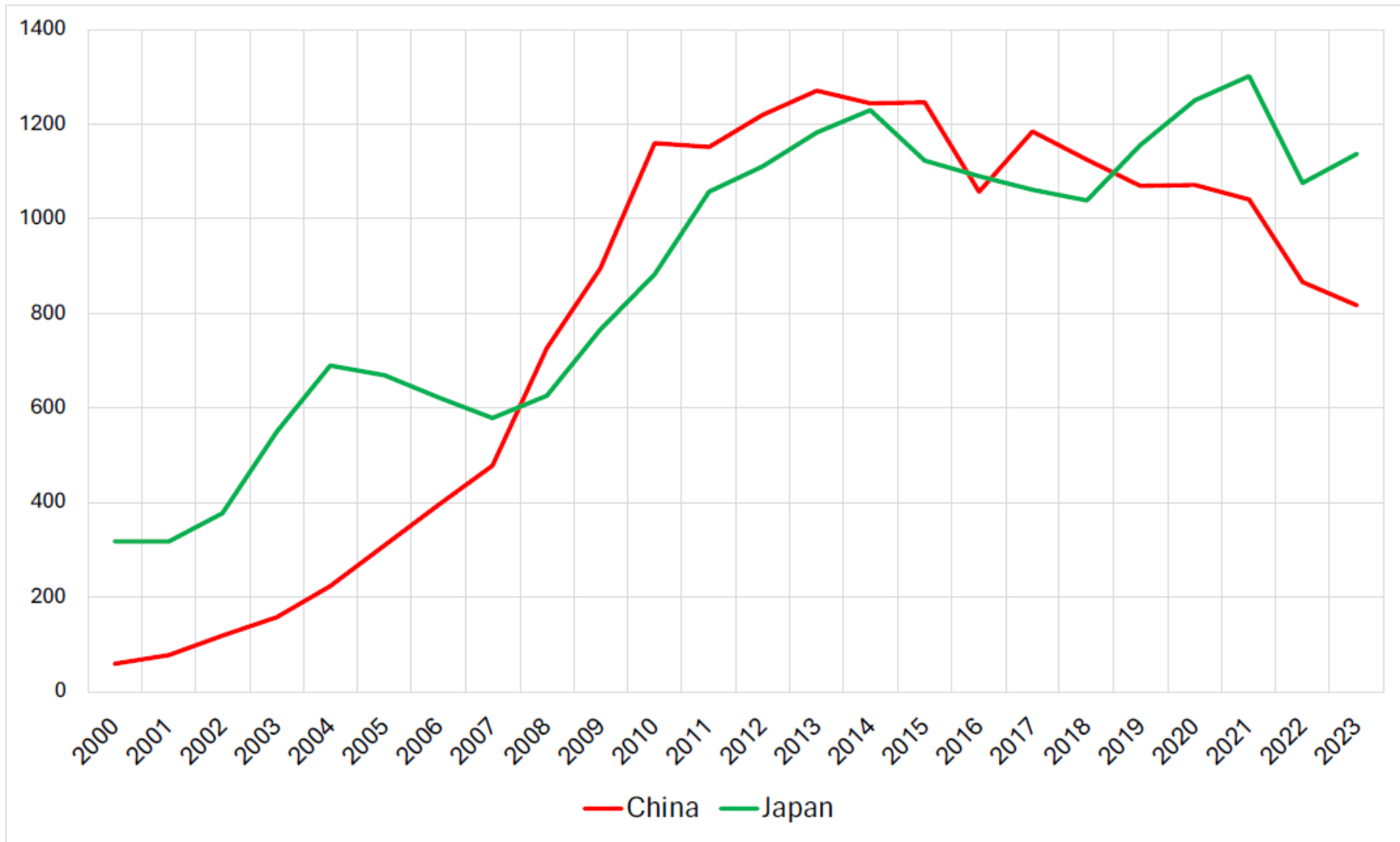
Northeast Asia's key role in global container shipping

Rank	Port	2017 Volume	2021 Volume	Change (%)
1	Shanghai, China	40.23	47.03	16.9
2	Singapore	33.67	37.49	11.34
3	Ningbo, China	24.61	31.07	26.25
4	Shenzhen, China	25.21	28.77	14.12
5	Guangzhou, China	20.37	24.18	18.7
6	Busan, South Korea	20.49	22.71	10.83
7	Qingdao, China	18.3	23.71	29.56
8	Hong Kong, China	20.76	17.8	-14.26
9	Tianjin, China	15.07	20.27	34.5
10	Rotterdam, the Netherlands	13.73	15.3	11.43

China features the world's largest container ports (2021)

Country	Population (million)	GDP (billion USD)	Economic Orientation		
			Manufacturing	Resources	Services
Indo-Pacific					
Japan	124.52	4,212.95	X		X
India	1,428.63	3,549.92			X
South Korea	51.71	1,712.79	X		X
Australia	26.64	1,723.83		X	
Indonesia	277.53	1,371.17		X	
Singapore	5.92	501.43			X
Vietnam	98.86	429.72	X	X	
Arabian Gulf					
Saudi Arabia	36.95	1,067.58		X	
UAE	9.52	504.72		X	X

Potential system builders of maritime Eurasia



Top foreign holders of US debt: China vs. Japan

	Population Growth (annual %)	Youth Unemployment (% of total labor force ages 15-24)	Poverty Rate (headcount ratio at \$2.15 a day, 2017 PPP)	GDP Growth (annual %)	Urbanization Rate (annual %)
Mediterranean					
Spain	1.2	28.7	0.6 (2021)	2.5	1.5
Italy	−0.3	22.7	0.8 (2021)	0.9	0.1
Greece	−0.6	26.6	0.6 (2021)	2.0	−0.2
Turkey	0.4	17.6	0.4 (2021)	4.5	1.0
Egypt	1.5	19.0	1.5 (2019)	3.8	1.9
Red Sea					
Saudi Arabia	1.5	16.3	N/A	−0.8	1.7
Yemen	2.2	32.7	19.8 (2014)	0.8 (2018)	3.8
Eritrea	1.7	10.0	N/A	8.7 (2011)	3.2
Djibouti	1.4	76.5	19.1 (2017)	6.7	1.6
South Asia					
Pakistan	2.0	9.7	5.1 (2015)	0.0	2.8
India	0.8	15.8	18.1 (2016)	7.6	2.2
Sri Lanka	−0.7	25.3	1.3 (2016)	−2.3	0.3
Bangladesh	1.0	15.7	13.5 (2016)	5.8	2.9

Socioeconomic parameters of fragile Eurasian littoral states



In Conclusion