



EN Q. THANG

PART OF VIETNAM'S TERRITORY

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW



HO CHI MINH CITY GENERAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

**THE HOANG SA
AND TRUONG SA
ARCHIPELAGOES
PART OF VIETNAM'S TERRITORY**

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

NGUYEN Q. THANG

(Translated by Ngoc Bach)

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PUBLISHER'S INTRODUCTION

Hoang Sa (Paracel) and Truong Sa (Spratly) are two archipelagoes that have a very important strategic location on the East Sea, in terms of economic and national security aspect. Therefore, sovereignty disputes in the East Sea, particularly over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes, have become political hot spots in the area. Many countries have been trying to provide evidence for their sovereignty over these two islands. In the eyes of the law, however, no country but Vietnam has enough strong and authentic evidence to prove the sovereignty.

Many works so far published in Vietnam have disseminated a wide range of documents in order to confirm the undisputed sovereignty of Vietnam over Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes. Among those, the book ***“The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes - part of Vietnam's territory - from the standpoint of International Law”*** by Nguyen Q. Thang is one of the meticulous works of collecting and research. Various materials on history, geography, natural resources... related to the assertion of the sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes are contained in this book, being systematically and scientifically arranged.

Through historical data entered carefully and fairly completely in the book, readers can realize that not only Vietnamese historians but many navigators, geographers and some Western researchers all have ever affirmed since many centuries ago the sovereignty of Vietnam over Hoang Sa and Truong Sa. Besides his proclamation of historical documents, the author also looks at this matter from

The Hoang Sa And Truong Sa Archipelagoes part of Vietnam's territory ...

the viewpoint of International Law, this is the way by which many countries in the world have employed in order to satisfactorily settle all disputes – through which they confirm that Vietnam has all necessary legal bases to assert that Hoang Sa, Truong Sa are integral parts of the Vietnam's inseparable sacred territory.

After its publication, the Vietnamese version of this book has been highly welcomed with appreciation, and reprinted many times so far. This proves the book is of great value and that the issue of their native oceanic islands draws Vietnamese people's close attention. With much deep aspiration to disseminate these documents in order to reassert the sovereignty of Vietnam over Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes and to help both domestic readers and those in the international communities to gain an insight into the issue so that they can have objective and *judicious* view on Hoang Sa and Truong Sa and Vietnam's sovereignty over these two archipelagoes as well, we, Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House, publish the English version of the book ***“The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes – part of Vietnam's territory – from the standpoint of International Law”*** by Nguyen Q. Thang. We hope that this book would be a useful reference document for those, whether native or alien, who want to examine more aspects of the issue of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa in the current situation, especially about the sovereignty of Vietnam over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes. We also hope to get your attention and sincere contribution so that the book will be a perfect one in the second edition.

It is our pleasure to highly recommend this valuable book ***“The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes - part of Vietnam's territory - from the standpoint of International Law”*** - by Nguyen Q. Thang to all readers.

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PREFACE

No copies of my book *The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes* (the Vietnamese version) published in 1988 is currently in stock in the bookshops in Vietnam.

In order to satisfy the public demand and owing to the recent events concerning the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa, I have decided to have the English version of this book published to offer the readers a document for reference. In this edition, I have corrected the errors made in the previous edition as well as added three more chapters on History and International Law under the following headings:

- *The process of disputes over the sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes*
- *The international law and the sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes*
- *The historic truth and legal matters*

so as to prove Vietnam's sovereignty over this maritime region. For this reason, the book is now titled "*The Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes - part of Vietnam's sovereignty - from the standpoint of International Law*". On this special occasion,

I would like to show my gratitude to the late professor TTH (1933 - 1996), Paris, who has willingly offered me some documents on the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa. I am also indebted to the commissioners of the Government's Commission of Borders, especially Mr Le Minh Nghia (1926 - 2005), who has read the manuscript and corrected the use of modern terms related to borders.

I would like to express my appreciation again to the readers and scholars having been interested in this treatise in spite of some of its mistakes.

Saigon, the summer of 2013

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INTRODUCTION

This work is not a thorough treatise on Vietnam's sovereignty over Vietnam's territorial waters.

It's just some documents concerning the history, geography, natural resources... related to Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa (Paracels) and Truong Sa (Spratlys) archipelagoes.

Thanks to my collection of documents for my studies, I have had some documents on the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa. In this book, I would openly present those documents to you readers in the hope that you would be in position to know the essence of the issue of the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa. For this reason, I just consider my book as a collection of records used to bring the case of the sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa to the public.

Having completed this book, I am indebted to professor Vo Long Te's help with documents (the writer of *Les archipels de Hoang Sa and Truong Sa selon les anciens ouvrages Vietnamiens d'histoire et de géographie*, 1974, Saigon), and Mr Do Van Anh (the Library of Social Sciences, Ho Chi Minh City) and Mr Truong Van Khue (1943 - 1995), Director of