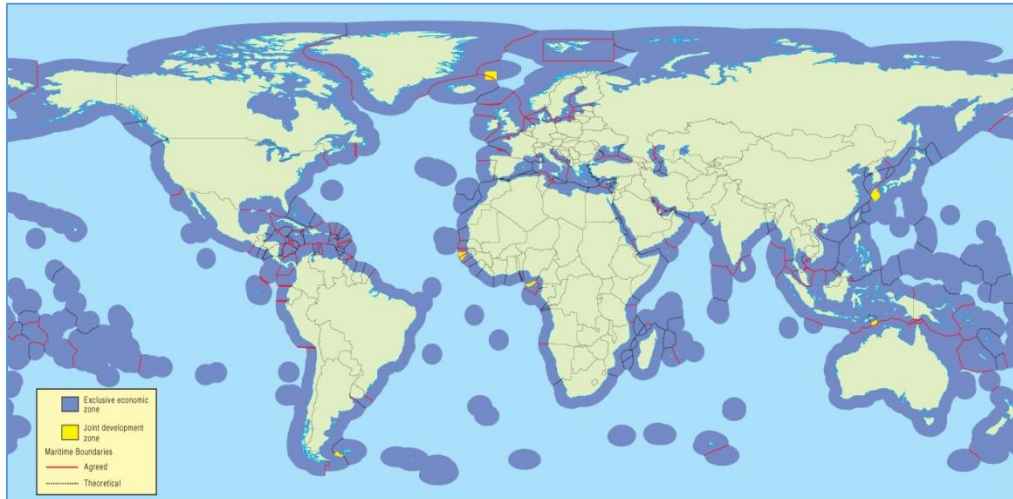


Order Upon The Sea

Dr. John Donaldson

GEOINT New Zealand (GNZ), part of the New Zealand Defence Force



Abstract: In the early 1970s, the German-born geographer Hildegard Binder Johnson explored how the rectangular grid survey of United States lands west of the Mississippi river came to shape the human and physical landscape.[1] The delimitation of maritime space into national jurisdictions that began apace in the 1970s, during the negotiations for the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the advance of off-shore hydrocarbon exploration, appeared to follow similar methodologies as neighbouring states around the world jockeyed for allocating their pieces of maritime space.

This discussion will begin with a brief overview of the current legal regimes over maritime areas under UNCLOS before examining the development of methodologies used by neighbouring states to delimit maritime boundaries and outline some of the current disputes over maritime claims. Using cases from international courts and tribunals as well as negotiated agreements, this discussion will explore how both the presence of economic resources and advances in GIS technologies have influenced those delimitation methodologies. While these methodologies have helped resolve potentially volatile political disputes, this discussion will draw on more contemporary critical geopolitical work to pose the question if this form of 'order upon the sea' is still an appropriate way to manage dynamic marine spaces and what techniques modern GIS applications can bring to aid more volumetric understanding of maritime space to decision makers.

[1] Binder Johnson, H. 1976. Order upon the Land: the US Rectangular Survey and the Upper Mississippi Country London: Oxford University Press.

12:00 noon, Thursday, 17 March 2016

**L1 Lecture Theatre
School of Surveying
310 Castle Street**

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