

# **Sea Lines of Communication: The Strategic Perspective**

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# Trade and Dominion: 4 Schools of Thought

- **Antithetical: The Manchester School;**
- **State power protection**
- **Supporting state power**
- **An alternative form of state power**

*The necessity of a navy... springs from the existence of peaceful shipping and disappears with it, except in the case of a nation which has aggressive tendencies, and keeps up a navy merely as a branch of the military establishment.*

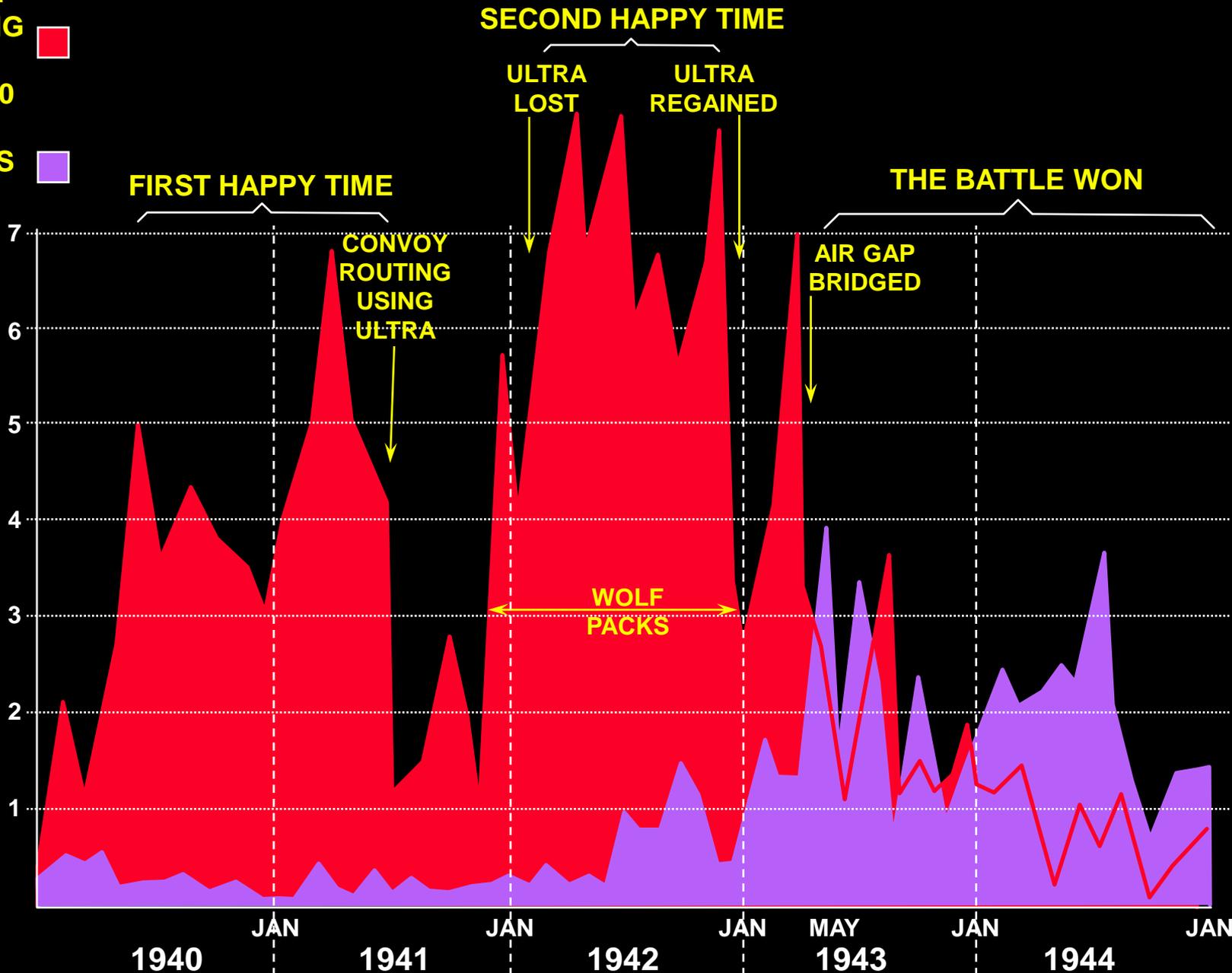
# The Experience of the Two World Wars

- ❑ The crucial battle.
  - Strategic transportation
  - Sustaining the war economy.
- ❑ Blockade: The two campaigns

# THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

TONS OF SHIPPING SUNK x 100,000

U-BOATS SUNK x 10



# SLOCS and the legal campaign

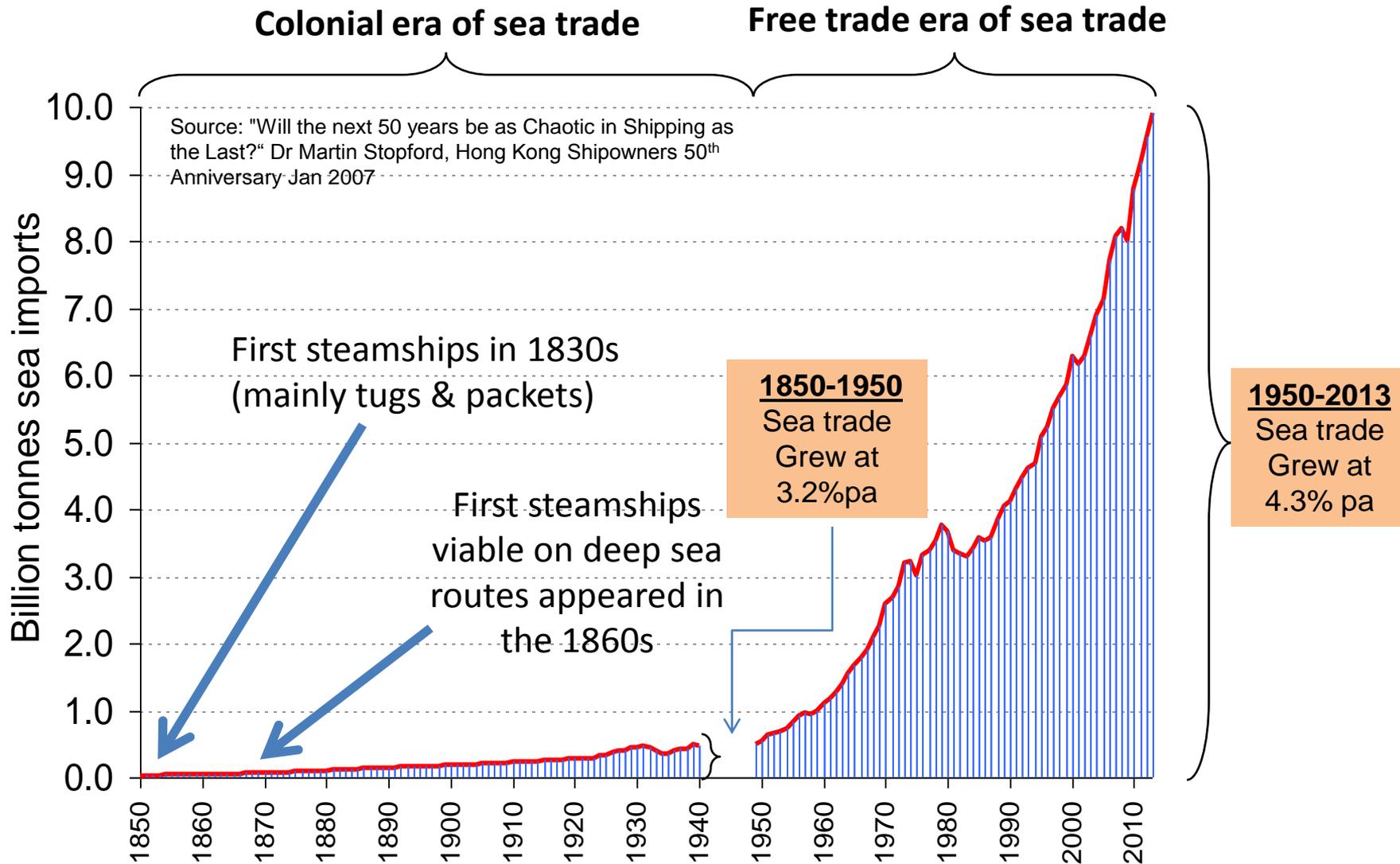
- ❑ Belligerent rights v the Freedom of the Seas
- ❑ Current legal issues

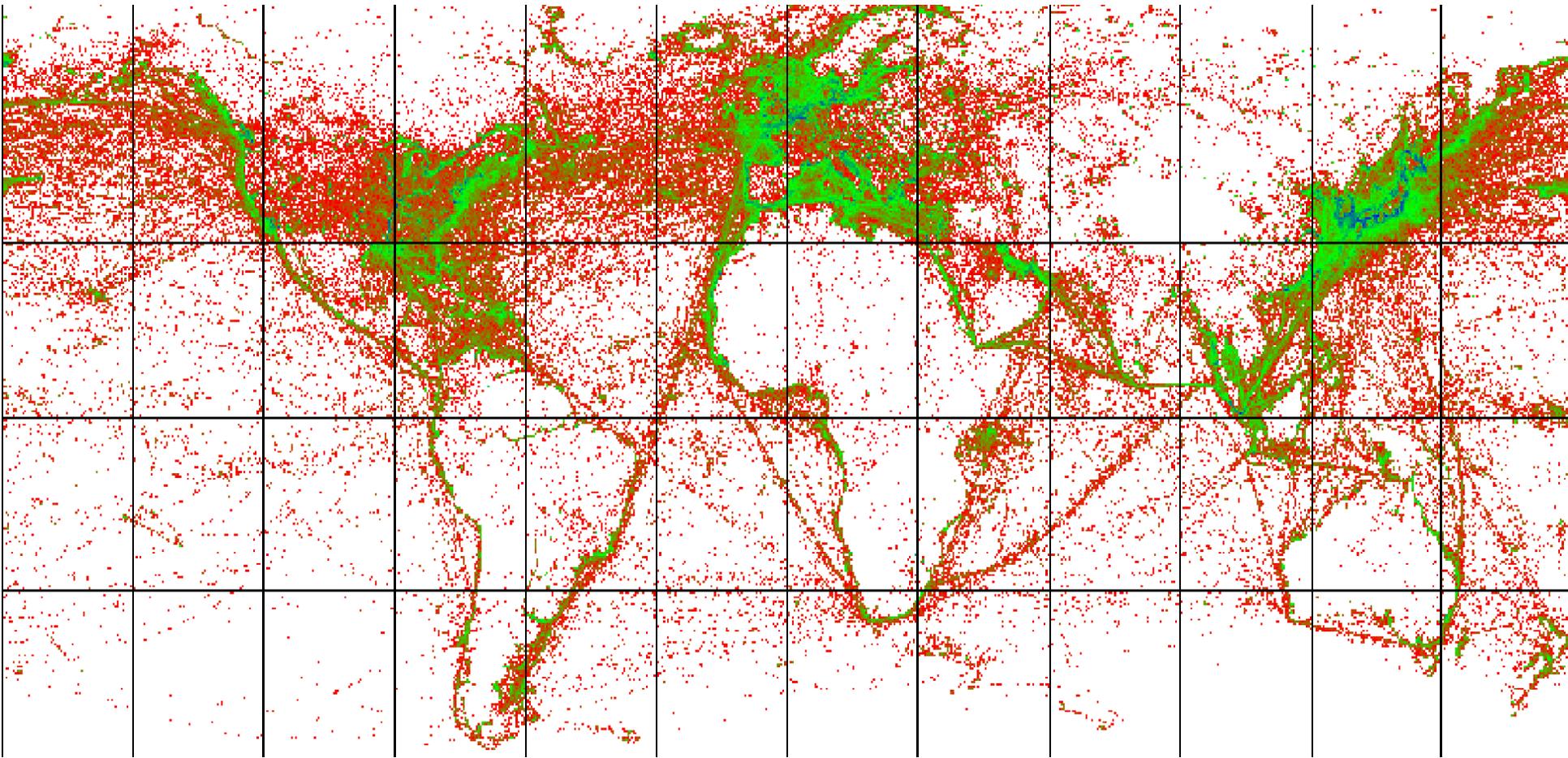
# **A Perspectives on the Freedom of the Seas.....**

**Here you have an almost limitless  
expanse and without a barrier, here you  
have ... what is now nature's great  
medium of communication. There are no  
difficult mountains to cross, no  
scorching deserts, the way lies open...a  
road which leads everywhere ...the  
broadest and busiest of highways, open  
to all, used by all, vital to the modern  
structure of civilisation**

# The Growth of Sea Trade 1850-2013

Almost all the growth of sea trade has occurred since 1840







# One belt, one road

China is pushing to revive its ancient overland and maritime silk routes to Europe. The route connects many land and sea ports over three continents.



ST GRAPHICS ADAPTED FROM REUTERS

## Still relevant ?

.....nor will we permit an adversary to disrupt the global supply chain by attempting to block vital sea-lines of communication and commerce. [CS21]



Misawa

SEA OF JAPAN

WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

Osan  
Kunsan

Iwakuni

Yokota

Yokosuka

Sasebo

EAST CHINA SEA

Okinawa

First Island Chain

PHILIPPINE  
Anti-Access

Second Island Chain

Guam

BAY OF BENGAL

SOUTH CHINA SEA  
Area Denial

SOUTHERN PACIFIC OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

# The Future of Free Trade ?

- **Protectionist Sentiment**
- **Exploiting economic dependency as strategic leverage**
- **The Manchester School and the insulation principle**

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