



## Such A Full Sea (Book Review)

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Global politics and commerce have long been centred on major basins, starting with the Mediterranean, then shifting to the Atlantic and later the Pacific oceans. In recent years, the Indian Ocean has emerged as the focus of a new geopolitical competition and a realm for promoting 'South-South' trade and investment, especially between China-India and Africa. But alas, there have been precious few books about the subject. Fortunately, *Such A Full Sea: Australia's Options In A Changing Indian Ocean Region* addresses this deficit.

The rising importance of the Indian Ocean stems from several factors, most notably the rise of China and India on the global stage, but also because the Indian Ocean ties these powers to other emerging regions, such as East Africa, the Gulf, and Southeast Asia, not to mention Australia and the Antarctic. Indeed, the latter could become increasingly important for resource competition, although the Arctic has so far generated more headlines in this regard.

*Such A Full Sea* provides a comprehensive analysis of the following key themes:

The Indian Ocean in the global context.

Australia's relationship with the Indian Ocean, including the potential for the development of the state of Western Australia and Australia's external territories, such as Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

Potential flashpoints in the Indian Ocean, including the key shipping channels, as well as instability in Somalia and growing Somali-based piracy.

The naval strength of major Indian Ocean and external powers, such as India, Pakistan, China, Russia, France, the UK, and the US.

The rise of India and its relationship with other powers in the region.

Food, energy and resource security in the Indian Ocean region, including population dynamics.

A major strong point of the book is its breadth and depth, managing to cram a heck of a lot into just 200 pages. Although primarily written from an Australian perspective, it is sufficiently global in scope that it will appeal to anyone from anywhere with an interest in the subject. I suspect we will be hearing a lot more about the Indian Ocean in years to come, and Such A Full Sea will give you a great head start.

Authors: Gregory R. Copley and Andrew Pickford. Published for Future Directions International by Sid Harta Publishers. ISBN-13: 978-1-921362-62-0.