

# Change with The Times

## -Naming the East Asian Marginal Seas

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### **Abstract**

Two facts are important, which explored from the Chinese historical literature by scholars who study the name of the East Asian Marginal Seas in China history recently.

The one: Seas' names are changing with different times. Change by the social, political or economical needs – the expanding of territory, the growing of the economy, etc.

The two: In history, Chinese used to name the seas by orientation: East, South, West, North – the theory “Four Seas”, and put China on the center of the world.

From these two facts devived ponderation in two aspects.

The one, since their names were changing in history by need, it is reasonable to change once more in the new era, by the need of globalization.

The two, is to name the seas by orientation a good way in our era? The philosophical base for the “Four Seas” that the earth is a flat square, withered away long ago. On a round ball, the far east for such a place is just the near west of the place, and serious protest would be aroused no matter where be appointed as the original point of the orientation coordinate system in our multiple-poles world. Moreover, too many “East Sea” “North Sea”, as appeared in Chinese history, make you puzzle. Contrary, Red, Yellow, White, Black, free the world from monotonous. and “Mediterranean” is approved by all the countries South Europe, North Africa and West Asia.

## Change of Names of East Asian Marginal Seas in Chinese History

Dynasty	Japan Sea 日本海	Bo Hai Sea 渤海 (Bo Hai)	Yellow Sea 黄海 (Huang Hai)	East Sea 东海 (Dong Hai)	South Sea 南海 (Nan Hai)
There Dynasties Xia, Shang, Zhou 夏 商 周	Sea 海(Hai)				
Spring & Autumn Warring States 春秋、战国 770 B. C. -221 B. C.		You Hai 幼海 Shao Hai 少海 Bei Hai 北海 Bo Hai 渤海	East Sea 东海	East Sea 东海 South Sea 南海	
Qin, Han 秦 汉 221 B. C. -220 A. D		Bo Hai 渤海	East Sea 东海	East Sea 东海	Zhang Hai 涨海 South Sea 南海
Sui, Tang, Five Dynasties 隋 唐 五代 589 A. D. -960 A. D.	East Sea 东海				South Sea 南海
Song. 宋 960 A. D. -1279 A. D	East Sea 东海				
Yuan, Ming 元 明 1279 A. D. -1644 A. D.	Whale Sea 鲸海				
Qing 清 1644 A. D. -1911 A. D.	Japan Sea 日本海 (Late Qing)		Yellow Sea 黄海 (Late Qing)		