

Perspective

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Possessing the Gates of Your Enemies—Why Greenland?

Under the leadership of the twenty-sixth U.S. president, Theodore Roosevelt, the United States took significant steps to ensure its military power, particularly at sea. Teddy Roosevelt is often regarded as pivotal in history. He reshaped modern American naval strategy. In his two terms in office as president (1901-1909), a big transformation took place in the way the United States approached naval power on the world's stage. Before Roosevelt's presidency, American naval strategy was characterized by a more isolationist viewpoint. A good example of his leadership is shown by the Panama Canal, a marvel of engineering, as an important crucial path between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Strategic to any war is the free flow of critical supply lines, and the ability to cut off the military life lines to the enemy. Before the Panama Canal was built, ships traveling from the Gulf of Mexico to San Francisco took two months and approximately 13,000 miles navigating around Cape Horn. The canal revolutionized global shipping by providing a shortcut for vessels, eliminating the need for the perilous journey around the tip of South America. The Suez Canal, controlled by Egypt, is another strategic waterway. It connects the Mediterranean with the Red Sea. The canal was controlled by Britain until 1956. It has played a pivotal role in shaping global trade of goods traveling between Europe and Asia. Are the gates of our enemies no longer needed with the advent of hyper-speed missiles and high-speed air power? Long ago God made a promise to Abraham---his descendants would possess the gates of their enemies. Could it be the loss of these strategic gates has been part of the cause of the demise of Britain and the United States?

God's promise to Abraham's descendants

Abraham probably never thought his future children would need to possess the strategic gates of the world, but God did. God knew the teeming millions of descendants who would be the progeny of Abraham and Sarah. It is recommended for further information that you read our booklet, *United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.

Genesis 22:15-17, “*Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.’*”

God reiterated His promises to Isaac and Jacob and their descendants: “*Then God said: ‘No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.’*” (Genesis 17:19)

Regarding the “gate of their enemies,” Adam Clarke’s *Commentary* says, “By the gates may be meant all the strength, whether troops, counsels, or fortified cities of their enemies.”

Why is Greenland a critical gate for the United States?

Greenland is a huge island in the North Atlantic Ocean which is about three times the size of Texas. The United States offered Denmark \$100 million in gold just after World War II, and Denmark rejected the idea.

According to *Britannica*, Greenland is of strategic importance: “The United States is interested in Greenland, the world’s largest island, because of its strategic location at the intersection of North America, Europe, and the Arctic, making it crucial for military security and movement across the northern Atlantic. As geopolitical competition with Russia and China intensifies, U.S. officials are increasingly focused on preventing adversaries from gaining a lasting foothold in the region. The primary concern is Russian naval and missile activity, with Chinese naval activity and investment in Arctic infrastructure treated as a secondary but growing risk. Although U.S. interest in Greenland dates back to World War II and the Cold War, it has intensified under Pres. Donald Trump, who has openly advocated for U.S.”

The United States and Europe cannot be blind-sided by the enemy setting up shop next door. NATO and Europe have had a long history of not considering the strategic importance of Greenland. In October, 1962, a lesson can be taken from the U.S.S.R. when Nikita Khrushchev attempted to place missiles on America's door step in Cuba. Thankfully, U.S. president John F. Kennedy won the standoff. Neither the United States or Europe want its enemies posted in Greenland.

Golden Dome over America

Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system has proven to be very effective, with an interception rate of 90%. The system can be overwhelmed by swarm missile attacks—so there is room for improvement. Technology is growing rapidly which may improve the system's defensive ability.

In the event of a nuclear war between Russia, China and the United States, Greenland would be a strategic midpoint for the defense of the U.S. It not only is important to American defence, but it could be expanded to help with the defence of Canada.

The independent.co.uk reported on January 23, 2026 in an article, “What you need to know about Trump’s ‘Golden Dome’ plan for Greenland” stated: “The strategic importance of the Arctic territory — under the flight paths that nuclear-armed missiles from China and Russia could take on their way to incinerating targets in the United States, and vice versa — is one of the reasons U.S. President Donald Trump has cited in his disruptive campaign to wrest control of Greenland from Denmark, alarming Greenlanders and longtime allies in Europe alike. Trump has argued that U.S. ownership of Greenland is vital for his ‘Golden Dome’ — a multibillion-dollar missile defense system that he says will be operational before his term ends in 2029.”

Strait of Hormuz

The Strait of Hormuz, a slender maritime passage, which is only about 21 miles across at its narrowest point, is at the center of global geopolitical tension. It is the passage way for approximately one-fifth of the world's crude oil. Even temporary pauses in commerce through the strait can send shockwaves through global energy sectors.

Can the nations of the West see the value in having more control over this important sea gate? As in other times in American and British history, political leaders seem to always push back at any president or prime minister who desires to seize the moment and establish a new paradigm over an important military location.

Democrats in the U.S. Congress and Senate and about half of the Republicans are at odds with the president over whether the U.S. should strike Iran a second time. The news website, thehill.com, reported on January 14, 2026: “Senate Democrats are warning President Trump not to move unilaterally on striking Iran with military force, predicting the strikes might backfire and wind up strengthening the repressive regime that has reportedly killed thousands of protesters in recent days.”

More than 5,700 protesters have been killed since Jan. 8, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency, an Iran-focused activist group based in the U.S. More than 17,000 other related death cases are still under review, the group said.

The trouble with many of the leaders of the West is short-sightedness and a lack of courage to make hard choices. Often, they choose to try and please all the people. They are more interested in getting reelected to office than they are to act for the best interests of the nation in which they serve.

Even so, the Bible instructs us in Exodus 22:28, “*You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.*” We should pray for our leaders if we think they need to make better choices, and let God judge them. We need to always hold fast to God's way of righteousness, and walk in right paths.

There are no perfect leaders-- there are good leaders, and there are certainly bad leaders. God does say, “*As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths.*” (Isaiah 3:12)