

Perspective

By L. Jim Tuck

April 24, 2025

Greenland—Why is it strategically important?

The world is laughing at the notion that newly elected U.S. President Trump has expressed such a strong desire to acquire Greenland. But he is deadly serious. What is the attraction and why is it so critical? Isn't it a virtual wasteland of mile-high ice? What possible value could it have for the greatest superpower on earth? For one thing, when no one in the world was looking, China has been cornering the world's rare minerals market. China has absolute dominance in rare earth minerals which are vital for defense and technology. The U.S. gets around 70% of its rare earth imports from China, and is lagging behind in securing these resources. Greenland has significant deposits of rare minerals, particularly rare earth elements essential for manufacturing green technology and electronics. The subsoil of Greenland contains a variety of valuable minerals, including rare earth metals, precious metals, and uranium. Additionally, there are large deposits of rare earth elements required for manufacturing batteries and renewable energy technology. Greenland has a much more strategic value to the United States than one might imagine, and you need to know why.

The United States acquiring other lands isn't a new idea

In 1867, during President Andrew Johnson's administration, Secretary of State, William H. Seward, proposed the U.S. buy Alaska from the Russian Empire for a sum of \$7.2 million. Some opponents instantly labeled the purchase as "Seward's Folly" or "Seward's Icebox." They contended that the United States had acquired useless land. It is now considered one of the best investments in American history.

President Trump's interest in buying Greenland prompted a mockery in the press when it was first reported. However, President Trump is not the first U.S. president even to seek to buy Greenland.

Back in 1946, during the presidency of Harry Truman, U.S. officials offered Denmark \$100 million in gold bars for the world's largest island, Greenland, a Danish autonomous territory. U.S. officials at the time thought it was a military necessity. That 1946 offer was supposed to be a secret, but in January 27, 1947, *TIME* magazine published an article that exposed the plan: "This week, as U.S. strategists studied the azimuthal map of the Arctic," the article continues, "Washington military men thought this might be as good a time as any to buy Greenland, if they could."

"The article is accompanied by a map titled 'Arctic Circles,' which shows concentric circles emanating from both Alaska and Greenland—emphasizing Greenland's proximity to European capitals including Moscow."

Just after World War II, the strategic value of the world's biggest island could be seen. Today the stakes are much higher than 78 years ago. The reason, the rise of China and other military and economic enemies of the United States. China has shown interest in Greenland's mineral wealth and proximity to potential shipping routes. However, in recent years its presence on the island has dwindled.

Russia seeks to dominate the Northern Sea Route

The United States must always guard against the long-range plans of its enemies. Russia is planning for long-term infrastructure and resource development in the Arctic, asserting its dominance over the Northern Sea Route. The country views its presence in the region as an unquestionable sovereign right. Russian control over the Northern Sea Route is vital for the Kremlin's plans, and Russia's President Putin is prioritizing an enlarged and modernized military presence in the Arctic region.

US President Donald Trump's desire to acquire Greenland from Denmark has recently helped to highlight the growing geopolitical importance of the Arctic region in international affairs. As global temperatures rise and polar icecaps melt, increased access to Arctic resources and trade routes look set to make the region a major focus of international competition in the coming decades. The Northwest Passage is a sea route through the Arctic Ocean along the northern coast of North America, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Greenland is important in connection with the Northern Sea Route because of its geographical

position as a bridge between North America and Europe. It is rich in mineral deposits and its location is crucial for power projection, rival monitoring, and securing shipping routes. Greenland occupies a key position along two potential shipping routes through the Arctic. As the Arctic Sea ice melts, these routes could reduce shipping times and bypass traditional chokepoints like the Suez and Panama Canals. Currently, these routes are commercially unviable and will likely remain so for many years because of treacherous weather and floating ice.

Denmark is unable to protect Greenland

Denmark alone cannot defend Greenland against any threats. The Danish government has announced a boost in defense spending for Greenland. Germany and France have warned against threatening Greenland. Denmark is open to discussions with the U.S. on how to "fix" the status quo in Greenland. Greenland has been controlled by Denmark for about 300 years.

On March 29, 2025, in an article, "JD Vance's ominous pitch to Greenland," the *bbc.com* reported: "On a brief visit to a remote US military base in the far north of Greenland, US Vice-President JD Vance may have tried at times to soften his boss's stated aim of simply annexing the autonomous Danish territory. 'We do not think that military force is ever going to be necessary,' Vance said, perhaps attempting to sound reassuring. But the vice-president's overarching message remained stark and intimidating: the world, the climate, and the Arctic region are changing fast, and Greenland needs to wake up to threats posed by an expansionist China; long-standing Western security partnerships have run their course; the only way the island can protect itself, its values and its mineral wealth is by abandoning weak and miserly Danish overlords and turning instead to the muscular and protective embrace of the US."

America is being tested!

The idea of making America great again is an appealing notion, but the engineers of that Republican political slogan do not know, nor could they, why the United States and the United Kingdom rose to greatness and wealth in the first place. The rise to greatness of Britain and the United States has never been based on the great mental acumen or power of the peoples of these great empires or mere accident. Rather, it has always been based on the ancient promises God made to the patriarch Abraham in the Bible. Most people are wholly oblivious to that fact.

After God tested Abraham with the sacrifice of his son, Isaac, God promised: "*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.*" (Genesis 22:16-17)

Is Greenland one of the critical "gates of our enemies" and a part of this great promise God made to Abraham? Will the United States be boastful and proudly, and claim it by our own might? Later God reminded Abraham's descendants: "*The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers...*" (Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

This verse spells out why the United Kingdom and the United States rose to greatness! It was because of what swore in oath to our patriarch fathers, and not our prowess—our exceptional valor, bravery, and ability! God even warned ancient Israel not to boast about their greatness and prosperity: "*then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'*" (Deuteronomy 8:17)

Does the future of the modern descendants of Abraham and Jacob hang on how much credit its leaders give Almighty God for all our peoples have? Very probably. This will be a test for President Trump and the American people! Will we pass it? II Chronicles 7:14 gives us this hope, "*if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*"

Let us pray that the peoples and leaders of the United States and United Kingdom will give our great God all the glory for what He alone has done to make these two empires great!