




The Trans-Atlantic Divide at Greenland: “Don-Roe Doctrine” and the Rise of the Age of Colonialism

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Introduction

The U.S. President’s creation of a new world order, began with the [capture of Nicolas Maduro](#) on January 3, 2026. It was soon after the capture, when Donald trump reiterated his interest of acquiring Greenland. While President Trump has reflected on the [importance of Greenland](#) since his first term, a bold and tyrannical precedent set in his second term through numerous measures such as the assertive tariffs, the recently announced “Board of Peace”, while cemented significantly by the capture of Nicolas Maduro showing disregard to major international laws, forced major European countries along with Denmark to retaliate.

While the unsubstantiated claims of a Chinese and Russian threat have guided the American pivot to Greenland, the rare earth minerals beneath the melting ice and the strategic location of Greenland in the opening passes in the Arctic region is also speculated to have a certain say in the decisions taken and [the comments passed](#) in the past couple of weeks. However, the approached has received firm criticism from major European countries, leading to extra tariffs levied by Donald Trump, exposing the crack in the defining trans-Atlantic alliance. While Mark Rutte [attempts at mediation](#) and an aggressive approach has been stalled for the time being, the division are evident from the rejections to the “Board of Peace”.

The essence lies in understanding the importance of the narrative portrayed by the President Trump’s approach of threatening sovereign allies as an alleged security measure, the widening- trans Atlantic divide, and how the consequences of this collective decline of arguably the strongest alliance and the narrative of respecting sovereignty as mentioned in the UN Charter, fuels the narrative of tyrannical powers, creating a diplomatic catastrophe, taking us back to the age of colonies.

The Rising Geopolitical and Economic Significance of Greenland

There lie a [few pivotal reasons](#) that provide Greenland its potential of being a defining force in the upcoming future.

The primary cause lies in the reserves of untapped critical minerals. These are essential for both the hegemonic contenders, especially the U.S. and the west as it acts as a counter force to the gradually increasing Chinese dominance in the markets. While these weren’t economically viable as the feasibility of mining them was feeble, an accelerated ice melt has created a major rift in the power dynamics, as the US tries to finds a deterrent and Europe tries to create an escape route to end the dependency on Chinese inputs.

A more immediate reason is the Greenland’s arctic coastline that adds to its pivotal nature in the current hegemonic trends. The U.S. has been threatened by the continuous ice melt as it feels that this will provide China with an opportunity to create an “Arctic Silk Road”. This is also evident from the warning lodged by the U.S. Department of Homeland

Security of the Chinese expansion, while the true extent remains ambiguous till date.

Another crucial reason apart from the attempt at keeping a check on the international shipping routes, resides prominently in the military affairs and the national security paradigm. China and Russia have been engaging in the arctic region through joint military drills, military build-ups, evident from Russia's northern fleet in the Kola Peninsula and the Poseidon tests. The ice melt provides the U.S. to advance in Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance paradigms, expanding the element of security in the region.

The Don-Roe Doctrine and the Greenland Escalation

However, the American pivot to Greenland in the recent past has been vigorous and alarming in a lot of sense, leveraging from what is called the “**Don-roe Doctrine**”, introduced in the Mar-a-Lago conference, which is derived from the “Monroe Doctrine” which dictates the terms of the U.S. dominance in the Western Hemisphere. While a formal definition was never provided, the term has been used to represent a more assertive U.S. approach to diplomacy, as a method of mitigating the regional threats to the American security.

Trump's interest in Greenland has been prevalent since his first term, where his proposal to buy Greenland was considered bizarre. However, the renewed claim, bolstered by the “Don- roe Doctrine” and the approach portrayed in the capture of the Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. **The American President Donald Trump spoke about occupying Greenland** for security purposes as he mentioned the Chinese and Russian ships surrounding the region, an allegation that has been denied by the Chinese and Russian authorities. The drastic shift in America's defining cultural diplomacy in the recent past pivoting towards a more dominant approach has wreaked havoc as it provides an impetus to other nations to prioritise national security over morals of self-determination under the U.N. Charter Article 1.

The NATO Dynamics and the trans-Atlantic divide

Denmark and the U.S. have been a part of one of the most defining groupings known as the North-Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), alongside other major dominant European nations, which have laid the foundation for the Western domination in the contemporary times.

However, the U.S. claim on Greenland has put **the Western powers on a turf**. While differences in the trans-Atlantic have been a common occurrence, the gap tends to widen in the recent past, evident from the statements posed in EU conferences, the British Prime Minister who stood in solidarity with Copenhagen. The retaliation was met with an increase in tariffs from the U.S. Government on NATO countries who had sent troops to Greenland.

While Trump has ensured that he tends to **avoid a confrontation at Davos**, the situation remains uncertain with a wedge driven between U.S. and NATO countries like U.K., France, German, etc. This is visible in the rejection to the “Board of Peace invitations. Moreover, statements like the ones, made by the **U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent** on the India-EU Trade deal and Donald Trump's criticism on the U.K. and Mauritian agreement on the Chagos Archipelago, worsens the situation.

The Greenland Approach and The Rise of Tyranny

The Greenland saga has led to an uncertain environment where the Don-Roe Doctrine has

opened a Pandora's box, as the manifestation tends to violate international laws that have been guiding a peaceful conduct. The situation coupled with the collapse of one of the major international alliances has created a geopolitical situation where the tyrannical viewpoints have gained credibility as the moral standpoint in the international arena diminishes.

The American aggression has received praise from Russia who tends to gain from the situation. Russia has been in a confrontation with Ukraine on the standpoint of an alarming NATO expansion for almost four years. The weakening of the trans-Atlantic alliance stands advantageous for the Russian powers, as reflected in one of the comments made by the

Russian Tabloid who talks about how Europe is at a total loss and it is a pleasure for them to watch. Moreover, the American threats to Greenland are used by Pro-Kremlin people to justify the Russian war on Ukraine.

The Greenland saga also is supposed to have a [major say in Taiwan](#) and Chinese rise to challenge for the seat of the Global Hegemon. While on one side the reliability on the U.S.

power dwindles, the weakness of the trans-Atlantic divide, a weakening reign over the South- China Sea region and a change in the narrative promoting self-determination fuels the ongoing Chinese assertion evident in Taiwan and Philippines.

Conclusion

The term “National Interests” have been used utilised in order to shield a variety of malpractices employed by dominant countries. However, the present age has taken a major turn as we are transitioning back to the age of colonialism.

While security driven territorial interests are not new in the geopolitical arena, an assertion over an autonomous land, recognised by the UN, while the people of the country resist, (evident in the Danish protests, the protests against the Russo-Ukrainian War, etc) is nothing less than colonial expansion. While the logic might have changed over the years, the tyrannical approach of controlling an autonomous land for national interest, discouraged by the ideals under the principles of Self-determination under Article 1 of UN Charter classifies under a colonial approach

A more economic and peaceful approach was employed by the hegemonic forces until now. The dominance of the “soft-power” held credibility over a strengthened artillery. However, the events in the recent past have shifted the world order also afflicting the ideals that led the world.

Moreover, the weakening of one the hegemonic alliances leave the world in a swirl where the uncertainties expand and the tyrannical powers and narratives gain dominance, the world goes towards an era of colonies.

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