

Suunngitsumik ulapiissutiginnineq

(*Kalaallisut*¹ for "*Much Ado About Nothing*")

(January 2026)

Everybody and their cousin appear to be commenting on the U.S. President's lust for Greenland and on an imminent purchase from Denmark, which most claim is unavoidable. It would seem that not much attention is paid to the fact that Greenland is an autonomous self-governing entity on its way to full independence, least of all by the U.S. President, who just declared about the Prime Minister of Greenland, in a quite diplomatic² fashion: "*I don't know who he is, I don't know anything about him, but that's going to be a big problem for him*". Perhaps should the President inquire?

Greenland enjoys one of the highest GDP per capita in the world, and only about 6% of its inhabitants express some approval of U.S. occupation, while all political parties strongly oppose it. The much heralded sale by Denmark is therefore rather awkward legally, and a military invasion would represent the 21st century colonization of a population consisting mostly of Inuit stock, one of the major Native American Nations. Would Greenland become the United States' one and only reservation under full dominion of the U.S., at thirty times the size of the Navajo Nation, while Native American reservations in the U.S. enjoy quasi-sovereignty? Are we back to ancient 19th century colonial times, a novel Scramble for Arctica, although two centuries late? Will Inuit populations, whose number equals that of the Five Civilized Tribes of 1830, be removed along a modern Trail of Tears?

¹ *Kalaallisut* is the sole official language of *Kalaallit Nunaat* (a.k.a. *Greenland in English*).

² *Talleyrand, Castlereagh and Metternich condensed into one.*

Sober reality is rather that Denmark would not be legally able to sell Greenland, since Denmark does not own Greenland. Short of that the next alternative could perhaps be for the modern U.S. geopolitical luminaries to bribe the Inuit Nation, but, with such a high Human Development Index as the island's, it is highly unlikely that its inhabitants will be willing to trade current Danish subsidies of \$12,000 per year per capita, plus free healthcare, including emergencies in Copenhagen's best hospitals and transportation thereto, as well as free university education, for a one time pittance. It is perhaps worthwhile recalling that the U.S. is not particularly renowned for its free healthcare benefits or free college education.

So the U.S. would have to invade and colonize by force, much like Western colonists had done throughout the ages, at the cost of a massive international backlash and, more farcically, a probable reversal with apologies and a hundred billion dollars in reparations after the next U.S. presidential turnover. Besides, the claim that China and Russia are fiercely determined to colonize Greenland is perhaps a bit foolhardy, especially at a time when both are doing their very best to secure the respect and alliance of the past colonies of the Western empires of lore, and certainly lack both taste and wherewithal for such a frivolous undertaking. As for the U.S. general staff, it is said to be rather reluctant to engage in such an illegal neocolonial adventure.

With regard to the neighborly aspect, a glimpse at the map would suggest that half of Greenland is closer to Denmark than to the U.S., while its average distance to the closest point in the U.S. is about the same as that from Mar-a-Lago to somewhere in the Amazon Basin.

It is quite mystifying that most commentators should describe the

annexation as a done deal, and claim, or lament, that Denmark won't have much choice, missing the point that it is not Denmark's prerogative to sell but Greenland's.

Colonization of Greenland would certainly trigger an avalanche of lawsuits and protests around the globe with little benefit other than gratifying the narcissistic pride of a few politicians, since the U.S. already commands by treaty since the 1940s all the military presence it could wish on the island, and reversal would be quite guaranteed when some political challenger across the aisle ascends to the Presidency, with embarrassed apologies and a hundred billion dollar reparations package.



*Last minute exclusive: in the just introduced "**Greenland Annexation and Statehood Act**", the sponsor, who proudly serves as the House Representative for the 6th District of Florida, inserted the portentous line:*

"Whoever controls Greenland controls key Arctic shipping lanes and the security architecture protecting the United States."

Note: for a better understanding of the paramount keyness of the Arctic Shipping Lanes and the immediacy of the peril, kindly refer to the contemporaneous world maritime plotting in the next page, in which freighters are shown in green, tankers in red, fishing boats in orange, passenger vessels in dark blue, tugboats in light blue, and pleasure craft in magenta.



To the attention of the aspiring Master Mariner: the Arctic Shipping Lanes are much like a modern Wonderland passage Through the Looking-Glass, a magical shortcut with distances comparable to the warm water routes, dependence on extensive and expensive assistance from the coastal powers, a much more hazardous environment, remoteness in harsh locations in case of mishap, and hermetic closure most of the year.