



THE 51st STATE

Barry Scott Zellen *builds a case for making the Arctic great again*

It was just over five years ago, in the summer of 2019, that the strategic prescience and unorthodox diplomatic brilliance of America's re-elected Commander-in-Chief, Donald Trump, was on full display for all the world to see, from North-East Asia to the Arctic.

This nostalgic summer of diplomatic love started with the historic summit in Korea's DMZ with DPRK supreme leader Kim Jong Un in June when President Trump took 20 unscripted but potently symbolic steps into North Korea, and ended in August when President Trump spontaneously proposed purchasing Greenland from Denmark, and to thus complete the decolonisation of the North American Arctic that began with the Alaska purchase in 1867 – which would unify the North-Western and North-Eastern flanks of Arctic North

America under the constitutional protection of the United States for the first time.

Trump's Greenland proposal was both brilliant and visionary, but was nonetheless soundly rejected by both the Danes and Greenlanders, the latter which famously responded: "We're open for business, not for sale". Critics of Trump's proposal were widespread both within and without the US government. A disloyal federal bureaucracy sought to undermine Trump's first presidency from the get go. America's deep state laughed at Trump for his audacity and ridiculed his ambition to broaden America's geographical footprint and in so doing, strengthen the very fabric of North America's continental security. Greenlanders were never given a chance to consider whether being an American state might be better, safer and more

Donald Trump is keen to maximise Greenland's resources

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prosperous than remaining a Danish (and the Arctic's last) colony.

I defended President Trump's vision then, through a series of publications, and with his triumphant electoral mandate and return to power in January, the world must once again prepare for a turbulent ride.

THE US AND GREENLAND

Environmental activists and critical race theorists have unfairly portrayed Trump's vision to expand America to include Greenland – which America has defended since World War II after Denmark fell to the Nazis – as a neo-imperial land grab against a defenceless native people. But Greenlanders, while rebuffing Trump's first overture to purchase the island and thereby liberate themselves from Danish colonialism, welcomed the renewed American interest that fuelled Trump's overture, which led to a \$12.1-million American investment the next year, and the re-opening of an American consulate in Nuuk for the first time since 1953. Greenland has over the last decade expanded its overseas diplomatic representation offices, in search of not only investment but support for its movement for independence from Denmark – the first of which opened in Washington, DC back in 2014 in recognition

of America's power and influence, and which now includes Beijing as well as Reykjavik and Brussels (the latter at NATO headquarters), with Ottawa considered by many to be next.

Environmentalists have long taken aim at Trump for his dedication to America's energy independence and commitment to the development and utilization of its own domestic energy resources ("Drill, baby, drill!") – all natural prerogatives of an independent sovereign state all too often thwarted by America's very own 'green colonisers' intent on keeping Alaska's vast reservoir of natural resources frozen for all time, and preventing Alaska from achieving the prosperity its bountiful natural resource base could easily support. Even Greenland aspires to the same, courting the energy and mining industries to help develop its own vast reservoir of untapped resources,

GREENLANDERS WERE NEVER GIVEN A CHANCE TO CONSIDER BECOMING AN AMERICAN STATE

whether under its retreating ice cap or offshore beneath its increasingly open coastal waters.

What the climate change community never understood or refused to acknowledge is that Trump's strategic interest in Greenland reflected his recognition of the profound climatic transformation under way, most notably in the Arctic, as a result of climate change. They opposed the practicality of Trump's approach, preferring instead to keep Greenland colonised, its resources undeveloped, and its peoples trapped in poverty and dependent on external subsidies. Greenlanders instead want to be independent, and to bring their resources to market for their own prosperity. Donald Trump shares this vision, and believed becoming an American state was in theirs and our mutual interests.

A NEW ERA

The American people have spoken, blessing Trump's return to the Oval Office with a decisive electoral mandate, paving the way for the return of his creative approach to diplomacy. The Arctic continues its historic thaw, and the world is being torn apart by war and division. Trump's recipe, for peace through strength, is not a bad idea for our times. His willingness to sit down and break bread with our rivals is also refreshing, rather than to continue to wage proxy wars and to foster regime change, which only brought endless war.

Perhaps, as his second term commences, Greenland can once again consider Trump's offer for it to become part of the American constitutional family. This time, they will of course demand a seat at the table, as called for in their first Arctic strategy – Greenland in the World: Nothing About Us Without Us, released earlier this year. But Trump has never been opposed to that. As the Arctic continues to melt, and a new and unnecessary Cold War looms north of the Arctic Circle, now is an ideal time to see if the greatest dealmaker of them all is ready to add one more star to the American flag, and help bring Greenland in from the cold ●