

VIEWPOINT

Greenland (New Manifest Destiny?)

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Supplement

It is critical for people to learn from the bad decisions made in history so that they aren't repeated. One of those unfortunate events that should never be repeated is Manifest Destiny. The term "Manifest Destiny" refers to the belief, in the 1800s, that the United States had a divine right to expand westward throughout North America. This term allowed for the justification of pushing indigenous people out of their land, and the killing of an estimated 350,000 Native Americans from 1800 to 1890. During his first term, President Trump often stated that his favorite President was Andrew Jackson, who was known for being an enabler of

Manifest Destiny, enacting the Indian Removal Act to push Natives out of their land. Recently, President Trump has voiced his desire to acquire Greenland as U.S. territory, and this is not the first time he has done so. During his first term, he asked to buy Greenland, but was told it was not for sale. This has caused a large tear between The United States and Europe. Even some of the most conservative leaders, who have supported him in the past, are criticizing Trump and his push for Greenland. A recent poll suggests that between 18% and 25% of far-right voters in France, Germany, Italy and Spain consider Trump as an "enemy of

Europe." Many even said that they would support deployment of troops to Greenland if Trump follows through with those threats. In the President's inaugural speech last year, he spoke about his vision for the nation. "The United States will once again consider itself a growing nation - one that increases our wealth, expands our territory, builds our cities, raises our expectations, and carries our flag into new and beautiful horizons," Donald Trump said. Expansionism was always a large part of American ideology, and Donald Trump intends to continue that. He states that he wants Greenland for national security reasons, as its location be-

tween North America and the Arctic makes it perfect for early warning systems in the event of missile attacks, and for monitoring vessels in the region. The population there is only 56,000, but it is 2.2 million square kilometers, with most of the people living there being indigenous Inuit people. During the Cold War, the US had planned to station nuclear missiles in Greenland but struggled with engineering problems and objections from Denmark. There has also been a major increase recently in natural resources there, but Trump denies that is what drives his motivation for the acquisition of Greenland. Trump swore he would not

take Greenland by force or impose tariffs. "We probably won't get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force, where we would be frankly unstoppable. But I won't do that," Trump states. Despite this, he also said that he no longer felt obliged to focus on peace after not being awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. He believes only the US can develop and protect Greenland. President Trump believes the US has a right to Greenland, such as President Polk, who wanted to fulfill Manifest Destiny, did. If Trump continues to threaten Greenland, history is bound to repeat itself and this could become the next Manifest Destiny.



DONALD TRUMP has repeatedly expressed interest in taking Greenland, dating back to his first term in office in 2019. Source via Getty, SBS.