

Opinion

Melting Ice, Rising Tensions: Why Trump Wants Greenland

With untapped resources and strategic trade routes at stake, world powers are setting their sights on the rapidly melting Arctic giant.

By Alec Toppenberg

Not just ice and polar bears, Greenland is quickly becoming one of the most valuable pieces of real estate on Earth. As the Arctic melts, it reveals untapped resources and game-changing shipping routes, causing world powers to scramble for control. President Trump has made it clear that he believes that Greenland is an “absolute necessity” for the future of the United States, no matter the cost. But why is he so fixated on this icy giant, and what does it mean for the future of global geopolitics?

While it may seem an odd pursuit at first, Greenland will likely find itself on the front lines of the geopolitical battlefield in the near future. In a 2023 study by the Danish Government, Greenland was detailed as having a rich deposit of valuable minerals, which are becoming increasingly harder to find as they become more and more essential to rapidly growing industries that make wind turbines, transmission lines, batteries, and electric



Image Source: Erling Maqe, Pixabay



Image Source: Jean-Christophe Andre, Pixabay

vehicles. While most of the land is currently under ice, the Arctic island has “favorable conditions for the formations of ore deposition, including many of the critical raw minerals.” As climate change accelerates the melting of Greenland’s ice sheets and glaciers, miles of previously unobtainable mineral and oil deposits are being uncovered each year. With a predicted 11,000 square miles of new land uncovered in the last three decades (almost the size of Massachusetts), and a predicted rate of acceleration as global warming increases, Greenland is quickly finding itself to be one of the most valuable and sought-after territories in the world.

As if access to previously unobtainable resources was not reason enough, the melting ice in the Arctic is affecting the future of geopolitics by opening up a powerful new strategic asset: shorter and more efficient shipping routes. Transporting cargo from Western Europe to East Asia becomes about forty percent shorter in comparison to sailing

through the Suez Canal. According to an Arctic Council Report of January 2024, ship traffic in the Arctic has already surged by thirty-seven percent over the last decade, and that number is only expected to grow as the ice recedes. This opportunity has already been recognized by many competitors to U.S. trade, with China and Russia agreeing to work together in the development of Arctic shipping routes in November 2024.

As global warming opens up a future of access to untapped opportunity, it becomes apparent why President Trump has set his sights on making the world’s largest island into a U.S. territory. Whether it be for national security, access to important and rare natural resources, or access to new and emerging channels for transportation, it is clear that President Trump will be pursuing this venture ferociously, even refusing to rule out using military or economic force to take the territory from Denmark.

Foreign Affairs

AI and the Future of Automated Decision Making in the EU

By Aimee Hopkins

The recent ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in the SCHUFA case marks a significant shift in how artificial intelligence (AI) is regulated in decision-making. While the case primarily concerns financial services, its implications may extend to employment, housing, healthcare, and other sectors where AI plays a role in determining individual outcomes.

SCHUFA (Schutzgemeinschaft für allgemeine Kreditsicherung) is Germany's leading credit bureau, responsible for assessing the creditworthiness of consumers and businesses. The organization compiles financial data, including payment histories, outstanding debts, and loan defaults, to generate credit scores that financial institutions use to evaluate lending risks.

The case originated when a German citizen was denied a loan based on their SCHUFA-generated credit score. Although SCHUFA itself does not decide loan eligibility, its scores are often the deciding factor in whether a consumer is approved or denied for the loan.



Image Source: Photo by Christian Wasserfallen from Pexels

“At the heart of the case is a fundamental question: what level of human involvement is required in an AI-driven process to prevent it from being classified as ‘solely automated’?”

Through the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the European Union attempts to navigate the evolving digital age and to protect the personal data of EU citizens. Under Article 22 of the GDPR, individuals have the right not to be subjected to decisions based purely on automated processing if those decisions have significant legal or personal consequences - unless certain criteria are met or explicit permission is given.

In the SCHUFA case, while bank employees ultimately make the final lending decisions, the CJEU determined that their heavy reliance on SCHUFA scores renders these as essentially automated decisions, and that denial of a bank loan equates to a significant personal consequence. The ruling clarifies that if an AI-generated score overwhelmingly dictates the final decision without substantial human oversight, it falls within the scope of Article 22.

The CJEU went further, stressing the need for safeguards to protect individual rights in AI-driven processes. These include meaningful human review, the right to contest decisions, and transparency regarding how AI-based assessments are made. To ensure compliance, organizations must implement reliable mathematical and statistical methods, employ technical measures to minimize errors, and account for risks such as bias and discrimination – and be able to explain these processes to impacted consumers.



Image Source: kdg2020, Pixabay

Beyond the financial sector, this ruling signals stricter regulations for AI-driven decision-making. Specifically, increased scrutiny applies when three conditions are met: a decision is made, AI is used to make it, and the decision has significant legal or personal consequences. Companies leveraging AI for consumer evaluations must now reassess their practices to ensure compliance with GDPR's automated decision-making restrictions, or risk regulatory scrutiny and legal challenges.

Consumer rights advocates have welcomed the decision, viewing it as a step toward greater transparency and fairness in AI-driven decision-making. As AI continues to shape industries, the SCHUFA ruling highlights the ongoing tension between technological efficiency and the need for accountability. With the CJEU setting a precedent for stricter oversight, the future of AI in finance—and beyond—may demand greater human intervention and regulatory compliance.

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Foreign Affairs

Soft Power and Hard Consequences: The Role of Energy in Global Affairs

By Bryce Young

Guest Writer - Thunderbird Student

How one turns on and off the lights has a cascading effect all the way to the country’s top leaders. Geopolitics and electricity are uniquely intertwined with the location of where electricity comes from, affecting how countries act on the world stage. With Germany recently nationalizing their gas, Trump pushing for the US to increase their internal gas production, and the Baltic countries counting down their separation from Russian gas and electricity; electricity and gas are key players on the negotiating tables of many countries. How is this the case, and what does this mean for geopolitics and shifting ties?

As countries are heavily reliant on electricity due to its prevalence in everyday life, incidents such as the monkey cutting electricity across Sri Lanka are now national news stories (The monkey was not caught but the electricity is back on, don’t worry!). Countries now view electricity as a tool for international diplomacy with some countries in times of peace sharing their electrical grids. This can also result in issues of diplomacy further down the line with the country owning the electrical grids using it as a negotiating tactic against their neighbors. Fischhendler et al. (2016) focused on one prime example of Israel and their neighboring countries having negotiations of sharing electrical grids, which lasted over 15 years. Each country had different incentives and reasons behind building stronger ties and holding the key to the grid itself. Having multiple different electricity grids that overlap and lean on one another is extremely important as it allows for support and supply from other grids when one is down. If these grids are not implemented,

electrical shortages and power outages occur, such as in Texas recently during a snowstorm. Countries will create electrical grids that they share with other countries to create a backup electrical supply.

Gas and electricity are tools for soft power expansionism, but they also can potentially cause overreliance in some countries. Namibia relies on outside, regional electricity grids for most of its electricity because it only has one internal electrical grid. As Namibia relies mostly on South Africa for power, the population increase in South Africa has put a strain on their electricity grid which has increased electrical power cuts in Namibia. Without electricity, countries can quickly fall into disarray. As populations grow and more electricity is used, countries may become complacent and overly reliant on neighboring countries. As such, when renegotiations are on the table, or countries leave different trade agreements, their access to

electricity and alternative sources of energy are reduced dramatically, or prices are hiked up indiscriminately.

Therefore, as the world is becoming more reliant on electricity, the political landscape is, too. Some countries use electricity as a weapon against their own people through enforcement of “bedtimes” and/or union strikes or government protests. As electricity has become more heavily relied on, more people are going to be adversely affected by its reduction or elimination. Electricity has quickly become a necessity for businesses, governments, and sometimes people to operate on, showing that in today’s world, electricity is more than just power, it’s influence. As we Thunderbirds go out into the world of business, politics, and global management, be aware of the electricity and geopolitical tensions of the region in which you live, operate, or have ties with as heightened tensions may create long-term unexpected issues in terms of your company’s success and access to affordable, scheduled electricity. Stay aware - in today’s world, electricity is more than just power; it is influence.



Image Source: Michael Schwarzenberger

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Image Source: Pixabay

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Foreign Affairs

Made in Mexico: The PITEX Cross-Border Agreement

By Cristina Alcazar- Kinney

From the Master Lock securing your garden gate to the vintage Barbie dolls tucked away in your attic, many beloved American products share a surprising origin story: they're born in Mexico's maquiladoras. These manufacturing facilities, just hours south of the U.S. border, represent a thriving partnership between American companies and Mexican workers.

Despite recent border political fluctuations, the Maquiladora industry remains robust and is the birthplace of these iconic products. Just across the border, a few hours away, Mexican and American forces conjoin to create a booming supply chain network. In 2006, a new collaboration formed to ease U.S. companies' nearshoring of manufacturing to the well-developed supply chain landscape just south of the American border in Mexico–The *Programa de Importación Temporal para Producir Artículos de Exportación* (PITEX). Yes, it's a mouthful! But, PITEX presents both sides of the border with an important, symbiotic trade relationship that boosts each economy in its own respect.

PITEX spawns from a union of the NAFTA agreement and the Industria Manufacturera, Maquiladora y de Servicios de Exportación (IMMEX) agreement, creating a unique mix of regulations suited to the Sonoran Desert's commercial landscape.

This cross-border agreement allows Arizona companies to temporarily import raw materials, equipment, and machinery for manufacturing export products without incurring certain taxes. In the valley, key players Master Lock, Intel, and Raytheon contribute to activities that generate an estimated \$8.7 million annually in tax revenues for Arizona's state and local governments.

Mexico also benefits from this open-trade agreement. Maquiladoras account for 48% of Mexico's industrial employment and 19% of overall employment. Mexican manufacturing hubs, especially in regions such as Querétaro, Nuevo León, Baja California, Guanajuato, and Chihuahua, are gaining recognition as advanced manufacturing centers. Their success is largely due to their extensive STEM-focused institutions, which provide these hubs with highly specialized employees.

This mutually beneficial relationship underscores the importance of regional trade agreements for promoting economic democracy in an evolving trade landscape. We can think of PITEX as a smaller-scale version of NAFTA, specifically designed for the key corporations in Arizona and Northern Mexico. Just as every Barbie needs her Ken, every Mattel relies on its Maquiladora for support.



Image Source: ChatGPT

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Upcoming Pub Nights

By Rachel Benoit

March 6, 2025

Can't travel to New Orleans or abroad to celebrate Carnival or Mardi Gras? No worries! We're bringing the carnival spirit to you with this exciting Pub Night, co-hosted by the Corporate Sustainability Club and LGBT-Birds+. Expect a night of dazzling colors, festive music, and traditional Mardi Gras fun!

March 13, 2025

The pub will be open, but there will be no official event this week as classes are excused for Spring Break. Take this time to relax, travel, and enjoy some well-earned rest. See you next week!

March 20, 2025

Join the Africa Business Club (ABC) and Thunderbird Data Analytics Club (TDAC) for a unique and engaging co-hosted Pub Night. Expect a 2000s-themed night of dance contests, game shows, trivia, and more! Prizes will go to not only the winners of the challenges, but also the best-dressed of the night!

March 27, 2025

Get ready for a dynamic and stylish evening as the International Fútbol Club at Thunderbird (IFCT) partners with the Fashion Club at Thunderbird! Whether you're a fan of the world's most popular sport or are passionate about style and design, this Pub Night will have something for everyone. Steal the spotlight by taking it old school and dressing up in 90s and Y2K fashion.

April 3, 2025

Are you ready to ignite your creativity and dive into the world of innovation? Join the AI Club and Thunderpreneurs for an exciting co-hosted Pub Night, where forward-thinkers, innovators, and entrepreneurs come together to discuss the ever-evolving landscape of AI or their next big venture. Either way, this night is sure to inspire you – see you there!

April 10, 2025

Who's ready to talk money? Join the Finance Club and the Venture Capital/Private Equity Club for an exciting Pub Night where we dive into the latest market trends and investment opportunities. Be sure to congratulate the VC Club on their impressive 2nd place victory in the Venture Capital Investment Competition at UC Boulder this past January! Let's raise a glass to their achievement and an evening of great discussions, connections, and fun.

April 17, 2025

Tonight's events begin early with an insightful and thought-provoking discussion on the ever-evolving US-Mexico trade relationship. Hosted by the Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI), this engaging panel kicks off at 5:00 PM and will feature expert perspectives on key economic, political, and diplomatic dynamics shaping trade between the two nations, and how Arizona fits into the mix. Immediately following the panel, continue upstairs to the Pub to join the FPI, Latin American Business Club, and Prospanica for a festive night that includes great food and even a DJ. Get ready to dance the night away!

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Student Life

The Sky That Connects Us All

By Tendai Mutandwa
Guest Writer - Thunderbird Student

"Ndege, ndege, ndege...."[1], the chants rang out, as children ran out of their houses to go run around and scream with joy at the passing plane they saw above them. I was one of those kids, fascinated and enthralled by the big bird in the sky. What a marvel; it filled us with such inexplicable joy. Our tiny minds could barely believe what we were looking at, but deep down we knew it was something special.

I am sad to admit that the sky in recent years has since lost its luster and I barely looked up, let alone marveled at much in the sky. I just never felt like I had the time. I would occasionally look up when I found myself on holiday or if there was an eclipse or some well-publicized once-in-a-lifetime moon event, but apart from that, it just felt like I had other pressing things to focus on. As I got older, and life's pressures got to me, I had no time to keep my head in the clouds.

However, all this changed six months ago when I left my home country, traveled the furthest I'd ever gone, and moved to Arizona. Of all the things I expected to discover and experience, I never thought that I would rediscover the joy of looking up into the sky. Living in Tempe gives me ample opportunity to walk around, and on many of these walks, I noticed the sheer number of planes flying above me. I found myself continuously looking up as if my eyes were drawn upwards by some invisible string. It was not long after that that I intentionally sought out the sky and started to search for the planes. As opposed to my

childhood, there was a much quieter wonderment that this exercise brought.

My newfound love for America's skyline came to a head when I camped at Joshua Tree National Park. My friends told me it was considered an "International Dark Sky Park" due to its high elevation, distance from cities, and the park's efforts to reduce light pollution. To be honest, I had no idea what this truly meant until the sun set and darkness set in.

As we sat by the fire on that first night, I looked over at one of my friends and saw them looking up. I followed their gaze, and I was instantly transfixed. I had never seen such a beautiful sky littered with gleaming stars. As the whole group began looking up, some started pointing out constellations, planets, satellites, and stars. My mind was blown; there were more than stars up there? I listened quietly to this chatter, in quiet awe at how much I had not truly thought about all that the sky housed.

In all my star gazing back in my country, I had never thought the sky had more than stars and constellations, quite clearly a limitation of the environment I grew up in.

It might seem inconsequential for some, but it got me thinking about what life would have looked like if I had grown up under such a sky. Would I have become more of a dreamer, could I have believed in more or achieved even greater things than what I had accomplished?

And ever since that trip, I stargaze. I look up constantly day and night. I realize now that I am not too busy to look up at the sky. I crave it constantly; I find it centers and keeps me calm. I have rediscovered what it means to dream and believe in something bigger. As life gets harder and busier, I urge you to find joy in the small things, rediscover those things that brought you happiness, and revel in them. Trust me, life is truly too short to look down.

**Shona word for "Aeroplane". Shona is a native language of Zimbabwe.*



Image Source: Tendai Mutandwa

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Student Life

Nick's Next Bite

Nicholas Bayer's Culinary Tour of
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Cibo's Pizzeria
603 N. 5th Ave

If you are feeling the need for Italian food, check out Cibo Pizzeria! It is a great medium-priced restaurant serving Italian food. It is a great place if you want a classier restaurant for a medium price. Rating: 4.5/5



Dog Haus Biergarten
1 E Washington St

Situated in Downtown Phoenix, this pub serves hot dogs and hamburgers. Unfortunately, while it has a good location, the price seems a bit high for the quality of food. Rating: 2.5/5



Image Source: Yelp



Cocina Adamex
416 N 7th Ave

A Mexican café situated on the edge of downtown. It serves good standard Mexican food for reasonable prices. Rated at 3.5/5



The Arrogant Butcher
2 E Jefferson Street

Serving good American food at a sit-down restaurant, this restaurant is downtown across the street from Fry's. While I thought the restaurant was harder to find initially, I found that the food was quite enjoyable. Rating: 3.5/5



Ramen Kagawa
111 West Monroe St

Another restaurant situated in Downtown Phoenix, this Japanese ramen restaurant serves delicious Japanese food for reasonable prices. Rating: 4/5



Image Source: Raising Canes

Nick's Fast Food of the Month: Raising Canes

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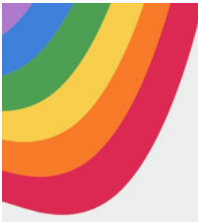
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The Gate

Wherever we travel, whenever we pass from one country to another we must go through a gate. However Das Tor means more than simply the traversing of borders; it stands as a symbol and artery of communication through the barriers of superstition, ignorance, dogma, and racism and prejudice; traditional enemies which continue to be a detriment to progress and global peace.

Idealistic though it may sound, it has now become the responsibility of our generation, the future leaders of the international community, to make every effort to widen these gates and succeed where previous generations have failed. Das Tor must therefore be an open forum for debate, a clearing house of ideas that may further prepare us for the international community and further augment the reputation of this youthful institution.”

-Bob Morabito, Founding Editor, 1969

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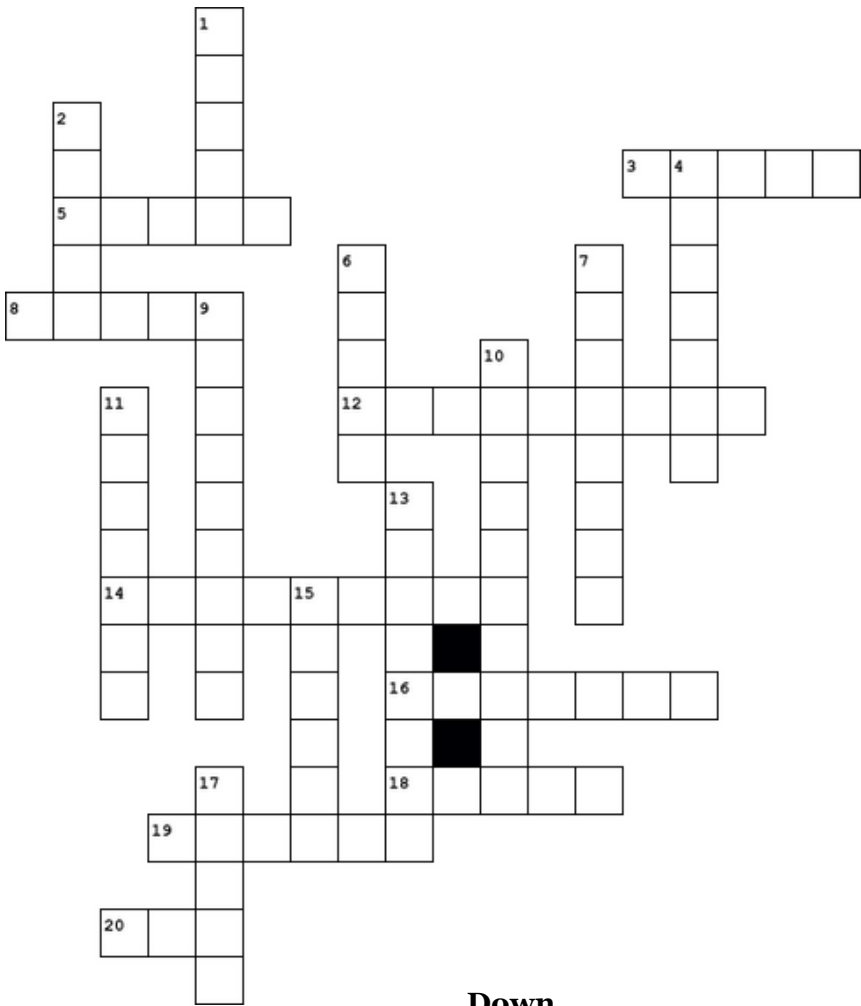
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Across

3. : Home to Ottoman landmarks such as the Valley of the Kings and the discovery site of the Rosetta Stone.
5. : European country with a long Mediterranean coastline, has left a powerful mark on Western culture and cuisine. Birthplace of the Renaissance.
8. : Desert country encompassing most of the Arabian Peninsula, with Red Sea and Persian Gulf coastlines.
12. : Massive South American nation with terrain encompassing Andes mountains, glacial lakes and Pampas grassland. Buenos Aires is the capital city
14. : Comprises a mainland, the island of Tasmania, and numerous smaller islands.
16. : Yangon, the country's largest city, is home to bustling markets, numerous parks and lakes, and the towering, gilded Shwedagon Pagoda.
18. : Seventh-largest country by area and with more than 1.3 billion people, it is the most populous country.
19. : Second-largest country by area, known for the “Mounties”.
20. : “E pluribus unum” is this country’s national motto

Down

1. : Located mainly in the Himalayas but also includes parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. Kathmandu is the capital city.
2. : The world's second-most populous country, with a population of about 1.4 billion.
4. : Western European country home to the Autobahn and the Black Forest.
6. : Island country in East Asia. It stretches from the Sea of Okhotsk in the north to the East China Sea and the Philippine Sea in the south.
7. : Southern European country on the Iberian Peninsula, bordering Spain.
9. : World's largest island country, with more than seventeen thousand islands, and at 1,904,569 square kilometres, the 14th largest by land area and the 7th largest in combined sea and land area.
10. : Country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean consisting of 2 main islands, both marked by volcanoes and glaciation. Wellington is the capital city.
11. : Scandinavian country comprising the Jutland Peninsula and numerous islands.
13. : Shares a border to the northwest with Panama, to the east with Venezuela and Brazil and to the south with Ecuador and Peru.
15. : Country famous for Bolshoi and St. Petersburg's Mariinsky ballet companies.
17. : Peninsular Arab country whose terrain comprises arid desert and a long Persian Gulf shoreline of beaches and dunes. Doha is the capital city.