

Sentence

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geopolitique

ABSTRACT The Arctic has emerged as a crucible of geopolitical ambition, where global superpowers vie for dominance over resources, security, and strategic influence. Amidst this evolving theater, Danish MP Karsten Hønge's proposition to involve Russia in safeguarding Greenland against U.S. territorial aspirations disrupts conventional alliances and raises profound questions about Arctic sovereignty, Denmark's strategic autonomy, and the implications for NATO and Arctic governance. This unconventional proposal, framed within the backdrop of Donald Trump's 2019 Greenland acquisition gambit, underscores the vulnerabilities of Denmark's hold over Greenland and the broader complexities of Arctic politics.

The strategic significance of Greenland—as the world's largest island, with untapped reserves of rare earth elements, critical minerals, and emergent Arctic trade routes—positions it as a linchpin in the Arctic's geopolitical landscape. Trump's overt interest in Greenland not only highlighted its value but also exposed Denmark's limited capacity to defend the territory against assertive superpower ambitions. Hønge's call to involve Russia reflects an acknowledgment of these limitations, presenting an alternative counterbalance to U.S. dominance in the Arctic.

Russia's Arctic strategy—rooted in decades of military investments, resource exploitation, and infrastructure development—underscores its regional primacy. As the Arctic's largest stakeholder, Russia's capabilities, including a fleet of nuclear-powered icebreakers and expansive Arctic installations, make it a formidable force. Aligning with Russia, however, represents a double-edged sword for Denmark, challenging its historical alignment with NATO and transatlantic allies while potentially addressing the growing militarization of the Arctic by the U.S. and NATO forces.

Hønge's proposal catalyzes three key implications:

Denmark's Arctic Sovereignty and Policy Realignment: Hønge's suggestion signals a need for Denmark to reassess its reliance on NATO and the U.S. for Arctic security. Greenland's strategic autonomy, juxtaposed against Denmark's limited military resources, invites broader discourse on alternative frameworks for safeguarding its Arctic interests. **Geopolitical Tensions within NATO:** A Danish overture to Russia risks fracturing NATO unity and escalating tensions in the Arctic. Such a move could redefine Denmark's position within the alliance while inviting repercussions from NATO and Arctic Council members concerned about polarizing the region. **Arctic Governance and Future Alliances:** Should Denmark pursue Russian collaboration, the Arctic Council's cooperative ethos could erode, giving way to heightened U.S.-Russia competition. This realignment might amplify Greenland's geopolitical significance, situating it at the epicenter of Arctic power struggles. Greenland's trajectory is inseparable from its economic and environmental imperatives. The island's vast reserves of rare earth elements, pivotal for renewable energy and high-tech manufacturing, attract global attention, while melting ice unveils new shipping lanes and fisheries. Denmark's stewardship is tested by these opportunities and challenges, further complicated by Greenland's aspirations for greater autonomy. Efforts to integrate Indigenous knowledge, sustainable development, and collaborative Arctic policies will define Greenland's role as a model for balancing economic growth with ecological preservation.

Russia's potential involvement raises critical questions about its role as a geopolitical counterweight in the Arctic. Diplomatic advocacy, intelligence sharing, and non-military economic partnerships with Denmark present avenues for collaboration, albeit fraught with risks. NATO's response to such overtures could accelerate Arctic militarization, undermining cooperative frameworks and destabilizing the region.

Hønge's controversial proposal ignites a necessary debate on Arctic sovereignty and governance. Denmark's path forward—whether through NATO-aligned strategies or unconventional alliances—will shape the Arctic's geopolitical landscape and redefine Greenland's future. This narrative serves as a testament to the enduring complexities of small states navigating great power rivalries in an increasingly interconnected and contested Arctic realm.

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