



US Territorial Acquisitions and Interest in Greenland

[Source: DTE](#)

Recently, US President-elect Donald Trump has expressed interest in buying [Greenland](#), highlighting ongoing US ambitions in strategically important regions like the [Arctic](#).

- This move reflects the US's long history of territorial acquisitions, crucial to its growth as a global power.
- **Territorial Acquisitions by the US:**
 - **Louisiana Purchase (1803):** The US acquired 828,000 square miles of land from France for USD 15 million, doubling its size and securing control of the **Mississippi River**.
 - **The Gadsden Purchase (1853):** A 30,000 square-mile region in Arizona and New Mexico was bought to facilitate a **southern transcontinental railroad**.
 - **The Alaska Purchase (1867):** The US purchased nearly 600,000 square miles from Russia for USD 7.2 million.
 - Initially seen as a **strategic acquisition** with low immediate value, it gained importance after the **Klondike Gold Rush, 1896** (gold was discovered in the **Klondike**) and became vital to US influence in the Asia-Pacific region.



- **Key Facts About Greenland:** It is the **world's largest island**, is located in the **North Atlantic Ocean** and is a territory of **Denmark**.
 - Greenland features major mountain ranges like the **Watkins Range** and **Stauning Alps**, and rivers such as Borglum, and Majorqaq.
 - Greenland has been a **mining nation since the late 1700s**, extracting **coal** and later **mining gold, silver, copper, lead**, zinc, graphite, and marble.

Read more: [World's Northernmost Island](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/us-territorial-acquisitions-and-interest-in-greenland)