

## The Geopolitical and Economic Implications of Trump's Expansionist Vision

Dr. Ali SEMİN – Founder of ODAP Center



Donald Trump's aspiration to integrate Greenland and Canada into the United States has sparked serious discussions on the international stage. This initiative reflects his broader ambition to expand U.S. global influence and strengthen its economic power. One of Trump's key arguments is that the U.S. allegedly loses \$250 billion annually due to economic relations with Canada.

Comparisons have been drawn between Trump's approach and Russia's annexation of Crimea, leading to intense debates both within the U.S. and internationally. Furthermore, Trump's hardline stance on social issues such as LGBTQ+ rights and abortion has drawn significant attention. While Trump's nationalist policies aim to maintain American hegemony, such expansionist initiatives could set a dangerous precedent for other states and increase both domestic and international pressure on the U.S.

Since taking office, Trump has signaled his intention to expand U.S. borders. While the feasibility of such plans remains questionable, his focus on Canada and strategic regions such as the Gulf of Mexico is evident. His presidency demonstrated a clear desire to expand U.S. influence in its own region—an approach that can be described as "Trump's hegemony." Notably, this sets him apart from previous American presidents.

However, the implementation of these expansionist ideas faces significant challenges. Even if they exist as theoretical possibilities, their execution would be highly complex. Trump has reportedly expressed a desire to incorporate certain regions into the U.S. as the 51st and 52nd states. Yet, considering the intricacies of the global system and domestic challenges within the U.S., achieving such a goal within a four-year presidential term seems highly unrealistic.

Trump also faces major geopolitical and economic obstacles. One of the primary challenges is migration policy. His administration imposed strict sanctions on Colombia, raising tariffs from 25% to 50%, revoking visas for individuals close to the Colombian government, and suspending diplomatic relations. If Trump were to return to office, it could trigger shifts and disruptions in the international system, though this does not necessarily mean that Canada

or any other region would become part of the U.S. The likelihood of such territorial integration remains extremely low. Trump portrays himself as an American nationalist rather than a globalist, yet the U.S. political system operates within checks and balances that constrain unilateral action.

Trump's foreign policy rhetoric has also carried significant implications for Europe. He has actively engaged in geopolitical competition beyond North America. For instance, he once claimed he could end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours. However, after his term ended, his stance shifted, asserting: "This is not our war, it is Europe's war. Let the Europeans handle it." This statement indicates a continuation of his previous political course, though the likelihood of success remains questionable.

The American media has widely debated Trump's territorial ambitions. Based on his statements, it appears that his focus is shifting from territorial expansion to addressing challenges to U.S. hegemony. In the European press, opinions remain divided—some analysts believe he could implement his vision, while others dismiss it as unrealistic.

Canada, with a population of approximately 40 million and a vast landmass of 9,985,000 km<sup>2</sup>, presents a highly complex case for annexation. As the second-largest country in the world after Russia, Canada is a federation consisting of 10 provinces and three territories. Beyond its geographic size, Canada is a major global economy, a member of both the G8 and G20, and one of the world's top 10 economies. Its trade relations, particularly in natural resources and timber, are deeply intertwined with the U.S. and China. Trump's vision of integrating Canada into the U.S. is largely driven by economic considerations.

Additionally, Canada possesses 10% of the world's forests, making it a strategically important country. If the U.S. were to incorporate Canada, it would surpass Russia in land area, further solidifying its global status. Trump recognizes that military, economic, and diplomatic strength alone are insufficient for global dominance in the 21st century—hence his interest in territorial expansion. However, the feasibility of such a move remains highly questionable.

A critical factor in this discussion is Canada's diverse ethnic composition, which includes English, French, Scottish, Irish, and German communities. Trump's restrictive immigration policies, including stricter Green Card regulations and limitations on birthright citizenship, further complicate the prospect of integrating Canada into the U.S. The question remains: if Trump were to acquire Canadian territory, how would he address the status of its citizens?

Trump justifies his claims by stating: "We lose \$250 billion every year because of Canada, but if we make it part of the U.S., we won't lose that money." However, Canadian officials have categorically rejected this notion. Trump has a tendency to use economic justifications to pressure other countries, but enforcing such measures has proven challenging in practice.

For such territorial expansion to materialize, Trump would need to build substantial domestic and international support, which could lead to internal conflicts or even civil unrest in the U.S. Given the risks involved, it is unlikely that he would be willing to pursue such a high-stakes strategy. His political agenda is rooted in American nationalism, exemplified by his withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization, citing financial concerns.

Historically, Canada was once part of the British colonies in North America. If Trump were to pursue annexation, it would significantly complicate U.S. foreign policy, particularly regarding Russia. Since the outbreak of the Ukraine war in 2022, the U.S. has consistently demanded that Russia withdraw from occupied territories. If Trump were to engage in territorial expansion himself, American diplomacy would face accusations of hypocrisy.

A similar dynamic could emerge in other nations. Nationalist leaders worldwide might use Trump's precedent to justify their own territorial ambitions. History demonstrates that the global order is shaped by the actions of leading nations—should Trump succeed in implementing his vision, it could serve as a model for others. However, the likelihood of such a scenario remains highly uncertain.



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