

Insights Unwrapped

Greenland Next?



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Why Is the U.S. Interested in Greenland?

Security

Strategically located between the US, Europe and Russia, it's long been seen as key for US security.

Natural resources

Greenland is rich in natural resources, including oil and gas, and rare earth metals.

Shipping lanes

As the climate crisis melts Arctic ice, it could make northern shipping routes more accessible throughout the year, making the region even more important.

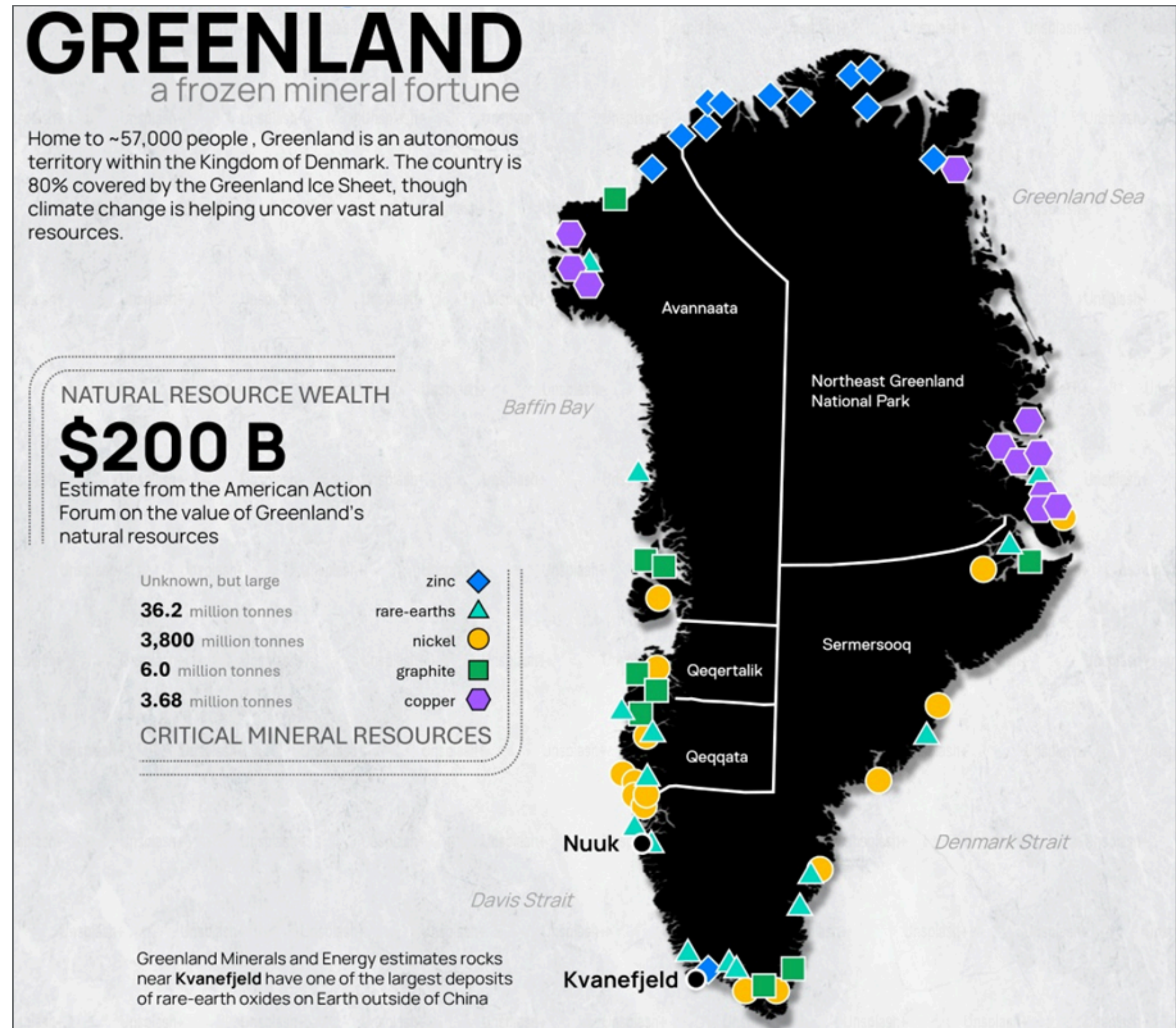
Sources: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, The European Institute for International Relations

Graphic: Soph Warnes, CNN

Greenland, the world's largest island, possesses significant untapped mineral wealth. U.S. President Donald Trump has shown renewed interest in the territory due to its strategic location at the crossroads of North America, Europe, and the Arctic, making it vital for military security and control over movement across the North Atlantic.

Greenland's Rare Mineral Wealth

- *The world's largest island, Greenland (an autonomous territory of Denmark), holds a strategic position in the Arctic, a region growing in importance due to melting ice from the climate crisis and the opening of new trade routes.*
- *As glaciers melt, rich underground resources are being exposed in the Arctic seabed, which is rich in gold, oil, natural gas, minerals and rare earth elements (REE).*
- *Greenland's resources offer alternatives to China's dominance in REEs.*



Is Greenland for Sale?



1867: Secretary of State William Seward proposed annexing Greenland (and Iceland).

1910: US Ambassador offered to trade Greenland for Dutch Antilles and Mindanao (Philippines).

1946: US offered Denmark \$100M in gold (~\$12 B today) to buy Greenland; rejected.

2019: Trump expressed interest in purchasing Greenland; Danish PM called it "absurd" and rejected it.

Did you know?

The United States bought the Danish West Indies (now the U.S. Virgin Islands) from Denmark in 1917 for USD 25 million in gold to protect its naval interests during World War I.

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