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In August 2019, President Donald Trump caused a stir when he asked aides to explore the possibility of buying Greenland from Denmark. According to Fox News, Trump explained that essentially, it's a big real estate deal, and said it was beneficial to Denmark, which provides hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies to the island each year. So they carry it with a big loss, and strategically it would be very good for the United States, Trump said. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen quickly approved any deal, saying that Greenland, which became a self-driving region in Denmark back in 1970.

and has its own separate parliament, the prime minister and the flag, is not Danish property for sale. Greenland is Greenl hope that this is not what is seriously meant. Some argued that Trump's interest in buying Greenland was not so outlandish. From the 1800s to the early 1900s, the United States actually acquired most of its territory through various land purchases, including the purchase of Louisiana in 1803 and the 1867 alaska deal to buy Alaska from the Tsarist russian government. Both the U.S. and Denmark have done business before, even though it was just over a century ago. In 1917, the United States acquired the Virgin Islands from the Scandinavian nation. And back in 1946, the administration of the previous U.S. President Harry Truman even secretly explored the purchase of Greenland from Denmark, as detailed in this story of national public radio. Still, Trump's proposed deal would go further than any of them because he offered to buy the island, which in many ways is now effectively a separate nation within the country. Can one country actually buy another whole country? It's a stunning concept. Advertising Strange, however, has at least one historical example of what is happening in the 19th century. Back in the 1880s, King Leopold II of Belgium and a syndicate of investors struck deals with hundreds of local rulers and eventually took control of almost the entire Congo Basin. The group aggregated the land and proclaimed it the new independent state, the Free State of the Congo, with Leopold as sovereign. The new country was recognized by other European colonial powers at the Berlin Conference on West Africa 1884-1885, giving it a thin veneer of legitimacy. Leopold turned out to be a greedy, terrifyingly cruel ruler. (Just one example: Many Congolese were forced to work as slaves on rubber plantations, where wardens armed with corkscrew whips from a dried hippo hid them in a queue.) After all, an international outcry against Leopold's atrocities, which reduced the country's population by more than half, that Leopold was forced to give up his personal country. The king transferred control of the Belgian parliamentary government in 1908 in exchange for a personal payment of 50 million Belgian francs, as well as a donation of 40 million francs to the king's fund and an additional 110 million francs of debt - about \$63 million in today's U.S. dollars. It may not seem like much to the entire nation, but remember that Leopold has already siphoned a huge amount of wealth out of place. For a more detailed look at the purchase and its implications for the transfer of sovereignty, take a look at this 2019 article by Duke Law School professor Joseph Blocher and Mitu Gulati. Advertising But buying across the country will be a more complex issue today, as large land purchases are akin to Louisiana territory or Alaska deals. These kinds of things used to be pretty common, and traditional international law rules made it pretty simple - the countries involved just had to negotiate a price, essentially, Blocher explains by email. But the legal landscape has changed over the last century, so the old rules really shouldn't apply in the same way. Most importantly, the increase in the principle of self-determination means that in order to be legal, any such sale of a populated area must be based on the approval of the population living in the territory. So even if Denmark made its own Greenland, as the president put it, the people of Greenland would still have to consult. Aside from international law and domestic law, it is difficult to see how the sale of territory would be seen as acceptable behavior in today's international system, especially when the territory in question is an autonomous dependent territory, Rebecca Richards, a lecturer in international relations at the University of Britain's Kila in Newcastle and author of this 2017 article in Conversation on National Sovereignty, explains by email. This is inconveniently close to colonial practice, and it is very difficult to imagine a situation where this would be acceptable, especially given the States involved. But in another sense, all this may be a controversial argument, and not just because Denmark rejected the idea of selling Greenland. Buying and selling countries doesn't make good economic sense, letters Robert Deitz, a former senior adviser to the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and now a professor of public policy at the School of Politics and Government Ball at George Mason University in Virginia. There are better ways to get what we want. Instead of buying territory, Deitz points out that it is easier and cheaper to simply rent land for military bases or develop a deal on mining rights (such as Greenland supply minerals that are essential for today's modern such as smartphones. I don't know anything that Trump really wants from Greenland for the U.S. that couldn't have been obtained without the transfer of sovereignty, he said Danish Prime Minister Frederiksen seems to agree. As she recently told a TV interviewer: Fortunately, the time when you buy and sell other countries and the population is over. Not so long ago we published a package about fast cities, 15 up-and-coming centers for creative workers. We also took a look at urban areas outside the United States to see who is competing for American talent. Today's New York Times adds one of them that is not a city. It's a country. In this country? Estonia. Anchor companies such as Skype and Playtech are testing the boundaries of Estonia's traditional business community and legal structure and attracting a new generation of global business and technology leaders. It's an interesting article - part skype profile and part function on the broader business environment in which it operates - and one that begs the question: Which other countries could be the new dormant giants? Estonia wasn't on my radar a year or two ago. Cross-country skiing is the oldest type of skiing, developed from the need to travel through snow-covered terrain. Along the way, about a century ago, some of these travelers realized that skiing can also be fun. Since then, ski racing has evolved so that now it can be enjoyed in a variety of forms. Called differently Scandinavian skiing, ski tours, track skiing, or telemarking, one common denominator is that heel boot is free. Skiing in a rugged country can be the focus of the week at a posh resort or half-hour fitness skiing in the backyard at the end of the working day. This can be a means to reach some remote destination, or it can lead to a racing career that extends from the age of 4 to 84 years. Many lifelong skiers have done all of the above and probably a basement full of skis to prove it. Up until the advent of ski lifts in the 1930s, ski racing was really the only form of skiing (except for jumping), as each descent began with the ascent. Alpine competitions, for example, were not part of the Olympic competition until 1936. After World War II, lifts quickly spread across the mountains and slopes across America. As a result, at least on this side of the ocean, ski racing virtually disappeared as a separate sport until a major renaissance began in the late 1960s. In this revival, an early slogan for a particular brand of skis touted If you can walk, you can ski. There are a large number of people who still believe that skiing in a cross country means skiing, but it misses both the fun and fitness that are the hallmarks of the sport. Maybe some snowshoe maker can take on the modified version above But on skis, the idea is to... Well, skiing. The first choice to make is what skis to use. Skis range from light racing toothpicks that are 40mm wide at the tip with little or no sidecut to telemark ski width, like any mountain ski with a side eye to match. There are also special skis for skating, which are less than 40 mm on the tip, usually wider in the middle, and the size up to the height of the skier. Combined with poles that fit the ears, these skis allow you to travel quickly, but are not suitable for anything other than hard, smooth surfaces, usually only in well-groomed cross-country centers. Skating, as the name suggests, uses skating movement going forward, but also requires a level of fitness, balance and technique that is not possessed by most beginners. The next discussion, therefore, assumes that one will ski with a diagonal step or classical technique. For classic skiing, there is the next choice of wax or wax skis. Wax skis rely on the right wax to provide enough grip to propel one forward and climb the hills; Perfectly waxed skis will surpass without wax skis almost on every condition. In contrast, a wax-free ski that uses a base pattern to provide consistent performance with the little effort needed to assess the temperature and condition of the snow. Most students start on skis that are 55-60mm wide at the tip, with a moderate sidecut. This ski size with a wax base is the most frequently rented ski and is a good choice for first purchase as well. This simple vanilla model will work well in a set track at the manicured center, on the unsnieved golf course, and on the most moderate backcountry trails. Later you can specialize, whether in the direction of racing skis, heavy backcountry skis, or in both directions - remember that the promised cellar is full of skis. Modern skis are made of fiberglass and have a double design. There is, first of all, a tip to the tail of a cambler, which evenly distributes the weight of the skier along the length of the ski. Secondly, there is a cambler in the middle of the ski, which ideally holds a wax pocket or a strike zone less in contact with the snow, except when one stroke to get a grip. This dual camembert improves performance, but requires a careful size both in terms of length and flexibility, so the user can actually lead to the center of the ski to make sufficient contact with the snow to get a good grip. Renting the first few times makes you feel that a certain ski is the right one, and many ski shops will apply some or all of the rent to the possible Once the skis have been selected, loading, tying, and pole selection will follow quite easily. With the exception of telemark skis, most modern matings are system bindings in either the Salomon or Rotefella configuration. (Note: While Salomon Rotefella boots and bindings are similar, they are not compatible.) The steel rod, tucked under the feet of the shoe, is attached to the pivot point in the binding, which allows a very free movement forward of the shoe - really free heel. Choose a shoe with a good stiff (usually plastic and yes, very slippery) sole to minimize lateral movement. Poles can be made of fiberglass (light and cheap) or metal (slightly heavier but more durable) and should have a tourist basket rather than a tiny butterfly basket appropriate only in manicured centers. Cozy fits in the armpit, standing on the floor, usually the preferred length. After equipping, whether it's for rent or a new purchase, the first exit (and perhaps the second or third) should include some good instructions in the basics. To truly enjoy the sport and enjoy the huge benefits of fitness, you need to learn to move at a reasonable speed, as well as feel comfortable on different terrain. Part of the instruction should include descent techniques like (contrary to what is sometimes said) even on light skis without metal edges, you can snowplow and rotate enough to safely negotiate 10-15 degree slopes. With this control, no need to be limited to flat pistes and, exempt from this restriction, there is a whole wider world there just waiting for your ski runs. Tracks.

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