



Diego Rivera. *The Uprising*. 1931

Artifact 2--LITERATURE

"Let America Be America Again"

Langston Hughes

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.

(America never was America to me.)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me.)

O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.

(There's never been equality for me,
Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free.")

Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?

I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.
I am the red man driven from the land,
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—
And finding only the same old stupid plan
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.

I am the young man, full of strength and hope,
Tangled in that ancient endless chain
Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!
Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need!
Of work the men! Of take the pay!
Of owning everything for one's own greed!

I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.
I am the worker sold to the machine.
I am the Negro, servant to you all.
I am the people, humble, hungry, mean—
Hungry yet today despite the dream.
Beaten yet today—O, Pioneers!
I am the man who never got ahead,
The poorest worker bartered through the years.

Yet I'm the one who dreamt our basic dream
In the Old World while still a serf of kings,
Who dreamt a dream so strong, so brave, so true,
That even yet its mighty daring sings
In every brick and stone, in every furrow turned
That's made America the land it has become.
O, I'm the man who sailed those early seas
In search of what I meant to be my home—
For I'm the one who left dark Ireland's shore,
And Poland's plain, and England's grassy lea,
And torn from Black Africa's strand I came
To build a "homeland of the free."

The free?

Who said the free? Not me?
Surely not me? The millions on relief today?
The millions shot down when we strike?
The millions who have nothing for our pay?
For all the dreams we've dreamed
And all the songs we've sung
And all the hopes we've held
And all the flags we've hung,
The millions who have nothing for our pay—
Except the dream that's almost dead today.

O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land whereeveryman is free.
The land that's mine—the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.

Sure, call me any ugly name you choose—
The steel of freedom does not stain.
From those who live like leeches on the people's lives,
We must take back our land again,
America!

O, yes,
I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath—
America will be!

Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,
The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,
We, the people, must redeem
The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.
The mountains and the endless plain—
All, all the stretch of these great green states—
And make America again!

Artifact 3--CURRENT EVENT

<https://time.com/7347149/greenland-tariffs/>

Time

Jan 18, 2026 9:40 AM ET

“Europe Promises United Response to Trump’s ‘Dangerous’ Greenland Tariffs”

by Richard Hall and Rebecca Schneid

A boy holds a crossed out map of Greenland topped by a hairpiece symbolizing U.S. President Donald Trump, during a protest against Trump's policy towards Greenland in front of the US consulate in Nuuk, Greenland, Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026. Evgeniy Maloletka—Associated Press
Europe vowed a united response after President Donald Trump said he would impose tariffs on eight of its allies for sending troops to Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark that the president has repeatedly threatened to annex.

Trump said Saturday he would introduce 10% tariffs on imports from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland, all of which sent small numbers of military personnel to Greenland in recent days to take part in military exercises.

The move, which comes as Trump has stepped up his campaign to annex the territory, prompted a wave of condemnation from the leaders of the ostensible U.S. allies, which were already subject to tariffs of 10% and 15%. The row could call into question trade deals the U.S. struck with the U.K. in May and the European Union in July.

On Sunday, the eight countries issued a joint statement declaring that they “stand in full solidarity with the Kingdom of Denmark and the people of Greenland.”

"As members of Nato, we are committed to strengthening Arctic security as a shared transatlantic interest. The pre-coordinated Danish exercise Arctic Endurance conducted with Allies, responds to this necessity. It poses no threat to anyone," the statement said.

"Tariff threats undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral. We will continue to stand united and coordinated in our response. We are committed to upholding our sovereignty," it added.

A day earlier, Trump’s announcement set off a firestorm across European capitals as he threatened tariffs in his latest effort to acquire the territory of Greenland for the United States.

“Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, The United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Finland have journeyed to Greenland, for purposes unknown. This is a very dangerous situation for the Safety, Security, and Survival of our Planet,” Trump said in a Truth Social post Saturday announcing the tariffs.

Trump added that the tariffs would increase to 25% on June 1, and would remain in effect “until such time as a Deal is reached for the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland.”

His comments came as thousands rallied on Saturday in the Danish cities of Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg and Odense, as well as in Greenland’s capital, Nuuk, to oppose Trump’s annexation plans. In Nuuk, hundreds marched to the U.S. consulate, some holding signs that read “Greenland is not for sale,” and “Yankees go home!”

The tariff announcement drew unusually blunt reactions from the leaders of some of America's closest allies on Saturday.

"Applying tariffs on allies for pursuing the collective security of NATO allies is completely wrong," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said, adding that he would raise the issue directly with the White House.

"Our position on Greenland is very clear—it is part of the Kingdom of Denmark and its future is a matter for the Greenlanders and the Danes," he continued.

French President Emmanuel Macron called the tariffs "unacceptable."

"No intimidation nor threat will influence us, neither in Ukraine, nor in Greenland, nor anywhere else in the world when we are confronted with such situations," he said.

Trump’s threat is likely to prompt a reciprocal response from Europe. The European Union summoned ambassadors to an emergency meeting in Brussels on Sunday, and Reuters reported the bloc could suspend its work on a U.S. trade deal it struck in July.

European Council President Antonio Costa said Saturday he was "coordinating a joint response from the European Union's member states on this issue."

Speaking on Sunday, German finance minister and vice chancellor Lars Klingbeil said: "And so the very clear signal: we will not be blackmailed, and there will be a European response."

Trump has argued that anything less than total U.S. control of Greenland would be “unacceptable, ” and has said that annexing the territory is necessary for “national security.”

European nations, meanwhile, have strongly opposed the U.S. takeover of Greenland.

Earlier this week, Denmark increased its military presence on the island and conducted joint military exercises with the European allies targeted by Trump’s tariffs.

Denmark’s foreign minister, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, told reporters during a visit to Washington this week that Denmark was reinforcing security in the Arctic “by committing additional funds for military capabilities—not dogsleds, but ships, drones, fighter jets, etc,” referring to an

often-repeated jibe by Trump that Denmark's military presence on the island consisted entirely of dogsleds.

Several European NATO allies announced they were also sending military personnel to the island after Danish representatives emerged from meetings at the White House, declaring they had "fundamental disagreements" with the Trump administration over who should control Greenland.

Announcing France's involvement in the military exercises in Greenland, Macron took aim at Trump's ambitions.

"We live in a world where destabilizing powers have awakened," Macron said.

"We are seeing certainties that sometimes lasted for decades being called into question, and Europe is being shaken in some of its certainties," he said. Europe "sometimes has allies that we thought were predictable, always by our side, who are now causing us to have serious doubts, or even turning on those who doubted the least."

The United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden and Norway have also sent troops to take part in the military exercise, Operation Arctic Endurance.

Greenland's leaders and people have been clear in their opposition to the possibility of the U.S. taking control of the territory. Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said this week that the island would choose Denmark over the U.S. if it had to choose, while polls show that Greenlanders overwhelmingly oppose the idea of becoming part of the U.S.

"Our country is not an object of superpower rhetoric. We are a people. A land. And democracy," Nielsen said earlier this month. "This has to be respected. Especially by close and loyal friends."

Trump has frequently used tariffs as a foreign policy tool during his second term, negotiating deals with India, China, and the U.K. to lower tariffs in exchange for concessions on his policy priorities.

Artifact 4--PHILOSOPHY

“There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'”

— **Isaac Asimov**