

NEWS IN BRIEF 7

January 2nd-January 9th 2026

BBC NEWS

Donald Trump has again proposed annexing Greenland, after Denmark's leader urged him to "stop the threats" over the island. The US president said "we need Greenland from the standpoint of national security". Trump has repeatedly raised the prospect of the semi-autonomous Danish territory becoming an annexed part of the US, citing its strategic location for defence purposes and mineral wealth. Greenland's Prime Minister described the notion of US control over the island as a "fantasy".

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Supreme Court justices take two oaths. The first, required of all federal officials, is a promise to support the Constitution. The second is more specific. It requires them to "do equal right to the poor and to the rich." A new study being released on Monday from economists at Yale and Columbia contends that the Supreme Court has in recent decades fallen short of that vow. The study concludes that the wealthy have the wind at their backs before the justices and that a good way to guess the outcome of a case is to follow the money.

GLOBAL NEWS

Zohran Mamdani sworn in as
New York City mayor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePAFLLCeImI>



'**Greenland** /'gri:nlənd, -lənd/ : le Groenland

to urge /'ɜ:rdʒ/ = to strongly suggest someone does something

a threat [e] : une menace

from the 'standpoint of sth : du point de vue de qqch, en ce qui concerne qqch

a 'prospect [v] = a future possibility

semi-au 'tonomous /semi ɔ: 'tɒnəməs/ : Greenland is an autonomous territory in the Kingdom of Denmark.

a 'purpose /'pɜ:rpəs/ = a goal

a 'fantasy [ə] = a pipe dream, something that will not materialize

a 'justice = a Supreme Court judge

an oath /əʊθ/ : un serment

to re'quire = to necessitate

the poor Ø : les pauvres

the rich [ɪ] Ø : les riches ▲ Notez que *the poor* et *the rich* désignent un ensemble de personnes : sans -s, ils fonctionnent comme des pluriels et ne sont pas suivis de "people".

to re'lease [i:] = here, to publish

to con'tend /kən'tend/ = to claim, to assert

a 'decade /'dekeɪd/ : une décennie

to fall short of sth = to fail

a vow /vaʊ/ = a promise

to have the wind at one's back = to be in a good situation in which you can succeed

an 'outcome /'aʊtkʌm/ = a result

0:05 – **to usher in** = to inaugurate

0:25 – **Attorney General** : procureur général

0:27 - **to be held** : avoir lieu, se tenir

0:27 : **his'toric** describes something momentous or important in history.

Conversely, *historical* simply describes something that belongs to an earlier period of history.

1:07 – **divisiveness** : volonté de diviser

1:29 – **to swear**, swore, sworn, **in** : investir

1:52 – **childcare** : les frais de garde

1:55 – **to freeze rents** = to block the increase of rents

2:11 – **to hand something down to someone** : léguer qqch à qqn

2:19 – **to make up** : constituer

2:29 – **to volunteer** : faire du bénévolat

The radical honesty of Donald Trump, Lexington, *The Economist*, Jan 7th 2026

Although Donald Trump lies a lot, even by the standards of American presidents, a bleak, transgressive honesty about how the world really works has always been core to his peculiar political appeal: politicians are corrupted by big donations; only stupid people pay higher taxes than they can get away with; he could shoot someone on Fifth Avenue and not lose a vote.

Mr Trump's forthrightness about his interest in Venezuela is of a piece with this politics and worldview. He is not intent on regime change, let alone on spreading democracy. In fact, he seems content with regime stabilisation, as long as the regime recognises America is "in charge", because what he wants most is the oil. "We're going to be taking out a tremendous amount of wealth out of the ground," Mr Trump said after American forces snatched country's despotic leader, Nicolás Maduro.

Because gaps between a politician's stated principles and his actions supply the easiest targets for his critics, Mr Trump's unabashed cynicism lends him a shield. Some may whinge that Mr Trump is violating his "America First" standards, but on this point he is no hypocrite. To him, the slogan does not imply isolationism. It licenses American aggression in pursuit of naked self-interest.

Other objections to Mr Trump's lightning strike seem even less likely to gain purchase. Democrats may keep complaining he violated the constitution by assuming Congress's authority to declare war, but so what? Presidents have been doing that for well over a century. A Congress that could not bestir itself to restrain Mr Trump from executing anonymous suspected drug-runners, without producing any evidence, is not likely to impeach him for going to such lengths to bring an indicted cocaine lord to justice (however at odds those tactics may be—and even though Mr Trump had previously pardoned a convicted drug lord, the former president of Honduras, for smuggling cocaine from Venezuela). [...]

At home and abroad, longtime critics of American foreign policy may even take some satisfaction from Mr Trump's bluntness. America has not been "so innocent" in dozens of interventions in Latin America during the cold war, waiving concern for human rights or democracy when American commerce and control were actually, or also, at stake. Such critics may console themselves—as so many of this president's supporters have for so long—that Mr Trump, though coarse, is telling it as it is.

While the administration of Barack Obama declared the Monroe Doctrine defunct, Mr Trump has not merely revived it but, in his 2025 National Security Strategy, appended a "Trump corollary", since rebranded, clumsily, the "Donroe doctrine". Beyond the old doctrine's prohibition against European colonisation in the hemisphere, the corollary asserts an American imperative for commercial pre-eminence. As ever with Mr Trump, those countries that have come to rely most on America are his low-hanging fruit.

Maybe this will all work out well. More likely, in years to come, everyone, including America, will come to miss the old hypocrisy. [...] Not just Colombia and Cuba but Mexico and Denmark have every reason to take Mr Trump's threats seriously. Mr Trump demonstrates daily that what matters, in the real world, is power. Yet the claim that this will make America safer and more prosperous in the long haul is his biggest delusion.

bleak [i:] : désolant **pe'culiar** = particular **forthrightness** /'fɔ:rθraɪtnəs/ = radical honesty
of piece with = consistent with **to snatch** = to grab **unabashed** /ʌnə'bæʃt/ = assumé
to whinge /wɪndʒ/ = to complain **to license** /'laɪsəns/ = to authorize **a lightning strike** : un coup de tonnerre **to gain purchase** : être efficace **well over** = a lot more than
to bestir oneself /brɪ'stɜ:r/ : se décider à agir **at odds** /ɒdz/ = in contradiction **bluntness** = radical honesty **coarse** /kɔ:rs/ : grossier **defunct** /dɪ'fʌŋkt/ = obsolete **merely** /'mɪərli/ = simply **corollary** /'kɒrə,ləri/ : conséquence logique **his low-hanging fruit** = easy targets **in the long haul** /hɔ:l/ = in the long term **delusion** /dɪ'lu:ʒən/ = false belief