

Rules-based world order is over, PM warns in blunt Davos speech

Carney takes aim at U.S. disruption, economic coercion while calling on smaller countries to unite



Prime Minister Mark Carney addresses the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday. In his speech, Mr. Carney said the current tensions over Greenland will serve as a test of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. DENIS BALIBOUSE/REUTERS

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Prime Minister Mark Carney said Tuesday that middle powers must stop pretending the rules-based international order is still functioning, and instead build coalitions to survive in a new era where great powers prey on smaller countries to take what they want.

In a blunt speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Mr. Carney did not mention Donald Trump by name, but it was clear he was placing the blame on the U.S. President for what he called a rupture in global relations.

"More recently, great powers began using economic integration as weapons. Tariffs as leverage, financial infrastructure as coercion, supply chains as vulnerabilities to be exploited," he said.

Mr. Carney urged countries to start publicly condemning economic coercion, even when practised by an ally, in another clear reference to the United States.

"The old order is not coming back," he said.

The Prime Minister's speech, for which he received a standing ovation, follows an extraordinary threat by Mr. Trump to impose tariffs on European allies and Britain until Washington is allowed to acquire Greenland for strategic purposes.

"Canada strongly opposes tariffs over

Greenland and calls for focused talks to achieve our shared objectives of security and prosperity in the Arctic," Mr. Carney said.

The future of Greenland and the division Mr. Trump's threats have sown among Western allies is dominating talk in Davos.

While Mr. Carney's remarks were aimed at discussing the fallout from Mr. Trump's disruptive and protectionist tenure as President, he named the United States only once in the speech, when he cited "American hegemony."

He said there is strength in numbers in this new reality. "Middle powers must act together, because if you are not at the table, you are on the menu."

■ CARNEY, A7

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Vancouver's Hootsuite offers services to ICE, years after nixing contract over backlash

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Hootsuite Inc. has been pursuing business with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the United States, more than five years after employee backlash forced the Vancouver tech company to cancel a contract to provide social-media management services to the agency.

The company secured a US\$95,000 pilot project with ICE in September, according to internal communications obtained by The Globe and Mail. The project stems from existing work with Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Both agencies fall under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and are charged with carrying out U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants.

Hootsuite has discussed monitoring conversations and sentiment on social media related to the agencies, including talk of ICE enforcement actions in specific cities and public perception of the CBP commissioner, according to materials obtained by The Globe.

One e-mail sent internally by a Hootsuite sales employee in September, 2025, described the project with ICE as a "Trojan Horse Deal" that could turn into a seven-figure contract. The author mentioned travelling to Washington with "Irina" – Hootsuite's chief executive officer is Irina Novoselsky – to "brief ICE on how Hootsuite and Talkwalker can support their mission."

Talkwalker is a company that Hootsuite bought in 2024 to expand its analytic capabilities. Talkwalker's technology combs through social-media platforms such as

Facebook, X and YouTube, along with websites, podcasts and forums for mentions of customers, and then analyzes the material for positive or negative sentiment and emotional tone. Hootsuite calls this "social listening."

The scope of Hootsuite's work with ICE and CBP is not clear.

Seneca Strategic Partners in New York State has a contract with DHS to use Hootsuite for social-media management, according to a U.S. government database. About US\$1.1-million has been allotted by the government under the contract since August, 2024. That includes US\$684,111 in September, 2025, to add Talkwalker to the contract, which has a potential value of US\$2.8-million by 2029.

(Business in Vancouver first reported on the existence of the Seneca contract.)

■ HOOTSUITE, A6

Trump vows 'you'll find out' how far he will go to acquire Greenland

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U.S. President Donald Trump vowed the world will "find out" what he's willing to do to annex Greenland as he departed for a World Economic Forum dominated by fears that his expansionist ambitions will destroy the NATO defence alliance.

In a string of overnight Truth Social posts on Tuesday, Mr. Trump said "there can be no going back" on his demand to take over the Arctic island – despite its inhabitants rejecting his overtures – and suggested he also wants to seize Canada and Venezuela.

The President is scheduled to speak in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday, where other world leaders will try to dissuade him from acting on his threats against Greenland and imposing additional tariffs on European countries that oppose his plans.

"You'll find out," Mr. Trump said at a rambling White House news conference Tuesday afternoon, when asked how far he is willing to go to acquire Greenland, a semi-autonomous Danish territory.

"I think something's going to happen that's going to be very good for everybody," he said later, without elaborating.

While the President boasted that he "did more for NATO than anybody else, alive or dead," he did not commit to the defence pact that has underpinned the Western alliance's collective security since 1949.

A military invasion of Greenland, which Mr. Trump has repeatedly refused to rule out, would constitute a once-unthinkable attack by one member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on another, and certainly spell the end of the pact at a time when China and Russia are giving rein to their own expansionism.

Mr. Trump threatened last week to impose additional 10-per-cent tariffs on France, Britain, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands starting Feb. 1 until the United States takes Greenland. The tariffs will rise to 25 per cent on June 1, he threatened.

■ TRUMP, A7



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PODCAST Robert Fife examines how the Canadian military

is responding to Trump's expansionist threats tgam.ca/TheDecibel



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