Episode Book

EPISODE #5706

Two Poles, Two Fates: Arctic vs Antarctic

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SYNOPSIS

The Arctic and Antarctica are both blocks of ice at the ends of the Earth, yet they operate under radically different legal regimes. The Arctic is an ocean ringed by eight sovereign states with overlapping seabed claims, no comprehensive treaty, and a growing military buildup. Antarctica is a continent surrounded by ocean, governed by a single treaty that bans armies and freezes territorial claims. This episode unpacks why geography dictated two entirely different outcomes — from UNCLOS Article 76 seabed claims and the Northern Sea Route to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, the Greenland question, and what a US annexation push would mean for NATO.

TRANSCRIPT



Corn

Two blocks of ice bookend the planet, and they could not have turned out more differently. One is a militarized chessboard. The other is a scientific preserve with a treaty that literally bans armies. Same frozen water, opposite outcomes.



Herman

And today we're getting into why.



Corn

This one's from Daniel. He points out we've talked before about the military struggle over the Arctic, which is a strange thing to wrap your head around until you hear an American president getting exercised about Greenland. And the reason Greenland matters, the reason Canada and Norway and Russia all keep bases in conditions that would kill you in twenty minutes, is that controlling the northern tip of the planet confers enormous advantages for navigation and trade. His question is why the other end of the planet never got jostled the same way. His first instinct, and he flags it as an instinct, is that unlike the North Pole, no sovereign countries have territory anywhere near the South Pole. And he wants us to look at how these two blocks of ice came to fall under such different legal regimes.



Herman

He's more right than he knows. But the reason is subtler than the instinct.



Corn

So where do we start?



Herman

With the structural fact that drives everything. The Arctic is an ocean ringed by sovereign land. Antarctica is a continent surrounded by ocean with no sovereign territory touching it. That single geographic difference produced two entirely different legal architectures.



Corn

One sentence, and it explains forty years of policy.



Herman

Eight countries have territory inside the Arctic Circle. Canada, Denmark through Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United States. Five of those are littoral states, meaning they actually border the Arctic Ocean. They have coastlines on it, they have exclusive economic zones, they have seabed claims.



Corn

And Antarctica?



Herman

No indigenous population. Earth's only continent without one. That removed the self-determination arguments and the historic-homeland arguments that inflame every Arctic dispute. Nobody can stand up and say my people have lived here for a thousand years, because nobody has.



Corn

And the poles themselves?



Herman

The North Pole sits on sea ice over the Arctic Ocean. It is not claimable as territory at all. The South Pole sits on land. Which means in theory somebody could claim it, except the treaty forbids it.



Corn

So one is an ocean that nobody can own but everybody wants a piece of, and the other is a continent that somebody could own but everybody agreed not to.



Herman

That's the whole episode in one line. Everything else is mechanism.



Corn

Let's do the Arctic first. Because the thing that surprises people is that there is no Arctic treaty. Antarctica has one document. The Arctic has nothing like it.



Herman

No comprehensive treaty. It's a patchwork. UNCLOS, which is the law of the sea convention, bilateral agreements between individual states, and the Arctic Council, which is a soft-law forum.



Herman

It means it issues no binding decisions. The Arctic Council was founded by the Ottawa Declaration in 1996. It's headquartered in Tromsø, Norway. It produces assessments, it coordinates research, it has working groups. It cannot compel anyone to do anything. And here's the line that tells you everything about how the Arctic was designed. The founding footnote states, quote, the Arctic Council should not deal with matters related to military security.



Corn

They wrote the exclusion into the founding document.



Herman

Deliberately. It's called Arctic exceptionalism. The idea that you keep geopolitics out of the forum and cooperate on the things everyone agrees on. Search and rescue, shipping safety, environmental monitoring.



Corn

And that held for a while.



Herman

It held until 2022. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the seven other member states paused cooperation with Russia. Chairmanship passed from Russia to Norway in 2023, then to Denmark for 2025 through 2027. Cooperation resumed only on a limited set of projects that don't involve Russia. So the forum that was designed to keep security out of the room now can't function without addressing it.



Corn

Arctic exceptionalism didn't die. It got put in a coma.



Herman

That's generous. It's on life support.



Corn

Now the legal mechanism. Because the resource fight is real, and it has an actual process attached to it. Article 76.



Herman

UNCLOS Article 76 lets a state claim an extended continental shelf beyond two hundred nautical miles. But you have to prove the seabed is a natural prolongation of your landmass. And you submit that claim to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.



Corn

Which is not a court.



Herman

It's a scientific review body. It evaluates the geology, it makes recommendations, and it doesn't resolve overlapping claims. If two states claim the same ridge, the commission won't touch it.



Corn

And who's claiming what?



Herman

Russia, Canada, and Denmark through Greenland have all submitted partially overlapping claims. The contested features are the Lomonosov Ridge and the Mendeleev Ridge.



Corn

How much is at stake?



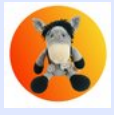
Herman

USGS estimates roughly ninety billion barrels of oil and one thousand six hundred seventy trillion cubic feet of natural gas north of the Arctic Circle. About ten percent of the world's undiscovered petroleum.



Corn

That's the headline number everyone uses. But I want to flag something that gets lost.



Herman

Go ahead.



Corn

Most of that lies within uncontested exclusive economic zones. The five littoral states already have clear rights to the bulk of it. The actual fight is over the seabed beyond two hundred nautical miles. It's a much narrower strip than the headline suggests.



Herman

That's the detail the coverage skips. It's not a scramble for the whole Arctic. It's a fight over specific ridges under specific water, and the rest is already settled.



Corn

The routes are the other prize. And those are arguably bigger than the oil.



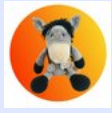
Herman

The Northern Sea Route runs along Russia's Arctic coast. It cuts the Europe to Asia voyage to roughly one third the distance of the Suez Canal route. And there's no piracy risk on it.



Corn

Russia's projecting cargo could reach eighty five million metric tons annually and account for a quarter of Europe to Asia cargo by 2030.



Herman

They've been investing heavily in that projection. Icebreakers, ports, navigation infrastructure.



Corn

And the Northwest Passage?



Herman

That's the live sovereignty dispute. Canada claims it as internal waters. The US and others insist it's an international strait with transit-passage rights. Same water, two completely incompatible legal theories.



Corn

What's the practical difference?



Herman

If it's internal waters, Canada controls who transits it, under what conditions, with what environmental rules. If it's an international strait, anyone can pass through and Canada can't stop them. That's the difference between a Canadian lake and a global highway.



Corn

And climate change is the accelerant under all of this.



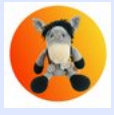
Herman

Melting sea ice is opening routes and exposing resources that were inaccessible even twenty years ago. A frozen backwater is becoming a working ocean.



Corn

Which brings us to the military side.



Herman

Russia has the largest Arctic presence by a wide margin. The Northern Fleet, headquartered in Severomorsk, encompasses two thirds of Russia's naval power and roughly eighty operational ships. They reopened Soviet-era Arctic bases. They built a large FSB border-guard complex on Alexandra Land in Franz Josef Land, above the eightieth parallel, housing a hundred and fifty soldiers for eighteen months without resupply.



Corn

Eighteen months without resupply. That's a statement.



Herman

And they operate the world's only nuclear icebreaker fleet. Nobody else has one.



Corn

The moment everyone remembers is 2007.



Herman

August 2007, the Arktika expedition planted a titanium Russian flag on the seabed at the North Pole. Two and a half miles down.



Corn

And the official line was what?



Herman

Lavrov insisted it was science, not a claim. His exact words, quote, we're not throwing flags around. We just do what other discoverers did. By the way the flag on the Moon, it was the same.



Corn

Planting a flag on the moon was also not a territorial claim, so technically he's correct, which is the funniest possible defense.



Herman

It's a good line. It's also a distraction, because the flag wasn't the claim. The claim was the legal submission that followed.



Corn

Then 2008. Ilulissat.



Herman

The five littoral states met in Greenland and declared that Arctic demarcation disputes should be resolved bilaterally under existing law. Which was an implicit rejection of any new comprehensive treaty. And it shut out everyone who isn't a littoral state.



Corn

Including the Arctic Council members who aren't coastal. Including China. Including the EU.



Herman

Deliberately. It was a signal that the five of them intended to sort this among themselves.



Corn

Now, Daniel's hook. Greenland.



Herman

The United States considered buying Greenland in 1867 under Seward, again in 1910, and again in 1946, when a secret offer of a hundred million dollars in gold was rejected by Denmark.



Corn

A hundred million in 1946 dollars.



Herman

Real money. And the Danish foreign minister's response is one of the great diplomatic lines. Rasmussen said, quote, while we owe much to America I do not feel that we owe them the whole island of Greenland.



Corn

That's a very polite way of saying no.



Herman

It's a no that took a hundred million dollars seriously enough to answer carefully.



Corn

So the current push is not new. It's the fourth time.



Herman

And the second Trump presidency escalated it into what's being called the Greenland crisis, with Trump openly discussing annexation, which would break international law.



Corn

Why does Greenland actually matter?



Herman

Three things. First, GIUK Gap control. Greenland, Iceland, UK. That's the maritime chokepoint for defending eastern North America. In a war, the priority is closing that gap against Russian naval movement.



Corn

Second?



Herman

Pituffik Space Base, formerly Thule Air Base. It's one of only two Arctic facilities the US has for polar-orbiting satellite ground stations. That matters for communications, imagery, and missile warning.



Corn

Because polar-orbiting satellites pass over the poles on every orbit.



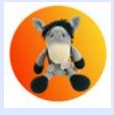
Herman

Every single pass. And you need ground stations at high latitude to talk to them. There are very few places you can put them.



Corn

Third?



Herman

Resources. Largest rare-earth deposits outside China. USGS estimates seventeen and a half billion barrels of offshore oil and four point one nine trillion cubic meters of gas.



Corn

Rare earths being the thing everyone wants and nobody wants to depend on China for.



Herman

That's the subtext of the whole modern resource conversation.



Corn

Here's the part that I find interesting. The US already has broad rights there.



Herman

The 1951 Greenland Defense Agreement gives the US broad military rights and the ability to establish new bases. They can already do most of what they'd want militarily.



Corn

So the sovereignty demand isn't about access. It's about something else.



Herman

Analysts like Elian Morvane argue it's a maximalist negotiating position. You demand sovereignty so you can extract mineral rights, expand jurisdiction, and gain leverage over Greenland's path to independence from Denmark.



Corn

Public opinion?



Herman

Roughly eighty five percent of Greenlanders oppose an American takeover. Greenland's government says it's not for sale and that it chooses the Danish Realm.



Corn

And the strategic warning?



Herman

Analysts note that a US annexation of Greenland would effectively end NATO.



Corn

Which is the part that makes this a crisis rather than a negotiation.



Herman

The alliance is built on the principle that borders don't change by force or by pressure. If a founding member annexes territory from another member's realm, that principle is gone.



Corn

Now let's do the Svalbard anomaly, because it's a perfect illustration of the Arctic's problem in miniature.



Herman

Svalbard. The Svalbard Treaty of 1920 recognizes Norwegian sovereignty over the archipelago, but grants all signatories equal rights to commercial activity, originally coal mining. It's a visa-free zone.



Corn

And the military provision?



Herman

Article 9 restricts military use. No naval bases or fortifications. But it does not fully demilitarize it.



Corn

So even where a treaty exists, it's contested.



Herman

Russia disputes Norway's interpretation. Russia objects to NATO military activity around Svalbard and rejects Norway's claim to an exclusive economic zone and continental shelf around it. Forty nine parties as of this year, with the UAE acceding in January.



Corn

Forty nine countries with a legal interest in one archipelago.



Herman

And the original signatories were mostly interested in coal. Now it's a strategic position.



Corn

Here's the counterpoint worth airing. Because the Arctic isn't purely a confrontation story.



Herman

Norwegian Admiral Haakon Bruun-Hanssen called the Arctic probably the most stable area in the world.



Corn

And US Army Lieutenant General Thomas Carden said in 2024 that the Arctic is the shortest and least defended threat vector to North America.



Herman

Both can be true at once. Stable because nobody wants to fight there. Vulnerable because if someone did, there's not much in the way.



Corn

That's the Arctic. A patchwork, a resource scramble, a militarized space, and a soft-law forum that wrote military security out of its own mandate.



Herman

Now the other pole.



Corn

Antarctica. Which is the exact opposite. One instrument, signed in 1959, that froze an entire continent's disputes in place.



Herman

The Antarctic Treaty was signed December first, 1959, in Washington, D.C. Twelve nations that had been active in Antarctica during the International Geophysical Year of 1957 and 58. Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Britain, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, and the United States.



Corn

Entered into force?



Herman

June twenty third, 1961. And it was the first arms-control agreement of the Cold War.



Corn

That's the part people miss. The first arms control agreement of the Cold War wasn't about Europe or nuclear warheads or missiles. It was about a continent nobody lived on.



Herman

Which tells you something. It was easier to agree about the place nobody cared about yet.



Corn

What does it actually say?



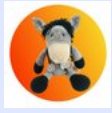
Herman

Antarctica is defined as all land and ice shelves south of sixty degrees south. It's a demilitarized zone. No military bases, no maneuvers, no weapons testing, no nuclear tests.



Corn

Freedom of scientific investigation.



Herman

The continent is a scientific preserve. Territorial claims are frozen, not resolved. The treaty neither recognizes nor denies existing claims, and it forbids new claims or enlargement of existing ones. On-site inspections are allowed for monitoring. And only scientific research



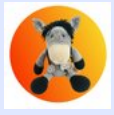
Herman (continued)

stations are permitted as permanent structures.



Corn

Frozen claims is the key phrase. Explain what that means in practice.



Herman

It means the seven claimants still claim. Their claims still exist in their own law. But the treaty says nobody has to recognize them, nobody can expand them, and nobody can make a new one. The question is parked.



Corn

Who are the seven?



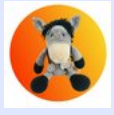
Herman

Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the UK. That's eight claims total, because Norway has two. Queen Maud Land and Peter I Island.



Corn

And there's overlap.



Herman

Argentina, Chile, and the UK all claim parts of the Antarctic Peninsula. That overlap is why the treaty exists.



Corn

Marie Byrd Land?



Herman

From ninety degrees west to one hundred fifty degrees west. The largest unclaimed territory on Earth. Terra nullius.



Corn

And governance now?



Herman

Fifty eight parties as of 2024, with twenty nine holding consultative status, meaning voting status. Decisions are made by consensus at annual Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings. Secretariat in Buenos Aires since 2004.



Corn

And there's an environmental layer on top.



Herman

The Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection, signed 1991, in force 1998. It prohibits all mining and oil exploration. A fifty-year ban. It also protects fauna and flora, requires environmental impact assessments, and governs waste.



Corn

Then there's 2048.



Herman

From 2048, any consultative party may request a review of the treaty and its system. Changing anything requires a three quarters majority of consultative parties.



Corn

So the treaty isn't expiring. It's opening a door.



Herman

The door has been closed since 1959. In 2048 anyone can knock.



Corn

Now let's complicate the peace narrative.



Herman

Antarctica is not entirely free of geopolitics. There was jostling.



Corn

Tell me about Hope Bay.



Herman

1952. Argentine forces fired warning shots at British personnel. The only shots fired in anger on the Antarctic continent.



Corn

Ever.



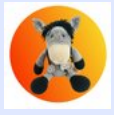
Herman

Ever. And in 1953, at Deception Island, British marines captured two Argentine sailors.



Corn

Same three countries that overlap on the peninsula.



Herman

The UK filed cases at the International Court of Justice against Argentina and Chile in 1955. Both were rejected for lack of jurisdiction.



Corn

So the treaty wasn't a recognition of existing harmony. It was a response to real conflict risk.



Herman

The fear was that the Cold War would spread south, and that the overlapping claims, especially UK versus Argentina versus Chile, would escalate into an actual shooting war.



Corn

And that's where the Soviet Union comes in.



Herman

In 1950 the USSR declared it would not recognize any Antarctic claims and reserved the right to make its own. That killed an earlier attempt in 1948 to create an eight-nation condominium that would have excluded the Soviets.



Corn

Meaning the Soviet Union said: if you make a club without us, we'll ignore everything you decide.



Herman

Which is why the inclusive treaty was the compromise. Everybody in the room, everyone's claims frozen, nobody gets to win.



Corn

There's a certain irony in the fact that the Soviet Union's refusal to be excluded is what made the treaty universal.



Herman

It's the reason the treaty actually works. It covers everyone who matters.



Corn

The claims are still frozen, not settled.



Herman

The US and Russia still reserve the right to make claims. Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, Ecuador, and even Iran have floated or reserved claims.



Corn

Iran.



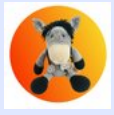
Herman

Iran.



Corn

What does Iran want in Antarctica?



Herman

A seat at the table. That's the whole value.



Corn

So now, the synthesis. Which is the actual answer to Daniel's question.



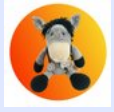
Herman

He's right that geography is the starting point. But there are five drivers, and geography is only the first.



Corn

Walk them through.



Herman

First, geography. Ocean versus continent. That determines whether sovereignty is even claimable. You can't claim a patch of ocean the way you claim a coastline.



Corn

Second.



Herman

The presence of a binding comprehensive treaty versus a patchwork. Antarctica got one document. The Arctic got a forum that wrote military security out of its mandate.



Corn

Third.



Herman

The timing of decolonization and the Cold War. Antarctica's treaty was forged in 1959 at a moment when the great powers chose to freeze claims rather than fight over them. The Arctic had no such moment.



Corn

Why not?



Herman

Because the disputes were live. Claims in the Arctic were being actively enforced by sovereign states with populations and economies. You can't internationalize territory that people actually live in.



Corn

Fourth.



Herman

Indigenous populations and settled sovereignty. Roughly four million people live in the Arctic, including six Permanent Participant groups with recognized standing in the Arctic Council. Antarctica has none. That single fact makes internationalization politically impossible in the north and politically trivial in the south.



Corn

Fifth.



Herman

Resources and shipping. The Arctic's melting ice created new economic stakes. Antarctica's ice has so far kept exploitation off the table. One is opening up. The other is still sealed.



Corn

Which means the difference isn't moral. It's structural. One pole got lucky with geography and timing, and the other got a coastline full of sovereign states.



Herman

Geography made one claimable and one not. Law made one frozen and one contested.



Corn

Let's put the contrasts side by side. Quick fire.



Herman

Geography. Arctic is an ocean ringed by sovereign land. Antarctica is a continent surrounded by ocean.



Corn

Sovereignty. Arctic has eight states with undisputed territory and disputed seabed. Antarctica has seven states with claims frozen, not recognized.



Herman

Governing law. Arctic is UNCLOS plus bilateral plus the Arctic Council. Antarctica is the Antarctic Treaty System. Binding, comprehensive.



Corn

Military. Arctic is heavily militarized. Antarctica is demilitarized by treaty.



Herman

Resources. Arctic is being actively exploited and claimed. Antarctica has mining banned by the Madrid Protocol.



Corn

Indigenous peoples. Arctic has roughly four million residents including six Permanent Participant groups. Antarctica has none.



Herman

Key flashpoint. Arctic has Greenland, the Northern Sea Route, the Northwest Passage, seabed claims. Antarctica has the 2048 treaty review and frozen claims.



Corn

Symbolic moment. Russia plants a titanium flag on the North Pole seabed in 2007. Twelve nations sign a treaty in 1959 and mean it.



Herman

Neither regime is settled. The Arctic's patchwork is under strain, and the Antarctic's single treaty faces a scheduled reopening in 2048.



Corn

Okay. I want to pull on one thread before we go further. The Arctic Council footnote and the Antarctic frozen claims are the same move.



Herman

Say more.



Corn

The Arctic Council says we will not discuss military security. The Antarctic Treaty says we will not resolve territorial claims. Both are agreements not to have the argument yet.



Herman

Both regimes are agreements to postpone. They buy time, and time is the thing they're actually purchasing.



Corn

So the question becomes what happens when the postponement comes due.



Herman

The Arctic's postponement is already failing. The 2022 rupture proved that the forum can't function once security becomes the issue.



Corn

And the Antarctic's postponement has a date on the calendar. 2048.



Herman

Which means for the first time in over eighty years, there's a scheduled moment when the frozen claims can be unfrozen.



Herman

Which brings us to something Hilbert has been sitting on.



Hilbert

The working group met four times over eighteen months and produced nothing. And it was one delegate. Environmental measure, quite modest, and it died because he wouldn't accept the precedent. Not the substance. The precedent. He said, if we accept this now, then in forty some years someone reads it back to us.



Corn

So it wasn't the measure. It was what the measure would mean at the review.



Hilbert

Correct. And that's how it works. The treaty doesn't run on agreement. It runs on reluctance. Nobody wants to be the party that unfroze the first claim. So everyone keeps their hand off the lever.



Herman

The consensus rule is doing more work than people realize.



Hilbert

Consensus is not agreement. Consensus is the absence of objection. With consensus, one party can stall anything by refusing to accept it. With voting, you lose and move on. With consensus, you lose by not letting the room decide.



Corn

So the consultative party distinction. Who's actually in the room?



Hilbert

Twenty nine with voting status. The rest can attend, can speak, can't decide. The Secretariat is deliberately small. A small secretariat can't build an institution that outgrows the parties.



Herman

So the architecture prevents itself from becoming something the parties can't control.



Hilbert

That's the design.



Corn

And the frozen claims?



Hilbert

Same instinct. It's not that they agreed the claims don't matter. It's that they agreed not to force the question. Nobody wants to be the first to say, mine is valid and yours isn't, because then you've opened it for everyone.



Herman

So the whole system is an agreement to keep the argument parked.



Hilbert

And the parked argument has a date when someone can call it in. The review.



Corn

And that's what this episode is really about. Not peace versus conflict. Postponement versus reckoning.



Hilbert

I had one. Years back. Bought it at a yard sale in a box of papers. It had some correspondence in it. Nothing official. Just letters between two people who worked on one of the committees. I read a few, then passed it along.



Herman

What happened to it?



Hilbert

Sold it. Didn't keep anything. Regret it a little. It was the texture of how the thing actually ran. Slow. Procedural. Held together by mutual reluctance, not mutual enthusiasm.



Corn

I keep coming back to this. The treaty works because everyone has agreed not to force the question. Which means the whole thing rests on the assumption that nobody wants to be the first mover.



Hilbert

The first mover pays for everything. Nobody wants that bill.



Herman

So the mechanism isn't that everyone agrees. It's that everyone has decided not to be the one who disagrees first.



Corn

That's less stable than it sounds.



Hilbert

It's held for sixty five years. That's not nothing.



Hilbert

The 2048 review is going to test that. Not because anyone wants to open the claims. But because the review itself creates the moment. Once it's on the table, someone will pick it up.



Corn

So the Arctic's patchwork is failing in real time. The Antarctic's treaty is holding, but it has a date when someone can make it stop holding.



Herman

Which is the actual answer to Daniel's question. Both poles are agreements to postpone. One postponement is already breaking. The other has an expiration date.



Corn

Here's the misconception I want to address before we close. The one I hear most.



Herman

Go ahead.



Corn

That Antarctica was always peaceful. That it's the continent where countries just agreed to get along because it's cold and far away.



Herman

Hope Bay, 1952. Argentine forces fired warning shots at British personnel. Deception Island, 1953. British marines captured two Argentine sailors. The UK filed cases at the ICJ against Argentina and Chile in 1955.



Corn

And the treaty froze those claims. It didn't resolve them.



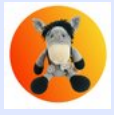
Herman

Frozen, not resolved. The US and Russia still reserve the right to claim. The 2048 review could reopen everything.



Corn

The other misconception, and this one is more common in the security world.



Herman

That the Arctic is governed by a single treaty like Antarctica's. It isn't. It's a patchwork. UNCLOS, bilateral agreements, and the Arctic Council, which by its own founding footnote doesn't deal with military security.



Corn

And the North Pole isn't claimable at all.



Herman

Sea ice over ocean.



Corn

So the poles aren't different because one is peaceful and one is contested. They're different because of what geography made claimable and what law made frozen.



Herman

The 2048 review is the moment the Antarctic postponement comes due. And it raises a question nobody can answer yet. When a frozen dispute thaws, does it thaw slowly or all at once?



Corn

Which is the same question the Arctic is already answering in real time. And not answering particularly well. The Arctic's postponement is failing because the forum can't function once security becomes the issue. The Antarctic's is holding because it has a mechanism nobody has pulled yet.



Herman

One more thing worth watching. The 2048 review doesn't have to change anything. Three quarters of consultative parties means twenty two of twenty nine. That's a high bar. But the review itself creates the moment. And once the question is on the table, someone will ask it.



Corn

That's the structural insight. Two poles, two legal regimes, and the difference isn't virtue. It's geography and timing.



Herman

Thanks to Hilbert Flumingtop, our producer.



Corn

This has been My Weird Prompts. If you enjoyed this one, leave us a review. It helps other listeners find the show. And you can find everything at my weird prompts dot com.



Herman

We'll be back soon.



Corn

See you tomorrow.