

# Brændende Spørgsmål.

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**July 13, 2022**  
**Millarville, Alberta**

Bear and I are flying to Copenhagen on Friday. We will be traveling for about two weeks, discovering Scandinavia, and tracking down some family roots. I hope you will join us.

We could use some help finding answers to these questions:

- Were our Danish ancestors traitors, or heroes? (And why does *heroes* have a second “e”?)
- Which is preferable, *to be*, or *not to be*?
- What *is* rotten in the state of Denmark?
- Can we ride over Grønlandvandfald in a barrel?
- What do Margaret Thatcher and Vikings have in common?
- And how many Norwegians will fit in a box?

We leave late on July 15<sup>th</sup>, pack your folkedragter and meet us at the airport.



Russ and Bear Paton, wearing traditional Danish *Folkedragter*.

If you can't join us in person, I will be posting regular travel blogs on the [Well Water Website](#).

Please follow along with us as we find answers to these burning questions.

Or, as they say in Danish....

Bjørn og jeg håber, at De vil følge med, og hjælpe os, når vi søger svar på disse og andre **brændende spørgsmål**.

# 50% of Nothing

July 13, 2022

Hans Island, Canada/Denmark

Now that the war is over between our nations, Bear and I have decided it is safe to travel to Denmark.

Canada and Denmark recently settled a five-decades-old conflict over ownership of Hans Island. The limestone islet situated in Nares Strait, is equidistant from both Greenland and Ellesmere Island. The barren rock has been a *battleground* between the nations for years, neither was willing to cede their claim of ownership.



The island has no human habitation, no vegetation, and no natural resources. It is often icebound, very cold, and remote, but that hasn't stopped Canada and Denmark from fighting over it.



Over the years, the *combatants* occasionally raised their respective flags on the island, but only after politely letting the other party know they intended to do so. Each time they planted their flag, the *invading* country would leave a bottle of alcohol for the *enemy*.

The only *casualties* during the so-called *Whisky War*, were several bottles of Canadian Club and Danish Cognac.

The impasse was mostly forgotten, but every so often the question of ownership of Hans Island would be raised and the two otherwise friendly nations would have a go at deciding ownership. Little progress was ever made.

Negotiations were civil for the most part. At its most heated, diplomats on one side or the other would raise their voices slightly during negotiations, but they quickly apologized for doing so - a typical Scandinavian-Canadian response to the adversarial process.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> this year the Canadian and Danish governments settled the long-standing dispute by dividing the island roughly in half along a fissure in the rock.

Each country now has a valid and agreed claim to ... .. **50% of nothing.**

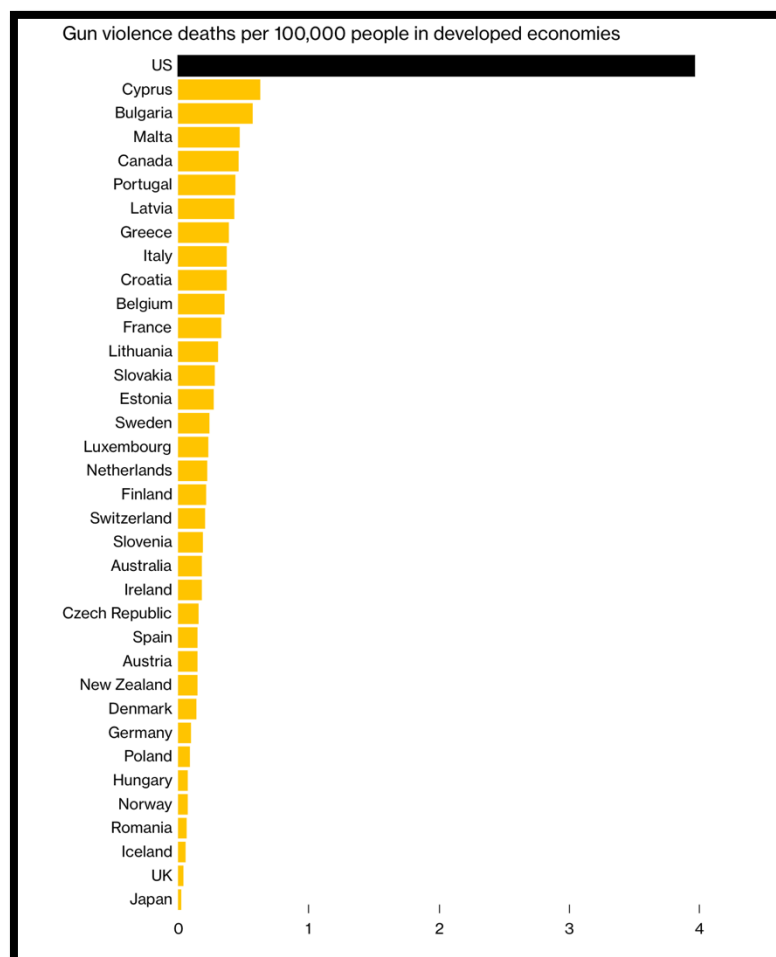


# Statistically Speaking

July 13, 2022

Copenhagen, Denmark

There was a mass shooting at a Copenhagen shopping mall this week, just before we depart for Denmark. The incident prompted a discussion about safety issues as we travel.



I did some research and found this graph depicting *shooting deaths per hundred thousand in developed countries in 2022*.

According to these stats, we are 32 times more likely to encounter gun violence when we travel to the US than in Denmark.

Even if we stay home, we are at three times greater risk of being shot, ...

... statistically speaking.

*Thank you for traveling to Denmark with us. The next post will be on July 16<sup>th</sup>, our first full day in Copenhagen. I expect to be jetlagged, so set your expectations very, very low...*