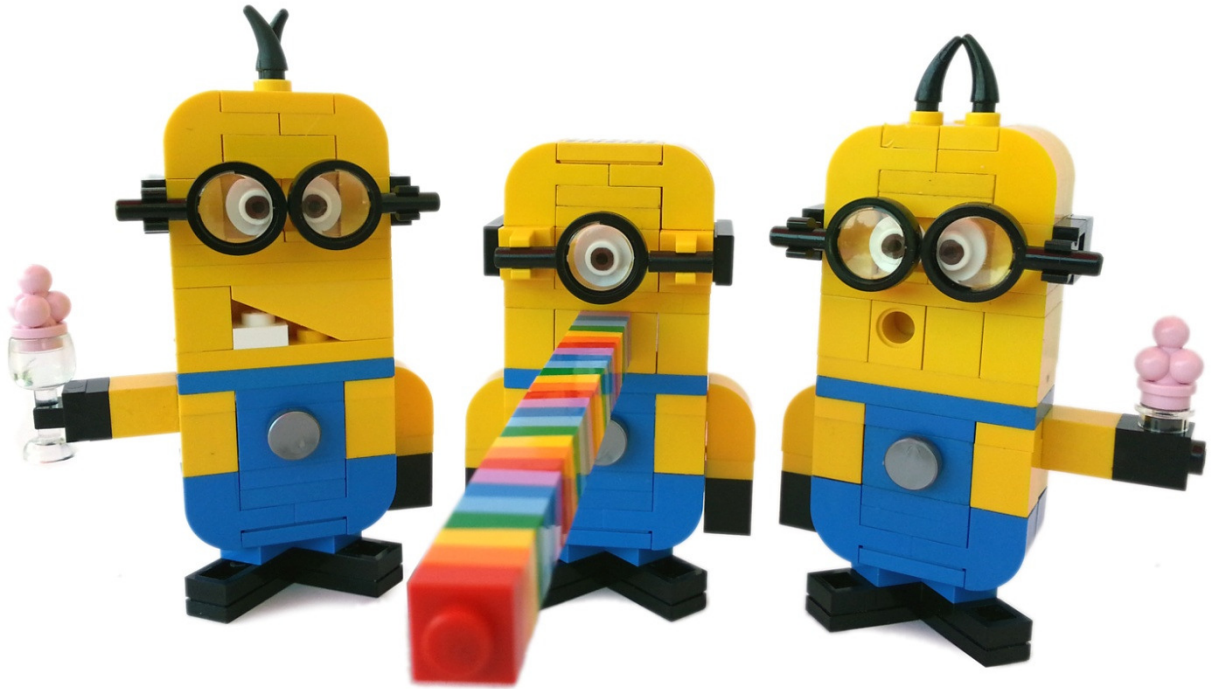# MEGAPOX

Tout les mois

Par : Paul Avérous, Chloé Brethes et Jean Bartholin

N°5

DENMARK

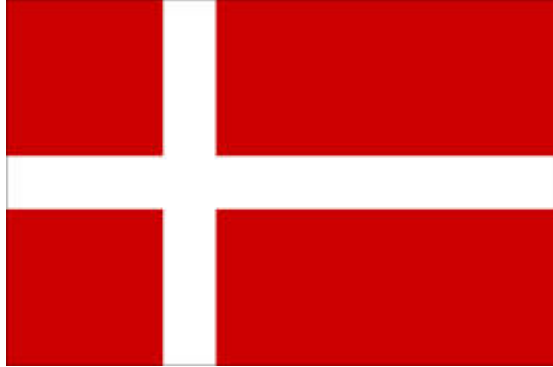**Denmark** (Danish: *Danmark*, pronounced [ˈd̥ɛnmɑɡ̊]), officially the **Kingdom of Denmark** (Danish:*Kongeriget Danmark*, [ˈkɔŋəʁiːəð ˈd̥ɛnmɑɡ̊]), is a sovereign state in Northern Europe, located southwest of Sweden and south of Norway, and bordered to the south by Germany. The Kingdom includes two autonomous constituent countries in the north Atlantic Ocean, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. At 43,094 square kilometres (16,638.69 sq mi), with a population of around 5.6 million inhabitants, Denmark consists of a peninsula, Jutland, and the Danish archipelago of 407 islands, of which around 70 are inhabited. The islands are characterised by flat, arable land and sandy coasts, low elevation and a temperateclimate. The national language, Danish, is closely related to and mutually intelligible with Swedish and Norwegian.

The Kingdom of Denmark is a unitary constitutional monarchy, with Margrethe II as queen regnant, organised as a parliamentarydemocracy. The Constitution of Denmark was signed on 5 June 1849, ending the absolute monarchy which had begun in 1660. The Constitution has been revised four times, most recently in 1953. The seat of government is in the capital of Copenhagen. Denmark[b] exercises hegemonic influence in the Danish Realm, devolving political powers to handle internal affairs. Denmark became a member of the European Union in 1973, maintaining four opt-outs from European Union policies, as outlined in the 1992 Edinburgh Agreement. Both the Faroe Islands and Greenland remain outside the Union.

Historically home to the Vikings, the unified kingdom of Denmark emerged in the 8th century as a proficient seafaring nation in the struggle for control of the Baltic Sea. Danish rule over the personal Kalmar Union, established in 1397, ended with Swedish secession in 1523. The following year, Denmark entered into a union with Norway, which lasted nearly three centuries until its dissolution in 1814. Beginning in the 17th century, there were several cessions of Danish territory; these culminated in the 1830s with a surge of nationalist movements, which were defeated in the 1864 Second Schleswig War. Denmark remained neutral during World War I. In April 1940, Denmark was invaded by Germany with brief,

military skirmishes while the [Danish resistance movement](#) was active from 1943 until the [German surrender](#) in May 1945. Denmark joined [NATO](#) in 1949, relinquishing its historically neutral stance. An industrialized exporter of agricultural produce in the second half of the 19th century, Denmark introduced [social and labour-market reforms](#) in the early decades of the 20th century, making the basis for the present [welfare state](#) with a highly developed [mixed market](#) economy. The [Danish krone](#) has been pegged to the [euro](#) since 1

January 1999.

Denmark is frequently ranked as the happiest country in the world in cross-national studies of [happiness](#). Denmark ranks as having the world's highest [social mobility](#), a high level of [income equality](#), has one of the world's [highest per capita income](#), and has one of the world's highest personal income tax rates. For 2013, Denmark is listed 15th on the [Human Development Index](#) and 9th on the [inequality-adjusted HDI](#). Denmark ranks highly positive on the [Corruption Perceptions Index](#) and the [Legatum Prosperity Index](#), and as a full democracy on the [Democracy Index](#). Denmark is among the founding members of the [NATO](#), the [Nordic Council](#), [OECD](#), [OSCE](#), and the [United Nations](#). There are three Danish heritage sites inscribed on the [UNESCO](#) [World Heritage list in Northern Europe](#). Greenland, which is part of the Kingdom of Denmark but self-governed since 1979, has one of the highest suicide rates in the world.

LEGO

The Lego Group began in the workshop of Ole Kirk Christiansen (born 7 April 1891), a carpenter from Billund, Denmark, who began making wooden toys in 1932.[3] In 1934, his company came to be called "Lego", from the Danish phrase leg godt, which means "play well". It expanded to producing plastic toys in 1947.[3] In 1949 Lego began producing, among other new products, an early version of the now famous interlocking bricks, calling them "Automatic Binding Bricks". These bricks were based in part on the Kiddicraft Self-Locking Bricks, which were patented in the United Kingdom in 1939[4] and then there released in 1947. Lego modified the design of the Kiddicraft brick after examining a sample given to it by the British supplier of an injection-molding machine that the company had purchased.[5] The bricks, originally manufactured from cellulose acetate,[5] were a development of traditional stackable wooden blocks that locked together by means of several round studs on top and a hollow rectangular bottom. The blocks snapped together, but not so tightly that they required extraordinary effort to be separated.

The Lego Group's motto is det bedste er ikke for godt which means roughly "only the best is the best" (more literally "the best is never too good").[3] This motto was created by Ole Kirk to encourage his employees never to skimp on quality, a value he believed in strongly.[3] The motto is still used within the company today. By 1951 plastic toys accounted for half of the Lego Company's output, although Danish trade magazine Legetøjs-Tidende ("Toy-Times"), visiting the Lego factory in Billund in the early 1950s, felt that plastic would never be able to replace traditional wooden toys. Although a common sentiment, Lego toys seem to have become a significant exception to the dislike of plastic in children's toys, due in part to the high standards set by Ole Kirk.[6]

By 1954, Christiansen's son, Godtfred, had become the junior managing director of the Lego Group. It was his conversation with an overseas buyer that led to the idea of a toy system. Godtfred saw the immense potential in Lego bricks to become a system for creative play, but the bricks still had some problems from a technical standpoint: their locking ability was limited and they were not very versatile. In 1958, the modern brick design was developed, and it took another five years to find the right material for it, ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) polymer.[5] The modern Lego brick was patented on 28 January 1958.[7]

Lego building at NASA's KSC.

The Lego Group's Duplo product line, introduced in 1969, is a range of simple blocks which measure twice the width, height and depth of standard Lego blocks, and are aimed at younger children.

In 1978, Lego produced the first minifigures, which have since become a staple in most sets. New elements are often released along with new sets. There are also Lego sets designed to appeal to young girls such as the Belville and Clikits lines which consist of small interlocking parts that are

meant to encourage creativity and arts and crafts, much like regular Lego bricks. Belville and Clikit pieces can interlock with regular Lego bricks as decorative elements.

Lego Fabuland ran from 1979 to 1989. The more advanced Lego Technic was launched in 1977. Lego Primo is a line of blocks by the Lego Group for very young children that ran between 2004 and 2006. In 1995 Lego Baby was launched for babies.

In May 2011, Space Shuttle Endeavour mission STS-134 brought 13 Lego kits to the International Space Station, where astronauts will build models and see how they react in microgravity, as part of the Lego Bricks in Space program. The results will be shared with schools as part of an educational project.[8][9]

In May 2013, the largest model ever created was displayed in New York, made of over 5 million bricks; a 1:1 scale model of an X-Wing.[10]Other records are a 112-foot tower[11] and a 4km railway.[12][13][14]

Since the 1950s, the Lego Group has released thousands of sets with a variety of themes, including town and city, space, robots, pirates,trains, Vikings, castle, dinosaurs, undersea exploration, and wild west.

While there are sets which can be seen to have a military theme – such as Star Wars, the German and Russian soldiers in the Indiana Jones sets, the Toy Story green soldiers and Lego Castle – there are no directly military-themed sets in any line. This is following Ole Kirk Christiansen's policy of not wanting to make war seem like child's play.

The Lego range has expanded to encompass accessory motors, gears, lights, sensors, and cameras designed to be used with Lego components. Motors, battery packs, lights and switches are sold under the name Power Functions. The Technic line utilises newer types of interlocking connections that are still compatible with the older brick type connections. The Technic line can often be motorised with Power Functions.

Bionicle is a line of toys by the Lego Group that was marketed towards those in the 7–16 year-old age range. The line was launched in January 2001 in Europe and June/July 2001 in the United States. The Bionicle idea originated from the earlier toy lines Slizers (also known as Throwbots) and the short-lived RoboRiders. Both of these lines had similar throwing disks and characters based on classical elements. The sets in the Bionicle line have increased in size and flexibility

through the years. Bionicle was discontinued and replaced with Hero Factory in 2010. Along with Hero Factory,another similar set has been made such as the Bionicle type Lego Legends of Chima, which use the same structure for the minifigures.

One of the largest Lego sets ever commercially produced is a minifig-scaled edition of the Star Wars Millennium Falcon. Designed by Jens Kronvold Fredericksen, it was released in 2007 and has 5,195 pieces. It was surpassed, though, by a 5,922-piece Taj Mahal.[15]