One can simply state a single-worded answer to the posed question “Is Geography Destiny”, but the inquirer would, subsequently, lack an explanation or convincing argument. To fully break down and inspect this question someone would have to comprehend how critical geography is in general. The geography of an area greatly affects decisions made which, therefore, can in return affect or even alter destinies. For example, consider how the Rocky Mountains themselves have slowed the development of the United States by proposing many obstacles and also providing minerals such as gold, which was the sole reason for expansion. To demonstrate this theory, furthermore, a comparison between Denmark and the Netherlands will be constructed. In the process, it is imperative that a decent amount of variables remain consistent to ensure a comparable situation. Moreover, we will evaluate the circumstances and geography of the two similar countries and consider the outcomes based upon inputs. In the overall scheme, we will come to the conclusion of whether or not geography in itself is a critical factor to the development of a country.

The inputs of the Netherlands and Denmark provide near identical cases based off of physical and human geography factors. The countries are relatively the same geographical size. Furthermore, their location is in the same region of the north most part of contiguous Europe. In addition, they both share the same neighbor, Germany. This provides protection as well as a threat. Their prime location with the same access to the Atlantic Ocean also provides them with many trading options and economic support. In conclusion, the two countries share similar physical features such as numerous bodies of water and a generally flat region. On the contrary, Denmark has a little more direct access to the Baltic Sea, slightly colder temperatures because of its higher latitude and longitude coordinates, and is a peninsula only touching one country.

The differences and similarities of the inputs definitely have a heavy influence on the history, economy, government, culture and etc. The remote difference in location greatly affects the history of the two countries despite only being one to two countries apart. The Netherlands originally started under German rule, but because, the Netherlands is father south and has more bordering countries, the Spanish at one point controlled it along with France, which is also one of its powerful neighboring countries. These controlling periods consequently aided the development of their religion and culture, and all the conflicting ideas and countries trying to gain control was the cause of many wars. A battle occurred between the Spanish and Dutch people because the Dutch were rapidly becoming protestant in contrast to Roman Catholic Spaniards because of the influence of the adjacent country of England. In addition, the government of the Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy, replicated after England’s. Also, they teamed up together to declare war against France in the time of Louis XIV in 1688. Denmark started off under the Vikings because it is so closely located to the Scandinavian peninsula where the Vikings resided and claimed as their prominate region. Later on the Danish were introduced to Christianity, specifically Lutheran, like the Netherlands and carried this trait over when they took control of England. Likewise, Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, which may have or may not resulted from English influence. On the other hand, England turned on Denmark and bombed their capitol, Copenhagen, in 1807. Because Denmark is a peninsula, this also exposes them to anyone crossing the North Sea. Correspondingly, being bordered by one country protects it from posing land threats but also makes it an easy target for Germany. Moreover, this could also be easy to focus military protection along the border. However, Germany seized control of Denmark and resulting from this is the heavy influence of their country on Denmark’s culture. Being small countries already puts them at a disadvantage. The fact that both the Netherlands and Denmark are not supplied with natural borders from the countries in land also contributes to how their borders are drawn and makes them victims.

This case study emphasized how even the smallest factors such as ones location farther north or south and a countries different neighbors can determine what a country becomes. For instance the Netherlands, being located just a little bit farther south than Denmark, made all the difference to which countries, such as Spain and France, dominated over its land. Likewise, Denmark’s position as a jutting peninsula appealed to the Scandinavia-bound Vikings and made it an easy target more or less for Germany. However, the two countries’ histories still cross paths by the impact of a single country, England, because the Netherlands and Denmark are still relatively nearby, and in a way England is a neighbor of the Netherlands and Denmark though it is not directly connected. Furthermore, one can say that a single country has a vast impact on another and this is true in many cases of this study. England effected the government of the two countries, Germany played a part in the history and culture of both societies, and each had individual contributions made by other regions. This exemplifies the importance of location. Aside from water such as seas and oceans, the Netherlands and Denmark lack natural borders. In addition, their generally flat characteristics or non-variety of landforms and defenseless borders made them easy targets for their surrounding countries. This stresses the advantages and effects of physical features. Lastly, because of the absence of landforms and abundance of water, both countries developed under trade and possibly fishing.

Geography is destiny. Geography in itself is not destiny, but the effect it has on the decisions we make can greatly control a person or countries’ destiny. As seen in this case study, the counties The Netherlands and Denmark were surrounded by shaped what they have become, and their similar size and physical interior has not helped them out. There is nothing you can do about that, but they can use their positive features to their advantage. For example, exploiting leverages such as the access to the Atlantic can bring them wealth through trading and other useful tactics such as fishing. In conclusion, additional research can be made to see whether countries with single similar features will result in similar destinies or not.

This overall a very solid paper. The diction veers towards verbiage (see what I did there?) a bit too often, but the paragraph structures are clear and naturally progress from physical geography to human geography and history. The overall structure of the paper is clear from the start and the arguments are crisply made without getting too bogged down in facts (for the most part; the history paragraph could/should be split up). Right now this would be a solid A- if it were a final draft, though it does need to include its in-text cites and works cited. It’s not a perfect paper, but an excellent example of a rough draft on the right track.