Evolution Institute –
Life quality and evolution

Litteraturhuset
12. October 2013

Lars Gule
Associate Professor
A bird eyes view of Norway’s history

- 1814: Independence from Denmark and constitution
- Development of national identity – “good” nationalism
- Limited inequality
- Pietistic economic development – Hans Nielsen Hauge
- Competent bureaucrats – professionals
- Civil society organisation – lay Christians, tee totalitarians, nynorsk
- Continued democratic policies
- Parliamentarianism 1884

- Growing industrialisation
- Growing labour movement:
  - Thrane movement – 1849 – 1851
  - The Labour Party – 1887
  - The Trade Union Federation (LO) – 1870s → 1899
  - Social policies and legislation
  - Class struggle
A bird eyes view of Norway’s history

- Shipping and shipbuilding
- Government expenditure
  - Railroad construction – Bergen line 1883-1909
- Norsk Hydro – 1905
- Natural resources – hydroelectric power
- Local industrialisation
  - Fierce class struggle → 1930’s
  - Class compromise – Labour Party government 1928
  - The General Agreement (Hovedavtalen) – 1935
  - Crisis agreement (Kriseforliket) 1935
- Occupation 1940-45 – the external – and internal – enemy
- Common experiences and cohesion
- Social cooperation continues
  - Three party cooperation
- New resources – oil
- Continued welfare policies – so far
- Democratisation
- Human rights
Three party cooperation

- Employees (mainly NHO)
- Employers (mainly LO)
- The State
- Instituted after 1945 – continues
- Pre-empts strikes and lockouts
- Allows for controlled capitalism with regulated markets
- Has ensured the economic basis for the development of the welfare state
Threats to the Norwegian model

— Capitalism's internal dynamics and demands
— The continued growth of the capitalist mode of production
— The subsumption of the non-capitalist part of society – (“life world”) – under the capital imperative and dynamics →
— Commodification and monetisation of human relations
  ➢ Privatisation
  ➢ New Public Management
  ➢ …