



OSLO AND AKERSHUS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF APPLIED SCIENCES

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*
 - ...