

# #223: SUMMARIZED HISTORY OF NORWAY

IN THIS INFORMATION BANK

Timeline | 01

## TIMELINE OF NORWEGIAN HISTORY

**Circa 10,000 BCE** – The Ice Age slowly ends. Germanic tribes and others follow the receding glaciers north and begin to settle Scandinavia.

**6,000 BCE** – Settlements begin developing into farming communities.

**6,000 BCE – 800 CE** – Small kingdoms form throughout Norway.

**872 CE (approx.)** – After the Battle of Håfrsfjord, Harald Hårfagre is the first king of a unified Norway.

**800-1100 CE** – The Viking Age. Overpopulation of farmland and interest in foreign trade motivates Norwegians and other Scandinavians to begin raiding, exploring and trading with the outside world on a large scale. Norwegians expand westward, settling in the Faroes, Iceland and Greenland. Vikings invade and colonize the British Isles and Northern Europe, founding the cities of Dublin, Ireland and York, England. [More info](#)

**1001 CE** – Norse explorers like [Leif Eriksson](#) venture westward, finding a land they name Vinland, now acknowledged to be North America.

**1299–1319 CE** – Haakon V Magnusson, King of Norway has no sons. He builds Akershus in Oslo. Daughter, Ingeborg, marries Swedish duke.

**1316 CE** – Magnus VI Smek is born, son of Ingeborg and Swedish duke.

**1319–1343 CE** – At age three Magnus VI Smek becomes king of Norway and Sweden and reigns until 1343. While Magnus is a minor, a regency governs Norway.

**1343 CE** – Magnus gives up the Norwegian throne in favor of his younger son, three year old Haakon VI (1340-1380).

**1349 CE** – The Black Death arrives in Norway, killing two-thirds of the population. Years of famine follow. The population is reduced to about 70,000, approximately a third of Norway's population.

**1355 CE** – Haakon VI turns 15 and begins to rule Norway and also parts of Sweden in conjunction with his father. Haakon VI marries Princess Margaret of Denmark (age 10), daughter of King Valdemar IV of Denmark. Their infant son Olaf IV becomes ruler of Denmark.

**1380 CE** – King Haakon VI dies, his son Olaf IV is now King of Denmark and Norway.

**1370–1387 CE** – King Olaf IV lives only 17 years but reigns King of Denmark from 1375 to 1387 and King of Norway from 1380 to 1387. King Olaf IV was last of the old royals representative of all three Scandinavian countries. Margaret, the mother of Olaf IV officially takes over the governments of Denmark and Norway and later that of Sweden.





**1389 CE** - Queen Margaret's grand-nephew, Erik of Pomerania is appointed King of Norway later to rule Sweden and Denmark. Pomerania is part of present-day northern Germany and Poland.

**1397 CE** – Queen Margaret works diligently to unite Norway, Denmark and Sweden under the Kalmar Union with one ruler. Sweden leaves the Union and impoverished Norway is forced to be dependent on Denmark.

**1439 CE** – Erik of Pomerania is overthrown and Norway comes to accept his nephew and successor, Christopher of Bavaria (Christopher III of Denmark) as King in 1442.

**1442–1814 CE** – Danish Kings rule Norway.

**1814 CE** – The Napoleonic Wars involve neutral Norway and Denmark by threatening their trade routes. The Kiel Peace Agreement is written and the long union with Denmark is abolished.

**May 17, 1814 CE** – Norwegians ratify their own constitution and effectively [declare their independence](#).

**Summer, 1814 CE** – Under increasing political and military pressure, Norway is forced to enter into a new union, this time with Sweden. Norway is able to retain their parliament and create their own constitution but Sweden remains in control of all foreign affairs. Under Swedish rule, Norway deeply desires independence. National confidence grows, and art and culture flourish. This is also a time of mass emigration, as overseas opportunities become apparent, Norwegians head west to America.

**1901 CE** – The Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) for the first time.



**1905 CE** - Norway claims their independence. Prince Karl of Denmark becomes first elected King Håkon VII of Norway.

**1914 CE** – Norway declares neutrality during the outbreak of World War I.

**1920 CE** – Norway joins the League of Nations as they continue to strive for peace and disarmament.

**1939 CE** – World War II begins; Norway stays neutral.

**1940 CE** – Norway is surprised by German attack and is [occupied by Nazi Germany](#). King Håkon VII escapes and continues to rule from London. Vidkun Quisling is declared Minister President by Hitler.

**1945 CE** – WWII ends and [Nazi occupation is over](#). Norway, once again is an independent nation forced to rebuild after a devastating war. Norway joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

**1952 CE** – Norway hosts the 6th Winter Olympic Games in Oslo.

**1957 CE** – King Haakon VII dies, his son Olav V becomes King of Norway

**1972 CE** – The Norwegian people vote against joining the European Common Market in a decisive referendum of [53.9% to 46.1%](#).

**1973 CE** – After discovering petroleum fields on the coast of Norway, Statoil is founded by the Norwegian government.

**1980's CE** – Norway invests its oil wealth towards the advancement of its people. The country flourishes economically and becomes one of the wealthiest nations in the world.

**1981 CE** – Norway elects their first female Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland.



**1991 CE** - King Olav V dies, King Harald V and Queen Sonja take over the monarchy.

**1994 CE** – Norway hosts the 17th Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

**1994 CE** – A referendum is held to join the EU, Norway votes no in a close margin of 52.2% to 47.8%.

**2001 CE** – Crown Prince Haakon Magnus marries Mette-Marit Tjessem Høiby, a common-born single mother, in a large ceremony in Oslo. Although the Crown Prince's choice at first generates some controversy, Mette-Marit is soon accepted and embraced by the Norwegian people.

**2005 CE** – Crown Prince Haakon Magnus and Crown Princess Mette-Marit welcome their first child, Ingrid Alexandra, the future Queen of Norway.

**July 22nd, 2011 CE** – Norwegian terrorist Anders Behring Breivik detonates a bomb in downtown Oslo, then carries out a mass shooting at Labor Party Camp on Utøya Island. A total of 77 people are killed.