

NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY

1. Basic concepts and perspectives

- a. «*Foreign*» and «*internal*» policy: analytical and adm. separation, but empirical connections (EU/EEA, military industry export and employment, immigrant policy and social integration, agricultural protectionism etc., etc.
- b. Foreign policy as a result of *geopolitical position, resources/capacities,, values, interests, situation and goals*
- c. Foreign policy *decision-making*: Some general tendencies (stability, consensus, oligarchy). *Opposition and conflicts* on certain issues, see below

2. Oversight: Main foreign policy issue areas

- a. *Geographical areas* (Nordic countries, Europe, “The Western World”, UN
- b. *East-West* and «cold war» - issues 1948/49 – ca. 1990
- c. *North-South*: imperialism, foreign aid and trade with developing countries
- d. *Trade policies*: The history of Norway's open economy. EFTA/EU/EEA, WTO. Norwegian oil- and gas export
- e. *Ecology/Sustainable development*: Energy resources, pollution across borders, global warming, biological diversity
- f. *Immigration*: labour seekers, asylum seekers, family reunions, interests of children immigrants and our human right obligations

3. UN- system: Great general consensus

- a. *Foundation* in 1945, *membership*, financing, leadership
- b. *UN-peace-making* and «police»-forces: Norwegian participation
- c. UN as actor in *development aid* and for «sustainable development»

4. Nordic cooperation: Great general consensus

- a. *Foundation* and *membership* in the Nordic Council from 1952
- b. Formalized *cooperation* about free border passage, common labor market, recognition of exams/grades, social welfare cooperation, cultural exchange
- c. More cooperation on *foreign policy*, f ex in UN and defense, after 1991
- d. *Different status/memberships* for the Nordic countries in NATO and the EU/EEA: Iceland and Norway (NATO, but not EU-members), Denmark (NATO and EU-member), Sweden and Finland (not NATO, but in EU)

5. Council of Europe from 1949: Great general consensus

- a. *Foundation* and *membership*: All-European regional organization, demanding respect for basic human rights to obtain membership
- b. *Commission and Court for human rights* in Strasbourg. Examples of criticisms and decisions against Norwegian human rights violations

6. NATO/security policies: Broad majority behind NATO – but in some periods and in some issues strong conflicts

- a. Why was and is *Norway military important* in northern Europe? During “the cold war”? In the last years?
- b. Foundations of *NATO* and Norwegian membership from 1949
- c. *Tactical nuclear weapons* in Norway in peace time? The campaigns against nuclear weapons from the end of the 1950’ies – and the foundation 1961 of a foreign policy opposition party, Sosialistisk Folkeparti, later (1975) developed into Sosialistisk Venstreparti (Socialist Left Party)
- d. *Intelligence and surveillance* of foreign policy opposition groups: Discovered, strongly criticized and led in 1996 to establishing a parliamentary oversight committee, controlling the civil and military secret services
- e. Some *controversial NATO-issues* in public opinion and inside/between political parties: nuclear weapons as “defence” – nuclear first use-strategy, missile-shield, out-of- area-operations in Irak, Afghanistan, Libya
- f. *International laws* against chemical weapons, landmines and clusterweapons. Also against nuclear weapons?

7. USA: «Our closest ally»: General consensus, but some conflicts

- a. »Big Brother« for Norway: *Economics*: Marshall aid from 1947. *Culture*: Import and influence/dominance from movies, TV, chewing gum, jeans, hamburgers, jazz, rock’n roll etc. *Security-guarantee* through NATO
- b. Conflicts about *US role in Latin-America*: Interventions against elected governments in f x Guatemala, Chile, Grenada, Nicaragua etc. And conflicts about US military and political actions in f x Vietnam and the Middle East – and some of its global economic/political/military super power engagements

8. North/South, Aid/Trade: General consensus, but some conflicts

- a. *End of colonial power* for Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Portugal: Liberation movements against NATO-allies
- b. *Developing aid*: Why? To whom? How much? How?
- c. *South-Africa* - apartheid-regime getting oil and manganese from Norway
- d. *Israel/Palestine*: development of opinion and policies. Why? How?

9. Trade policies, especially relations to EU/EEA: Strong conflicts on EU-membership: referendum in 1972 and 1994

- a. Norwegian economy in the present economic crisis – and the EU-issue
- b. Effects on foreign policy of Government change: the EU-case as an example

10. Summary of main foreign policy issues, allies, conflicts, decisionmaking and future challenges