



HISTORY

From the years 1380–1814 Norway was governed by Denmark, an ally of the French during the Napoleonic wars. After Napoleon's defeat, Norway declared itself independent and created a Parliament. On May 17, 1814, Norway enacted its own constitution. Heavily inspired by the U.S. Constitution it included the rule of law, separation of state powers, freedom of speech, and freedom of religious expression. However, as Europe underwent reconstruction after the Napoleonic Wars, Norway was transferred to Sweden. Under their union, Sweden agreed to recognize the Parliament and left the basic components of the constitution intact. In 1905, Parliament declared Norway's independence and the end of their union with Sweden. In the same election, they rejected to institute a Republican form of government, leading to their current structure, a Constitutional Monarchy.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The government structure of Norway consists of the three branches. These branches include the Legislative, Executive and Judicial described in further detail below.

◆ Executive

The Executive branch consists of the Chief of State, the Head of the Government and the Cabinet. The Chief of State is the King whose title is hereditary. The Head of the Government is the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the leader of the political party with majority support within Parliament. The Cabinet, also known as the Council of State, is composed of the senior government ministers chosen by the Prime Minister and approved by the Parliament.

◆ Legislative

The Legislative branch is known as Parliament, also referred to as the Storting. The Parliament consists of 169 seats elected from 19 different counties. Members are elected by popular vote through proportional representation. Members serve four year terms.

◆ Judicial

The Judicial branch consists of three levels. The first is the district and city courts, followed by the High Court, and lastly the Supreme Court. Supreme Court Justices are appointed by the monarch, upon recommendation of the Prime Minister and then must be approved by the Parliament. Supreme Court Justices must retire at the age of 70. Additionally, there is a special labor court that resolves disputes between unions and employees as well as address conflicts over topics such as social security rights.

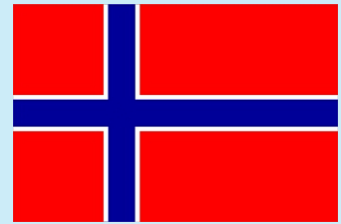
SAMI PARLIAMENT

The Sami people are the indigenous people of Scandinavia. They are protected under the International Conventions of Indigenous People. In 1987, the Storting adopted the Sami Act and thus created the Sami Parliament or Samediggi. It consists of a 39 member Parliament, elected every fourth year. The Samediggi addresses all issues in society that involve the Sami people. Its purpose is to help strengthen their political position, promote their interests, and protect their rights to continue to develop their language, culture, and society.

POLITICAL PARTIES

There are seven different political parties represented in the Storting. These parties are the Norwegian Labor Party, the Progress Party, the Conservative Party, the Socialist Left Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Center Party, and the Liberal Party. The current Prime Minister, Erna Solberg is the leader of the Conservative Party.

Government System of Norway



King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway



Erna Solberg, Prime Minister



The Samediggi located in Karasjok