

Polity IV Country Report 2007: Norway

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2006</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2007</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polity:</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democ:</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Autoc:</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durable:</td> <td colspan="2">62</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tentative:</td> <td colspan="2">No</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2006	2007	Change			Polity:	10	10	0			Democ:	10	10	0			Autoc:	0	0	0			Durable:	62					Tentative:	No					
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SCODE	NOR	CCODE	385	Date of Report	1 November 2008																																
Polity IV Component Variables																																					
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																																
3	3	4	7	5	5																																
Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)																																					
End Date		31 December 1940		Begin Date																																	
				9 May 1945																																	
Polity Fragmentation: No																																					
Constitution	1814																																				
Executive(s)	Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg (Ap); since 17 October 2005; leader of the majority coalition in parliament, appointed by the monarch in October 2005 following parliamentary elections																																				
Legislature	Modified Unicameral: Great Diet (169 seats; proportionally elected; most recent elections 12 September 2005; for the purpose of making laws, the parliament divides itself into two chambers: the Odelsting, with 124 seats, and Lagting, with 41 seats) Labour Party (Ap): 61 Progress Party (FrP): 38 Conservative Party (H): 23 Socialist Left Party (SV): 15 Christian People's Party (KrF): 11 Center Party (Sp): 11 Left Party (V): 10																																				
Judiciary	Supreme Court																																				

Narrative Description:¹

Executive Recruitment: Competitive Elections (8)

Norway is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy governed by a prime minister and cabinet (State Council) that is selected by parliament. The National Assembly is elected in competitive

¹ The research described in this report was sponsored by the Political Instability Task Force (PITF). The PITF is funded by the Central Intelligence Agency. The views expressed herein are the authors' alone and do not represent the views of the US Government.

multiparty elections once every four years. Following parliamentary elections, the leader of the largest party or leader of a coalition is appointed prime minister by the monarch with the approval of the Parliament.

Executive Constraints: *Executive Parity or Subordination (7)*

Parliament cannot be dissolved in the course of its elected four-year term. However, parliament can force the ruling government out of office by a no-confidence vote; as such, the government is dependent on the legislature's continued support to remain in office. Constitutionally, the government is accountable before the legislature. The judiciary is independent in practice.

Political Participation: *Institutionalized Open Electoral Competition (10)*

Norway has a long tradition of unrestricted and non-coercive political participation based on democratic procedural standards. The government fully respects political rights and civic liberties of its citizens. The country's major political parties are stable and enduring, dating back to the 19th or early 20th century and they provide representation for all significant groups and issues. Traditionally the strongest party has been the Labor Party (Ap) but it has lost considerable electoral support over the controversial issue of membership in the European Union, a proposition that was soundly defeated in 1994. Presently, a minority governing coalition consists of the Right, Christian People's, and Socialist Left parties. Restrained partisanship and consensual cooperation characterize inter-party competition in Norway.