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1.) Norway, as one of the Scandinavian countries, has been highly influenced by his neighbour states Sweden and Denmark. A great part of Norwegian history is thereby marked by the age of Unions. The union with Denmark lasted 500 years, followed by a union with Sweden for another 90 years. The years 1814, where ~~was~~ the Norwegians declared themselves independent ~~from~~ and wrote their own constitution, and 1805, where they actually fully gained their independence from Sweden, are milestones in Norwegian history because they indicate the birth of a new Norwegian nation.

The first section of the following essay will be concerned with the events that led to the forming of the Union with Denmark and events during the time of the Union. Afterwards, the focus will be on the events in 1814 and how Norway ended up in another union with ~~Denmark~~ ^{Sweden}, will be explained. Last but not least, changes in the 19th century, which eventually lead to the state's gaining of full independence will be discussed.

In 1349, the Black Death was brought to Norway, which had drastical effects on the whole state. More than 50 percent of the population died and the state and administration was almost destroyed. This was a great opportunity for foreigners to take control over the Norwegian trade. Thus, in 1360, the Hansiatic League, a German trade union, which already controlled great parts of the sea trade in the North Sea, opened their offices in Bryggen, the wharf in Bergen. For the following 150 years, the Hansiatic League controlled most of the Norwegian sea trade and had the monopoly of exporting dried fish to the continent. In order to form a strong opponent to the Hansiatic League and to be able to control their trade themselves again, the three Scandi-



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Scandinavian countries Sweden, Norway and Denmark formed a trade union, the Kalmar Union. However, after only 80 years, Sweden dropped out and left Norway in a union with Denmark. At first, ~~the~~ both countries were equal partners, but when Denmark joined the Lutheran church and Norway wanted to remain Catholic, the Danish king just declared Norway a Danish province. The two countries had a common administration and laws and policies were often more in the favour of Denmark than in the favour of Norway. All important positions were occupied by Danes and Danish became ^{the} official ^{written} language. Between 1799 and 1815, the Napoleonic war controlled Europe and the Scandinavian countries fought on different sides. Denmark-Norway was supporting France, whereas Sweden was fighting on side of the British. When Napoleon lost the war, Norway was given to Sweden, in the Treaty of Kiel. However, Sweden "forgot" about Norway first, because the state and military was still too occupied with the events on the continent. Norway saw his chance of independence and the assembly of Eidsvoll took place ^{in 1814}. There were two groups in Eidsvoll, the union party, who supported the idea of a union with Sweden and feared the connection to Denmark and the independence party, who wanted ~~to be~~ Norway to be an independent nation and who were supported by the Danish King in order to prevent a Norwegian union with Sweden. In the end, the independence party had more supporters and Norway declared itself independent and an own constitution was created on the 17th of May 1814. This day is still celebrated as



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independence day these days, a fact that I personally find rather odd, because the Norwegians did not gain fully independence until 1905. Actually, Sweden claimed their right of Norway, which was given to them in the Treaty of Kiel and they were also ready to start a war if it was necessary. In the end, however, Norway and Sweden agreed that Norway could be independent under the Swedish Crown. This meant that Norway was almost self-governed, but foreign policies were controlled by the Swedes. The state of the civil servants was introduced because Norway did not have a large aristocracy like other European states, the so-called embassymen were men from the country's elite, lawyers, military officers and so on, who were appointed as civil servants by the Swedish king. They were in charge of the Norwegian policies. However, there was also the Storting, an assembly of all kinds of people from the Norwegian Society including farmers and workers, which was founded in Eidsvoll in 1814 and which met every 3 years, later annually. As Norway experienced an enormous economic growth within the 19th century, when the industrial revolution reached the country, labour workers and farmers wanted to play a more important role in society, too. The labour movement came into being and the first parties arose in the 1880s. The Storting grew stronger and stronger and ~~then~~ was supported by the labour movement and farmer associations. After the Swedish king failed with his Coup d'etat, he had to ask the Storting to form a parliament.



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Therefore, parliamentarism was brought to Norway in 1884 but it was not part of the constitution until 2007. In the 19th century, there was also a strong trend towards nationalism and romanticism in Norway. Influenced by other national movements in Europe, for example the one in Germany, Norwegians wanted their own state, wanted to be independent. Therefore, in literature, art and even music "things Norwegian" were stressed and the two written languages bokmål and nynorsk were created. Norwegians were a really strong trade nation as well, but they did not have their own statesmen in oversea countries, but only the ambassadors of Sweden. The parliament finally just announced Norway's independence and did not accept the Swedish King as their leader anymore. First, Sweden was ready to go to war again, but in the end, they gave Norway their independence in 1814. The Swedish king at that time was pretty aware of the differences between Norwegians and Swedes and he was actually the first Swedish King who learned Norwegian, too. ~~Then~~ The Swedes destroyed all the military borders on the Swedish-Norwegian border to reduce the military threat and left the Norwegians to themselves. It was now on Norway to decide which state form to choose. In a referendum, the majority of the people decided to have a constitutional monarchy. On the one hand, because they were used to having a King in charge, on the other hand because



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They feared the power of the surrounding strong European monarchies. The Danish prince was asked to be Norwegian King, he accepted and came to Norway with his wife Ingrid and his son. His son was also a reason why Norwegians picked him, because he was already a heir to the throne. They also changed their names into Haakon VII and Olav II. The royal family was quickly accepted by most of the population because they were living according to Norwegian values, equality, moderation and nearness to nature. They, for example, all learned to ski.

As we have seen in the development of the Norwegian history, a great part of it is influenced by the unions with Sweden and Denmark. In the 19th century, however, a great change took place and many Norwegians claimed independence for Norway, influenced by the nationalism and romanticism that was coming up in this time. Eventually, the years 1814 and 1905 are of such great importance because the Norwegians just took the opportunity, stood up for themselves and claimed their independence. The creation of the constitution in 1814 was a great start and in 1905 the goal of independence could actually be fulfilled. After almost 400 years of unions, the independent Norwegian nation was born.



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4.) When the question why Norway is a wealthy country arises, its vast oil resources is the first thing that comes to most people's mind. However, the country's economic growth has started way earlier than just with the discovery of oil in the North Sea in 1969. In the course of this essay, the different stages of the economic development will be analyzed. First, the focus will be on the development of Norway from being a backward, relatively low developed country to becoming a supplier of raw materials to the high-developed nations. Second we gonna have a look at the two different stages of industrialization in Norway, before discussing the golden ages of economy after the second world war and ~~then~~ what happened after the discovery of oil in the North Sea.

In the beginning of the 19th century, Norway was a relatively poor and backward country. There were a lot of reasons why economic development was pretty slow: low population density, inland communication barriers, only 3% of the land is fertile and can be used for agriculture, no good infrastructure due to the rough geographical conditions, ect. However, between the 1820's and the 1850's, some parts of economy began to expand and Norway was becoming a supplier of raw traditional material to the high-developed nations in Europe. The major branches that expanded were the timber, fishery and shipping industries. The British ~~lowered~~ lowered the duties on timber, which had been introduced after the Napoleonic wars,



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and that fact made Britain the greatest import nation of Norwegian timber again. Britain also abandoned the Navigation Act, which made it easier for Norwegian ships to participate in the expanding sea trade. The population growth on the continent and the lucky circumstance that there was a lot of cod and herring in the rivers and the sea these years, also gave a big boost to the Norwegian fishing industry. In the 1850s and 1860s, the first stage of industrialization reached Norway. The British loosened their ban on the export of machinery, which made it possible for Norwegians to "import the industrial revolution". ~~With~~ Know-how and machinery from Great Britain was imported, textile industries opened in Bergen and Kristiania and engineering workshops were held, that contributed to the later development of the industry, for example to the building of railroads and steam ships. However, Norway was at this point not an innovator but rather an imitator. The first industry that was further developed in Norway, even though the invention was still made in Germany, was the pulp industry. The pulp industry also marks the development ~~from~~ of Norway from an exporter of raw material to an exporter of further developed goods (timber export → pulp industry → paper export). The new government after 1814 had a lot to do with the economical development during this time. It was based on the idea of economical growth and gave loans to the industry. It also provided the country with a better infrastructure,



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by building railroads and roads to connect the different parts of the country and optimized the communication conditions, for example, by introducing the telegraph. When electricity became the replacement of coal in the production of energy, Norway's vast amount of another natural resource came to be pretty handy: water was used to generate hydroelectrical power. That again led to the emergence and settlement of many industries that needed a lot of energy for their production, for example, the aluminium industry. A lot of foreign companies invested in the production of hydroelectrical power stations and the depending industries. This created a lot of new work and since the factories and power stations were built close to the waterfalls, it provided the rural areas with an alternative work except for agriculture. This development can be seen as the second stage of the industrialization in Norway.

Between the two world wars, the economical crisis affected Norway and long-time unemployment emerged for the first time. However, some of the economical branches still grew. The furniture industry emerged in the rural areas, on the one hand because work force was cheaper, on the other hand because there was no labour movement. The whaling industry was very big at that time, so that Norway was the producer of ~~the~~ ^{whale} 2/3 of the ~~oil~~ ^{whale} worldwide. This led to the first over-exploitation of whale in the Nordic Sea. The Norwegian fleet was very big and played an important



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role in the world trade. It was the most productive fleet with oil-fired ships and tankers. After the Second world war, the golden era of the Norwegian economy began. The main focus of politics was the development of the industry in the post-war period. After a short time of centrally planned economy after the war, Norway joined the Marshall aid and economy was liberalized and decentralized. The government supported a mix of state enterprise and private enterprise. The hydro-electrical power connected industries were further developed and as the agricultural sector declined, the service sector increased. This brought about an urbanization with a lot of people moving from the countryside to the cities. People were also earning more money, which made them in return spent more on luxury products, which was a benefit to the economy again. After all it can be stated that the Norwegian economy became more international with the joining of the Marshall Aid and as ~~Berlin~~ being a founding member of the EFTA. In 1973, however, an international increase of the oil prices had a negative effect on the Norwegian economy, which was balanced by the discovery of vast amounts of oil and gas in the Northern Sea, not far from the shores of Norway. In 1969 Stavanger became the centre of the oil industry and in the first phase foreign companies were invited in order to bring know-how and appropriate machinery. However, the plan was to establish a state-connected Norwegian oil economy. In 1972 Statoil, the government



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owned oil company was founded. Parts of it were privatized in 2001. The discovery of oil, however, also led to the oil income problem. In order not to devalue the money and to save money for the days when the oil and gas resources might run out, the oil money was invested in a oil fund ~~which~~ which is today worth over 200 billion NOK.

This essay shows, that ~~the~~ Norway being a wealthy country and its economical growth do not just start with the discovery of oil in the North Sea but has a way longer history. Norway had to ~~go~~ undergo many different stages, from an undeveloped country to a supplier of raw materials and through two phases of industrialization, before the oil came and all this contributes to the status the State and its economy ~~today~~ today.