



## THE MYTH OF NORWEGIAN UTOPIA



*The Real History Channel*



It's really high time we debunk this annoyingly persistent myth of Scandinavian socialist paradise that we hear repeated in the media so often. Noted author and New York Times contributor recently wrote:

*"My thoughts turn more and more these days to Norway, where health care and world-class higher education are free."*



*1. Lee Siegel sells the myth of Utopian Norway // 2 & 3. Beautiful scenery and people, to be sure -- but there is real trouble in paradise.*

## REALITY CHECK

### 1: Massive Taxation

Norway taxes its citizens at a total burden of about **45%** of GDP – that's almost twice the United States! The VAT (*hidden sales tax*) stands at a whopping **25%** and personal income tax rates top out at **55%**. Corporate profits tax range from **28%** to as high as **78%**. Even the retirement pensions of old folks are taxed as high as **20%**! Yes sir, all that "free" stuff that Norwegians get ain't so "free" after all.

### 2: A Stolen Sovereign National Wealth Fund

The government of oil-rich Norway rakes in about 1/3 of its annual revenue from its owned/controlled oil industry. It currently holds the equivalent of **\$170,000 for each citizen** ([here](#)) in a national fund. With a population of only 5 million, and an oil-producing rank of 13th in the world, why then, with the state making such a killing on oil sales, are these people paying any taxes at all? The **United Arab Emirates** is also a small, oil-rich federation of 9 million that relies upon oil revenues to fund the state. Yet, even with good-quality universal health care, their citizens pay hardly any taxes, *at all!* ([here](#))



*1 & 2: As Norwegians struggle under the highest tax rates in socialist Europe, the oil-rich government collects and hoards enough money to fund the government and relieve everyone's personal tax and debt burdens as well. // 3: Contrast Norway's stinginess to the pro-people policy of the oil-rich emirate of Dubai which neither taxes workers nor investors, at all!*

### **3: Highest Personal Debt Levels in Europe**

As the regime of Norway holds onto the equivalent of \$170,000 per citizen (*or about **\$500,000 per household***) the mostly-contented tax slaves of Norway are also left to bear the oppressive burden of the highest personal debt levels in Europe ([here](#)). The problem is worse among the youth. If this oh-so-caring Nanny-State in Oslo was really so concerned about its "children," then why not dip into the massive Sovereign Fund and just payoff everybody's car loans, credit cards and mortgages? To hold onto such an enormous oil fund for "a rainy day," as people stress and struggle is unnecessary, criminal and tyrannical.

### **4: Alcoholism and Suicide Rates**

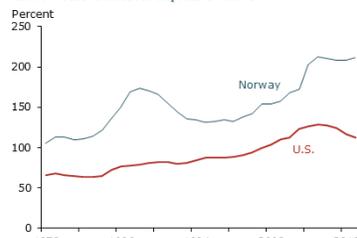
According to the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, consumption of alcoholic beverages in Norway in recent years has never been higher ([here](#)). The suicide rate among these oh-so-happy people stands at 10 per 100,000 per year, which ranks

Norway at only about the middle-of-the-pack amongst developed nations. ([here](#)) Evidently, paying for life in Utopia is grinding some people to despair.

## 5: 10% of Children Now Live in Poverty

Ten percent of Norwegian children live in low-income homes, and about half of those are native Norwegians, not migrants. Norway's poverty problem is chronic and as more and more citizens of taxed-out indebted Norwegians fall into despair, fewer and fewer will ever escape from the growing underclass. Meanwhile, the state continues to hoard the equivalent of \$500,000 per household.

Figure 3  
Ratio of household debt to disposable income



Sources: Norges Bank and FRB St. Louis.



***More and more Norwegians struggle with high personal debt as growing numbers of native children fall into poverty -- all as the "progressive" states hoards the peoples' oil cash for "a rainy day."***

As for some of those oddly-contented Norwegians who do indeed live well and like to boast about it; it's a pity that they fail to understand that they live well not *because* of their socialistic system, but *in spite of it*. And why be content with just "living well" when you could be "living large" with all that oil wealth and a freer economy? Slavery with gilded chains is still slavery, is it not?

The total value of the "free" healthcare, "free" education, pretty parks and fountains amounts to a pittance compared to what is being stolen from the people of Norway through taxes, usury, and hoarded oil revenues. Norway is simultaneously the most heavily taxed and most expensive country in the world. Many Norwegians have such little disposable income that the stay-at-home mother has become virtually extinct. On the cultural front, the state-imposed conformity is stifling -- with the interests of immigrants often taking precedence over indigenous Norwegians.

This is all the product of a design by the "kinder gentler" liberals of docile Norway -- and it is exactly where many politicians in America want to take the United States. Be like Norway? .... No-way!



*1 & 2. The Obamas and Prime Minister Solberg of Norway hit it off very well. //*  
*3. Solberg with the equally nanny-statist Merkel of Germany*

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