

Title: Norway's Constitution of 1814 (Revised 2015)

Summary:

Norway's **Constitution of 1814**, one of the oldest in the world still in operation, establishes the country as a **limited and hereditary monarchy** with a parliamentary system. It ensures **democracy, rule of law, and human rights**, while maintaining a strong connection to its **Christian and humanistic heritage**. The **executive power** resides with the King, who appoints a **Council of State**, including the **Prime Minister**, to oversee governance. While the monarchy is symbolic, political power is largely exercised by elected representatives.

The **legislative power** is vested in the **Storting (Parliament)**, which is elected through **free and secret ballots** every four years. The Storting holds authority to **enact laws, levy taxes, approve treaties, and oversee government functions**. The Constitution mandates a **proportional representation electoral system** and outlines clear procedures for **constitutional amendments**, requiring broad legislative consensus. The **judiciary** operates independently, with the **Supreme Court** holding final authority in legal matters, including **constitutional review**.

A strong emphasis is placed on **human rights**, including **freedom of expression, religion, assembly, and movement**. The Constitution prohibits **capital punishment, torture, and slavery**, guarantees **equal treatment before the law**, and secures **rights to education, work, and environmental protection**. Special provisions acknowledge and protect the **Sami people's cultural and linguistic rights**. Norway also recognizes **international human rights obligations**, aligning domestic laws with treaties.

The Constitution further addresses **state security**, military service obligations, and Norway's **ability to delegate powers to international organizations**, ensuring its role in global governance. The **process for amending the Constitution** requires multiple stages of legislative approval, ensuring stability while allowing for gradual reform. Overall, this document defines Norway as a **modern constitutional democracy**, balancing **monarchical tradition with democratic principles** and **strong human rights protections**.