

Norway's rise from the ashes

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Context

Data provided for this analysis contains entries for medals won at winter Olympics from 1924 to 2006. Each entry contains information on Year of the Olympic, details on hosting City, details on the sporting event, type of medal won, and some information of the winner.

Motivation

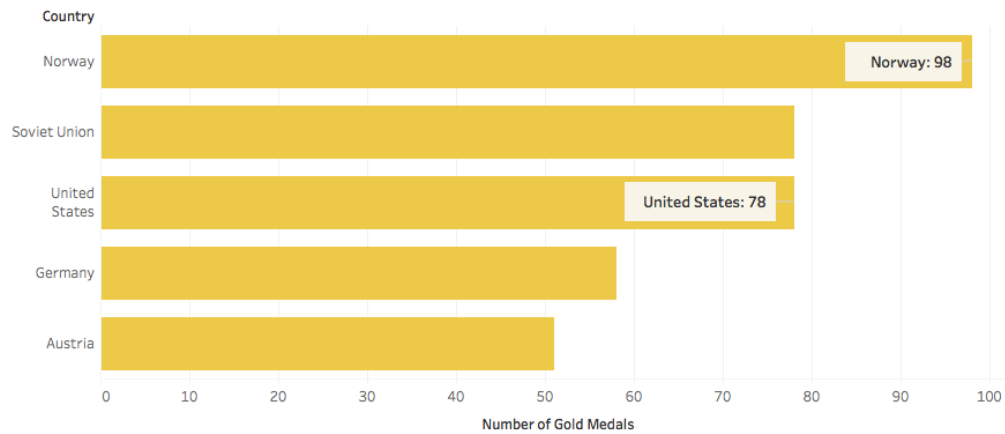
Visualization techniques used here are selected with two things in mind. Simplicity and Clarity.

Approach

Writer takes an investigative approach. In each visualization, he tries to explain the region of interest of the previous visualization. This way he makes sure the visualizations are not cluttered, by showing minimal amount of information necessary to make the point.

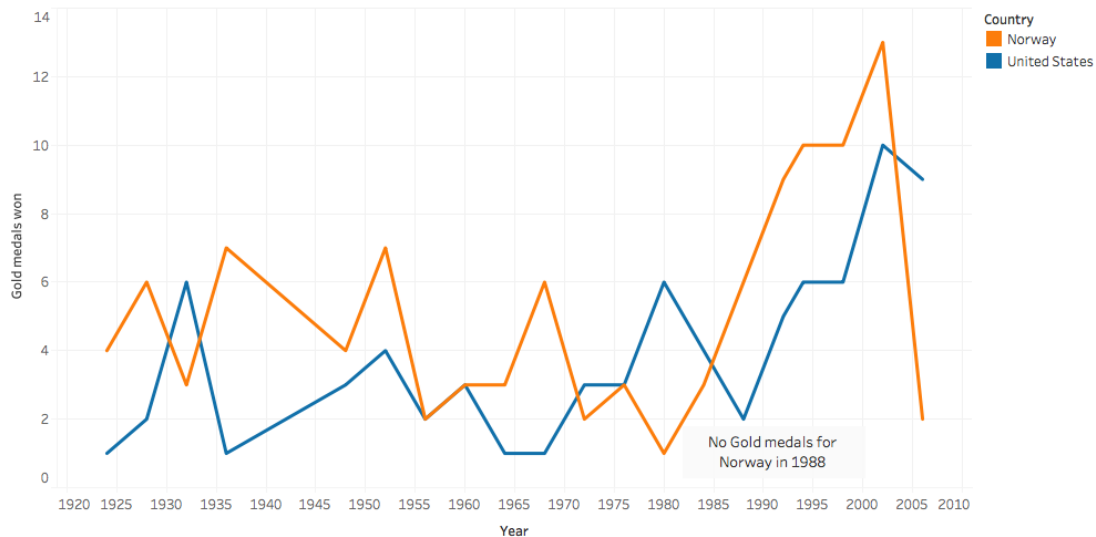
During the time period from 1924 to 2006 there were 20 Winter Olympics. The ultimate goal of any nation competing in such an event is to win as many gold medals as possible.

Countries that won most amount of Gold medals over the years



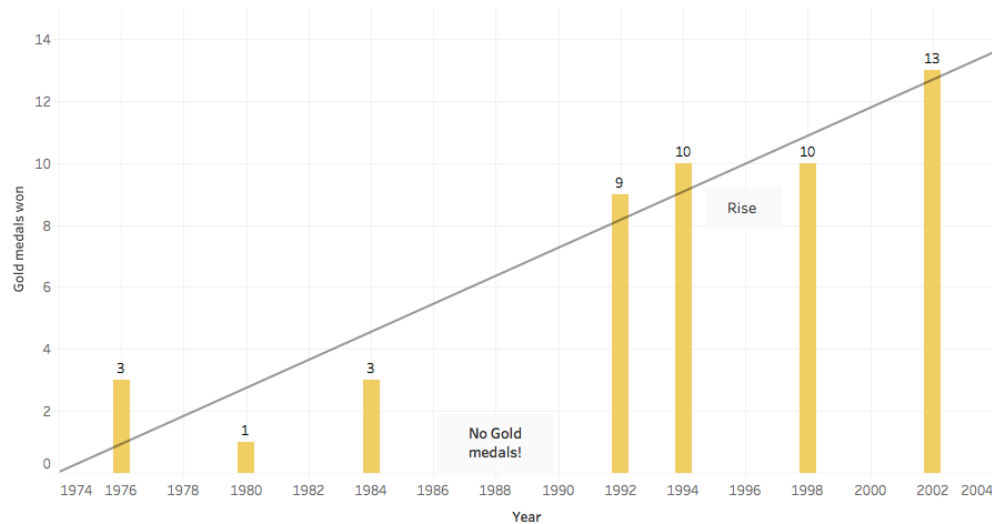
Norway lead the pack by accumulating 98 gold medals over the years and well ahead of other individual nations.

Norway tops United States in most instances



Norway tops its arch rival United States in most instances of the history. Norway has been consistent with 4-6 gold medals during period from 1924 to 1968. However, they succumb to a rough patch between 1972 to 1988 before reaching back to golden times as never before from 1990 to 2002

Rise of Norway from the rough patch in 1980s



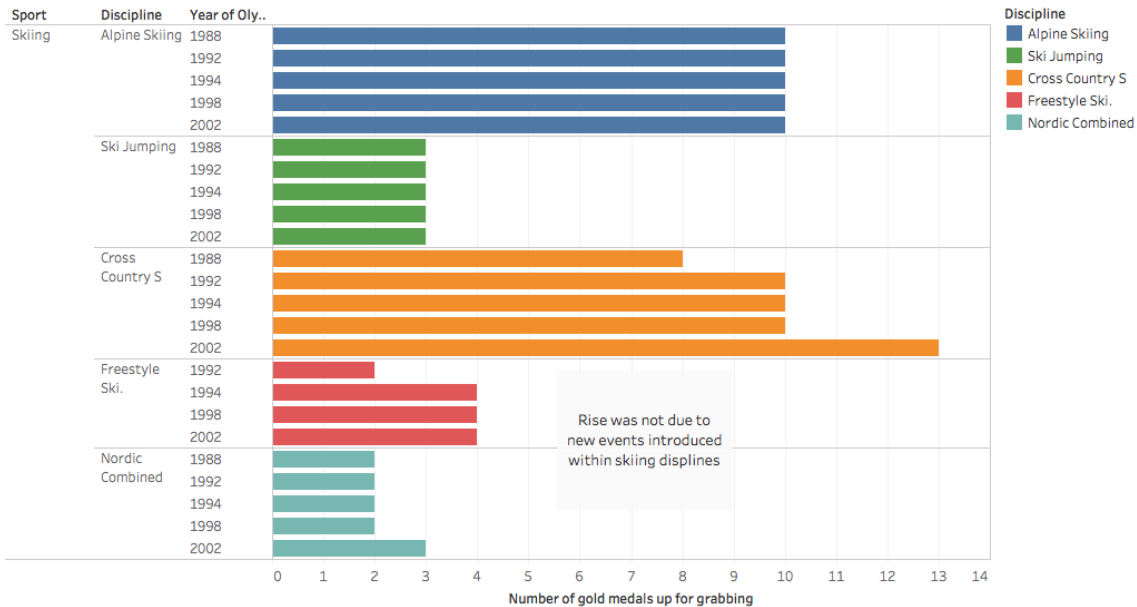
It is interesting to know how Norway overcame this rough patch to perform at a level that they have not done never before.

Skiing made the difference in 1992-2002

Sport	Discipline	Year of Olympic			
		1992	1994	1998	2002
Biathlon	Biathlon			2	4
	Total			2	4
Curling	Curling				1
	Total				1
Skating	Speed skating	2	3	1	
	Total	2	3	1	
Skiing	Alpine Skiing	2	1	1	2
	Cross Country S	5	3	4	5
	Freestyle Ski.		1		1
	Nordic Combined		1	2	
	Ski Jumping		1		
	Total	7	7	7	8
Grand Total		9	10	10	13

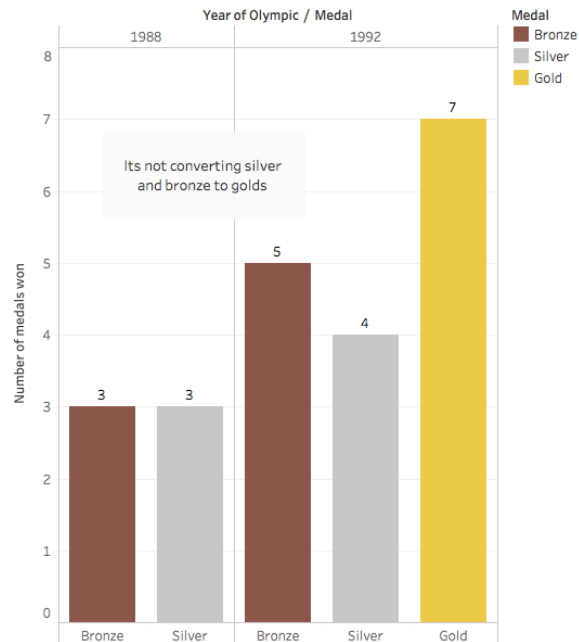
Closer look at the break down of gold medals from 1992-2002 shows that this strong performance is primarily due to gold medals they won in Skiing. Within Skiing, Cross Country skiers seems to have had a really good time bagging 3-5 gold medals each time. What made this possible in Skiing?

Gold medals available within each discipline of Skiing



There is no major structural change in events (particularly in Alpine Skiing and Cross Country Skiing) within Skiing, which could have led to an advantage to Norway.

Skiing medals in 1988 and 1992

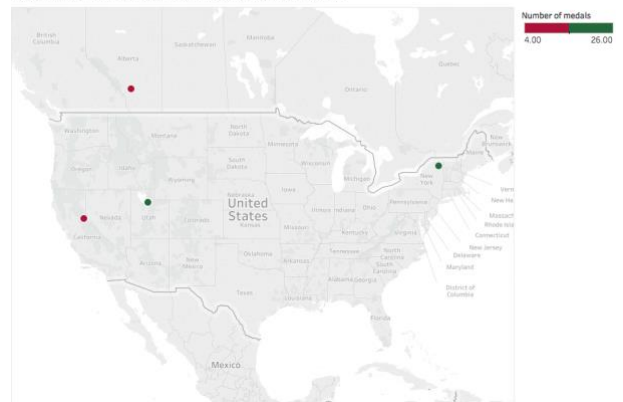


Strong performance is also not due to converting Bronze and Silver medals in to Gold medals at Skiing disciplines. In essence, Norway had surpassed their performance in 1988 at all levels.

Event location does not seem to affect performance



Event location does not seem to affect performance



Event location does not seem to affect performance



Also, a quick look at the cities where Olympics were held shows that Norway's performance is more or less indifferent from where the Olympics were held.

So, data does not point to any direction where this strong performance of Norway at Skiing came from. May be this strong performance is due to preparation, training, changes in the coaching staff and etc. after the lack luster performance in 1988. However, data provided here is not completed to investigate this claim.