



NAME

Camilla Brautaset

TITLE OF PRESENTATION

From sailing northern seas to world wide shipping

ABSTRACT OF PRESENTATION

Despite the fact that Norway's share of world population, production and trade has always been very low, for the last 150 years the country has been one of the major maritime nations. This presentation traces the development of the Norwegian merchant marine through different technological, institutional and political regimes. We show how the country's shipping companies have been able to take advantage of changes in shipping demand and supply, but also explain why the Norwegian shipping industry was almost eradicated by the middle of the 1980s. The subsequent revitalisation was based on strategic and political changes: Norwegian shipping companies were able to stay on top of their game by becoming "less Norwegian".

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Camilla Brautaset is Associated Professor of Economic History at the University of Bergen. Her main research areas are historical national accounts, foreign trade in a historical perspective, maritime history and Norwegian business in Asia. She is currently leading a research project on Merchants and Missionaries. Norwegian Encounters With China in a Transnational Perspective, ca. 1890-1937. The project is funded by a major grant by the Norwegian Research Council and will be running 2011-2015. As part of this project, she is currently investigating the broader market aspects of foreign shipping in China, with particular emphasis on trade through the port of Shanghai.