

Milestone 4

Balancing Peace and Security: Norway's Legacy in Peacekeeping and its Future in the Arctic

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PS 510: Post-Conflict Politics

June 1, 2024

MILESTONE 1: ABSTRACT & OUTLINE

ABSTRACT

This paper examines Norway's commitment to international peace and security, focusing on its historical contributions to global peacekeeping operations and its evolving role in the strategically important Arctic region. The analysis explores the development of Norway's peacekeeping activities, highlighting its core motivations and contributions to conflict resolution and its successes. It will also address future challenges and analyze the growing geopolitical significance of the Arctic. It assesses Norway's strategic interests and Arctic policy, emphasizing sustainable development, regional cooperation, and its leadership role within the Arctic Council. It explores how Norway navigates the balance between its past peacekeeping experiences and its evolving security concerns in the Arctic, considering potential resource conflicts and the importance of maintaining regional stability. Ultimately, this paper argues that Norway's historical commitment to global peace will play a crucial role in shaping a peaceful and sustainable future not only in the Arctic, but globally.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. A brief history of Norway's role in international relations and peacekeeping
 - B. Importance of the Arctic region and its geopolitical significance
 - C. Thesis statement: "Norway's longstanding commitment to global peacekeeping, coupled with its expertise in diplomacy and conflict resolution, positions it to play a critical role in fostering regional cooperation and ensuring peaceful and sustainable development in the strategically important Arctic region."

- II. Norway's Commitment to Peacekeeping
 - A. Historical Development of Norway's Peacekeeping Activities
 - a. Address early engagements and neutrality
 - b. Post-WW2 shift and involvement in UN Missions
 - B. Core Principles and Motivations for Peacekeeping Participation
 - a. Commitment to international order and conflict resolution
 - i. Potentially address core Norwegian principles, (Janteloven) and explore how it shapes both internal and international perspective
 - b. Speak to Norway's promotion of democracy and human rights
 - C. Analysis of Norway's Contributions
 - a. Case Study: South Sudan? (Explore other options, if necessary)
 - b. Address strengths: Expertise, training, and commitment to diplomacy
 - c. Weaknesses: Resource limitations, political complexities

- III. The Arctic
 - A. The Geopolitical Significance of the Arctic
 - a. Melting ice caps and the opening of new trade routes
 - b. Resource abundance and potential competition
 - c. Environmental concerns and sustainability challenges
 - B. Norway's Interests and Arctic Policy

- C. Balancing Peacekeeping and Arctic Security Concerns
 - a. Potential resource conflicts and maintaining stability
 - b. Utilizing peacekeeping experience for Arctic dispute resolutions
- IV. Conclusion
 - A. Recap of Norway's contributions to global peacekeeping
 - B. Address the significance of Norway's Arctic leadership and its future role
 - C. Concluding remarks
 - a. Possibility to add potential areas for further research

MILESTONE 2: LITERATURE REVIEW, SUPPORTING TABLES/CHARTS, AND INTRODUCTION

LITERATURE REVIEW

Norway's long-standing commitment to peacekeeping is well documented, with scholars attributing it to the country's historical identity as a "great power of peace"¹ and emphasis on social democracy.² Key findings on Norway's approach to peacebuilding highlight its focus on local ownership, inclusivity, and a willingness to learn from past experiences, viewing failures as potential stepping stones for future success.³ Scholars also emphasize Norway's dedication to peacebuilding efforts through significant financial contributions⁴ and a robust network of collaborators, including NGOs and researchers. This extensive experience allows Norway to draw on past conflicts when guiding new ones toward resolution.

However, a critical gap exists in the literature regarding how these established peacekeeping principles translate to the unique challenges of the Arctic. This is especially true when acknowledging the current geopolitical climate surrounding Russia in the wake of the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. While the region's increasing geopolitical complexity is acknowledged,⁵

¹ Halvard Leira, "‘Our Entire People Are Natural Born Friends of Peace’: The Norwegian Foreign Policy of Peace," *Swiss Political Science Review*, vol. 19, no. 3, 2013, 339.

² Ada Nissen, "A Historical View on the Nordic ‘Peace Brand’: Norway and Sweden: Partners and Competitors in Peace." Chapter. *In Do-Gooders at the End of Aid: Scandinavian Humanitarianism in the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Antoine de Bengy Puyvallée and Kristian Bjørkdahl, 80–100. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, 83.

³ Norwegian Ministries, "Women, Peace, and Security: 2023-2030," Norway's National Action Plan, 2024, 6.

⁴ Einar H. Dyvik, "Net multilateral official development assistance from Norway in 2021, by recipient agency (in million U.S. dollars)," Statista, May 25, 2023.

⁵ Andreas Østhagen, "For Norway, the risk of conflict in the Arctic has increased." The Arctic Institute, October 20, 2022

there is a lack of research on how Norway can adapt its framework to this evolving security landscape. This highlights an opportunity for further study on how Norway can leverage its peacekeeping experience to navigate complex Arctic issues. These issues include potential resource conflicts due to receding ice,⁶ heightened competition among major powers, and the security implications of climate change. Furthermore, while the deeply engrained Nordic concept of Janteloven has been extensively researched, its connection to Norway's approach to peacekeeping has not been studied. While this paper posits that there could be a connection, further research could examine how it leads Norway to be a purveyor of peace on the global stage.

INTRODUCTION

Maintaining peace and security has been a cornerstone of Norwegian foreign policy, evident in its active participation in global peacekeeping operations. This commitment has fostered a reputation for impartiality and mediation. However, the strategically significant Arctic region presents a unique set of challenges. This paper view conducts an analysis of research on Norway's peacekeeping experience and its potential to inform its future security role in the Arctic. By examining prevalent themes, methodologies, and frameworks, the paper explores how Norway can navigate the evolving geopolitical landscape and address emerging security threats.

NORWEGIAN PEACEKEEPING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES

Norway has cultivated a distinct approach to peacebuilding, characterized by several key principles. First and foremost, Norway emphasizes local ownership of the peace process. It believes lasting solutions can only come from the parties themselves, and Norway's role is to facilitate dialogue.⁷ This commitment extends to the long term, as Norway recognizes peacebuilding is a slow process and offers sustained support. Inclusivity is another cornerstone. Norway seeks to engage all parties seeking a solution, including women and victims, to build a broader sense of ownership and achieve a more durable peace.⁸ However, it also understands the inherent risk of failure in this field and views it as a potential stepping stone for future success.⁹ To bolster its efforts, Norway dedicates significant resources, both financial and human, to

⁶ Heather A. Conley, "A New Security Architecture for the Arctic," Center for Strategic and International Affairs, January 17, 2012.

⁷ "Hallmarks of Norway's peace and reconciliation work," Norwegian Government, June 7, 2022.

⁸ Norwegian Ministries, 4.

⁹ Norwegian Ministries, 6.

peacebuilding initiatives.¹⁰ Furthermore, it leverages its extensive network of collaborators, including other mediators, NGOs,¹¹ and researchers, to share expertise and knowledge.¹² Norway's long history of involvement in peace processes further strengthens this knowledge base, allowing it to draw on past experiences¹³ when guiding new conflicts toward resolution.

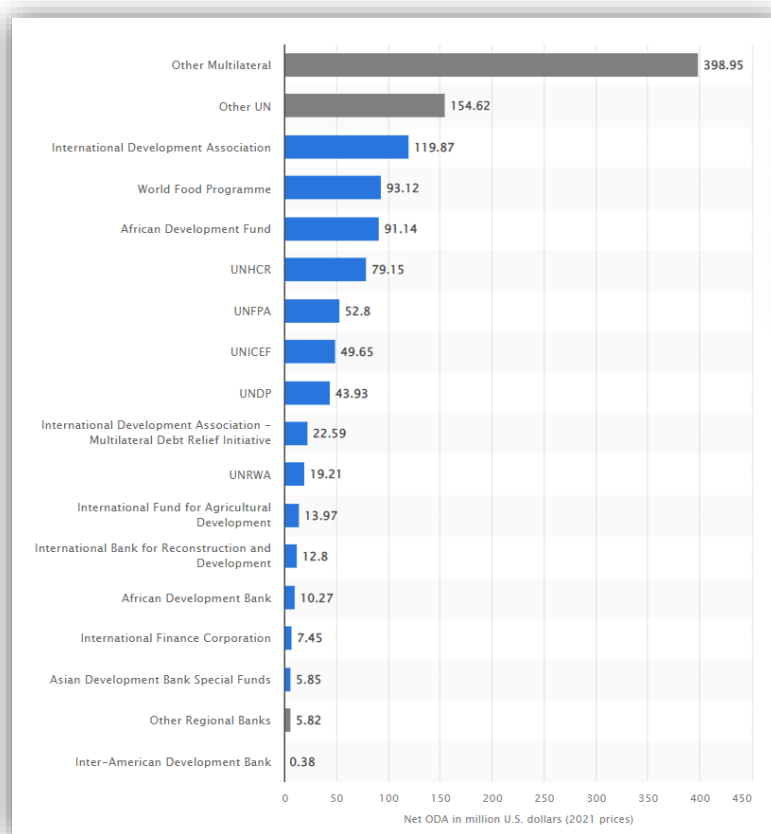


Figure 1: “Net multilateral official development assistance from Norway in 2021, by recipient agency (in million U.S. dollars).”¹⁴

¹⁰ Nissen, 83.

¹¹ Leira 2013, 339.

¹² “Hallmarks of Norway’s peace and reconciliation work,” 2022.

¹³ Miriam Marín Nicolás. “Understanding the role of Norway as a facilitator in the Venezuelan peace process.” Barcelona Centre for International Peace, January 2024.

¹⁴ Dyvik, 2023.

While Norway remains impartial in mediating disputes, it actively promotes human rights principles throughout the process. The Scandinavian states (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark) have been considered great powers of peace since the early 1900s.¹⁵ At the international level, “the deep-rooted belief in justice found its expression in the export of human rights, peace, and democracy, values that people considered fundamental in the Nordic social democracies.”¹⁶ Historically, each Scandinavian country

...presented their own well-functioning welfare states as models for others to emulate in the transition from conflict and authoritarian rule to peace and democracy. Since most disagreements in Scandinavia were resolved with negotiations and few battles were fought outside the institutional system, the Scandinavian countries developed ‘a propensity for a less aggressive and confrontational approach to foreign affairs than most other European states’ (Archer 1996, 462). This gave them leeway to act as humanitarian frontrunners and peacemakers.¹⁷

	Key word	Peace efforts	Nordic cooperation
Denmark	Stability	“Peace, stability, protection” (DK strategy on dev. policy 2017, 5)	The Nordics = Denmark’s closest “value community” (DK FP strategy 2018, 15)
Sweden	Peacebuilding	Swedish peace efforts are coupled closely to the “women, peace and security”-agenda (Handbook: Sweden’s feminist FP, 2018; Policy for global dev. in the implementation of the 2030 agenda)	Nordic cooperation on FP is highlighted with regards to issues such as meditation, the “women, peace and security”-agenda, and disarmament (Handbook: Sweden’s feminist FP, 2018)
Norway	Reconciliation	Peace and reconciliation = central to Norway’s FP. Norway as impartial facilitator (FP address to Storting 2018)	Nordic cooperation = cornerstone in Norway’s FP (FP address to the Storting 2018)
Iceland	Resolution	Peaceful resolution of disputes = important principle in Icelandic FP (Icelandic government 2017, 36)	Nordic cooperation = cornerstone of Iceland’s FP (Icelandic government 2017, 35)
Finland	Mediation	Mediation = key tool in peacebuilding (Finland Action Plan for Mediation 2011, 9, 23; Finland Gov Report on FP 2016, 28)	Continued stress on the importance of continued Nordic foreign and security cooperation. Finland relates the Nordic cooperation first to Sweden and secondly to the wider Nordic community (Fin rep on FP, 2016, 12–13, 21–22)

Figure 2: “Differing Nordic priorities within peace and conflict resolution.”¹⁸

¹⁵ Leira 2013, 339.

¹⁶ Nissen, 83.

¹⁷ Nissen, 83.

¹⁸ Anine Hagemann and Isabel Bramsen. “New Nordic Peace Nordic Peace and Conflict Resolution Efforts.” Nordic Peace and Conflict Resolution Efforts, 2019.

NORWAY'S ROLE IN THE ARCTIC

The strategically significant Arctic region presents a unique set of challenges for Norway's established peacekeeping principles. Unlike traditional peacekeeping scenarios, the Arctic is not currently experiencing active warfare. However, a confluence of factors creates a complex security environment that Norway must navigate. It is widely believed by experts across a variety of fields that the Arctic will “experience extraordinary economic and environmental change over the next several decades.”¹⁹ As Norway continues to navigate the evolving geopolitical landscape of the Arctic, it faces several challenges. The potential for resource conflicts, heightened by the melting ice and the opening of new shipping routes, presents a significant security concern.

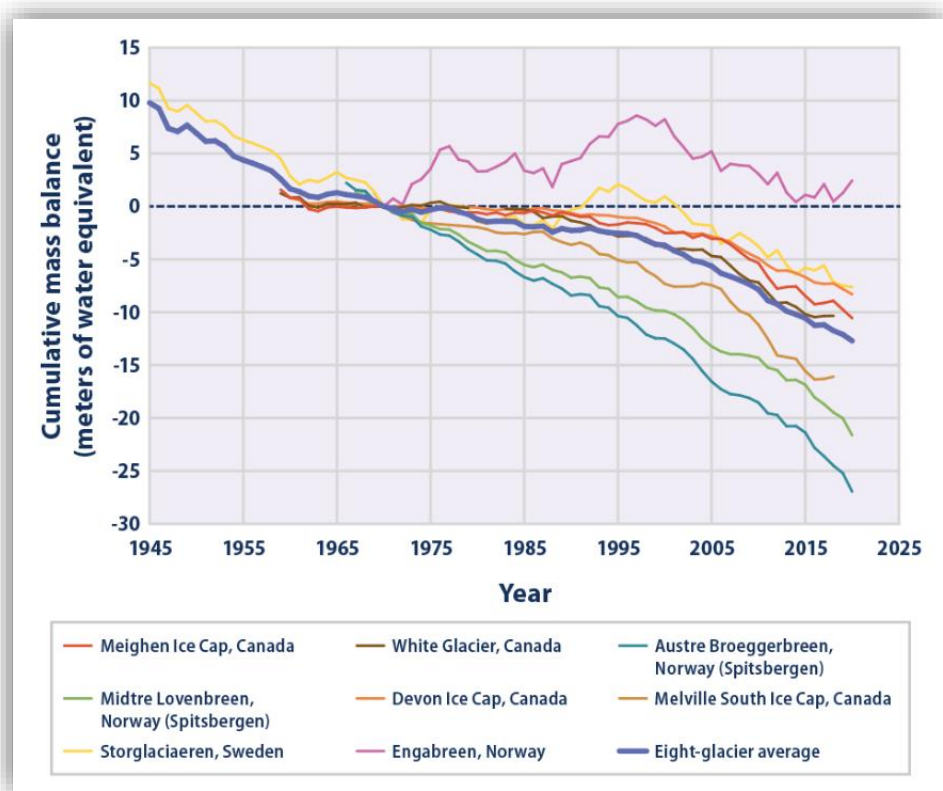


Figure 3: Cumulative Mass Balance of Eight Arctic Glaciers, 1945–2020²⁰

¹⁹ Conley 2012.

²⁰ United States Environmental Protection Agency, “Climate Change Indicators: Arctic Glaciers,” July 21, 2023.

Additionally, the geopolitical interests of major powers, including the United States, Russia, and China, further complicate the security dynamics in the region.

Norway's strategic interests in the Arctic are multifaceted, encompassing environmental protection, sustainable development, and regional stability. The country must balance these interests with its historical commitment to peacekeeping and mediation. By drawing on its extensive experience in peacebuilding, Norway can play a pivotal role in maintaining regional stability and promoting cooperative solutions to emerging security threats. The future of Norway's role in the Arctic will depend on its ability to adapt its peacekeeping principles to the unique challenges of the region. This includes fostering inclusive dialogue among Arctic states, promoting sustainable development, and addressing the security implications of climate change. As Norway continues to lead within the Arctic Council, its commitment to peace and security will be crucial in shaping a peaceful and sustainable future for the Arctic region.²¹

MILESTONE 3: RISK ANALYSIS

NORWAY AND THE ARCTIC: POTENTIAL RISKS AND THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Norway, a nation with a long history of promoting peace and stability through global peacekeeping initiatives, faces a unique challenge in the Arctic. While its established peacekeeping principles can be valuable assets in navigating the complex security landscape of the region, Norway's economic interests and the actions of major powers pose potential risks to regional stability and environmental well-being. One key risk lies in balancing economic interests with environmental commitments.²² Norway is a major oil and gas producer, and resource extraction in the Arctic presents a significant economic opportunity. However, this pursuit can contradict its leadership role in promoting sustainable development.²³ Critics point to Norway's continued reliance on fossil fuels as undermining its commitment to environmental protection.²⁴ Therefore, a potential future threat is a decline in Norway's international reputation for environmental leadership. Additionally, while unpredictable, accidents or spills during resource extraction could devastate the fragile Arctic ecosystem, impacting not only Norway's environment but potentially tourism, another crucial sector for its economy.

²¹ Arctic Council Secretariat, *The Arctic Council: A Quick Guide*, 3rd edition (revised), 2023.

²² Conley 2012.

²³ Robert Looney, "Norway's Fossil Fuel Conundrum. Milken Institute, February 24, 2024.

²⁴ Joe Jo and Reuters. "Norway approves oil and gas fields despite Cop fossil phase-out push." Climate Home News, June 29, 2023.

RESOURCE EXTRACTION

Another risk emerges from Norway's overreliance on resource extraction. Fluctuations in global oil prices can significantly impact the Norwegian economy. As the world transitions towards renewable energy sources, a decline in demand for oil and gas could pose a threat to Norway's economic stability. Failure to invest in alternative industries or diversify its economy could leave Norway vulnerable in the long term. Norway recently – and controversially – decided to allow deep-seam mining. While the government argues this is necessary to gather environmental data and secure minerals for a green energy transition, critics fear it will cause irreversible damage to poorly understood deep-sea ecosystems.

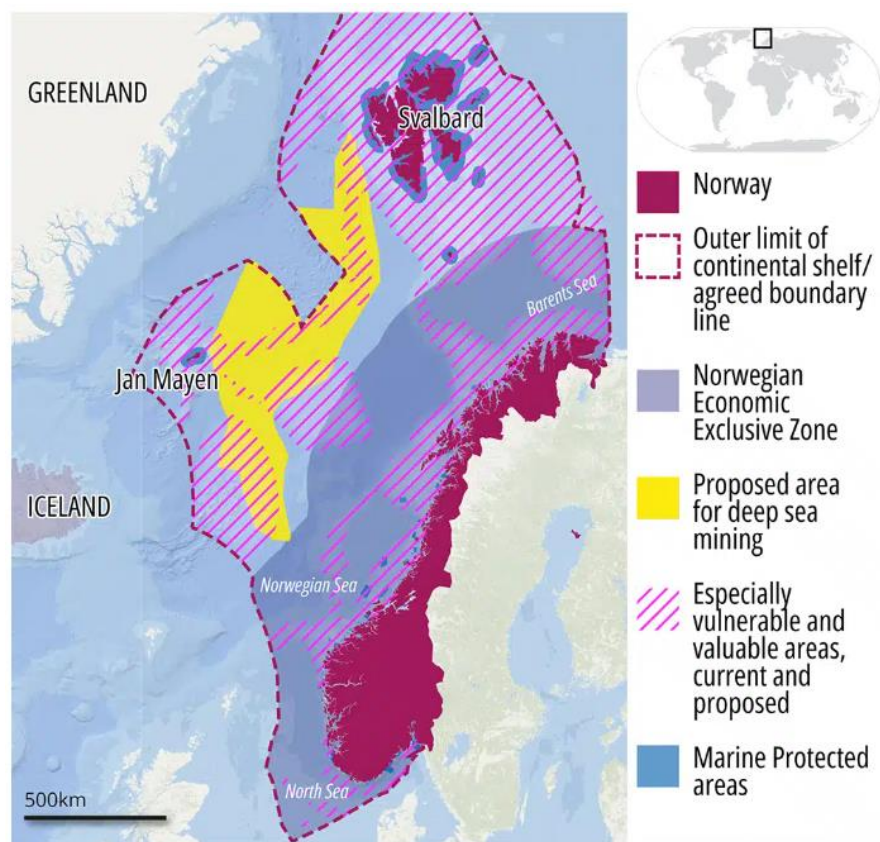


Figure 4. Norway moves to open a large area of seabed to mining.²⁵

Concerns include disruption of biodiversity, harm to the ocean's carbon absorption abilities, and potential long-term environmental consequences.²⁶ The decision has been criticized for rushing the process and ignoring calls for a more cautious, research-based approach.⁴

²⁵ Marion Bessol, “Norway Opens the Door to Deep-Sea Mining Exploration in the Arctic, But at What Environmental Cost?” Earth.Org, January 25, 2024.

²⁶ Bessol 2024.

STRAINED RELATIONS WITH ARCTIC NATIONS

Retreating Arctic ice sheets presents a double-edged security risk: access to previously unreachable resources alongside the resurfacing of historical geopolitical tensions. Dormant maritime boundary disputes with Russia, for example, could be reignited as competition for oil, gas, and mineral deposits intensifies.²⁷ This potential resource rush, absent a unified approach to sustainable development, could lead to a zero-sum competition between Arctic nations, jeopardizing the fragile Arctic ecosystem. These strained relations could hinder cooperation on crucial issues like mitigating climate change and ensuring effective search and operations within the Arctic.

INCREASED MILITARY ACTION

Taking into consideration previously mentioned threats, increased military activity in the Arctic due to competition between major powers could put pressure on Norway to bolster its own defenses. Norway's cooperation with NATO in the Arctic is seen by some as a provocation to Russia.²⁸ The risk of being drawn into a larger conflict could divert resources away from other priorities and further strain relations with neighboring countries.²⁹ While Norway's peacekeeping expertise positions it to play a vital role in the Arctic, it must carefully navigate these potential risks. Balancing economic interests with environmental protection, diversifying its economy, and fostering peaceful cooperation with all Arctic nations are crucial steps in ensuring a stable and sustainable future for the region.

MILESTONE 4: CONCLUSIONS

JANTELOVEN AND HOW IT SHAPES NORWAY'S PEACEKEEPING APPROACH

One could argue that Norway's dedication to international peacebuilding stems from a core set of principles deeply rooted in its national identity. Janteloven, the unwritten "Law of Jante," is a deeply engrained Nordic concept that emphasizes social equality and discourages ostentation. This cultural theory translates to the international stage, shaping both internal and external perspectives. Janteloven fosters a commitment to international order based on mutual respect and cooperation. It compels Norway to seek peaceful resolutions and avoid unilateral actions that might disrupt the balance of power. Internally, Janteloven fosters a collaborative decision-making process within the government, encouraging a focus on finding common ground

²⁷ United States Environmental Protection Agency, "Climate Change Indicators: Arctic Glaciers," July 21, 2023.

²⁸ "Norway takes control of the Arctic Council at an especially troubled time." Bellona, May 30, 2023.

²⁹ Andreas Østhagen, "For Norway, the risk of conflict in the Arctic has increased." The Arctic Institute, October 20, 2022.

and building consensus – a valuable approach when facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties.

However, Janteloven's emphasis on modesty can also present challenges. In situations requiring decisive action or assertiveness, Norway's commitment to consensus might lead to a reluctance to take a strong stance, potentially hindering its effectiveness in certain conflict resolution scenarios. Moreover, the link between Janteloven and Norway's peacekeeping is limited. Further exploration is needed to fully understand the nuances of this connection. For example, examining how Janteloven interacts with other core Norwegian values, such as fairness and a strong sense of social justice would be valuable. Additionally, in-depth studies of specific peacekeeping missions could reveal how Janteloven's principles manifest in real-world scenarios.

CONCLUSION

Norway's long-standing commitment to international peace and security positions it to play a vital role in shaping a peaceful and sustainable future for the Arctic. The principles it has honed over decades – local ownership, inclusivity, and a willingness to learn from past efforts – provide a strong foundation for navigating the unique security challenges of this region. Norway's leadership within the Arctic Council empowers it to champion sustainable development and address emerging threats collaboratively. However, striking a balance between economic interests and environmental protection remains crucial. Norway must diversify its economy and be a leader in transitioning towards renewable energy sources. Further research is needed to explore how best to adapt these peacekeeping principles to the specificities of the Arctic, where traditional warfare is not the primary concern. Could Norway play a mediating role in potential resource conflicts caused by receding ice? How can its experience promote peaceful cooperation on issues like climate change and search and rescue operations? By effectively utilizing its peacekeeping expertise and fostering a spirit of cooperation, Norway has the potential to ensure a stable and secure future for the Arctic, with benefits extending far beyond the region itself.

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