

Norwegians in the Middle East

Norwegians have traveled to the Middle East for various reasons over the years. Some were employed in the oil industry after World War II. From 1978 to 1988 many Norwegians served in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), at the frontline with Israel. Norwegians traveled to the Middle East also to join kibbutzim in Israel or perform solidarity work with the Palestinians, placing themselves in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict even before the Oslo Accords. What are the various motivations for Norwegians to travel to the Middle East? What experience do they bring with them back home? Have they influenced attitudes towards conflicts in the region? Do they change views of immigrant communities in Norway? And, more generally, do Norwegians traveling to the Middle East affect relationships between Norway and the Middle East?

Some general themes for master's theses under this rubric include:

- UNIFIL soldiers in South Lebanon
- Peace observers in Hebron (Temporary International Presence in Hebron)
- Norwegian ex-pats in the oil industry
- Norwegian Solidarity work in Palestine and Lebanon

NB: The proposed themes are only meant to illustrate a range of possible topics. Students are also encouraged to bring in their own proposals and interests.