

A NATION DIVIDED: What can we learn from the Nordics?

Book talk and discussion with George Lakey

In the 1930s Sweden and Norway were even more polarized than the U.S. is now. The far right and the far left battled for control of the countries' economic and political direction. By the 1950s they'd reached consensus and were in the top tier of international ratings for freedom and shared abundance. Author George Lakey tells secrets of their success, from his book *Viking Economics*.

Sweden and Norway share with Iceland and Denmark the Nordic economic model, even though only Norway struck oil. Their sixty-year track record brings them top billings: "best place in the world to be a senior," "best place to be a mom," best educational system, "more start-ups per capita than the U.S."

They are not utopia and they do make mistakes, as revealed in a book Bill McKibben calls "completely fascinating" and Frances Moore Lappé calls "fun to read and just what Americans need right now." Lakey believes these small countries made themselves into laboratories that the whole world can learn from.

George Lakey, a sociologist and former Swarthmore professor, will share from his newest book, "***Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians got it right and how we can, too,***" published in July by Melville House (NY & London).

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