

**Norwegian Royal Discourse on Defending Democratic Values
in Times of Crisis**

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Abstract:

Given the recent changes taking place all over the world, focusing on the perception of democracy in today's Norway can foster a better understanding of how democracy can be strengthened. This research provides a comparative analysis of King Harald V's New Year's speeches between 2022 and 2024 in order to identify democratic values promoted in the royal discourse. By employing a mixed-method approach, we have analysed the selected corpus qualitatively with content analysis structured on thematic organization. Focus is placed on elements referring to democracy, other key themes and recurrent sets of pronouns and adverbs. Findings indicate that all the three speeches articulate democratic values and frame democracy as an integral part of Norway's identity.

Keywords: royal discourse, Norwegian cultural values, democracy, solidarity, Norwegian identity