Content of today's lecture

1st half: From no man's land to part of Norway
- Terra nullius: no man's land
- The Swedish initiative to annex Spitsbergen
- The Norwegian quest for sovereignty
- The Svalbard Treaty

2nd half: Hot war, cold war, post war
- Svalbard during World War II
- Svalbard in the shadow of the cold war
- The strategic importance of Svalbard

Problem: How has the legal, political and strategic situation changed over time, and why?

Terra nullius: No man's land
- The law of the sea: Hugo Grotius and "De Mare Libero" (1609)
- "King James His New Land" (1613)
- Danish-Norwegian pretensions 1614–16
- Peaceful co-existence after 1618
- Svalbard recognized as no man's land
- The notion of an international commons
  - Joint resource exploitation by many actors
  - Customary law, codes of behaviour

An international Spitsbergen treaty?
- The Swedish initiative 1871–72
- Norwegian aspirations in the 1890s
- Norway’s divorce from Sweden in 1905; an independent foreign policy
- The "Spitsbergen question": need for an administrative arrangement
- Three Spitsbergen conferences 1910–14
- The "small steps" policy of Norway
- World War I: new opportunities
- The Svalbard Treaty of 9 February 1920
The Treaty: Limited sovereignty?

- § 1: "Full and absolute sovereignty"
- § 2: Equal rights to hunting and fishing; environmental protection
- § 3: Equal rights of access and to "commercial activities"
- §§ 4 & 5: On radio stations and science
- §§ 6 & 7: Recognition of property rights
- § 8: Mining Code; limits to taxation
- § 9: Peaceful utilization (non-militarized)
- § 10: Securing Russian and others' rights

Svalbard between the world wars

- Why Norway? Or, why not?
- Making the best of it: Norwegian maneuvers 1920–1925
  - Securing relations to Germany and Soviet Russia
  - The Mining Code
  - The Spitsbergen Commissioner and arrangement of property rights 1925–27
- 1925: Spitsbergen becomes Svalbard
- "Bilateralization": Soviet-Norwegian relations in the inter-war period

15 minutes break
**World War II: a turning point**

- Svalbard and the outbreak of the war in 1940
- Evacuation in August–September 1941
- The “Fritham” expedition 1942: Establishing a Norwegian garrison
- The “weather war”: Svalbard’s strategic significance
- The German attack on 8 September 1943
- The “Spitsbergen Crisis”: The Soviet proposition in November 1944 and the aftermath

**Svalbard in the squeeze**

- Norwegian NATO membership 1949, including Svalbard 1951
- The Soviet North Fleet build-up after 1962
- The low-tension policy of Norway
- Small scale crises:
  - The airport issue 1958–1975
  - The Caltex/Arktikugol issue 1961–1965
  - The ESRO issue 1964–1969
- Kapp Heer and the Hopen accident 1978
- Development of local relations: Arctic glasnost in the 1980-90s, tension in 2000s

**New developments**

- Delimitation of the continental shelves
  - UNCLOS (1982): Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
- Barents Sea delimitation agreement between Russia and Norway in 2010
- Global warming affects the Arctic
  - New opportunities and threats
- Increased Russian activity in the north; “new” nations present in the Arctic
  - Is Svalbard becoming more exposed?
So, what about Svalbard?

- Until World War II Svalbard was of little military strategic significance
- The Cold War and development of nuclear arms technology increased the importance of the Polar Sea and Arctic areas
- The Svalbard Treaty and the low-tension policy have worked reasonably well
- Svalbard’s strategic importance today:
  - Environmental research and monitoring
  - Ownership and management of resources
  - New transport routes and SAR capabilities