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Norwegian Neutralist Newspaper

The Norwegian left-wing, neutralist fortnightly paper Orientering was first published on a regular basis in early 1953. Its backers had hoped to make it a weekly but a lack of funds prevented this plan from materializing.

The announced purpose of the paper, outlined in its trial issue of December 1952, is to present to Norwegians an objective discussion of internal and external Norwegian policy issues and to fulfill a need not now supplied by the essentially party press. While contending that it opposes the present course of Norwegian foreign policy and while being consistently anti-American in its views, it advocates a fuller and freer public debate of national issues--something, it avers, that has been prevented by the strong party discipline and by the similarity in the views of the major party leaders.

Orientering is the organ of Andelslaget Orientering, a leftist Socialist, neutralist group incorporated in early 1953. This group is the result of a merger of three left-wing Socialist groups into one neutralist organization: the left-wing Independent Labor Party Group of Oslo, The Way Forward and Jakob Friis' Independent Norwegian League, the counterpart of the Committee for the Promotion of Independent Danish Foreign Policy.

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Orientering appears to lean heavily on the support of about 50 regular contributors, with an occasional new contributor joining. Among the mainstays are Jakob Friis, left-wing Socialist, Sigurd Evensmo, August Lange and Vilhelm Aubert.

It has been accused of having been financed by the Communists. Its influence is limited largely to the Oslo area and is not great.

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