

Karsten ALNÆS

Biography



Karsten Alnæs (born 29 May 1938) [Norwegian](#) author, historian, and journalist, received advanced dual degrees in history, German, Norwegian and literature from the University of Oslo from 1957 till 1963. Before becoming a full-time author, he worked as a columnist, a critic of movies and literature as journalist and later as an editor of the cultural section in a daily newspaper in the capital. He taught at the Norwegian School of Journalism for 8 years and was later for 5 years the leader of the board for the College of professional studies, concerning journalism and information. His bibliography includes 16 novels, 3 children's books, a collection of novellas, and an equal number of non-fiction works.

A prolific author, Alnæs has had his novels chosen by the Norwegian Book Club. Several of his works have broken publishing records. He was awarded the [Brage Prize](#) in 1992 for the novel *Trollbyen*,^[1] and the honorary prize in 2003 for the cultural impact of his literary work.^[2] He received the [Dobloug Prize](#) in 1998.

His series *The History of Norway* (5 volumes; 1996–2000) received the Sverre Steen Prize of the Norwegian Historical Society and topped the bestseller list for non-fiction in Norway. It became the basis of a TV-series, with Alnæs as host and director. The 16 programs were telecast nationwide by NRK, with a record-breaking number of viewers.

His book series *The History of Europe* (4 volumes; 2003–2006) has been translated into several languages. Like its predecessor, it is still in print.

Alnæs was twice elected president of the [Norwegian Authors' Association](#) 1985–1987 and 1999–2001, and has long been active in PEN International. He is a popular speaker on the international lecture circuit and serves as a representative for the Scandinavian countries on the European Cultural Parliament.

He was born in [Hønefoss](#), and is a [cand.philol.](#) by education.