

IREb2014

CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

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Fall 2020-2021

Session 11: Introduction to Switzerland

Introduction to Switzerland



2

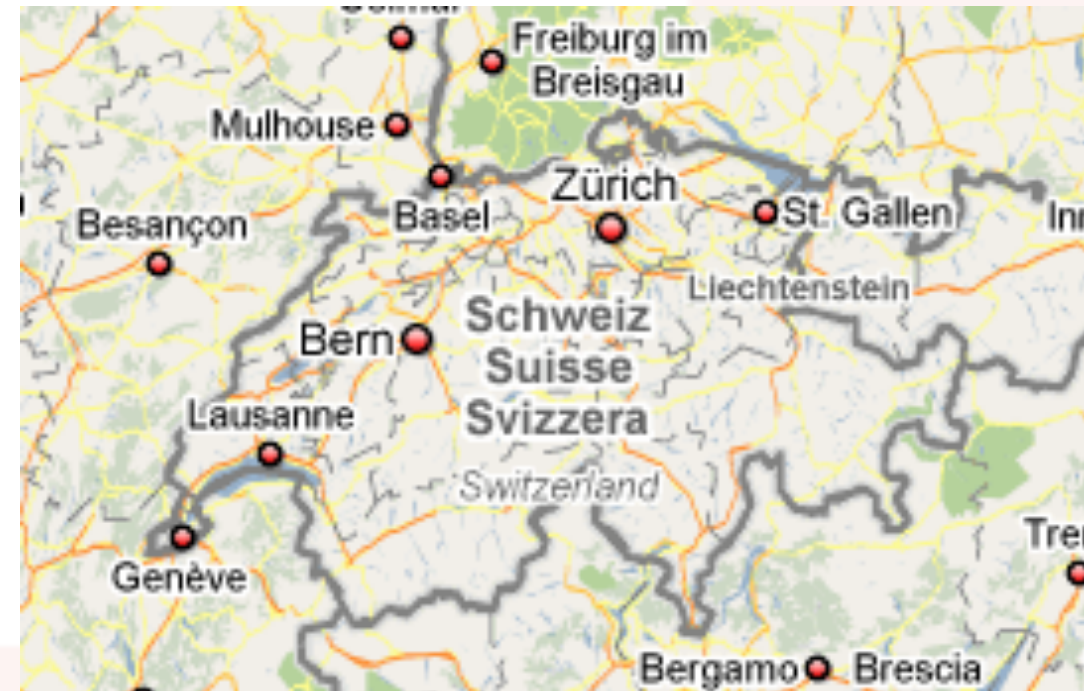
- Facts and Figures
 - The Swiss Cantons
 - Linguistic Diversity

- Economy

- Neutrality

- Political System
 - Referendums and Initiatives

- Switzerland and the EU



Facts and Figures

3

- **Landlocked** alpine country in Western Europe
- 41,285 square km (half the size of Austria)
- **Bern:** Administrative capita, **Lausanne:** judicial center
- **Zurich:** Major metropolitan, **Geneva:** Headquarters of many N/GOs, including the **UN**
- **Heidi-** J. Spyri, 1881
- Rich, neutral, stable



Facts and Figures



4

	Prague Edit	Zurich Edit	Difference
✂ Restaurants			
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	150.00 Kč (6.14 Fr.)	610.41 Kč (25.00 Fr.)	+306.94 %
Meal for 2 People, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	800.00 Kč (32.76 Fr.)	2,441.63 Kč (100.00 Fr.)	+205.20 %
McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal)	150.00 Kč (6.14 Fr.)	366.25 Kč (15.00 Fr.)	+144.16 %
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	41.00 Kč (1.68 Fr.)	170.91 Kč (7.00 Fr.)	+316.86 %
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	50.00 Kč (2.05 Fr.)	146.50 Kč (6.00 Fr.)	+193.00 %
Cappuccino (regular)	55.62 Kč (2.28 Fr.)	122.39 Kč (5.01 Fr.)	+120.06 %
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	36.03 Kč (1.48 Fr.)	110.56 Kč (4.53 Fr.)	+206.82 %
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	28.30 Kč (1.16 Fr.)	98.48 Kč (4.03 Fr.)	+247.98 %
🛒 Markets			
Milk (regular), (1 liter)	20.56 Kč (0.84 Fr.)	39.95 Kč (1.64 Fr.)	+94.29 %
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	25.78 Kč (1.06 Fr.)	68.52 Kč (2.81 Fr.)	+165.76 %
Rice (white), (1kg)	38.23 Kč (1.57 Fr.)	70.10 Kč (2.87 Fr.)	+83.39 %
Eggs (regular) (12)	45.08 Kč (1.85 Fr.)	134.24 Kč (5.50 Fr.)	+197.78 %
Local Cheese (1kg)	226.94 Kč (9.29 Fr.)	558.66 Kč (22.88 Fr.)	+146.17 %
Chicken Fillets (1kg)	152.56 Kč (6.25 Fr.)	680.40 Kč (27.87 Fr.)	+346.00 %
Beef Round (1kg) (or Equivalent Back Leg Red Meat)	241.06 Kč (9.87 Fr.)	1,205.44 Kč (49.37 Fr.)	+400.07 %
Apples (1kg)	37.57 Kč (1.54 Fr.)	92.22 Kč (3.78 Fr.)	+145.45 %
Banana (1kg)	33.35 Kč (1.37 Fr.)	65.45 Kč (2.68 Fr.)	+96.27 %
Oranges (1kg)	41.55 Kč (1.70 Fr.)	81.79 Kč (3.35 Fr.)	+96.87 %
Tomato (1kg)	54.63 Kč (2.24 Fr.)	104.26 Kč (4.27 Fr.)	+90.83 %
Potato (1kg)	24.48 Kč (1.00 Fr.)	60.02 Kč (2.46 Fr.)	+145.15 %
Onion (1kg)	21.32 Kč (0.87 Fr.)	62.43 Kč (2.56 Fr.)	+192.86 %
Lettuce (1 head)	26.55 Kč (1.09 Fr.)	58.99 Kč (2.42 Fr.)	+122.17 %
Water (1.5 liter bottle)	15.22 Kč (0.62 Fr.)	26.32 Kč (1.08 Fr.)	+72.98 %

	Prague Edit	Zurich Edit	Difference
🚴 Sports And Leisure			
Fitness Club, Monthly Fee for 1 Adult	924.31 Kč (37.86 Fr.)	2,140.81 Kč (87.68 Fr.)	+131.61 %
Tennis Court Rent (1 Hour on Weekend)	336.51 Kč (13.78 Fr.)	843.06 Kč (34.53 Fr.)	+150.53 %
Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat	200.00 Kč (8.19 Fr.)	488.33 Kč (20.00 Fr.)	+144.16 %
👶 Childcare			
Preschool (or Kindergarten), Full Day, Private, Monthly for 1 Child	15,290.34 Kč (626.23 Fr.)	62,801.40 Kč (2,572.10 Fr.)	+310.73 %
International Primary School, Yearly for 1 Child	257,085.07 Kč (10,529.22 Fr.)	772,925.03 Kč (31,656.05 Fr.)	+200.65 %
👕 Clothing And Shoes			
1 Pair of Jeans (Levis 501 Or Similar)	1,762.74 Kč (72.20 Fr.)	2,499.42 Kč (102.37 Fr.)	+41.79 %
1 Summer Dress in a Chain Store (Zara, H&M, ...)	861.40 Kč (35.28 Fr.)	1,263.46 Kč (51.75 Fr.)	+46.67 %
1 Pair of Nike Running Shoes (Mid-Range)	1,929.65 Kč (79.03 Fr.)	2,695.90 Kč (110.41 Fr.)	+39.71 %
1 Pair of Men Leather Business Shoes	2,468.81 Kč (101.11 Fr.)	3,994.18 Kč (163.59 Fr.)	+61.79 %
🏠 Rent Per Month			
Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	19,273.91 Kč (789.39 Fr.)	47,441.53 Kč (1,943.02 Fr.)	+146.14 %
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre	14,957.71 Kč (612.61 Fr.)	34,793.29 Kč (1,425.00 Fr.)	+132.61 %
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre	33,648.68 Kč (1,378.12 Fr.)	90,125.04 Kč (3,691.18 Fr.)	+167.84 %
Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre	23,308.99 Kč (954.65 Fr.)	62,380.79 Kč (2,554.88 Fr.)	+167.63 %
🏠 Buy Apartment Price			
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Centre	135,672.40 Kč (5,556.62 Fr.)	315,814.97 Kč (12,934.57 Fr.)	+132.78 %
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of Centre	91,197.84 Kč (3,735.11 Fr.)	204,760.79 Kč (8,386.22 Fr.)	+124.52 %
💰 Salaries And Financing			
Average Monthly Net Salary (After Tax)	31,238.34 Kč (1,279.40 Fr.)	160,263.89 Kč (6,563.79 Fr.)	+413.04 %

Facts and Figures



5

- Switzerland **borders five countries**: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein
- **Territory**: 35.9% agricultural land, 31.3% forests & woodlands, 7.5% settlements + urban areas, trade, industry, transport, etc.
 - **Glaciers** cover roughly 3% of Switzerland's surface area: **receded** over time
- Alps: Greatest **mountain range system** of Europe, stretching from Austria to France
- Switzerland has around **1,500 lakes**

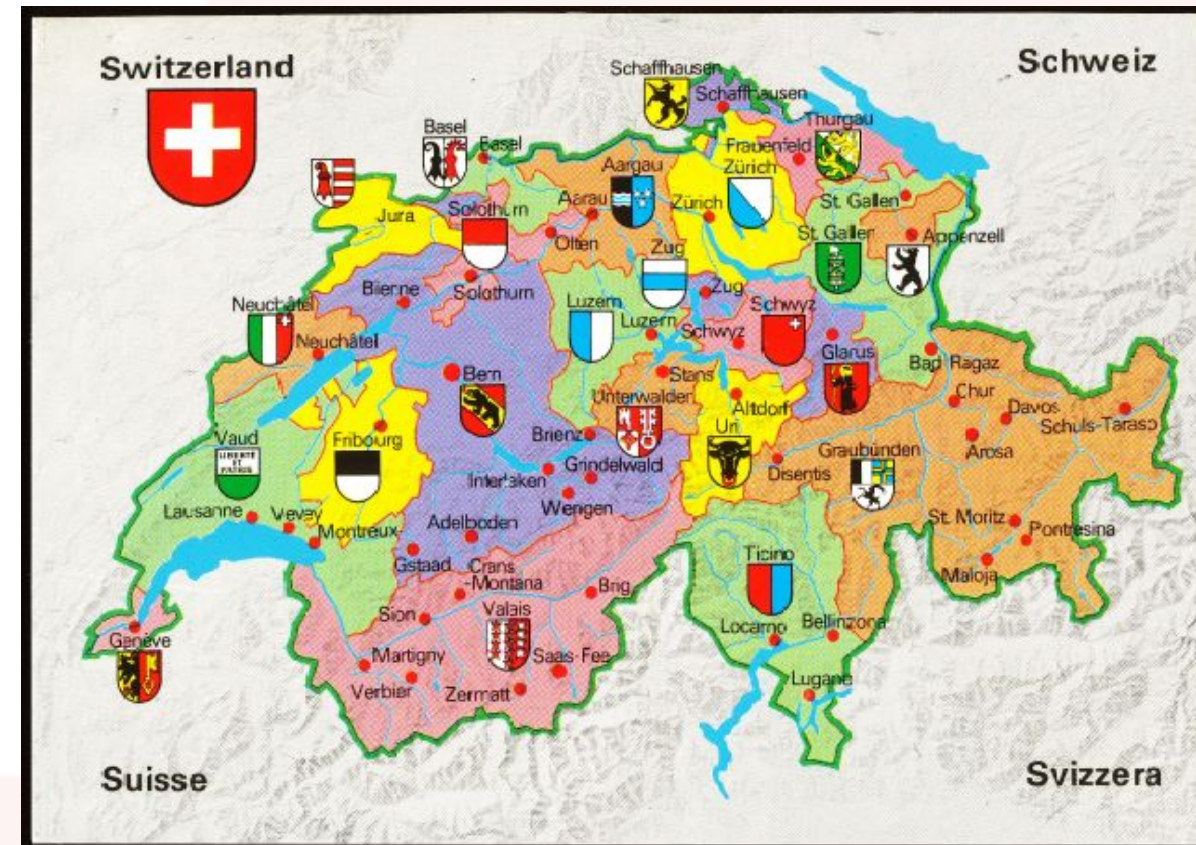


Facts and Figures



6

- Originated in the **Confoederatio Helvetica** (Swiss Confederation, 1291)
- 1848: a **new constitution** adopted => Switzerland was formed
- Since mid 19th century: relative **domestic tranquility** + organization remained essentially the same:
 - Union of more than 3k **municipalities** situated in **26 cantons**: Units of **local government**
 - Three **cantons** (Unterwalden, Basel, Appenzell) are divided into **demi** (half) **cantons**, function as full **cantons**



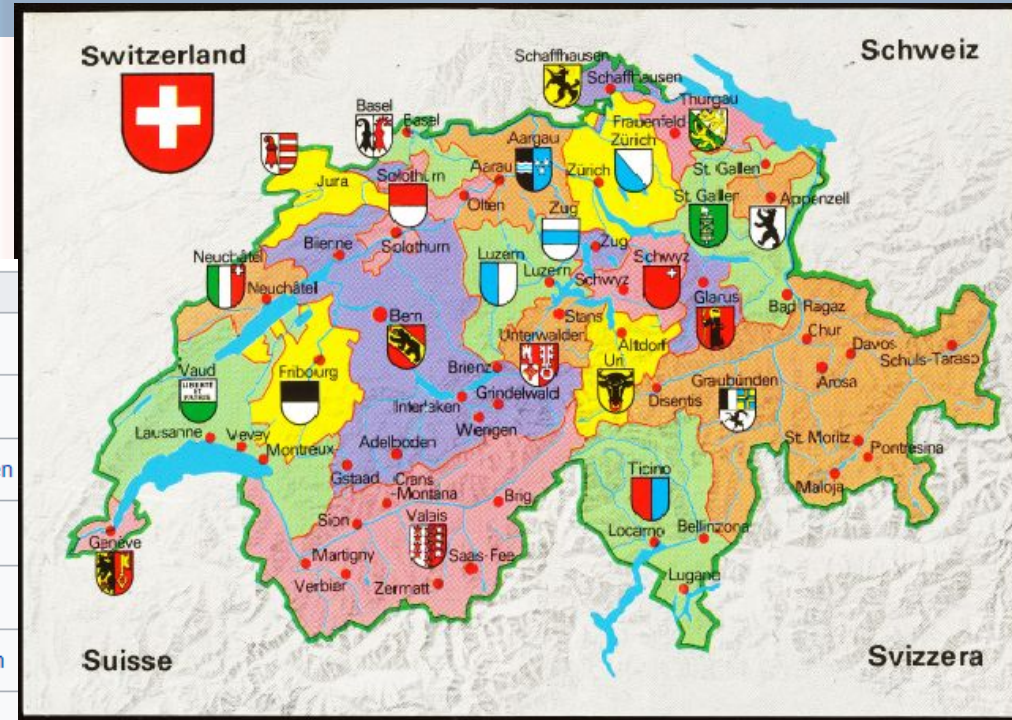
The Swiss Cantons



7

- Each **canton** has its own **capital, legislature, executive + judiciary**

Canton	Capital	Canton	Capital
 Aargau	Aarau	 Nidwalden	Stans
 Appenzell Ausserrhoden	Herisau	 Obwalden	Sarnen
 Appenzell Innerrhoden	Appenzell	 Schaffhausen	Schaffhausen
 Basel-Landschaft	Liestal	 Schwyz	Schwyz
 Basel-Stadt	Basel	 Solothurn	Solothurn
 Bern	Bern	 St. Gallen	Sankt Gallen
 Fribourg	Fribourg	 Thurgau	Frauenfeld
 Genève	Genève	 Ticino	Bellinzona
 Glarus	Glarus	 Uri	Altdorf
 Graubünden	Chur	 Valais/Wallis	Sion
 Jura	Delémont	 Vaud	Lausanne
 Luzern	Luzern	 Zug	Zug
 Neuchâtel	Neuchâtel	 Zürich	Zürich



7

The Swiss Cantons



8

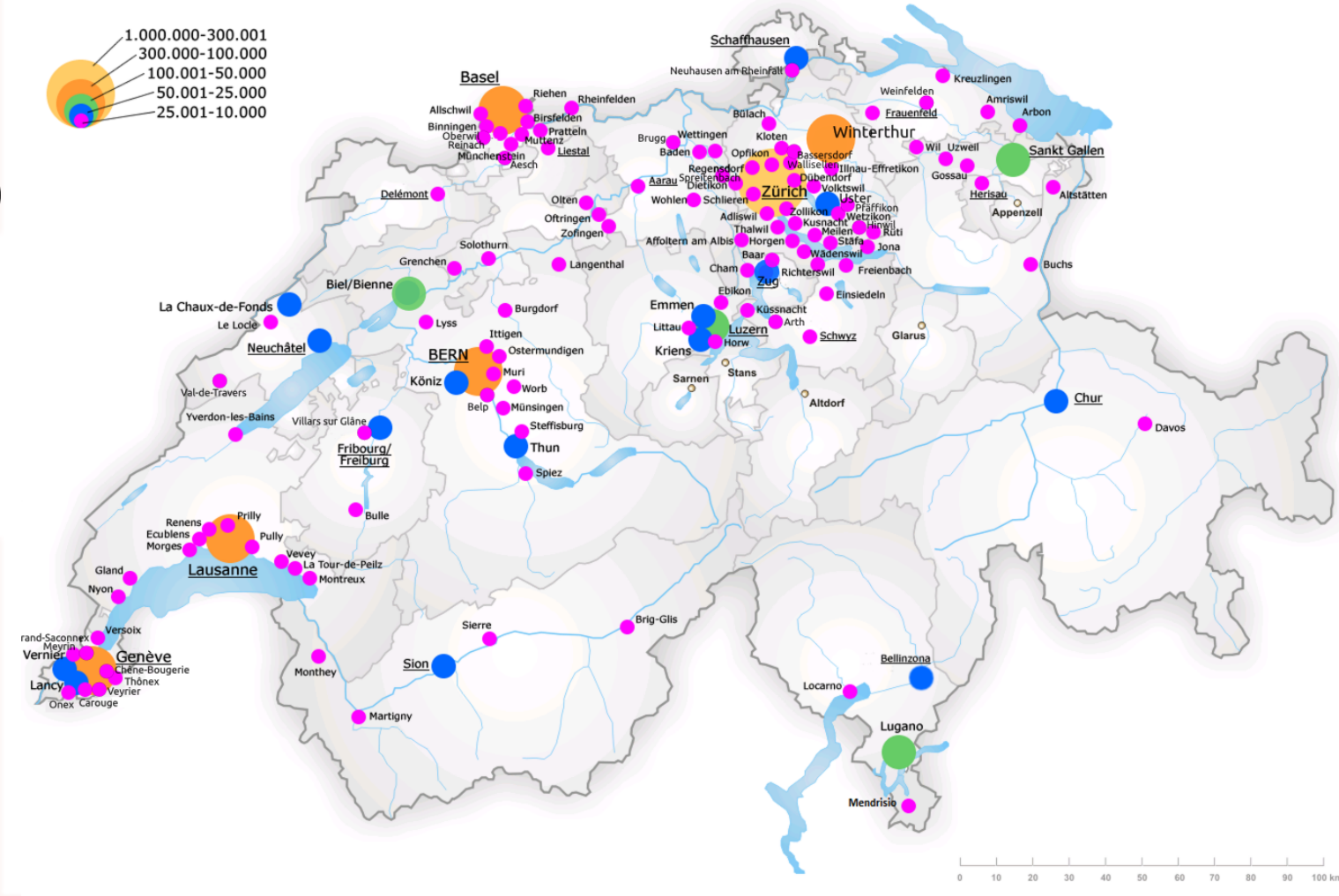
- **Federalism** gives the Cantons **political autonomy**: Self-govern + influence in **federal decision-making**
- **Constitutional amendments** require a **majority of Cantons** => Protects small, rural Cantons
 - Yet, federalism only protects **minorities** constituting a **political majority** in a canton
- The '**capital of direct democracy**': **citizens** can **participate** at **every level of politics** (including referenda + public initiatives)
 - Swiss taxes are rather low by European standards
 - Political decision making tends to be slow

Facts and Figures

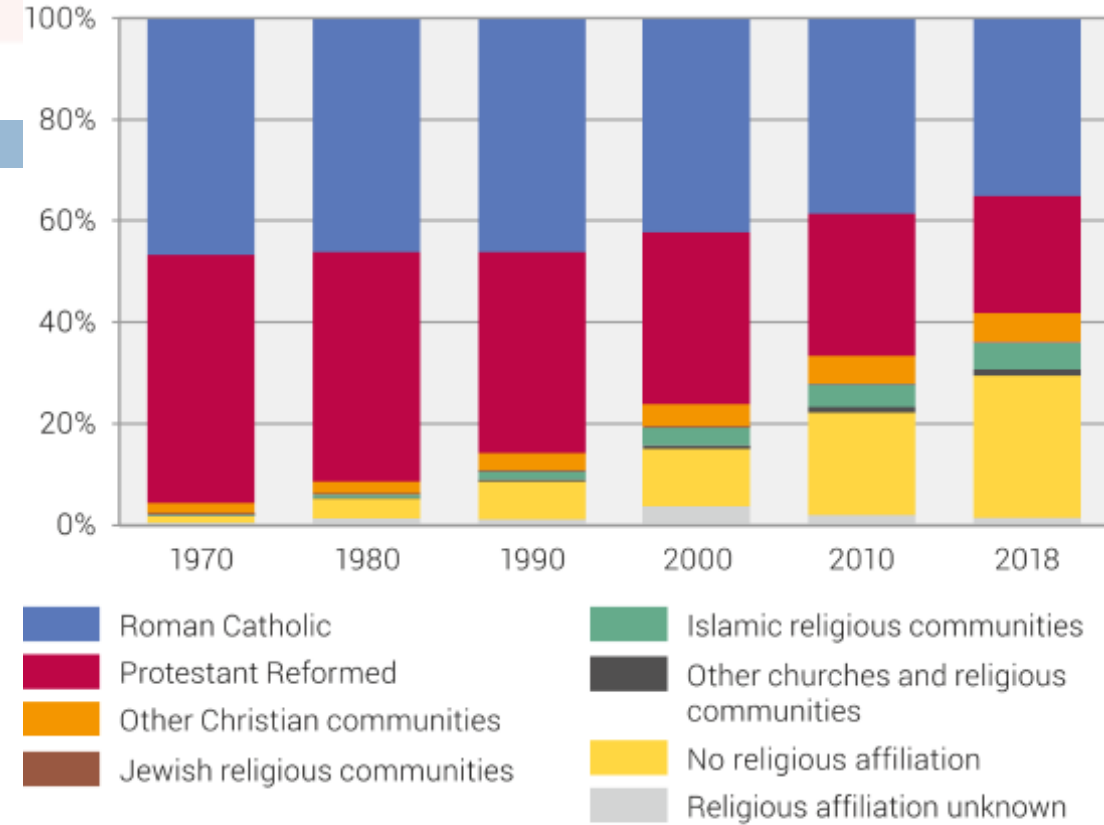


Population Centers =>

- **8.65 million residents (2020)**
- **Zürich:** Largest metropolitan
- **Bern:** Admin capital
- **Basel, Geneva, Lucerne, Lausanne, Lugano, Montreux and St. Gallen**



Permanent resident population 15 years or over



Sources: FSO – FPC (1970–2000), Structural Survey (SS, 2010–2018)

© FSO 2020

Facts and Figures

Religion =>

- Freedom of religion: Constitutional right
- Predominantly **Christian** country (Roman Catholics > Protestants: Reformed Evangelists)
 - Other Christian denominations: 6%, largest group: Orthodox Church
- **Current trends:**
 - Number of people with **no religious affiliation** has gone up (1% in 1970, 24% in 2017)
 - **Diversification of the religious landscape:** >5% Muslims, <1% Jewish

Linguistic Diversity



11

- 4 national languages:
 - Swiss German, French, Italian, Romansh
- 3 official: German, French, Italian
- German spoken in Germany and Austria is NOT the same as **Swiss-German**
- English is widely spoken



Linguistic Diversity



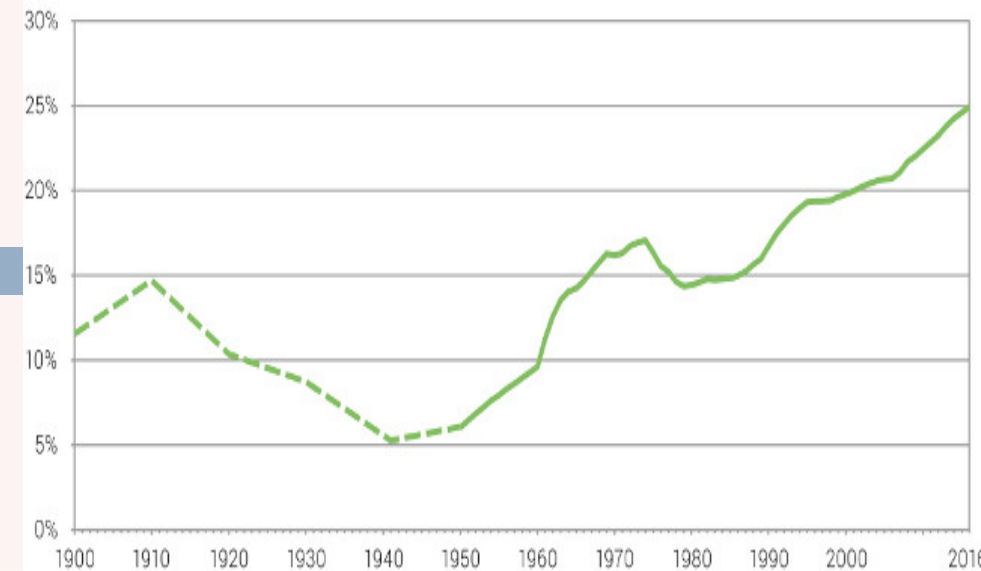
12

English	German	French	Italian	Romansh
Switzerland	Schweiz	Suisse	Svizzera	Svizra
Year	das Jahr	l'année	l'anno	igl onn
Noon	der Mittag	midi	il mezzogiorno	il miezdi
Monday	Montag	Lundi	lunedì	gliendischdis
Breakfast	das Frühstück	le petit déjeuner	la colazione	l'ensolver

Facts and Figures

13

- Number of foreigners in Switzerland increased at a **faster rate than the number of Swiss natives**
 - Positive net migration responsible for population growth
- More than 2.1 million foreigners reside in Switzerland (24.5% of the total population)
 - The majority of foreigners residing permanently in Switzerland (68%) are European (EU/EFTA)
- **Italian, German, Portuguese** and **French** nationals comprise the majority of foreigners from an EU/EFTA member state
- Children born to foreign citizens in Switzerland do **NOT** immediately receive citizenship



Sources: OFS - RFR, PETRA, ESPOP, STATPOP

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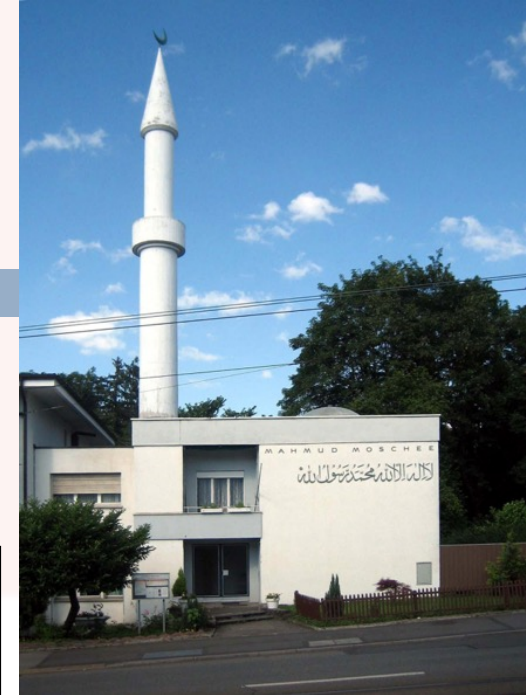
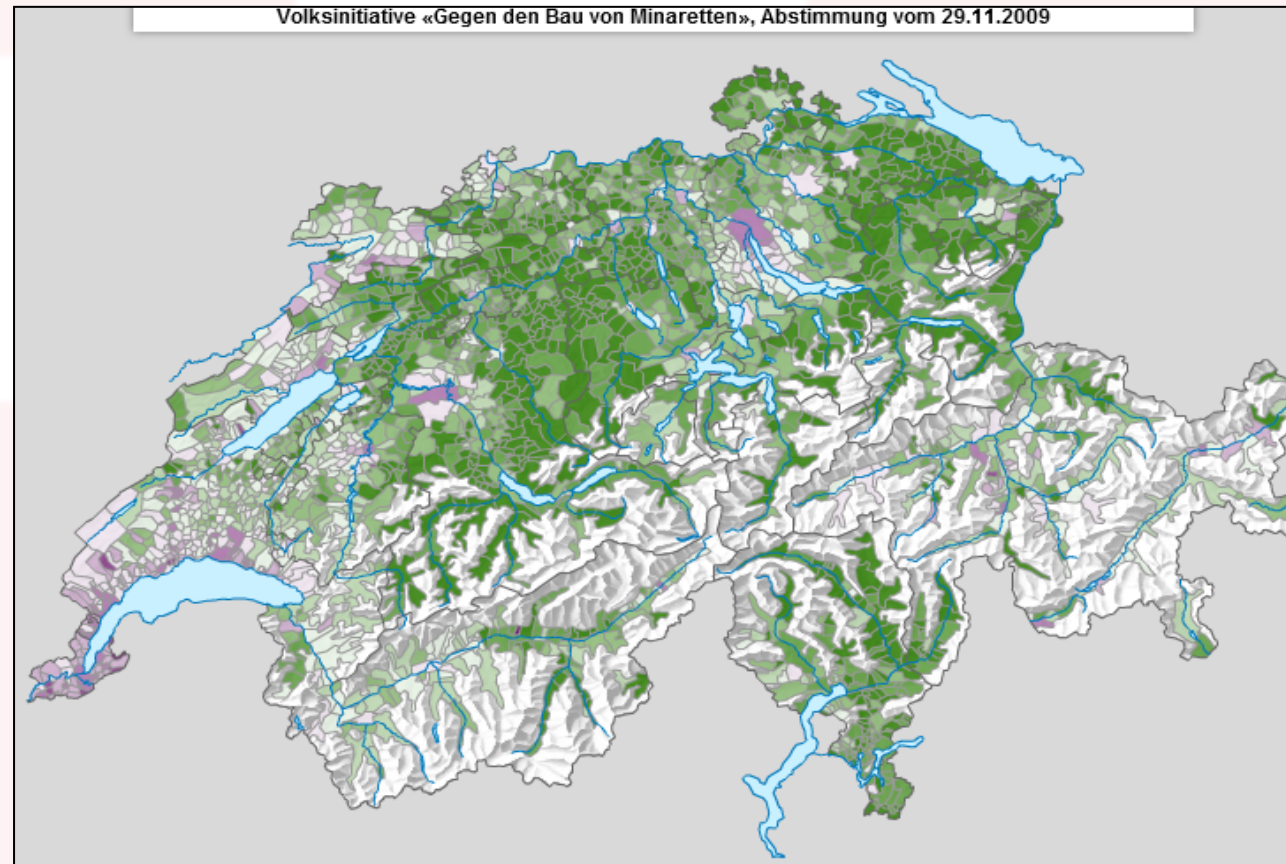
The Minaret Controversy

14

- Construction of **minarets** in Switzerland has been subject to **legal & political controversy**

- Constitutional amendment banning the construction of new minarets was approved by 57.5% (2009)**

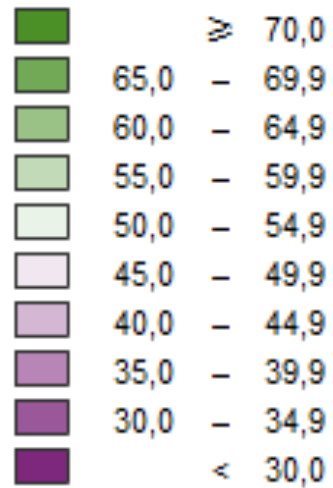
- 4/26 cantons **opposed** the initiative



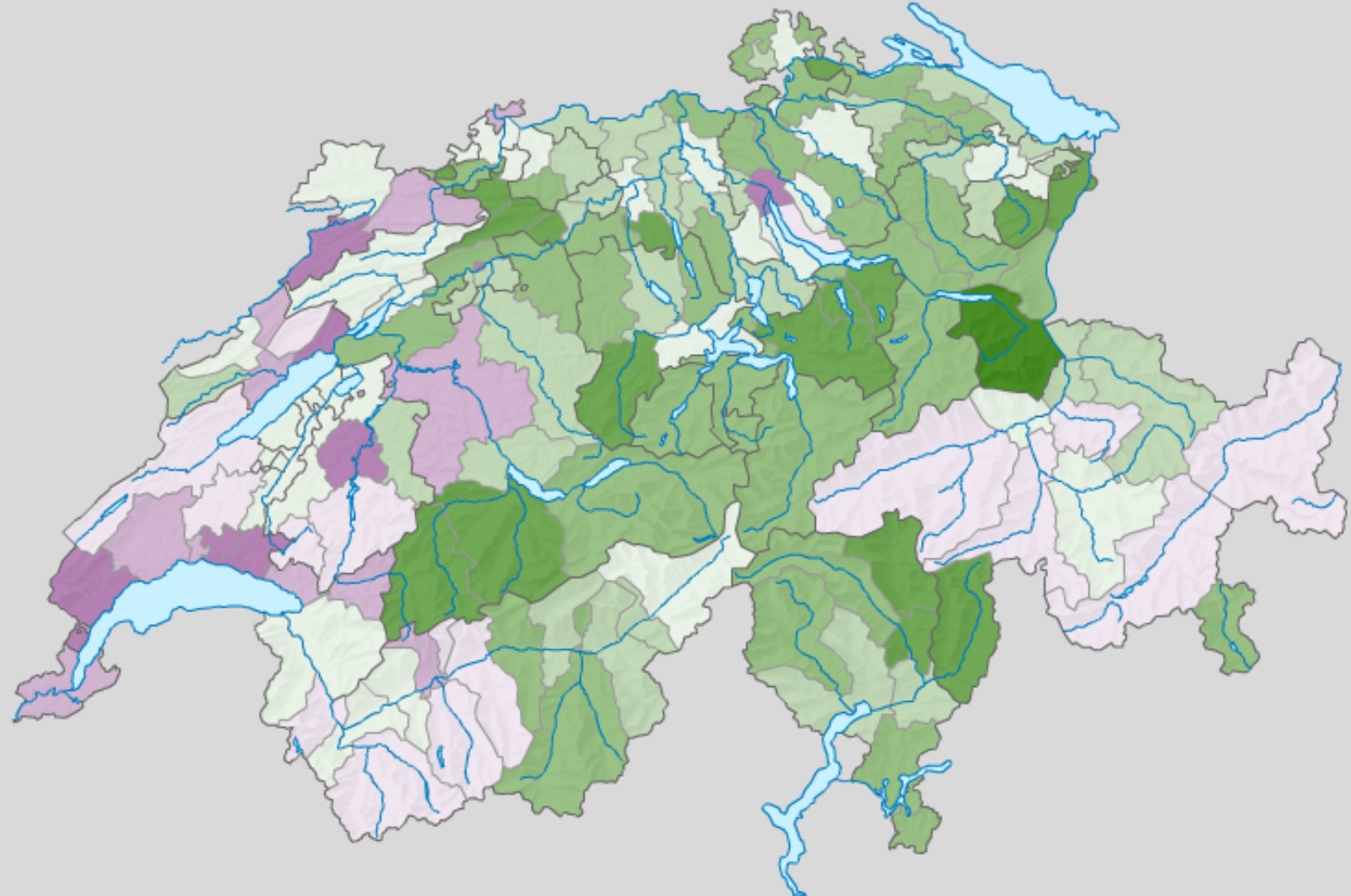
Send Criminal Foreigners Home

15

Ja-Stimmenanteil, in %



Volksinitiative «Für die Ausschaffung krimineller Ausländer», Abstimmung vom 28.11.2010



Endlich Sicherheit schaffen!



JA zur
Ausschaffung
krimineller
Ausländer

Facts and Figures

16

- Unique blend of **federalism** + **direct democracy**
- Major **economic power**:
 - Financial services
 - High-quality, specialized manufactures of items (e.g., clocks)
 - specialty foodstuffs (e.g., Emmentaler cheese)
- Fondue, army knife
- Among the world's **highest standards of living**



Economy

17

- Exports of **goods** and **services** account for nearly **two-thirds** of the country's GDP
 - **Main exports** => Machinery & equipment, chemical-pharmaceutical products, watches, textiles
 - **Main imports** => Manufactured goods, motor vehicles, chemical products, raw materials, food, vegetable oils, fuel
- Over 99% of Swiss firms are small + **medium-sized** enterprises
- **Public debt is low, competitive tax system + service sector** make Switzerland an attractive location for companies, including multinational corporations



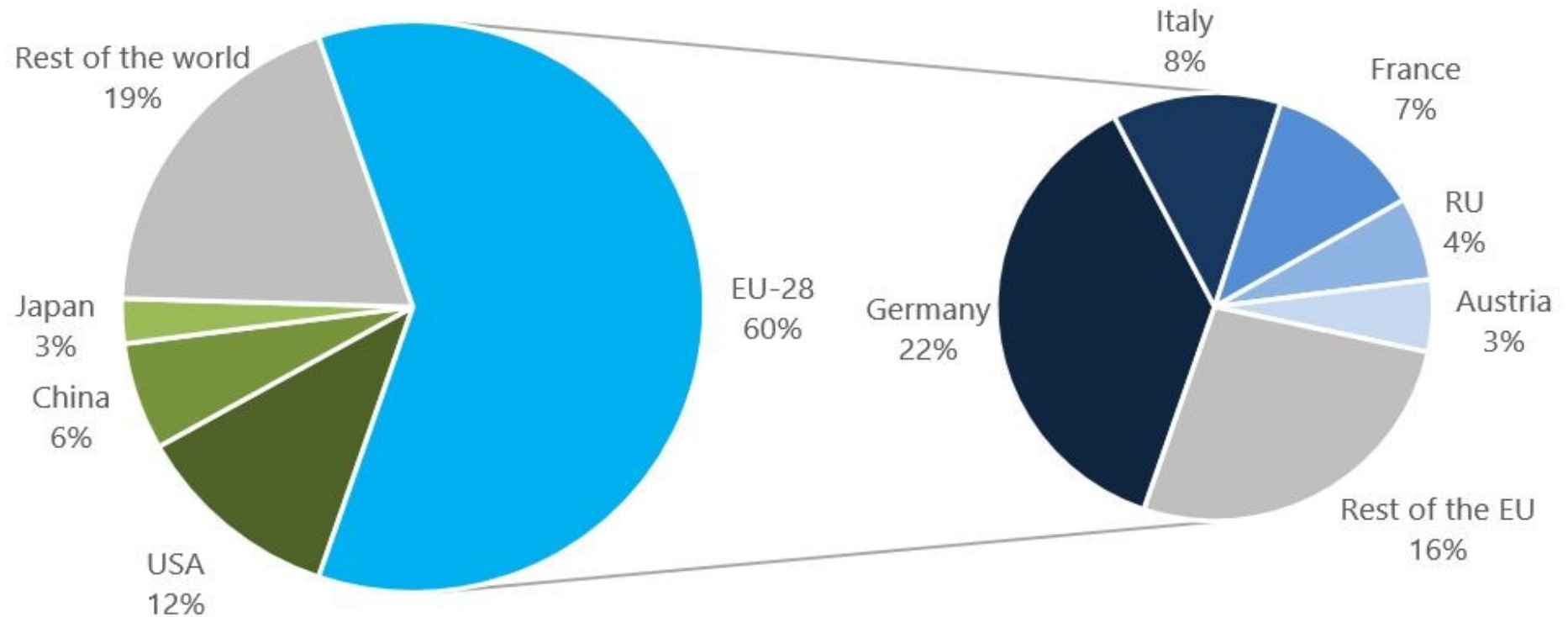
Economy



18

- **Export-oriented economy**
 - The **EU** is Switzerland's **main trading partner**, accounting for two-thirds of its total foreign trade

- Switzerland's largest economic partners by volume of trade (2018)



Neutrality



19

- **Neutrality: Cornerstone of Swiss foreign policy**
 - Formally recognised in **1815** (Congress of Vienna), **1907** (Hague Convention)
 - **No external armed conflicts/assistance**, NOT a member of any military alliances
- **Post Cold War-**
 - Switzerland took part in **economic sanctions** against Iraq (first Gulf War in 1991)
 - 1996: joined **NATO's Partnership for Peace** programme
 - 1999: Sent unarmed volunteers to support **peacekeeping** efforts in Kosovo
 - 2002: Joined the **UN**
- Deeply **engrained** in Switzerland's **collective psyche**, enjoys **wide popular support**, meant to secure **internal cohesion**

Neutrality



20

- **Neutrality doesn't mean NO military**
 - **Conscription for men**
- **Soldiers + reserves keep their arms at home**
- **Guns are part of the Swiss heritage**
 - **2011: Rejected** an initiative to ban army-issued **guns at home**, central **gun registry** + strict **licensing system** for the use of firearms
- **Cave-like constructions in mountains for military purposes: hold arms, supplies, fighter jets**



Natural Disasters/Hazards



21

25.01.1946, Wallis
earthquake $I_0=8$ $M_w=6.1$



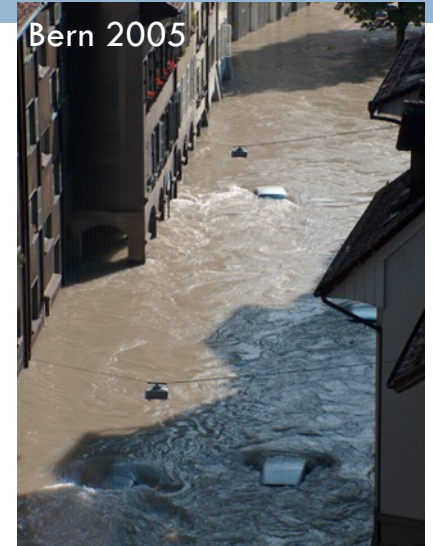
2003, Forestfire Loèche, Wallis



23.10.2002 - Randa rockfall, Wallis



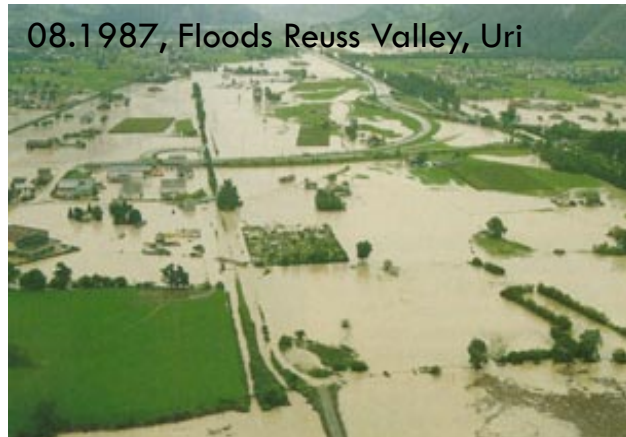
Bern 2005



7.02.2003, Snow avalanche,
Walenstadt, St. Gallen



08.1987, Floods Reuss Valley, Uri



01.06.1994, Landslide Falli Hölli,
Freiburg



Brienz 2005

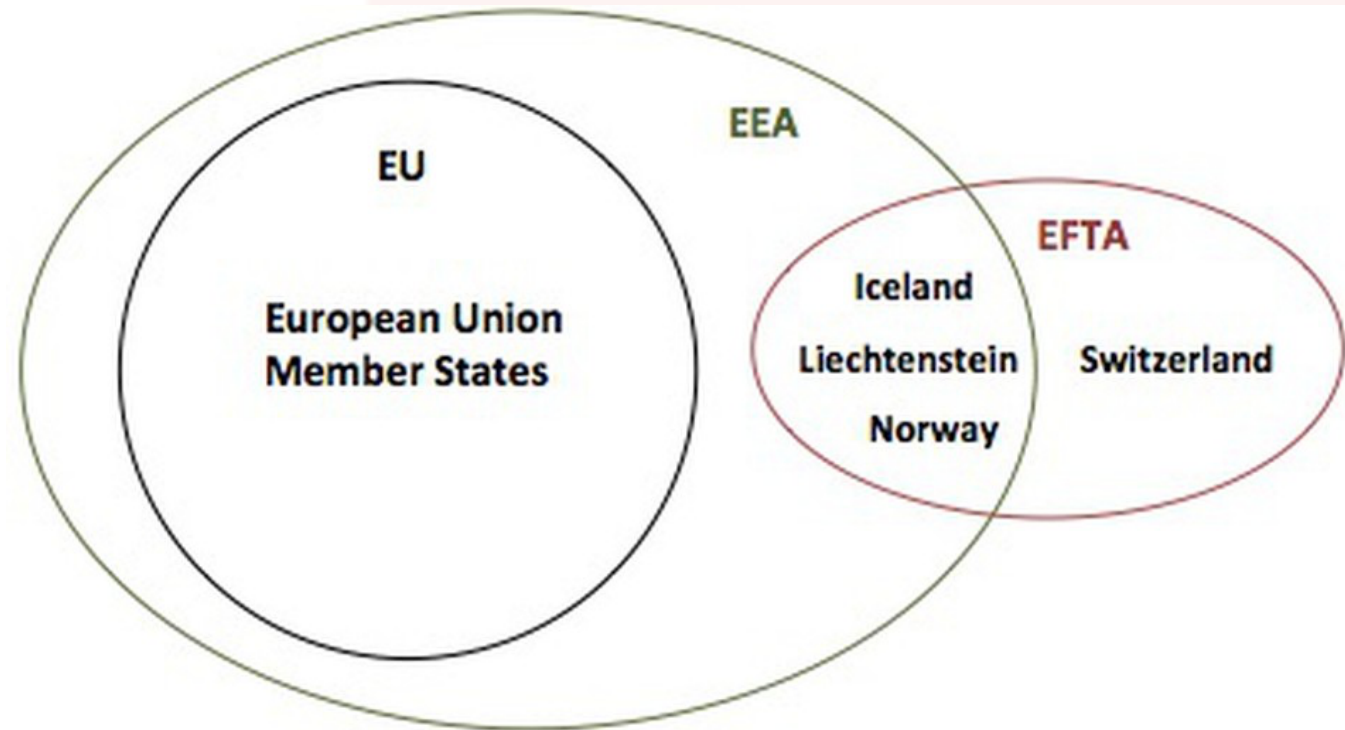


Switzerland and the EU



22

- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA), intergovernmental organisation (1960)
 - Promotion of **free trade** + **economic integration** between its Member States within Europe and globally
- EFTA does **NOT**:
 - Envision political integration
 - Issue legislation
 - Establishes a customs union
- EFTA members maintain the **full right** to enter **bilateral**, third-country **arrangements**



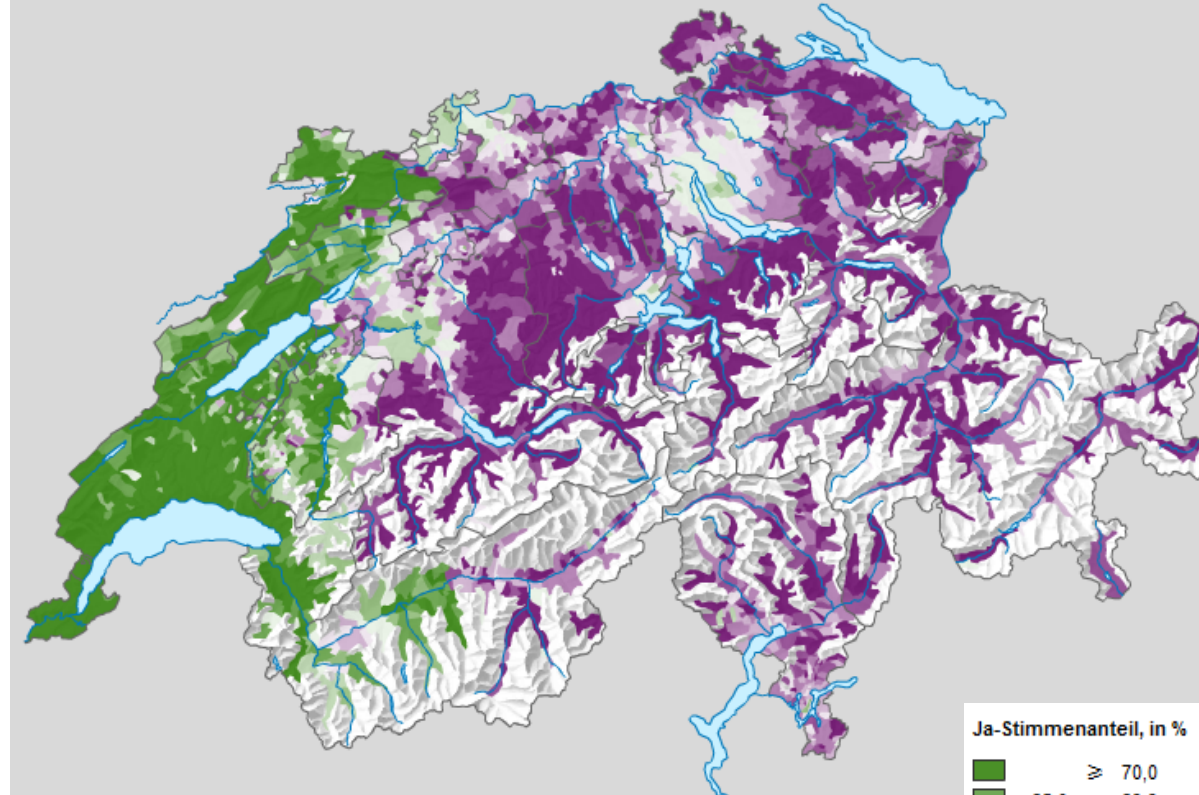
Switzerland and the EU



23

- The **European Economic Area (EEA, 1994)**:
 - Extend the Internal Market of the EU to EFTA States => create a **homogeneous European Economic Area**
- Switzerland voted **'No'** to **joining the EEA** (referendum in 1992)
 - Uninterested in **ceding sovereignty**
 - **Protect direct democracy + local industries** from foreign competition

Bundesbeschluss über den Europäischen Wirtschaftsraum (EWR), Abstimmung vom 06.12.1992



Switzerland and the EU



24

- Policy of signing **bilateral agreements** with the EU **rather than joining it**
 - Bilaterals I (1999)
 - Continuous updates to EFTA (2001-)
 - Bilaterals II (2004) ...
- **Partial Integration** into the single market
- Policy of signing **bilateral agreements** with the EU **rather than joining it**



Next Session...

26

- Switzerland II
 - The Swiss Political System
 - Direct Democracy
 - Referenda, initiatives



Happy Holidays! Have a wonderful 2021!

Thank You For Your Attention!

Questions???