

MUNI ARTS



Ernst Stückelberg. Rütlichswur. Repro of the wall-painting of «Tells Chapel» (1880-1882) on a postcard. Epics ETH, Bildcode PK_010152

Peasants, Wars and Lots of Treaties. The Medieval Swiss Confederation

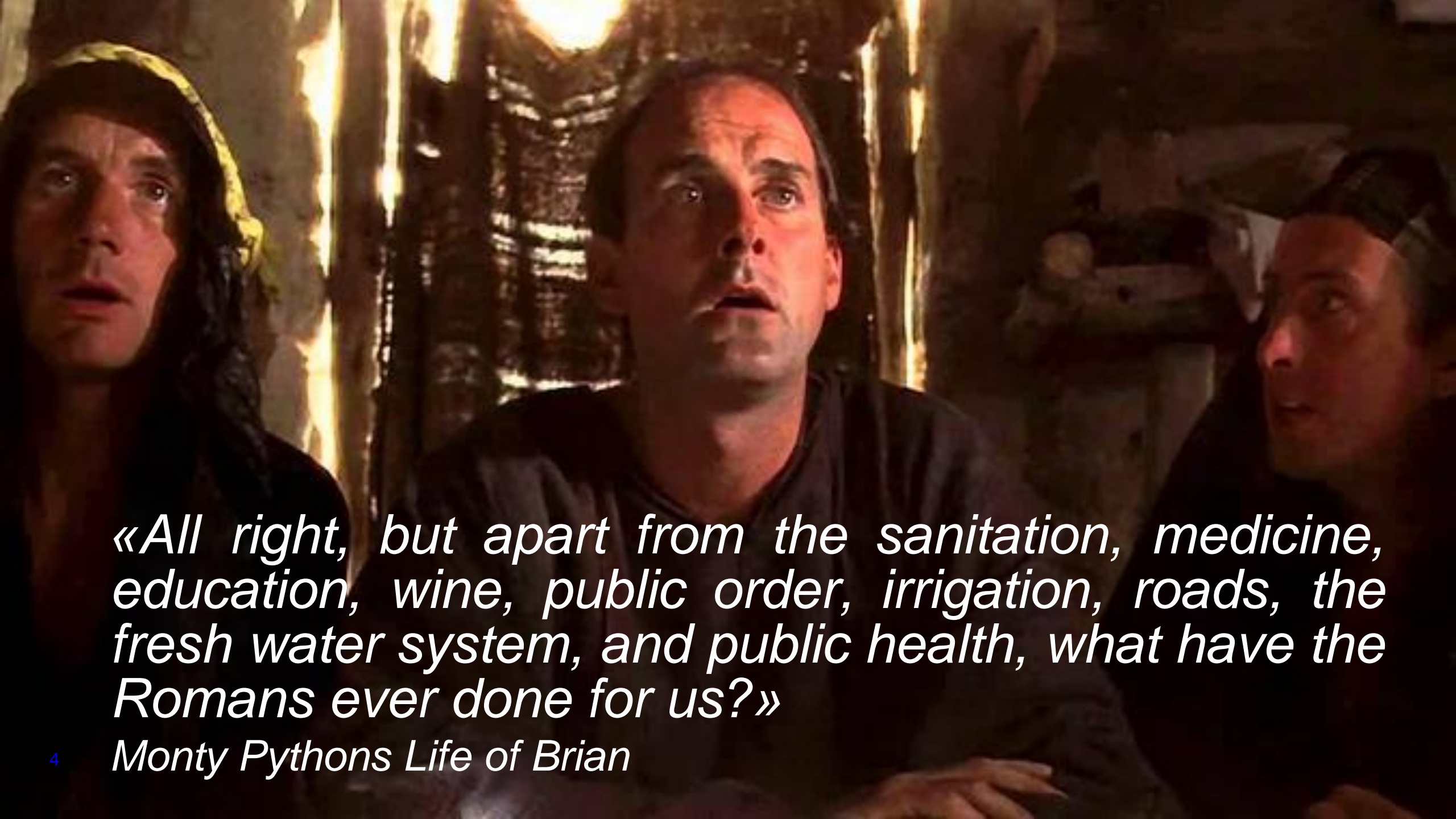
Dr. phil. Heinrich Speich MAS



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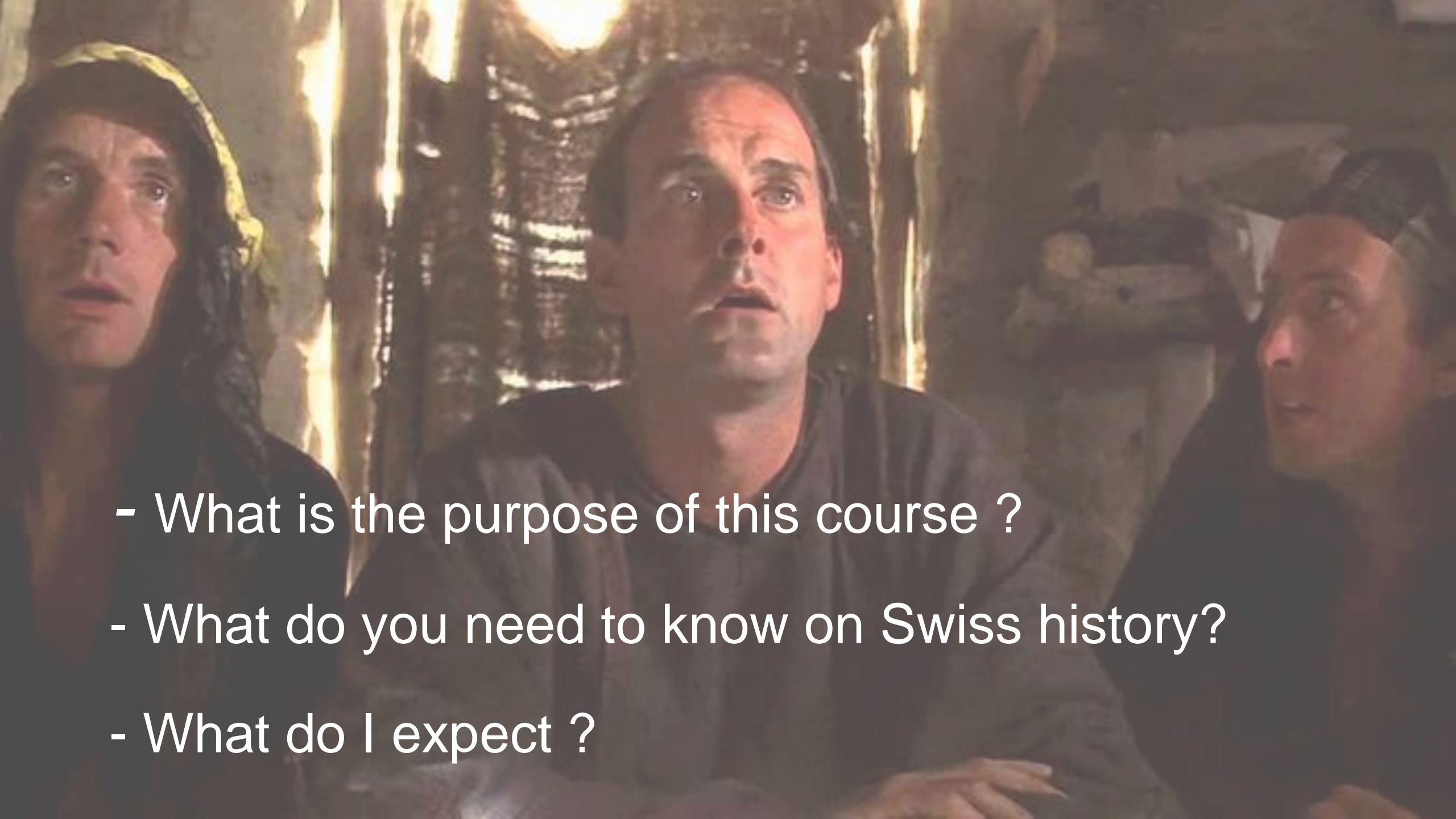


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«All right, but apart from the sanitation, medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, the fresh water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?»

Monty Pythons Life of Brian



- What is the purpose of this course ?
- What do you need to know on Swiss history?
- What do I expect ?

Course objectives

The medieval Swiss Confederation as a research topic seems far away and unimportant for East-Central European students. There are though many similarities. Basically, Swiss History is often dealt with under the plea of being a “special case” in European history. The course-topic is to investigate whether the introduced processes and related events are of general-importance or rather of regional significance. The Swiss Confederation is considered the reference-model to test general medieval concepts such as the fief-system, conflict-resolution strategies, the evolving city-states or the politically emerging rural communities. As a result, (national) historiography is questioned for its accuracy to embed Swiss events and structures into a transnational European History.

Learning outcomes

1. Students are aware of the specific topographical, historical and methodological terminology of Swiss historiography
2. Students can locate main Swiss historic events of the medieval period in time and space
3. Students can describe the methods of research and main sources for the medieval Swiss history
4. Students are enabled to embed Swiss events and processes into the general history of the time
5. Students can assign examples of events and processes regarding their relevance for history and in the national historiography

Learning outcomes

... and it's is all about...

6. Students are enabled to broaden their own approaches for analysis on a foreign topic
7. Students are challenged to develop strategies in order to cope with primary sources and historiographical texts in an unfamiliar context

Content

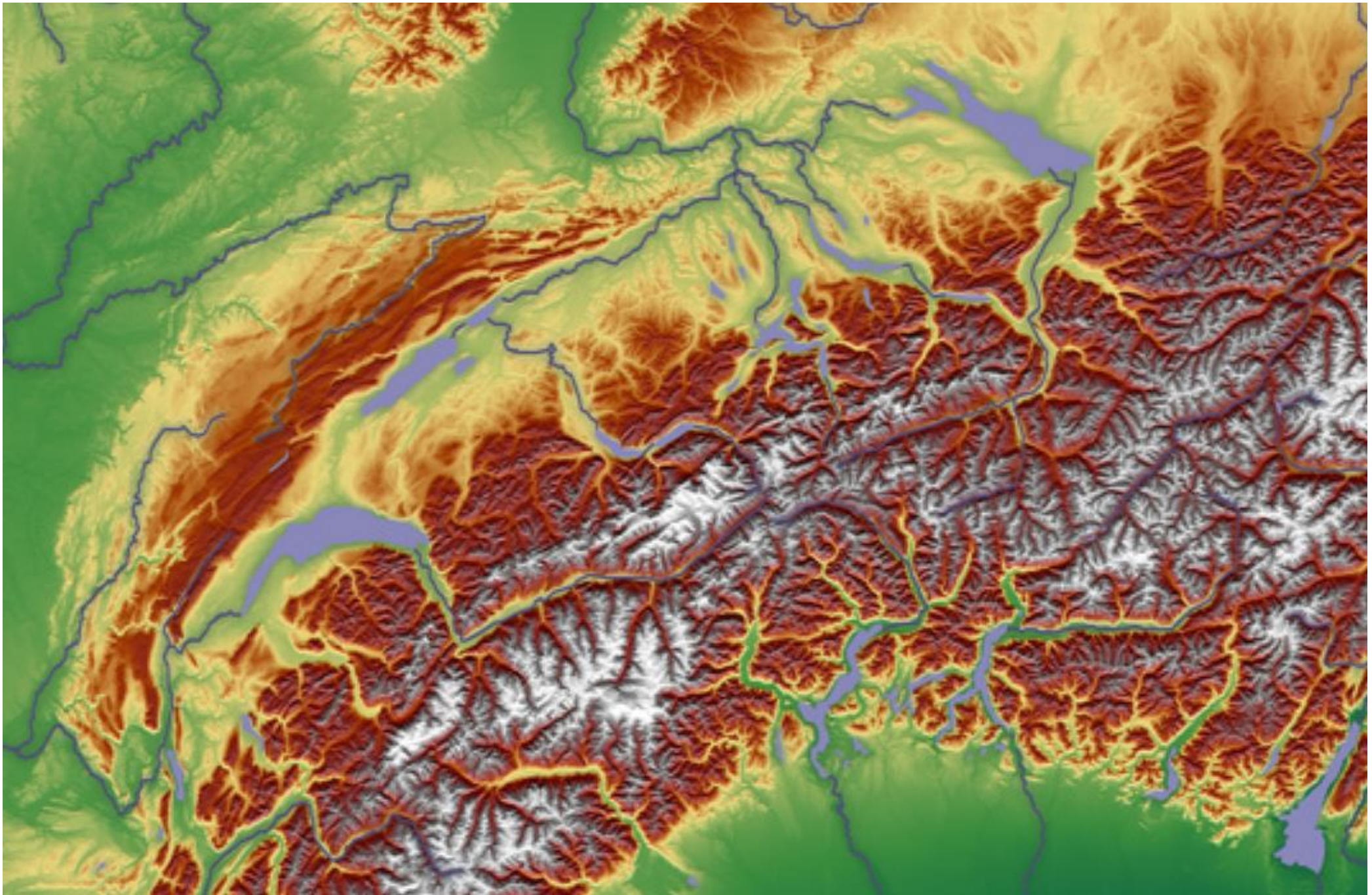
1. Introduction to space, structures and events
2. Sources and national historiography
3. Abbeys, lords, peasants and urban elites
4. The Swiss Confederation: a political approach to the 14th c.
5. Consolidation in the 15th c.

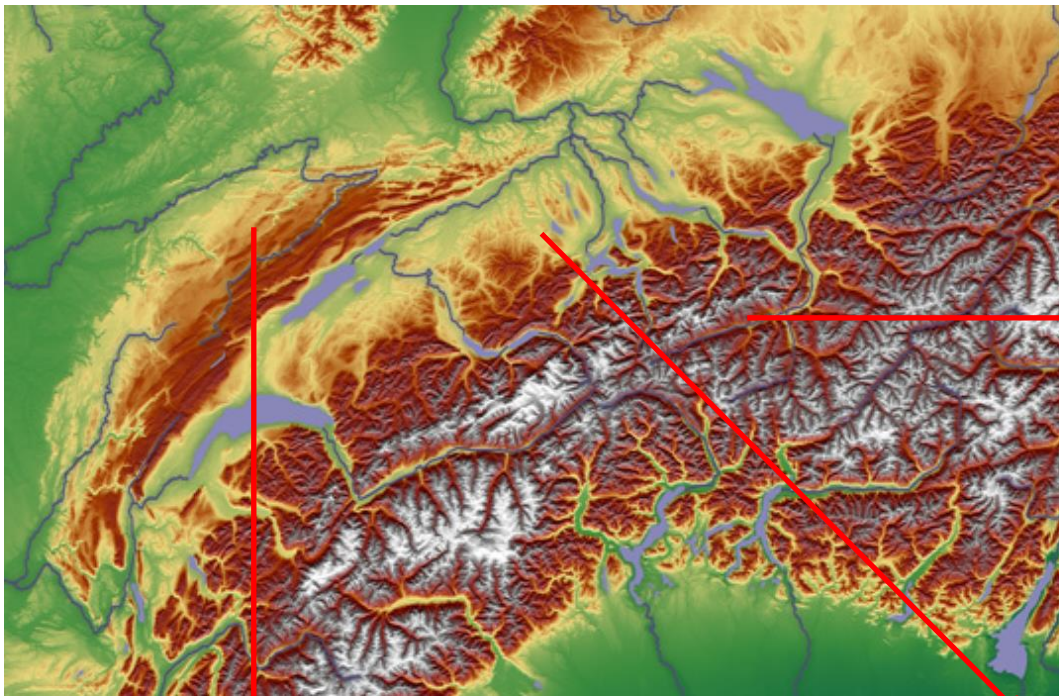
Content 22.09.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Topography, political structures | 10' |
| 2. Sources to medieval Swiss history | 20' |
| 3. Archaeological records | 15' |
| 4. Historiography | 15' |
| 5. Example: the Swiss watch on medieval battles | 45' |

1. Space, structures and events







Alpine zone 60%



Jura heights 10%



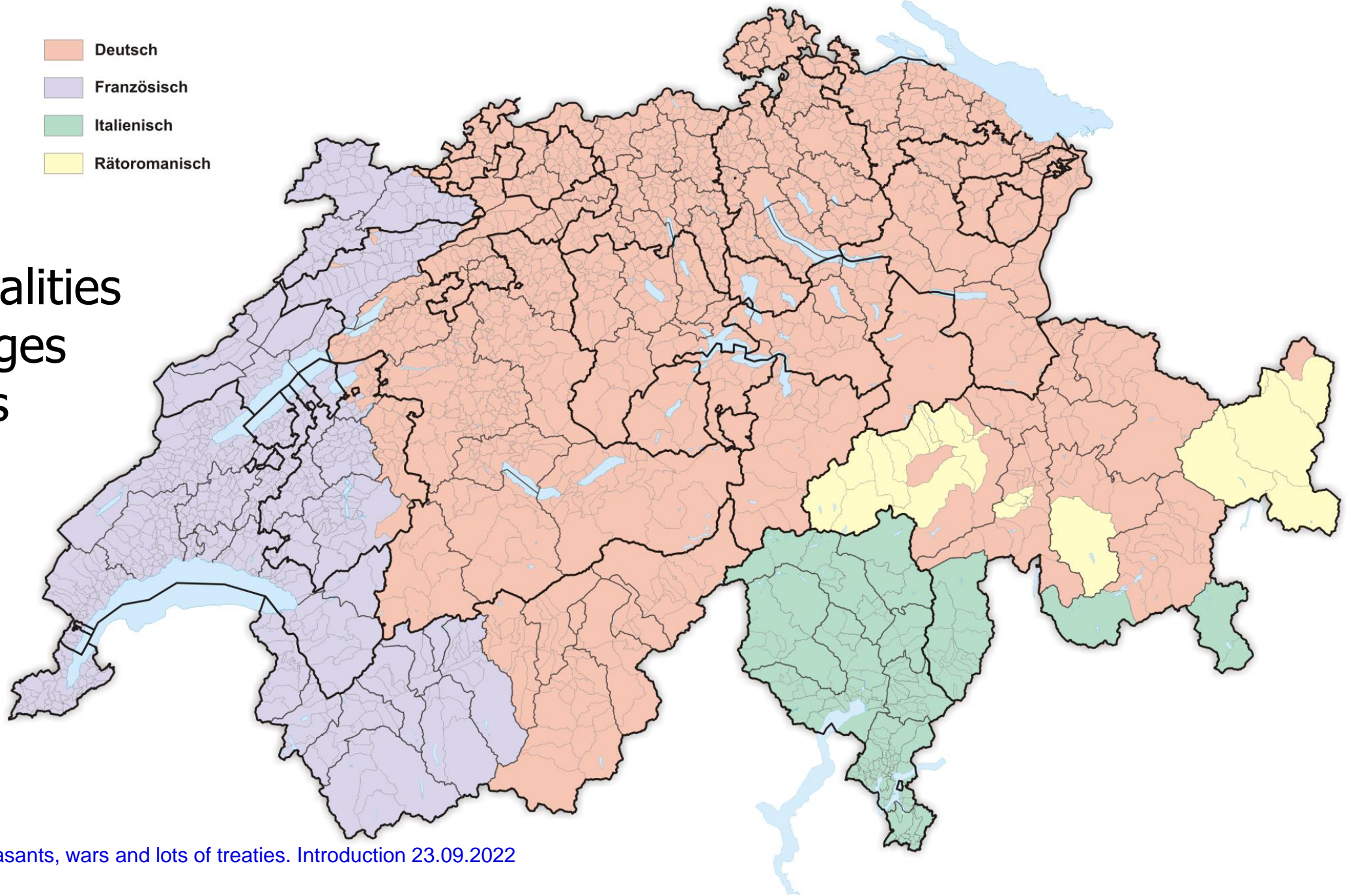
Swiss midlands 30%



Particular climate: Ticino, inneralpine valleys



- Municipalities
- Languages
- Cantons





Swiss Cantons

- 1 Zürich
- 2 Bern
- 3 Luzern
- 4 Uri
- 5 Schwyz
- 6 Obwalden
- 7 Nidwalden
- 8 Glarus
- 9 Zug
- 10 Fribourg / Freiburg
- 11 Solothurn
- 12 Basel-Stadt
- 13 Baselland
- 14 Schaffhausen
- 15 Appenzell Ausserrhoden
- 16 Appenzell Innerrhoden
- 17 St. Gallen
- 18 Graubünden / Grischun / Grigioni
- 19 Aargau
- 20 Thurgau
- 21 Ticino / Tessin
- 22 Vaud / Waadt
- 23 Wallis / Valais
- 24 Neuchâtel / Neuenburg
- 25 Genève / Genf
- 26 Jura



Die kirchliche Einteilung der Schweiz um 1300



-  **Bischofssitz**
-  **Ehemaliger Bischofssitz**

 heutige Schweizer Grenze

Dünne weisse Linien:
Grenzen der Dekanate im Bistum Konstanz

Dicke weisse Linien:
Grenzen der Archidiakonate im Bistum Konstanz (Grossbuchstaben)

- Zugehörigkeit zu Erzbistümern:
- Ebm. Mainz: Konstanz, Chur
 - Ebm. Besançon: Basel, Lausanne
 - Ebm. Tarantaise: Sitten
 - Ebm. Vienne: Genf
 - Patriarchat Aquileja / Grado: Como
 - Ebm. Mailand: Novara

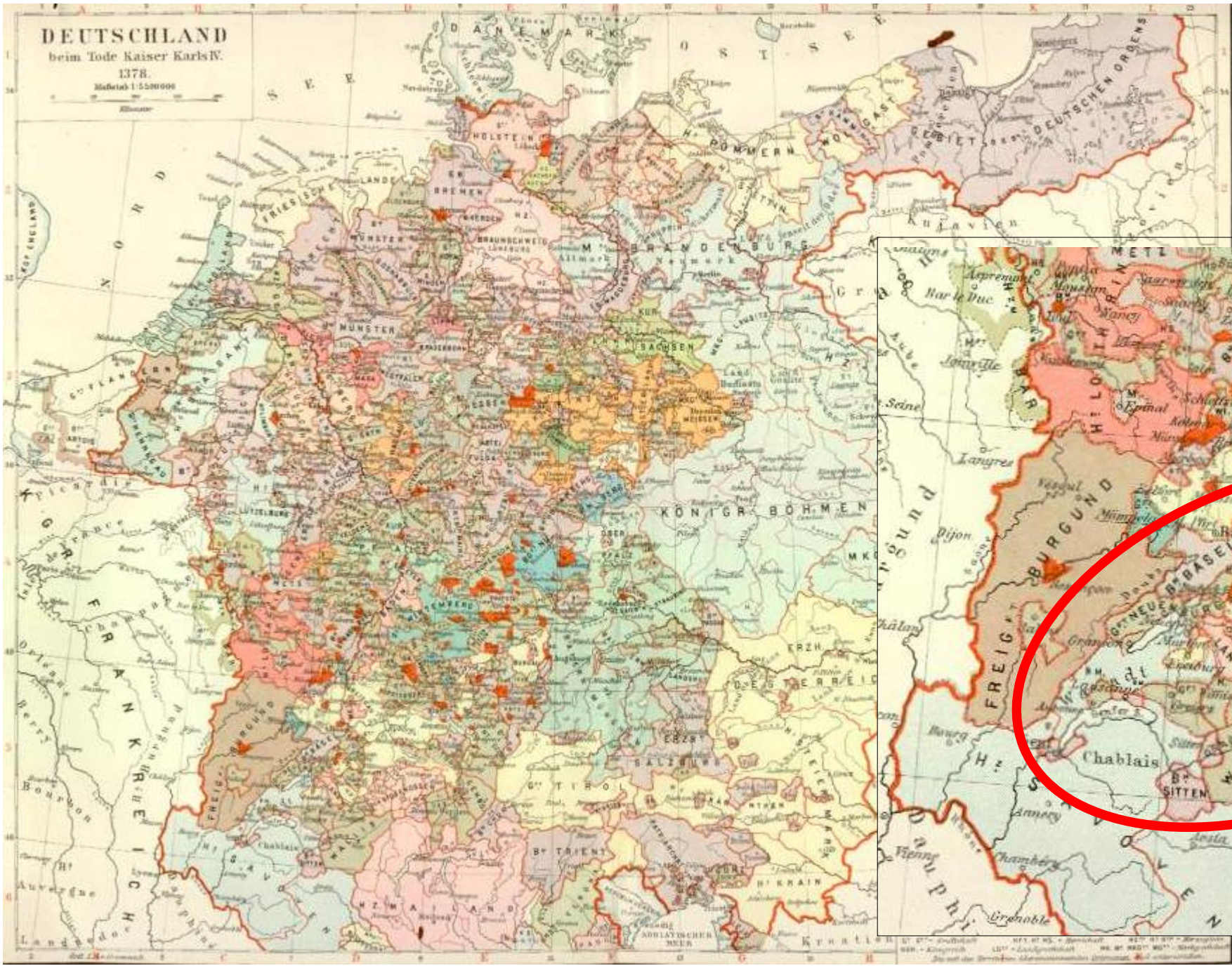
Dioceses around 1300

DEUTSCHLAND

beim Tode Kaiser Karls IV.

1378.

Maßstab 1:500000



Empire (14th c.)



2. Sources to Swiss History

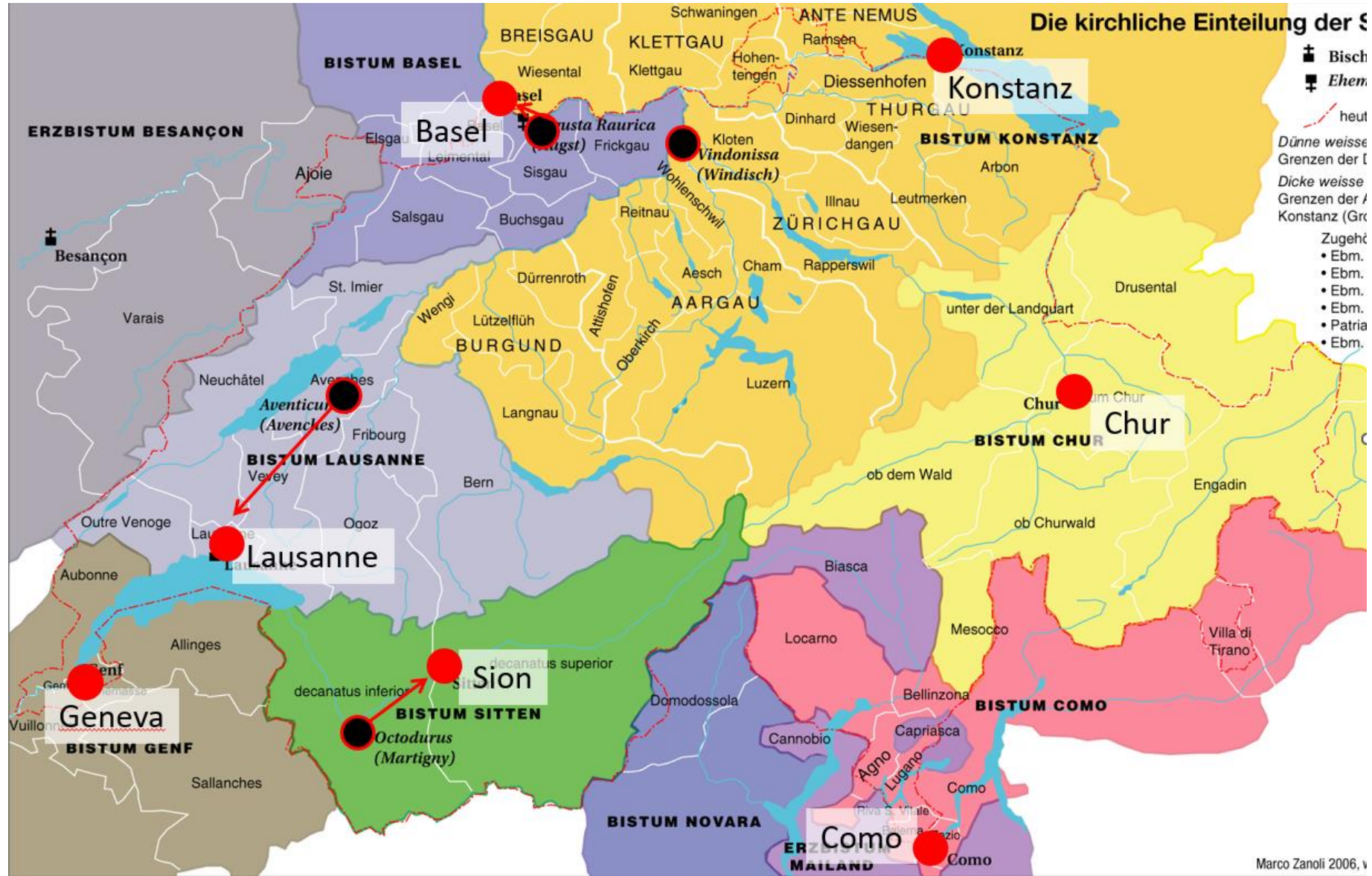
1. Written sources

- a. Writings of monastic contexts
- b. Ecclesiastical writing
- c. Secular writings: Nobles, Towns, Others

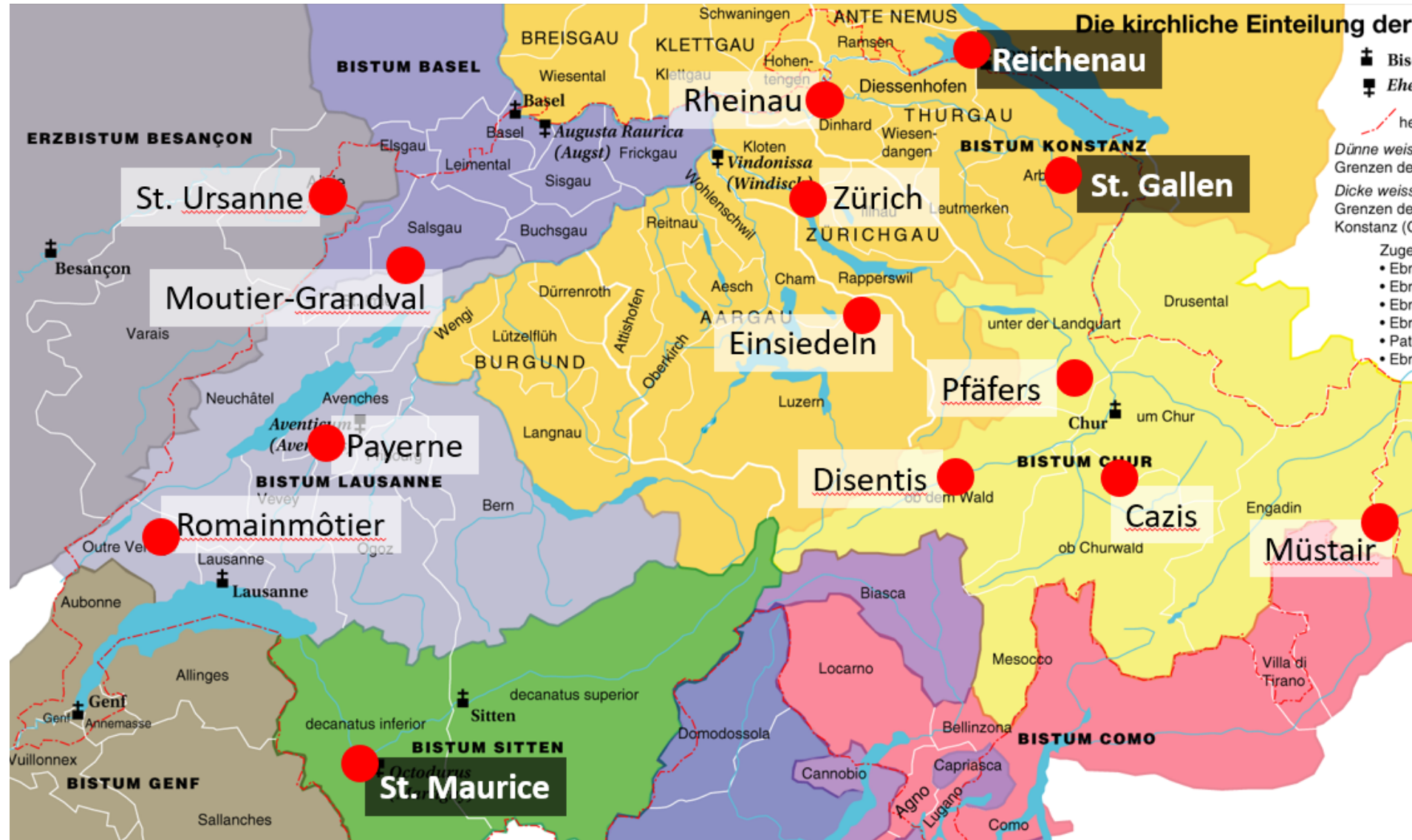
2. Archival situation

3. Archeological sources

a. Sources from ecclesiastic contexts



b. Sources from monastic contexts



Early ecclesiastical/monastic sources

1. History

1. Marius of Avenches (ca. 585)
2. Chronicle of the so called Fredegar (until 642)
3. Breviarium Erchanberti (9th c.), St.Gallen

2. Hagiography

1. Vita S. Galli (7./9th c.)
2. Vita Columbani (9th c.)

c. Secular sources

1. Leges

1. Lex Burgundiorum (6./7.c.)
2. Lex Alamannorum (7th c.)
3. Lex Romana Curiensis (8th c.)

2. Inscriptions



Inscription of the Burgundian king Gundobad (480-516) on the reconstruction of the City walls of Geneva.

c. Secular sources

3. Towns

From the 11th century onwards

Starts with the episcopal towns

Own traditions from the end of the 12th c.

4. Nobles

From the 11th century onwards

Secular writing starts late, mainly in monastic context

c. Secular sources

5. Others: 13./14th c. onwards

1. Merchants
2. Specialised Craftsmen
3. Rural Communities
4. Rural Elites

2. Archival situation

1. Cantonal Archives

1. Towns
2. Rural Communities

2. Communal Archives

1. Parish Archives
2. Private Archives

3. Ecclesiastical Archives

1. Monastic Archives
2. Episcopal Archives

3. Archaeology

1. Landscapes / Structures on topography
2. Traffic situations
3. Settlement development
4. Housing development
5. Fortifications (castles)
6. Ecclesiastical topography
7. Arts and crafts

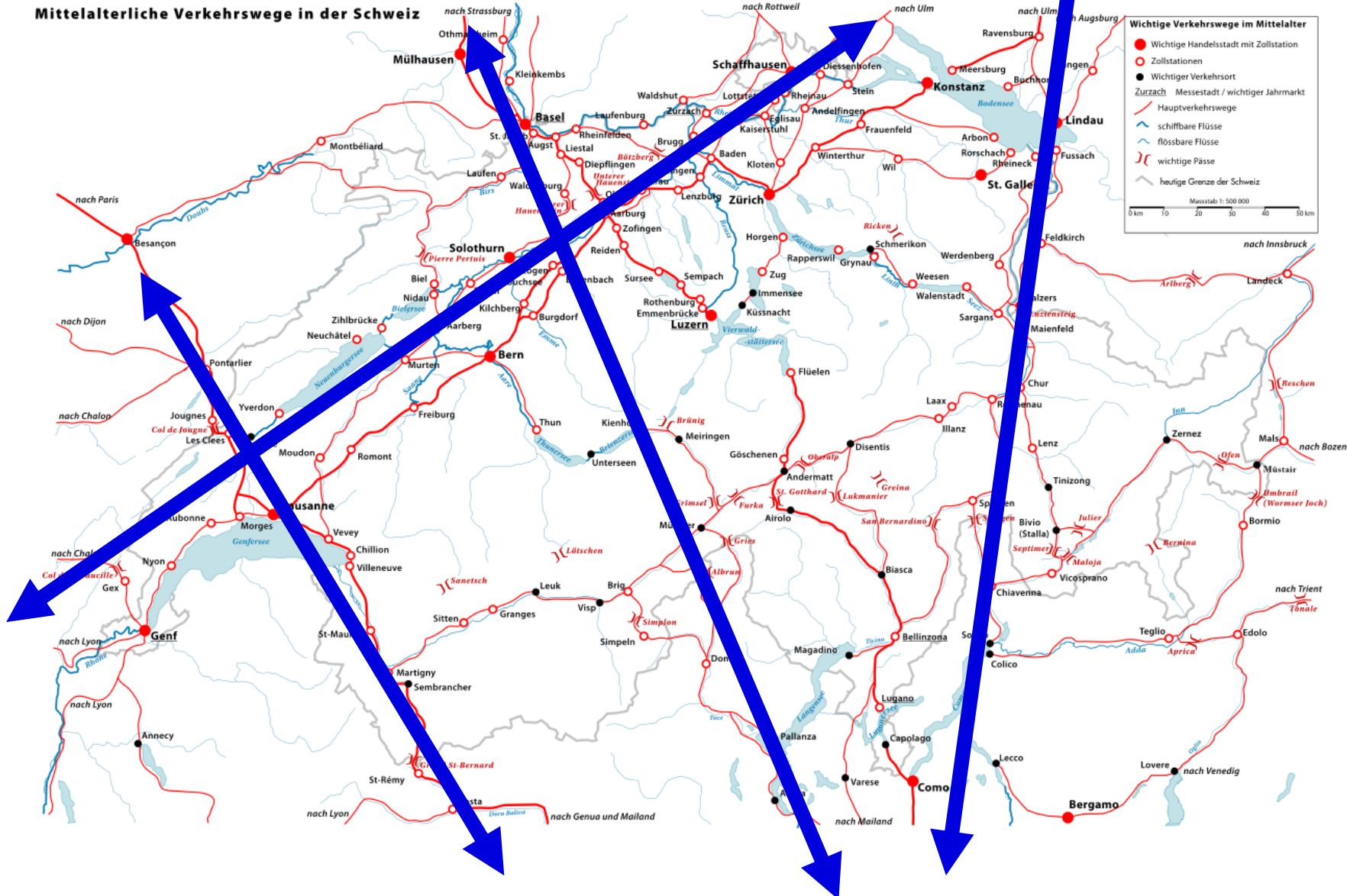
8. A word on archeological cultures

3.1 Landscapes / Structures on topography

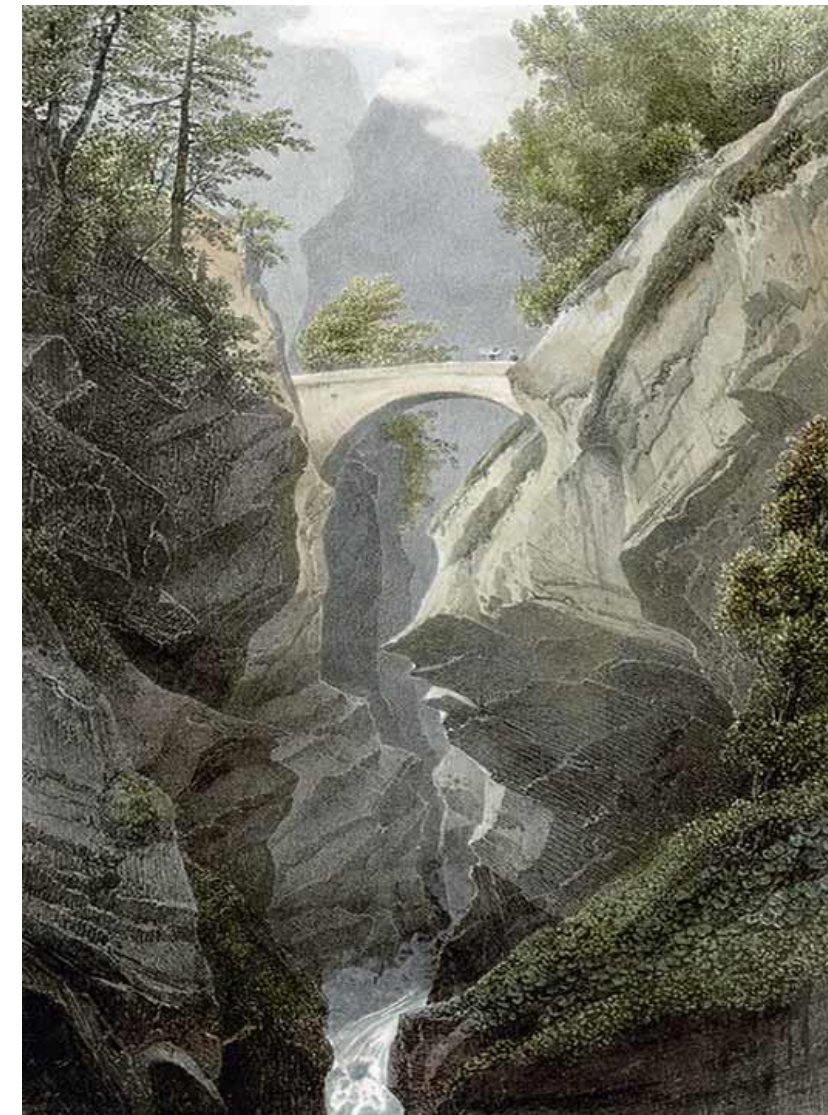
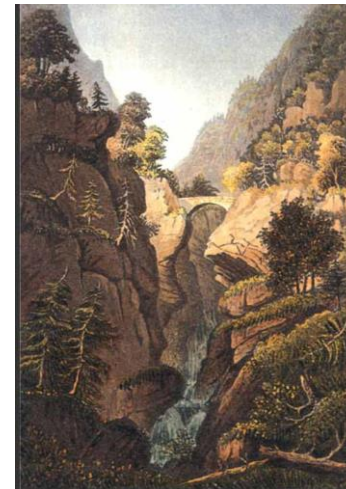


Riom (Grisons), in
the Valley
Oberhalbstein:
Medieval Settlement
structures

3.2 Transport infrastructure

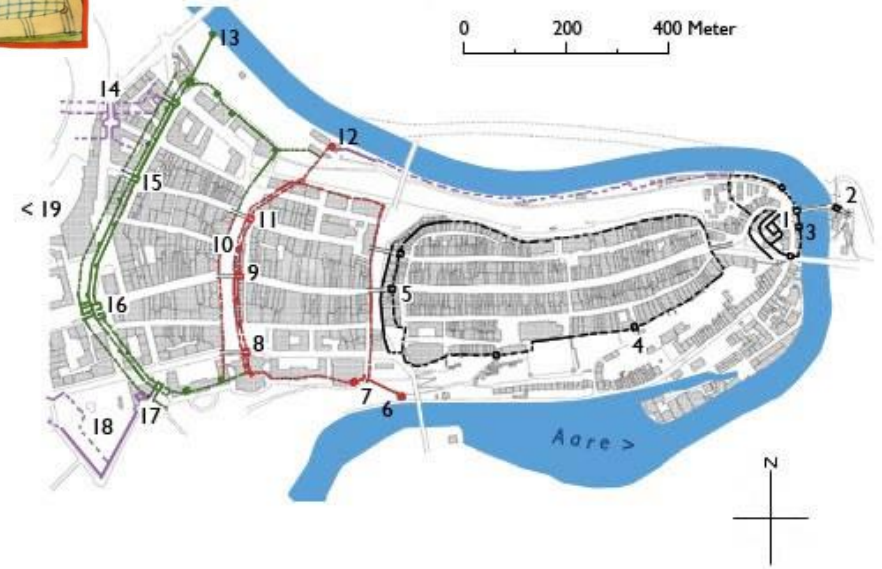
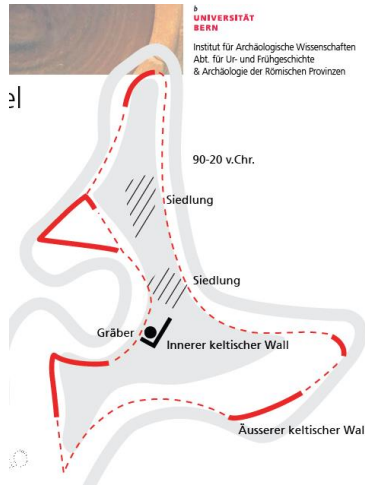
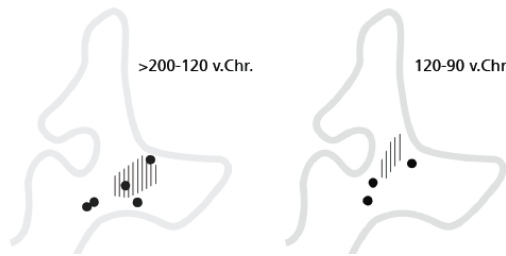
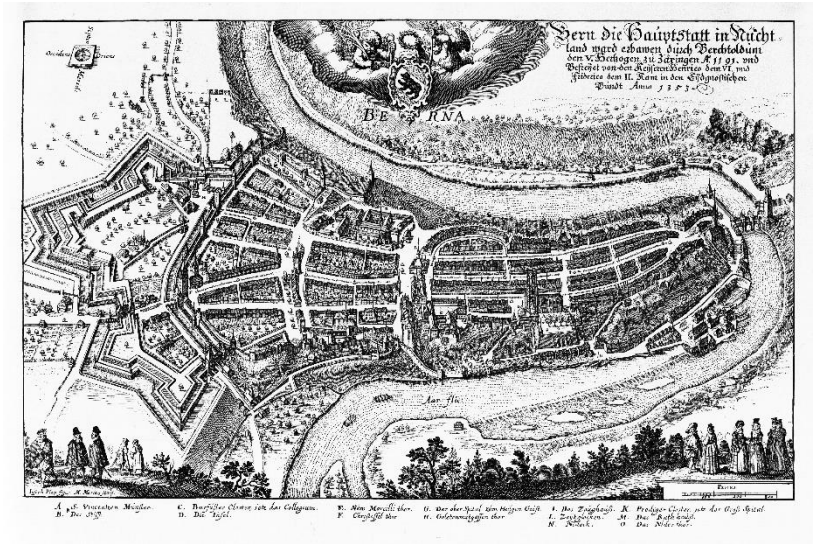


3.2 Transport infrastructures



Pantenbrücke
(Glarus), reflecting
medieval traffic
routes

3.3 Settlement genesis



- 1) Reichsburg Nydegg
- 2) Untertor (Felsenburg)
- 3) Ländtetur
- 4) Bubenbergtörl
- 5) Zytgloggeturm
- 6) Aarenturm
- 7) Unteres Marzilitor
- 8) Judentor
- 9) Käfigturm
- 10) Holländerturm
- 11) Frauentor
- 12) Predigerturm
- 13) Bluturm
- 14) Aarbergtor
- 15) Golatenmattor
- 16) Obertor (Christoffelturm)
- 17) Oberes Marzilitor
- 18) Wächterschanze
- 19) Weitere neuzeitliche Schanzen (abgetragen)

Bauphasen:

- 12. Jhdt.
- 13. Jhdt.
- 14. Jhdt.
- 17. Jhdt.

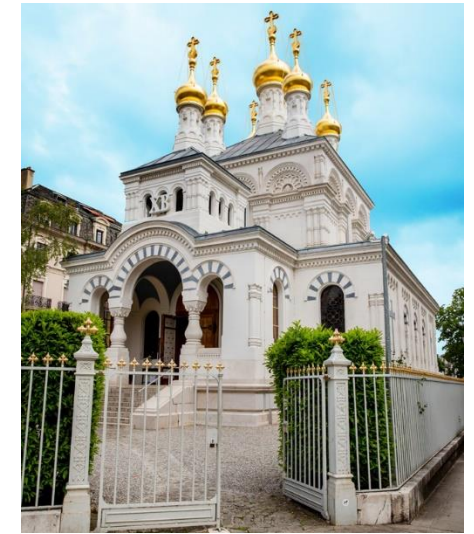
3.4 Housing development



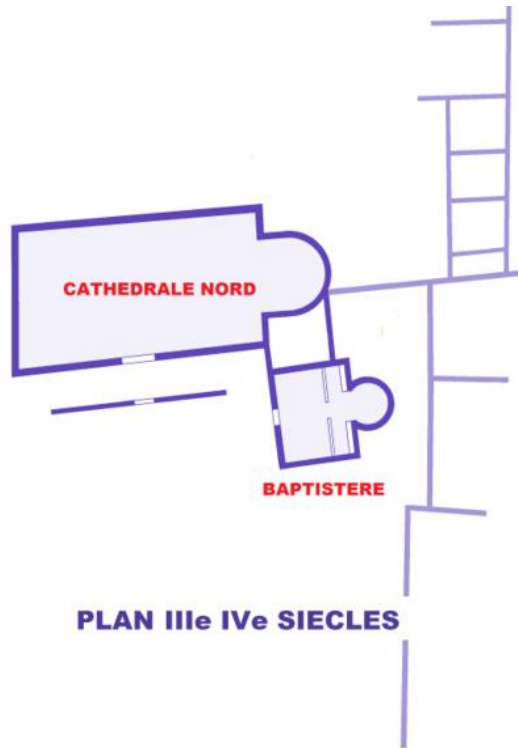
3.5 Fortifications

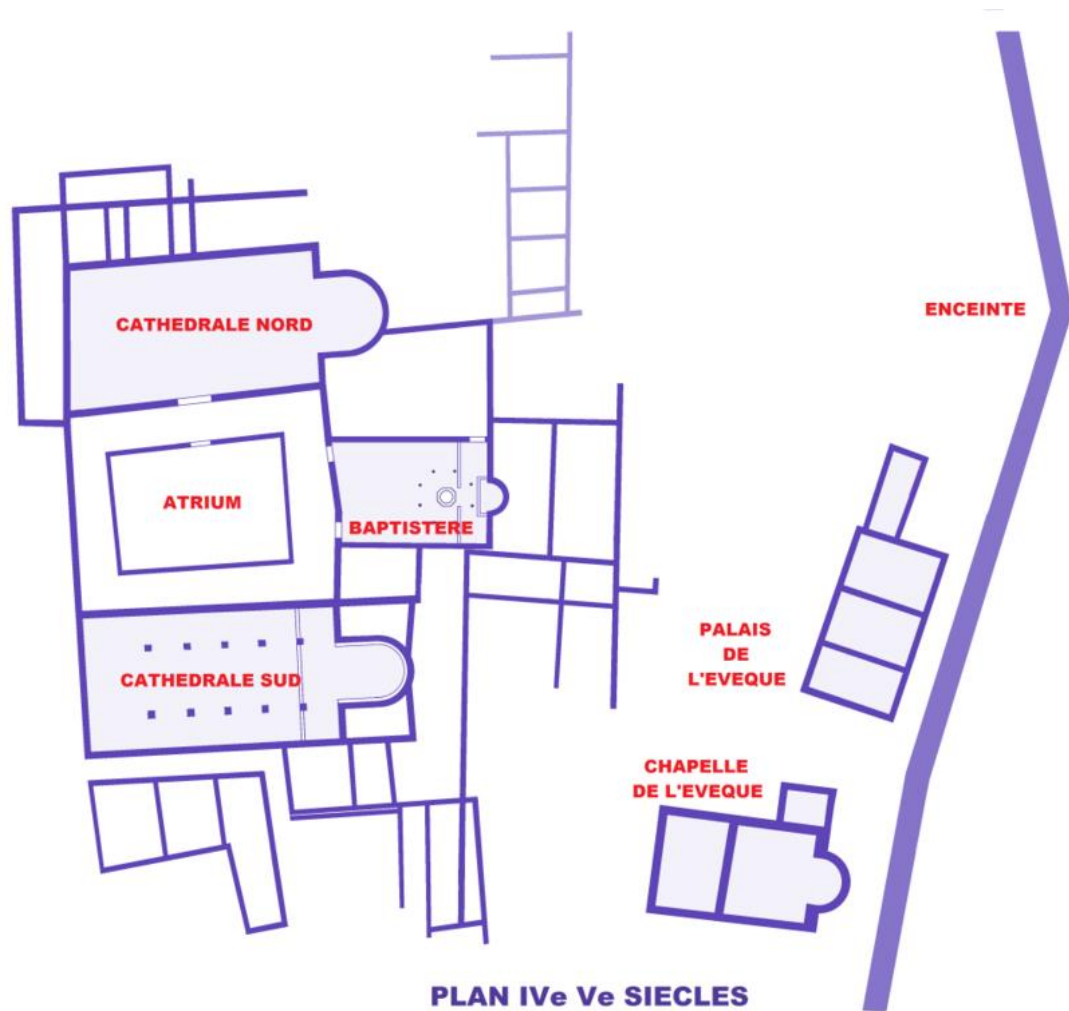


3.6 Ecclesiastical topography

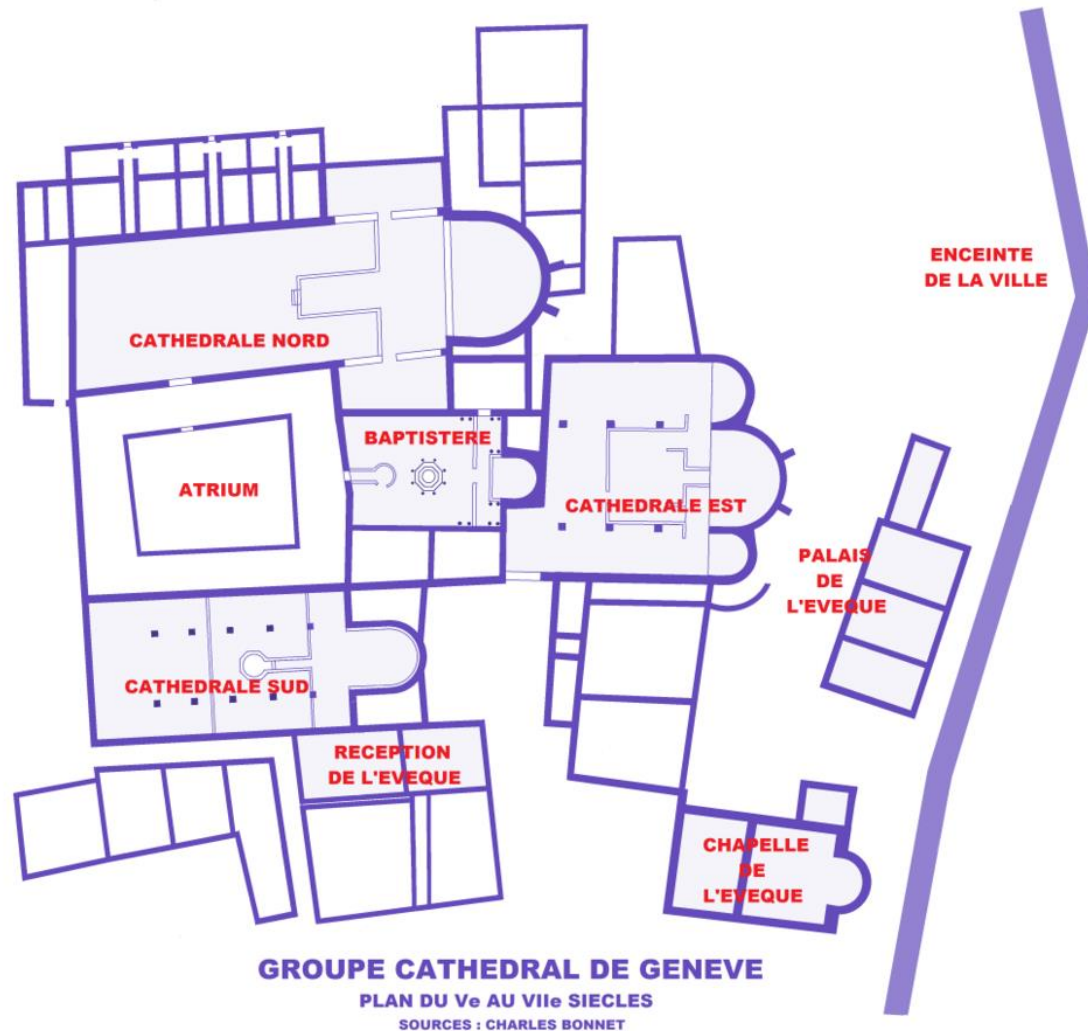


Churches in Geneva

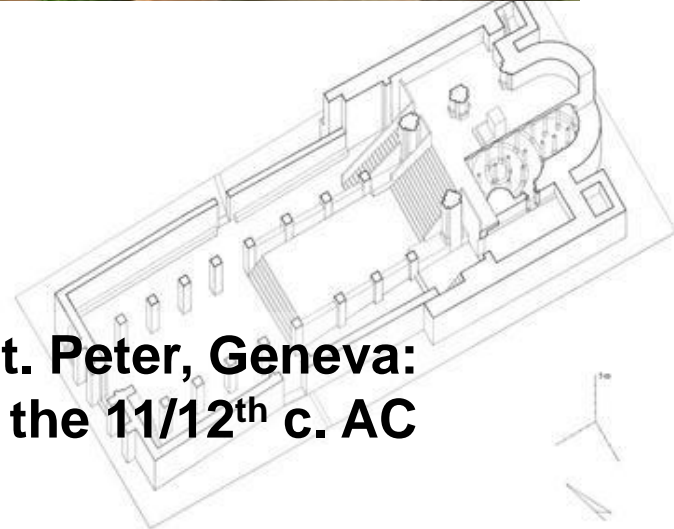




**Cathedral St. Peter, Geneva:
Situation in the 5th c. AC**

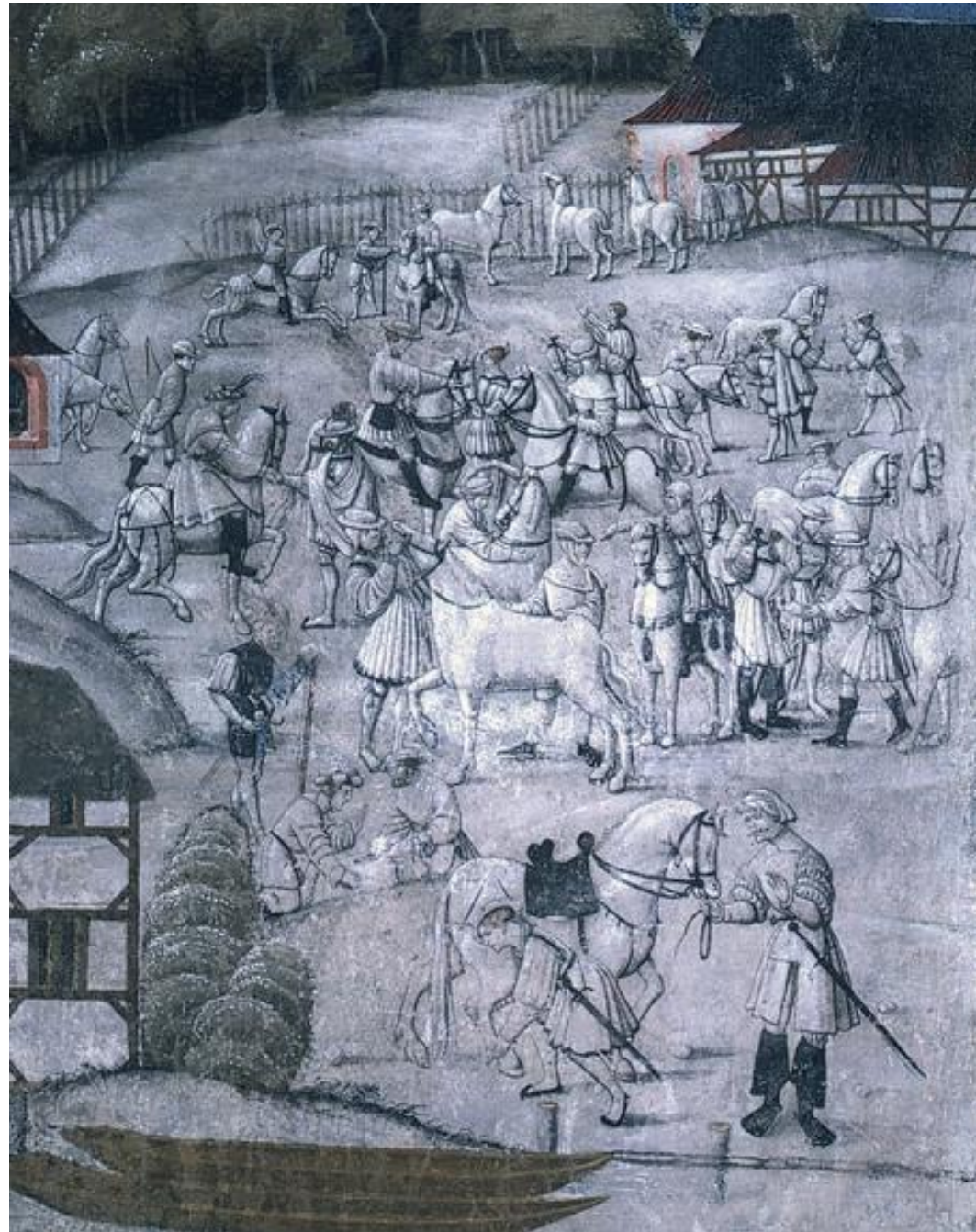
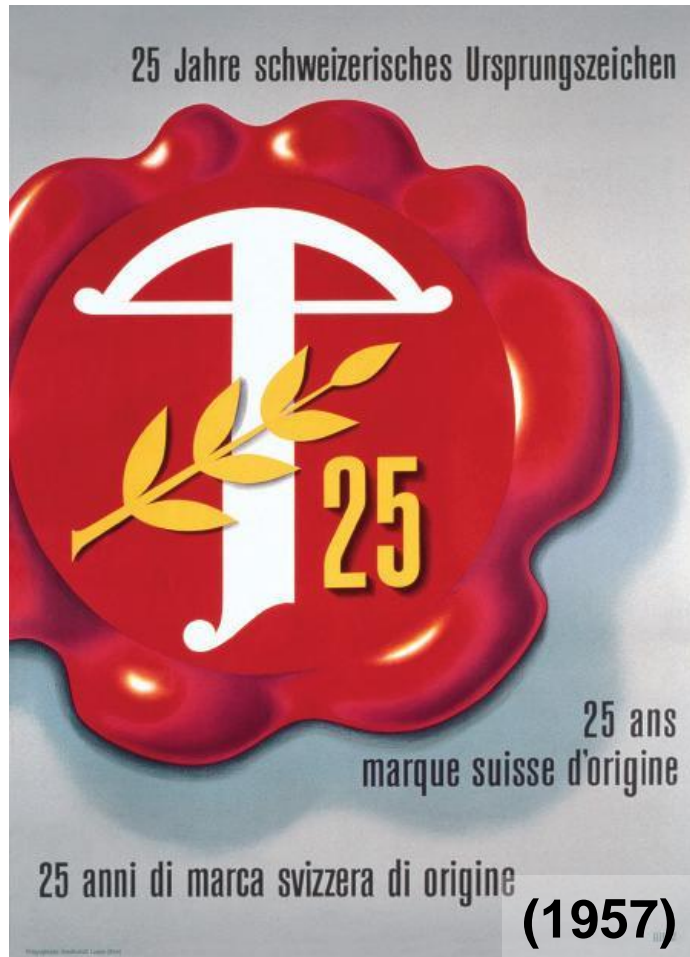


**Cathedral St. Peter, Geneva:
 Situation in the 5th- 7th c. AC**



**Cathedral St. Peter, Geneva:
Situation in the 11/12th c. AC**

3.7 Arts and crafts



Annual fair
of Zurzach

(1515,
monastery
of St.
George,
Stein am
Rhein)

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4. «National» Historiography

1. Decisive periods in Swiss history

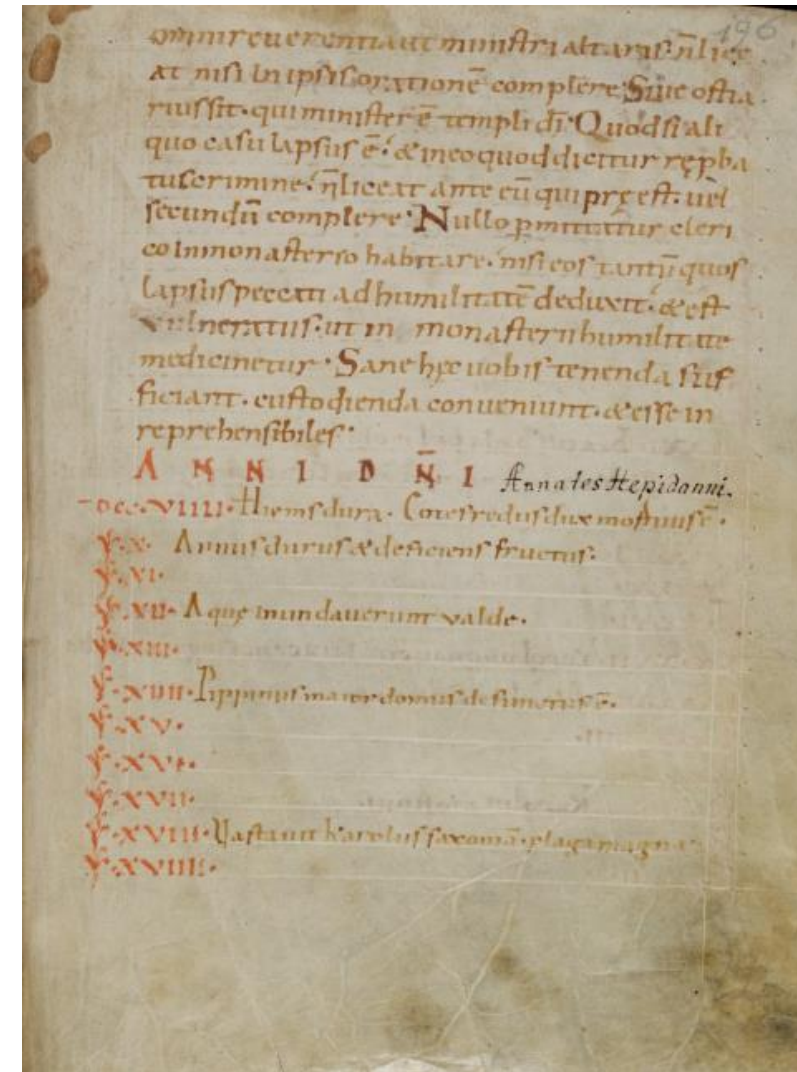
1. Late Middle-Ages – foundation (14th/15th c.)
2. Early Modern Period – consolidation (16th-18th c.)
3. Refoundation of modern Confederation (1848)
4. Cohesion problems in WW I (1914-1918)

2. Decisive phases in Swiss historiography

1. 15./16th century: «town cronicles, Swiss cronicles»
2. 18./early 19th century: Enlightenment
3. Late 19th century: Nationbuilding
4. 1938-1945 – «spiritual national defense» in WW II
5. New approaches since 1990

1 Early examples

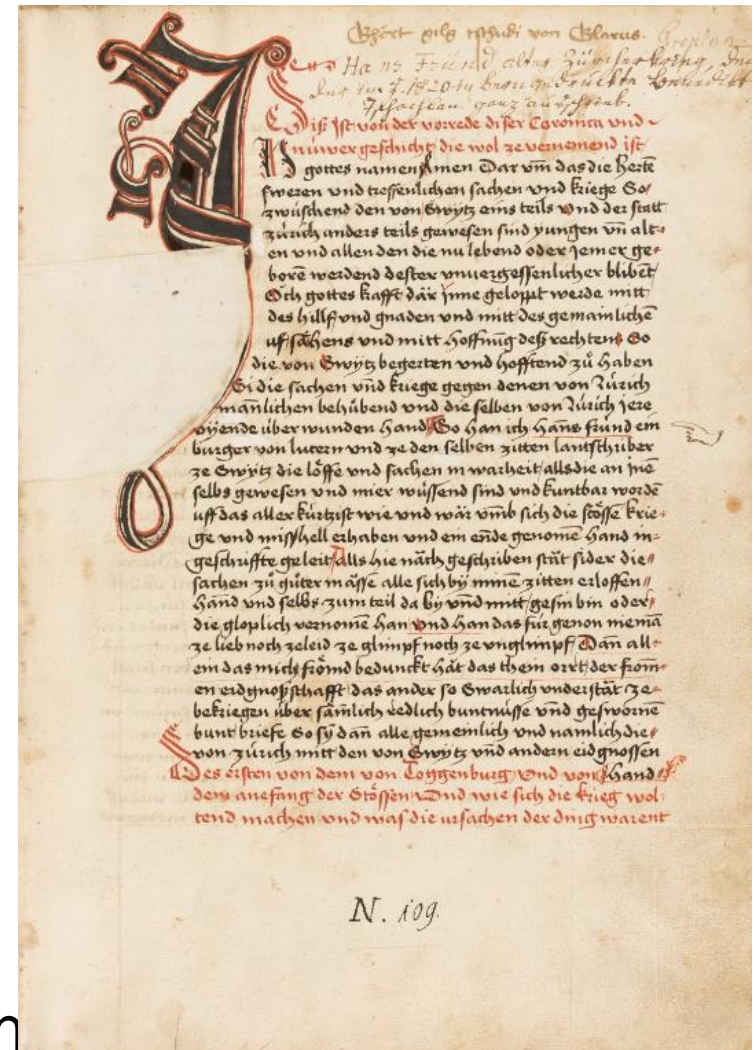
1. Annales Sangallenses (11th c.)
2. Johannes von Winterthur (1340)
3. Jakob Twinger von Königshofen (1400)



Annales Sangallenses (11th c.), St. Gall, StiBi Cod Sang 915, p. 196.

1 Early town chronicles

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Konrad Justinger (1415) | Berne |
| 2. Annals of Basel (ca. 1420) | Basel |
| 3. Chronicle of Hans Fründ (1450) | Schwyz |
| 4. Chronicle of Gerold Edlibach (1485) | Zürich |
| 5. Weisses Buch von Sarnen (1470) | Obwalden |



Chronicle of Hans Fründ, St. Gall, StiBi Cod Sang 644, p. 3.

1 Swiss picture-chronicles (15th c.)

1. Bendicht Tschachtlan (1480) Berne
2. Diebold Schilling t. e. (1480) Berne
3. Diebold Schilling t. y. (1513) Lucerne
4. Werner Schodoler (1515) Zürich
5. Christoph Silberysen (1576) Wettingen

1 Swiss picture-chronicles



Tschachtlan-Chronicle



Bernese-Cronicle,
Diebold Schilling



Burgundian-Cronicle,
Diebold Schilling
the younger



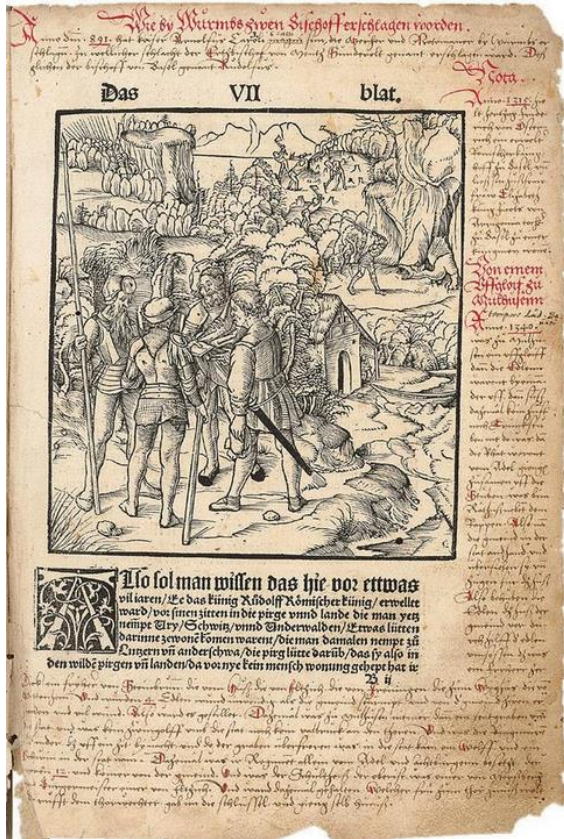
Lucerne-Chronicle,
Diebold Schilling the younger

1 «Swiss» chronicles (16th c.)

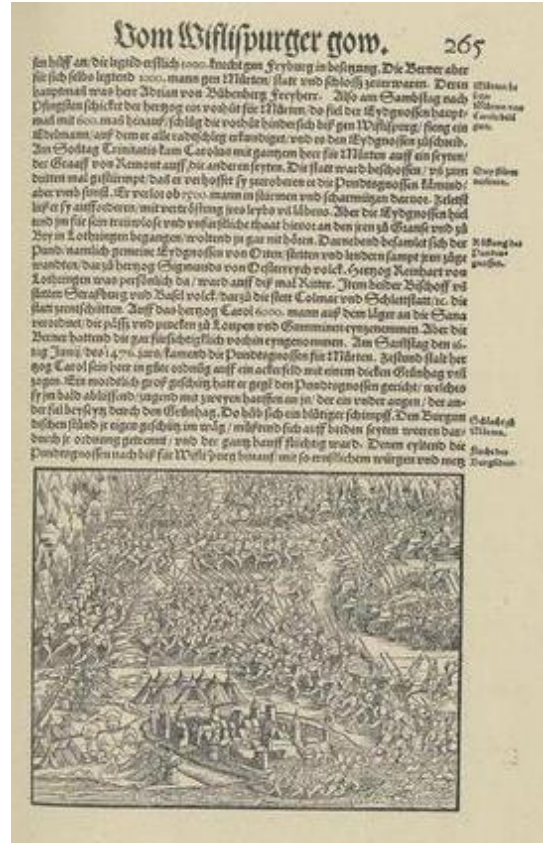
- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| 1. Petermann Etterlin (1507) | Lucerne | print 1507 |
| 2. Johannes Stumpf (1545) | Zurich | print 1548 |
| 3. Valerius Anshelm (1547) | Berne | print 1825 |
| 4. Aegidius Tschudi (1570) | Glarus | print 1734/38 |

Chronicle of Hans Fründ, St. Gall,
StiBi Cod Sang 644, p. 3.

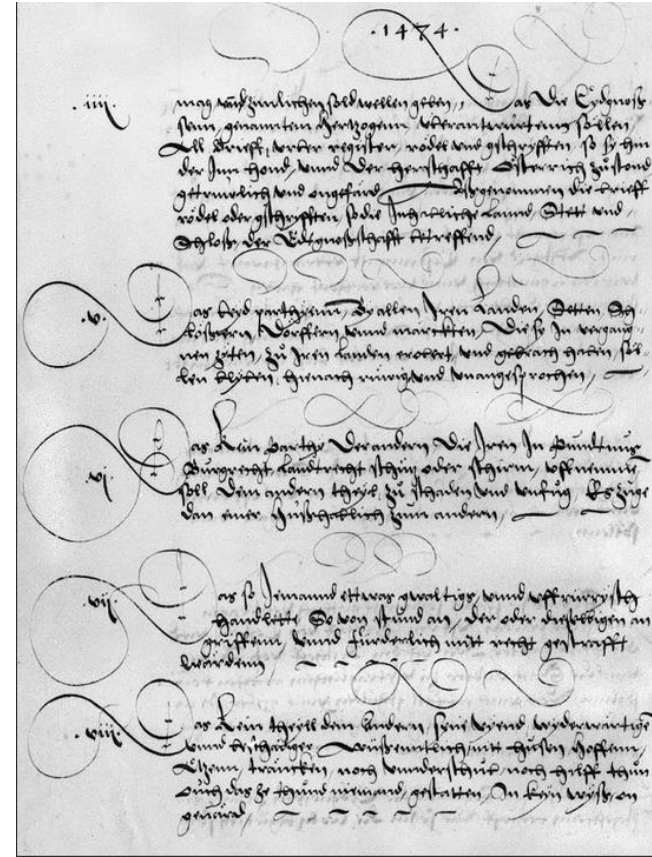
1. «Swiss» chronicles (16th c.)



Etterlin-Chronicle
(1507)



Stumpf-Chronicle
(1548)



Anshelm-Chronicle
(1548)



Tschudi-Chronicle
(1570) / 1734

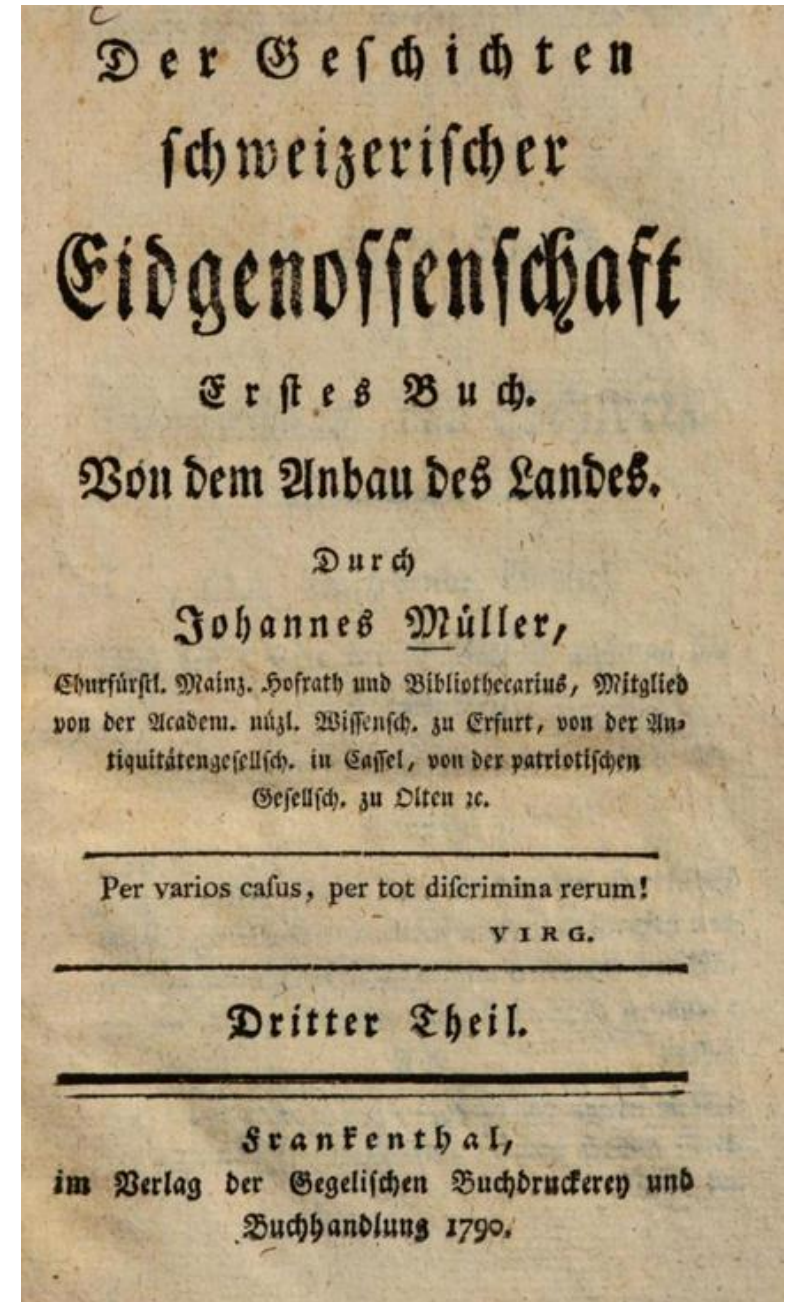
2. Early modern times

Aegidius Tschudi (1570), print 1734/36
Chronicon Helveticum 1734/38



2. Enlightenment

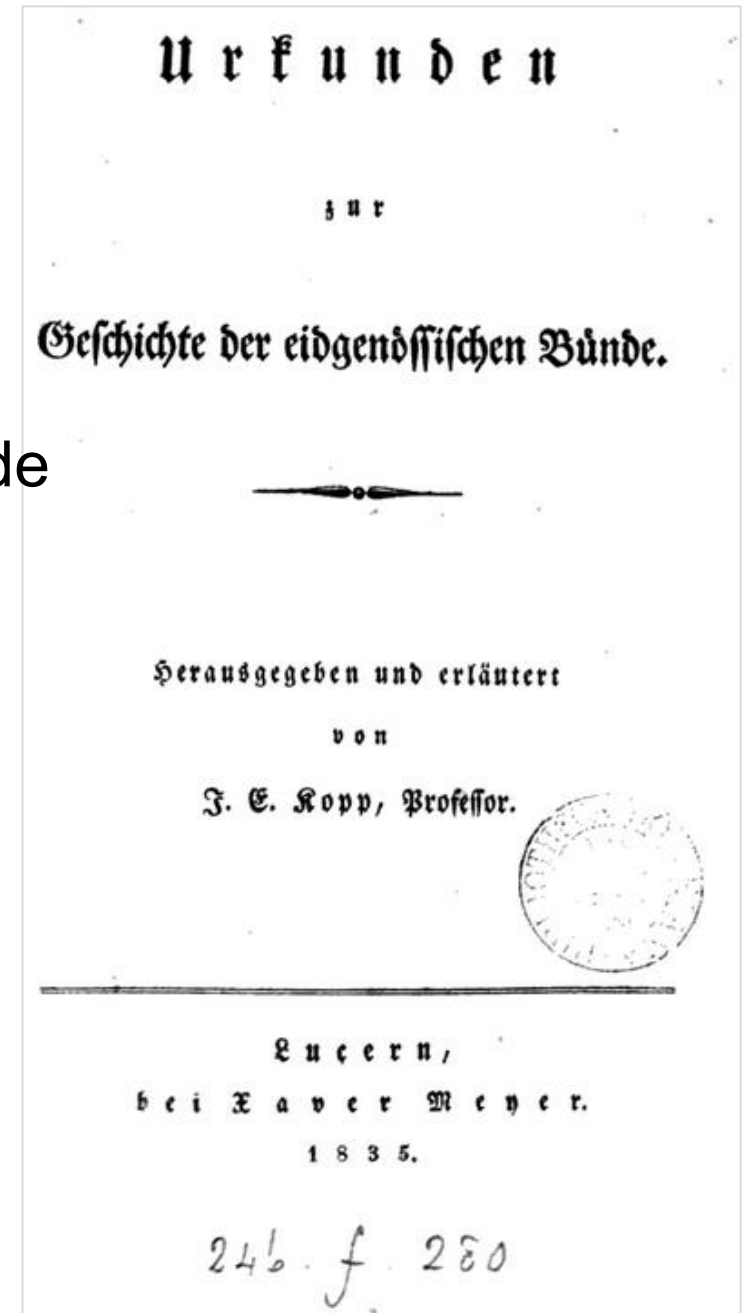
Johannes von Müller (1780)
Geschichten Schweizerischer Eidgenossenschaft



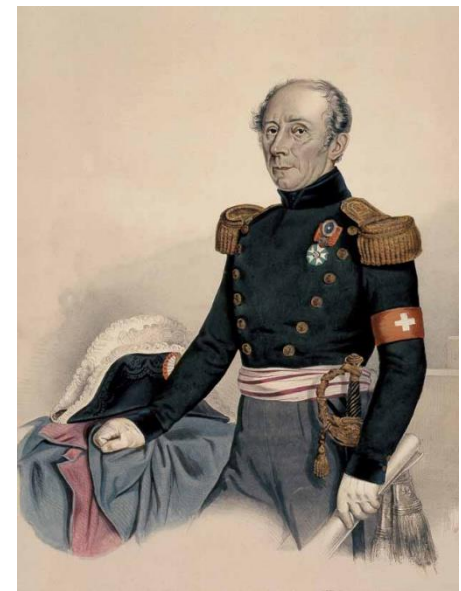
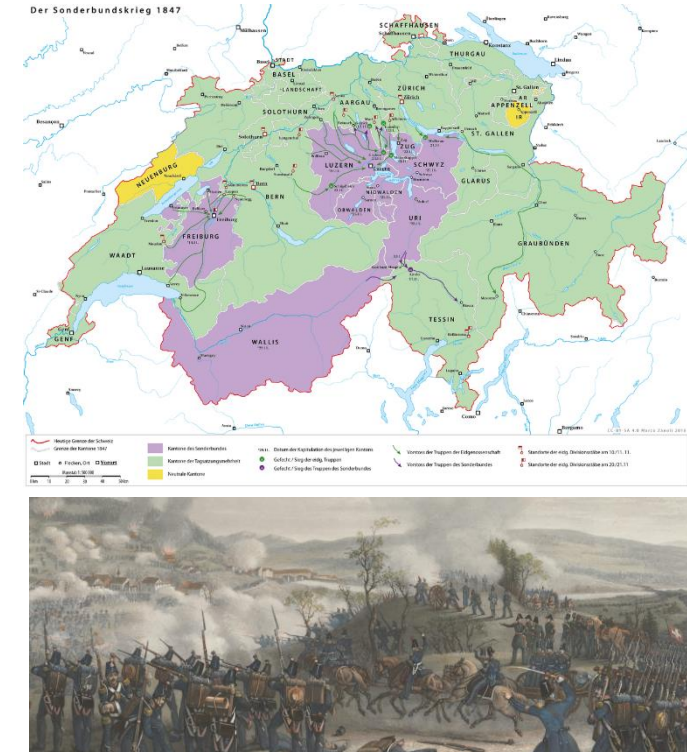
2. Restauration

Joseph Eutych Kopp (from Lucerne, catholic)

- Geschichte der eidgenössischen Bünde (1835-51)
- Urkunden zur Geschichte der eidgenössischen Bünde



3. Civil War and Nation-Building

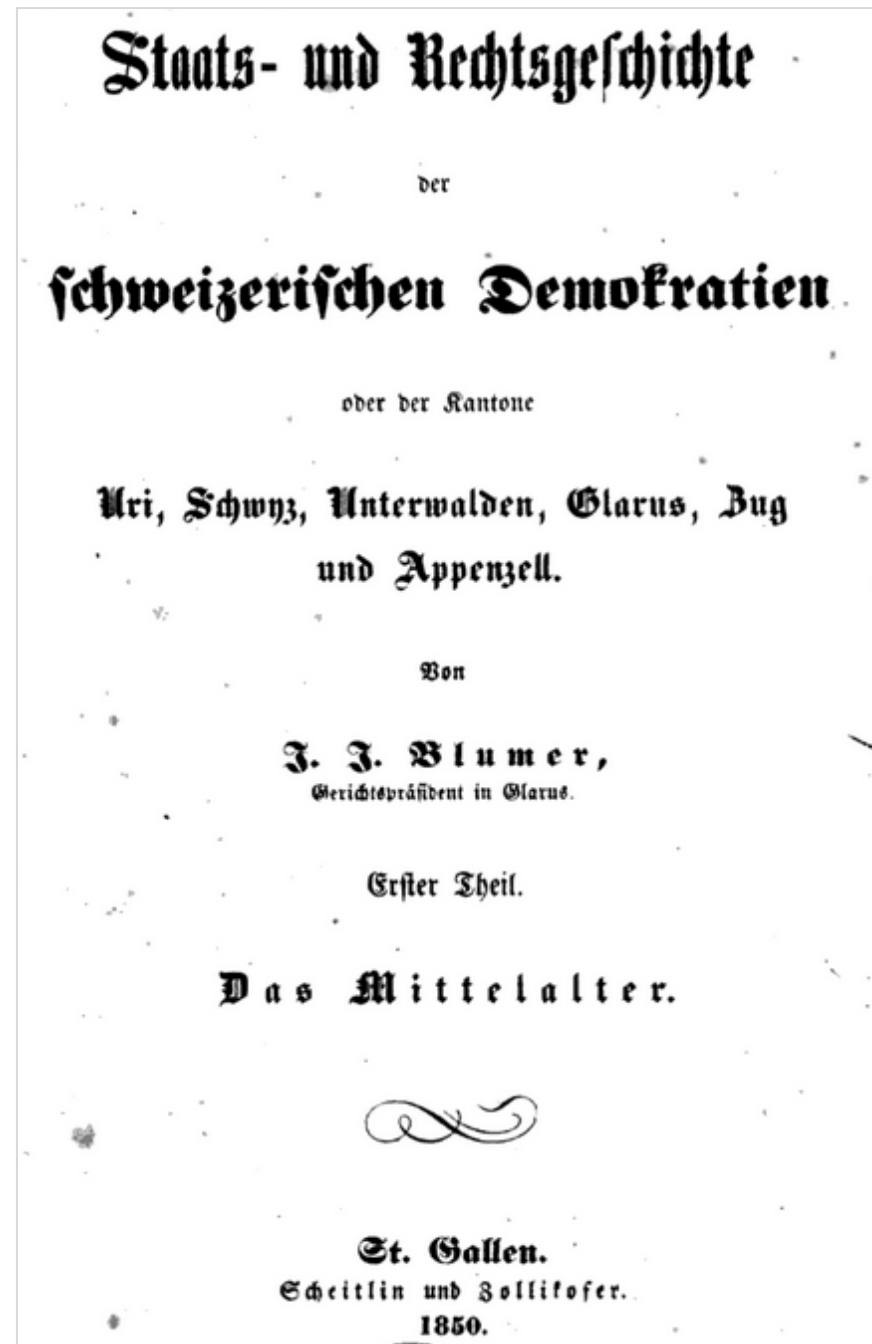


1847: «Sonderbund»: union of the catholic cantons
Civil war, defeat of the catholic cantons

51 1848: foundation of the federal State

3. Early Nation-Building

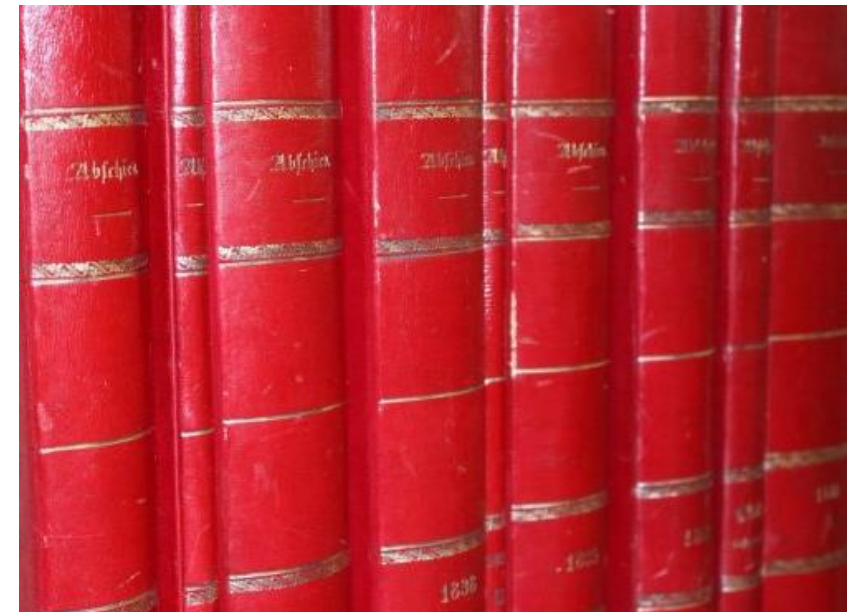
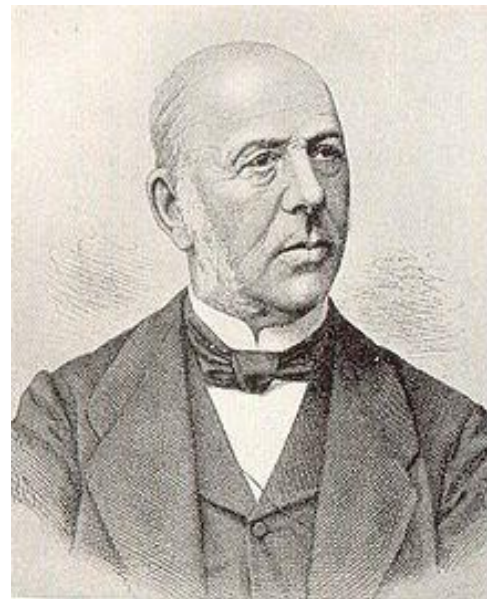
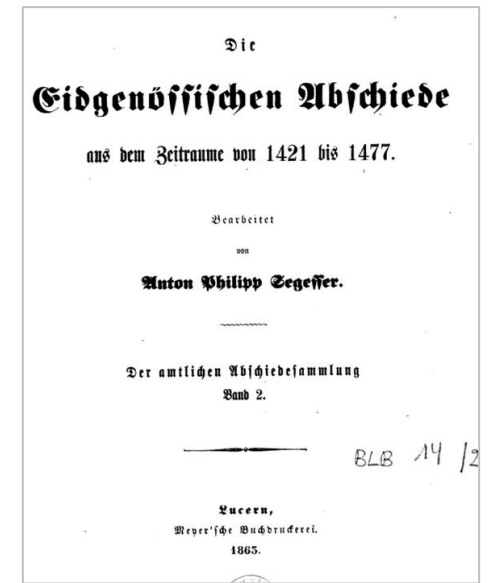
Johnann Jakob Blumer, Staats und Rechtsgeschichte der schweizerischen Demokratien oder der Kantone Uri, Schwyz, Unterwalden, Glarus, Zug und Appenzell (1850-59)



3. Early Nation-Building

Joseph Eutyck Kopp and Philipp Anton von Segesser:
Amtliche Sammlung der älteren Eidgenössischen
Abschiede, 21 vol. (1839-1885):

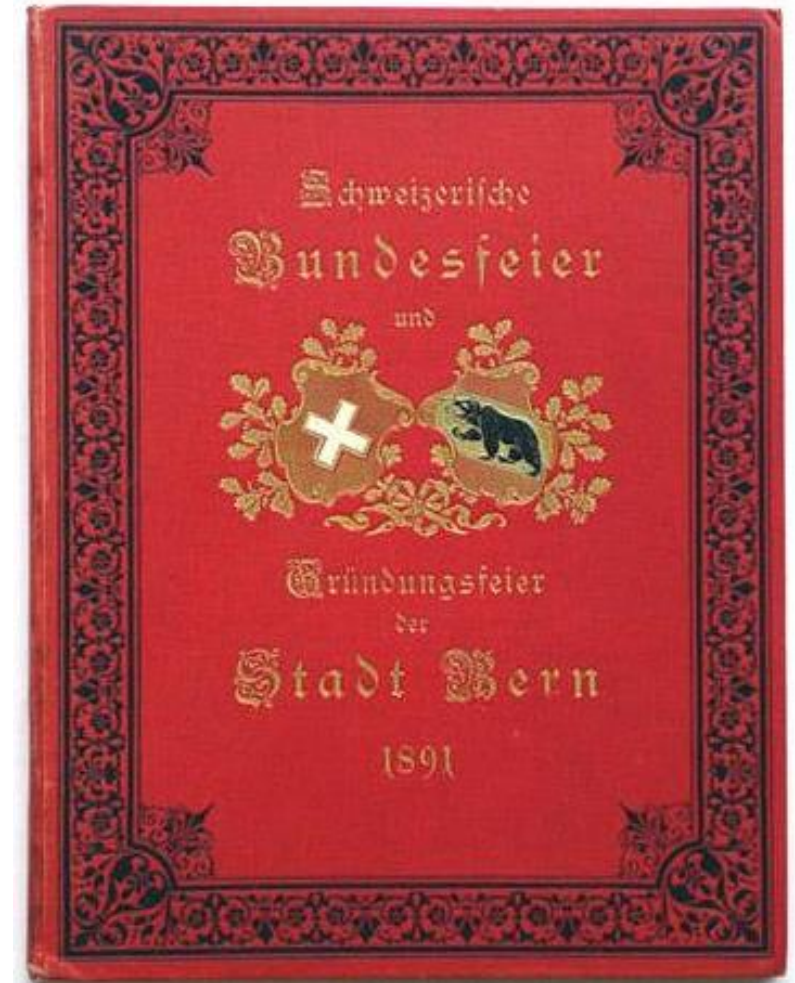
Major source-edition covering 1240-1798/1847



3. Nationbuilding: «600-years jubilee» 1891

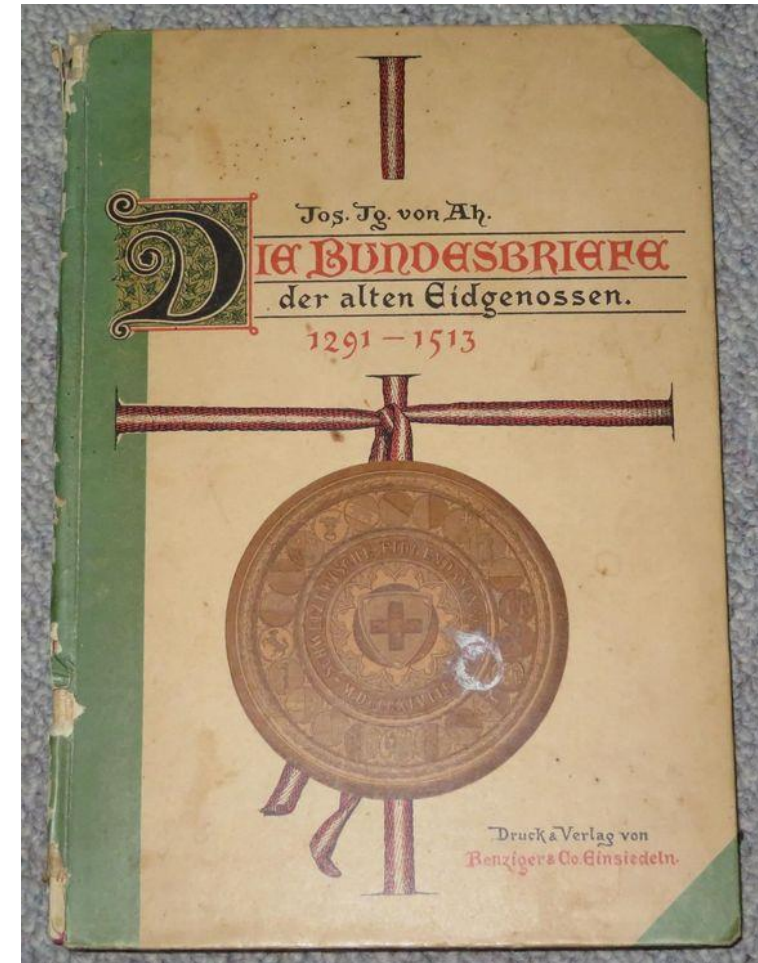
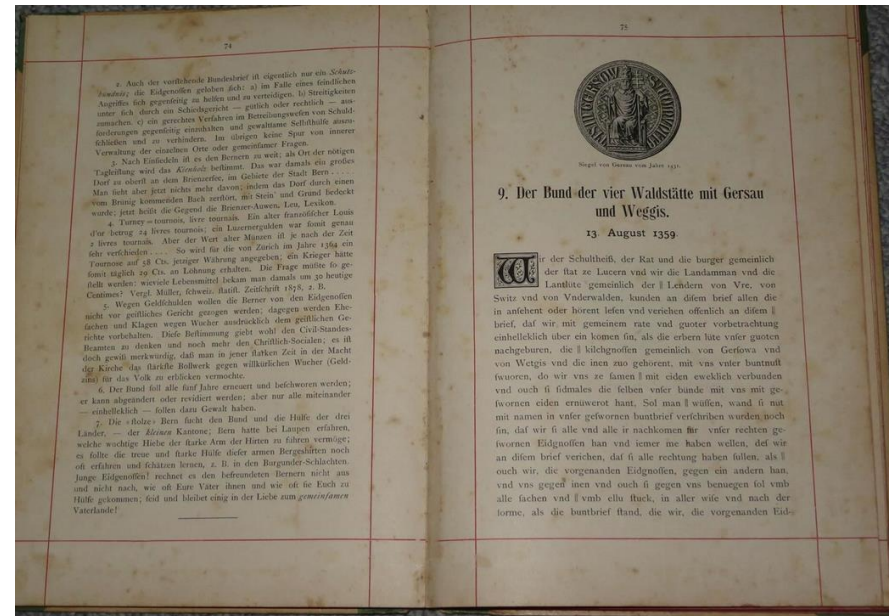
1291: Rütli oath, federal charter

1191: foundation of the city of Berne



3. Nationbuilding: «600-jears jubilee» 1891

Joseph Ignaz von Ah (1891): Die Bundesbriefe der alten Eidgenossen 1291-1513. Ein Lesebuch

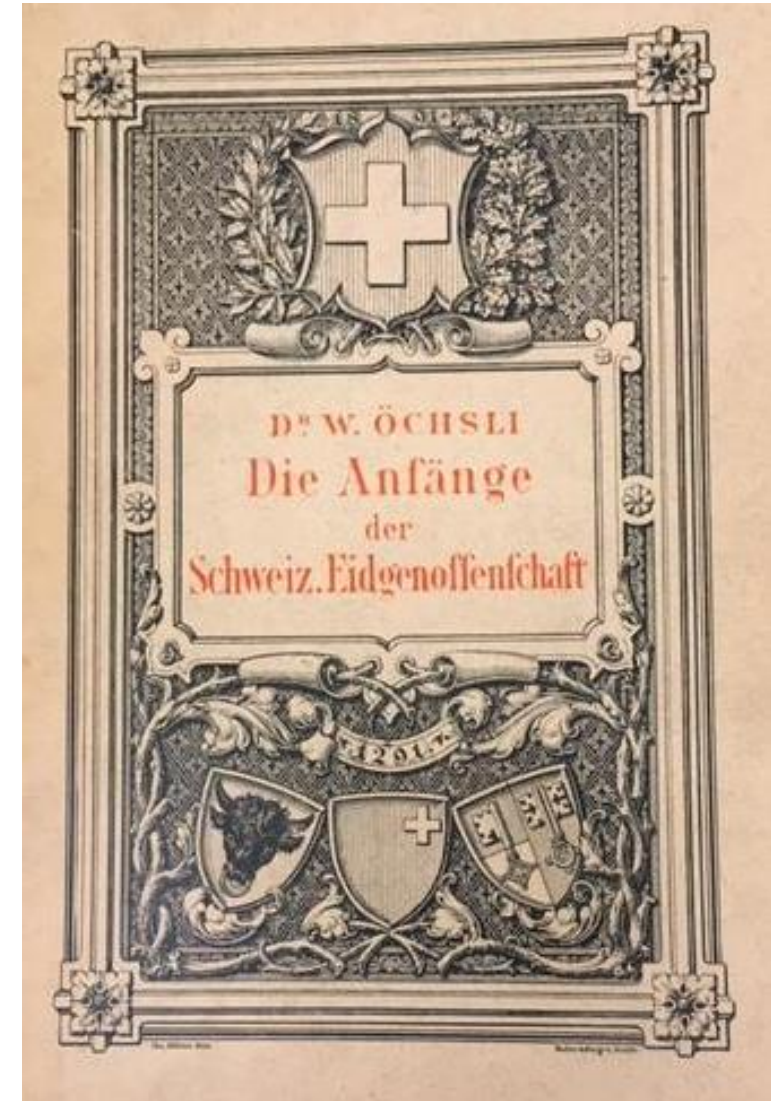
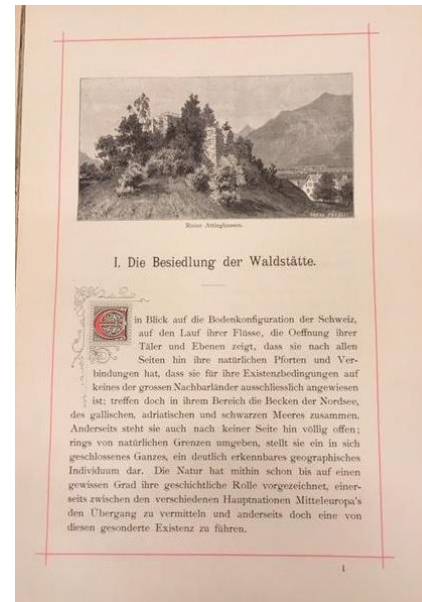


3. Nationbuilding: «600-jears jubilee» 1891

Wilhelm Oechsli (1891): Die Anfänge der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft

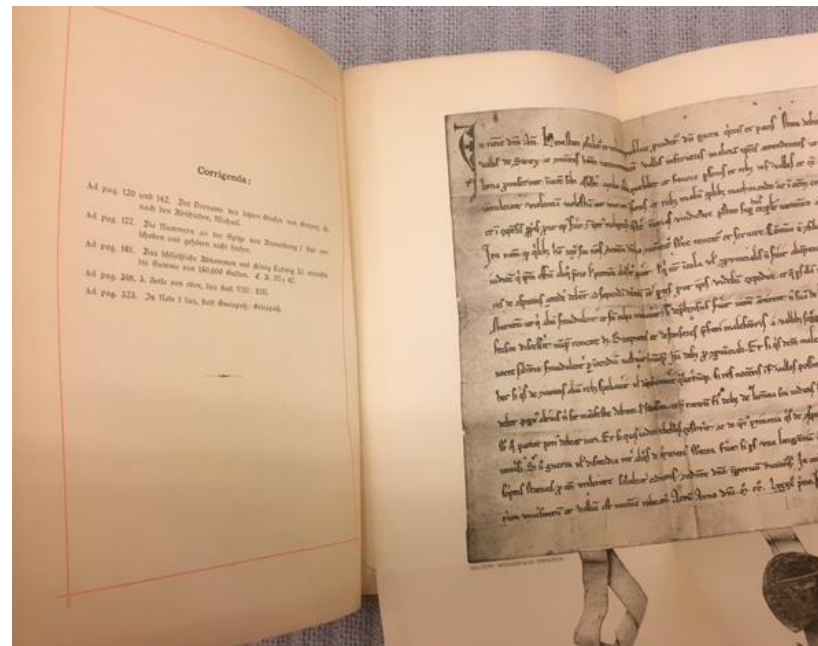
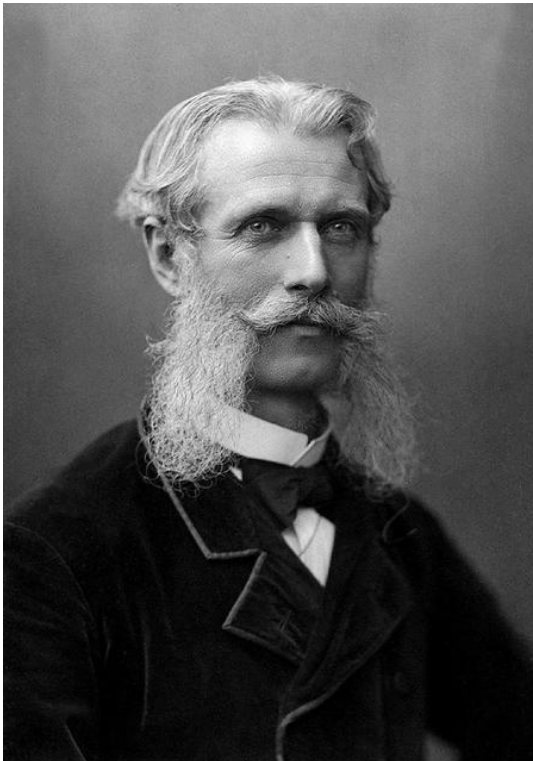


(studied with Mommsen in Berlin 1870-74)



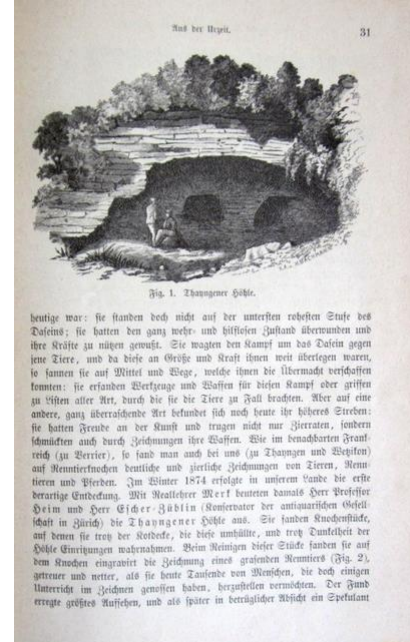
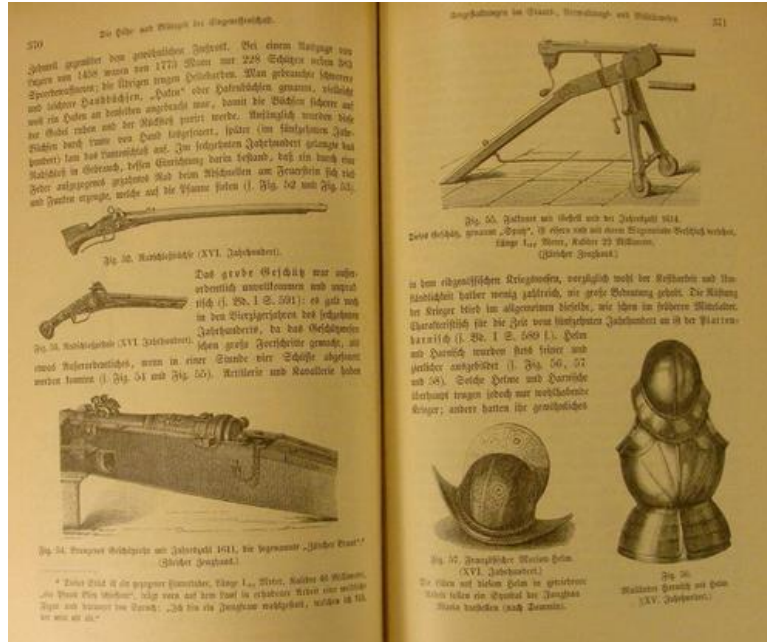
3. Nationbuilding: «600-years jubilee» 1891

Carl Hilty (1891): Die Bundesverfassungen der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft



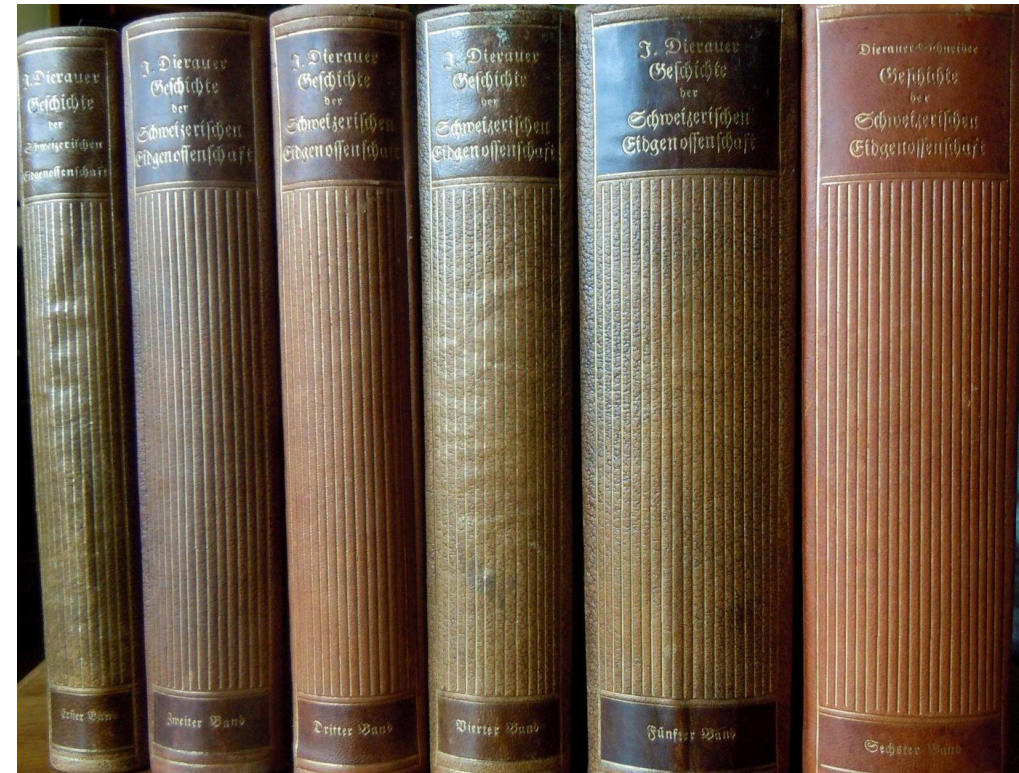
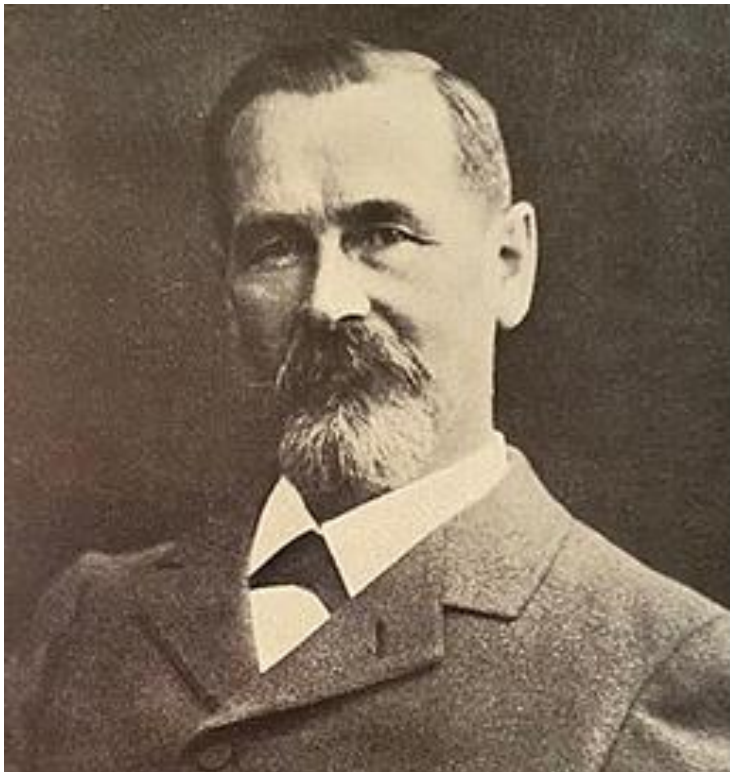
3. Nationbuilding

Karl Dändliker (1892): Geschichte der Schweiz mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die Entwicklung des Verfassungs- und Kulturlebens von den ältesten Zeiten bis zur Gegenwart.



3. Nationbuilding

Johannes Dierauer (1887-1917): Geschichte der Schweizer Eidgenossenschaft (6 vol)



4. Spiritual National Defence

1. The processes of “nationbuilding” by historiography were completed during WW I.
2. Since the 1920s, national historiography concentrated on the federal charters and pacts as main cohesion factor.
3. National history focused on late-medieval battles and faded out the early modern period
4. Departing from medieval history, a ideology of «blood and soil» was introduced
5. After WW II historiography continued in the mainstream of «neutral anti-communism», proposing the «Special case» of Swiss history

4.1 The National Exhibition 1939



4.1 The National Exhibition 1939

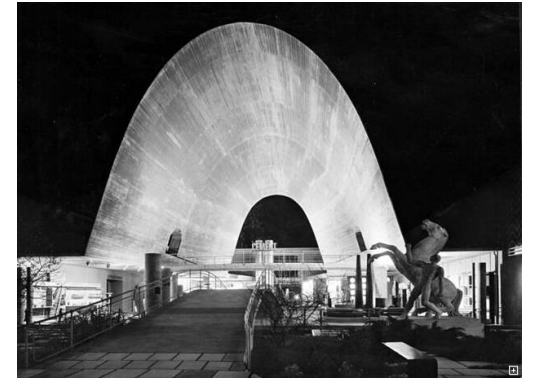
Background:

- Planned for 1933, postponed to 1936, then 1939
- Political pressure from Germany and Italy
- 1938: Act on the promotion of National Culture:
national media, artists, scientists and publishing houses

4.1 The National Exhibition 1939

- Representation of Switzerland's past and present
- Lighthouse character of the exhibition
- 6 May 1939 to 29 October 1939 (open daily, including 1.9.39)
- 10,507,735 visitors (CH population in 1939: 4,252,902)
- Strengthening of national consciousness
- Emphasis on the "will to defend" of neutral Switzerland

4.1 The National Exhibition 1939



4.1 The National Exhibition 1939

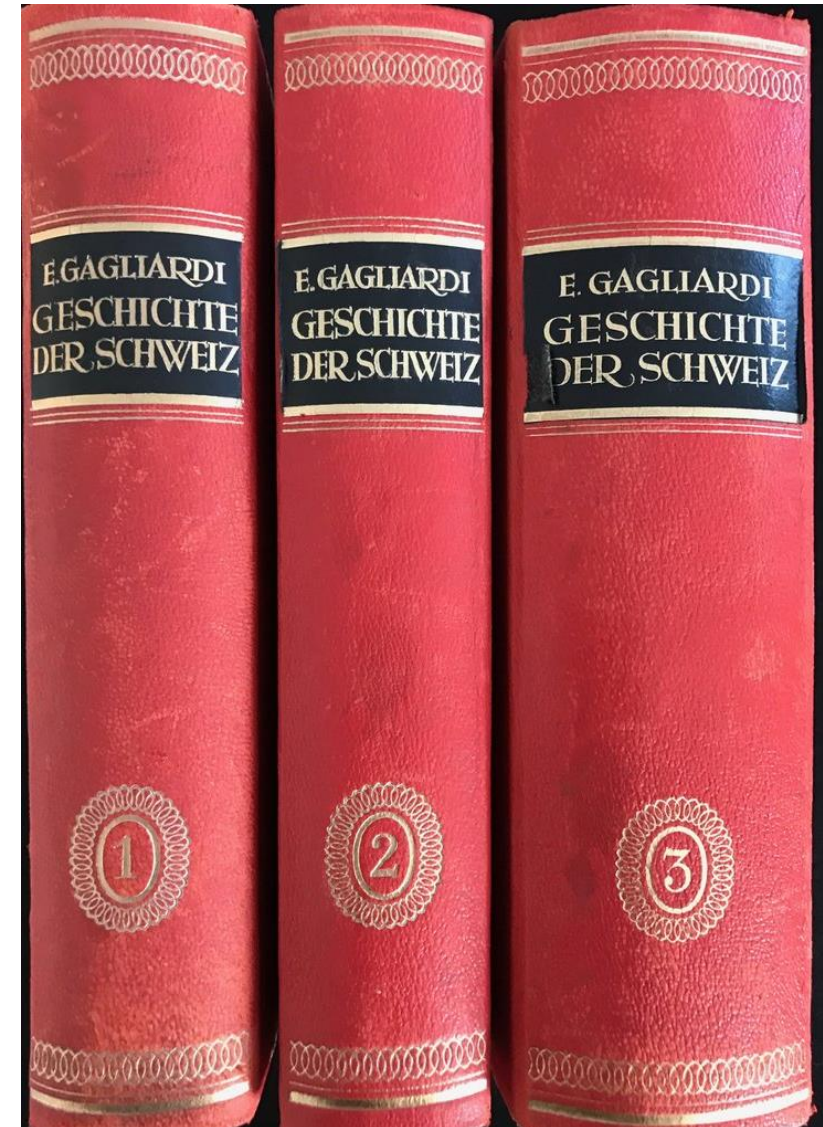
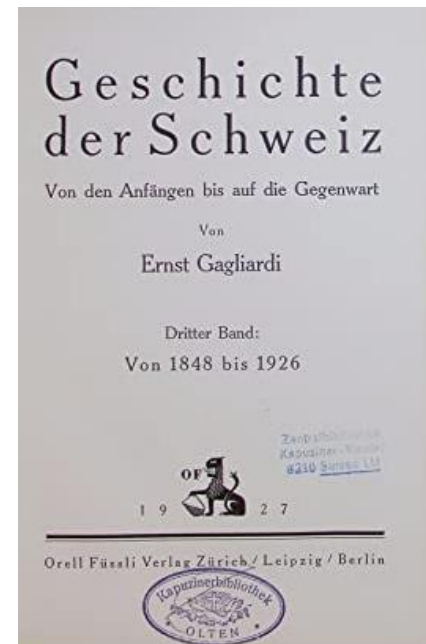


Otto Baumberger, graphic artist



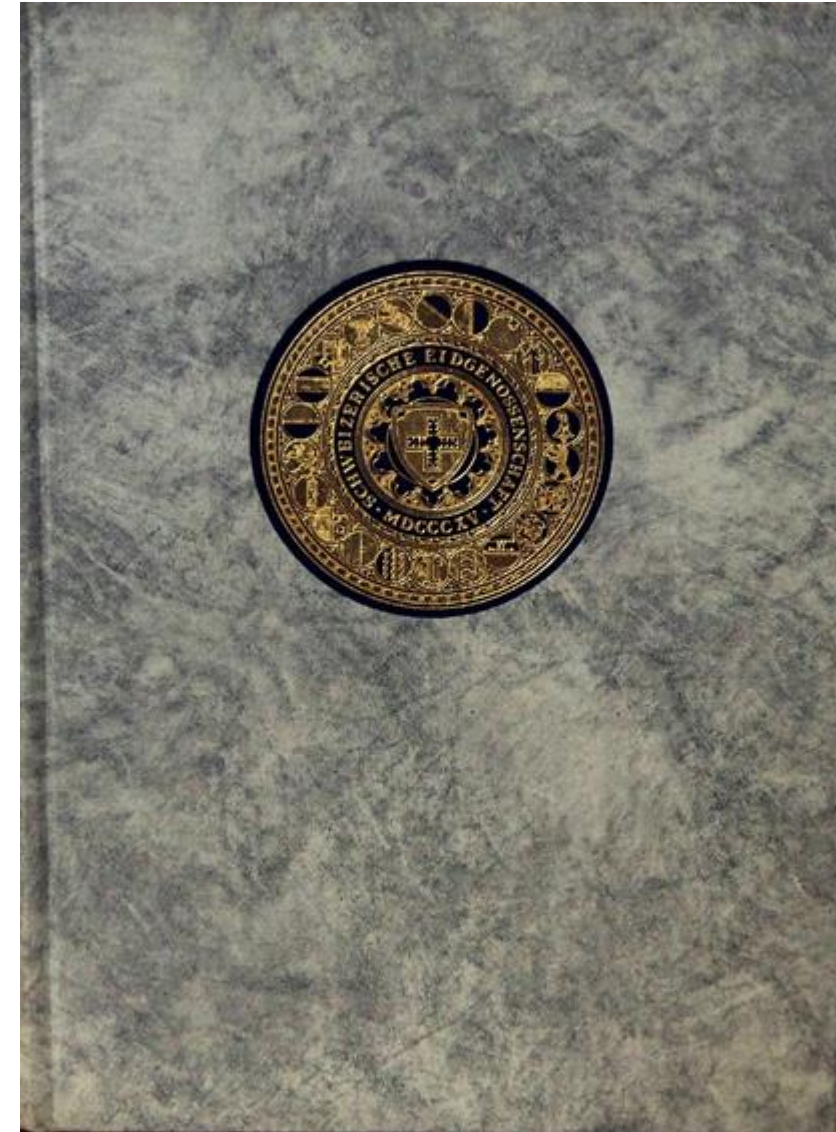
4. National Spiritual Defence

Ernst Gagliardi (1920-27): Geschichte der Schweiz. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart (3 vol)



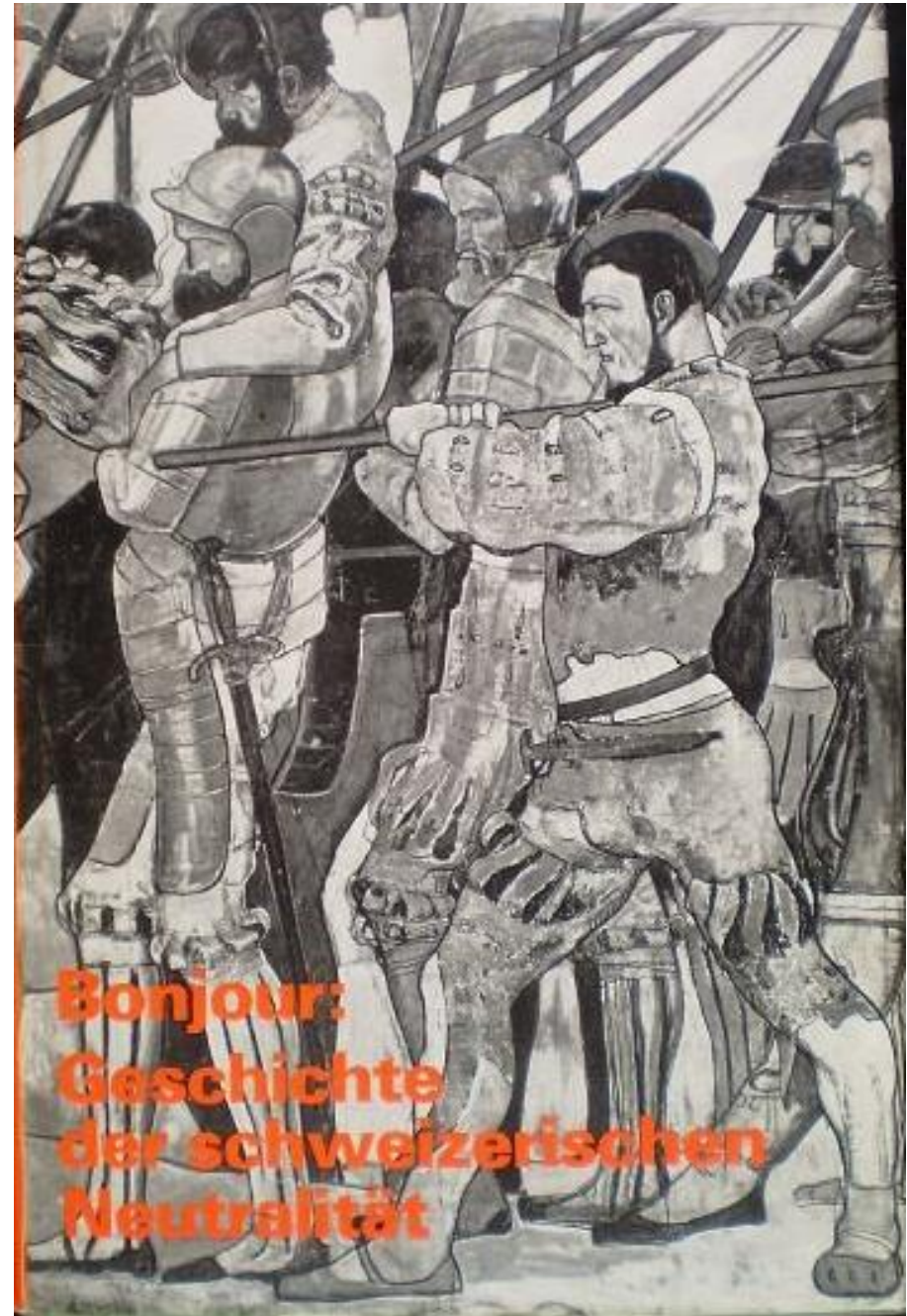
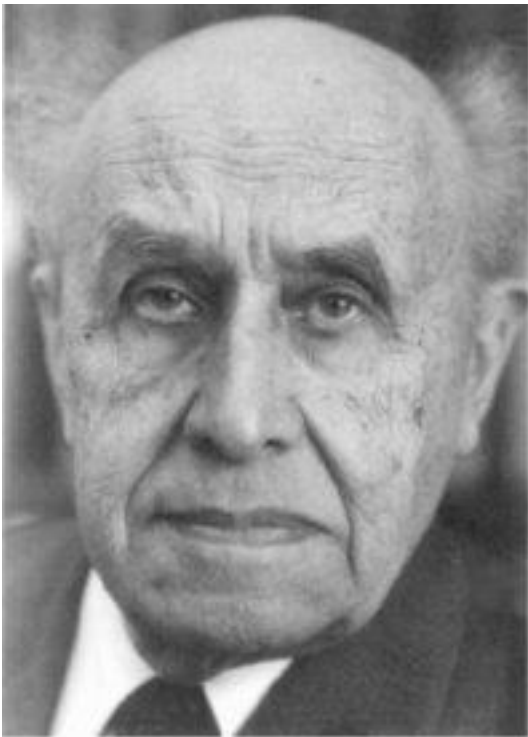
4. National Spiritual Defence

Peter Dürrenmatt (1957): Schweizer Geschichte



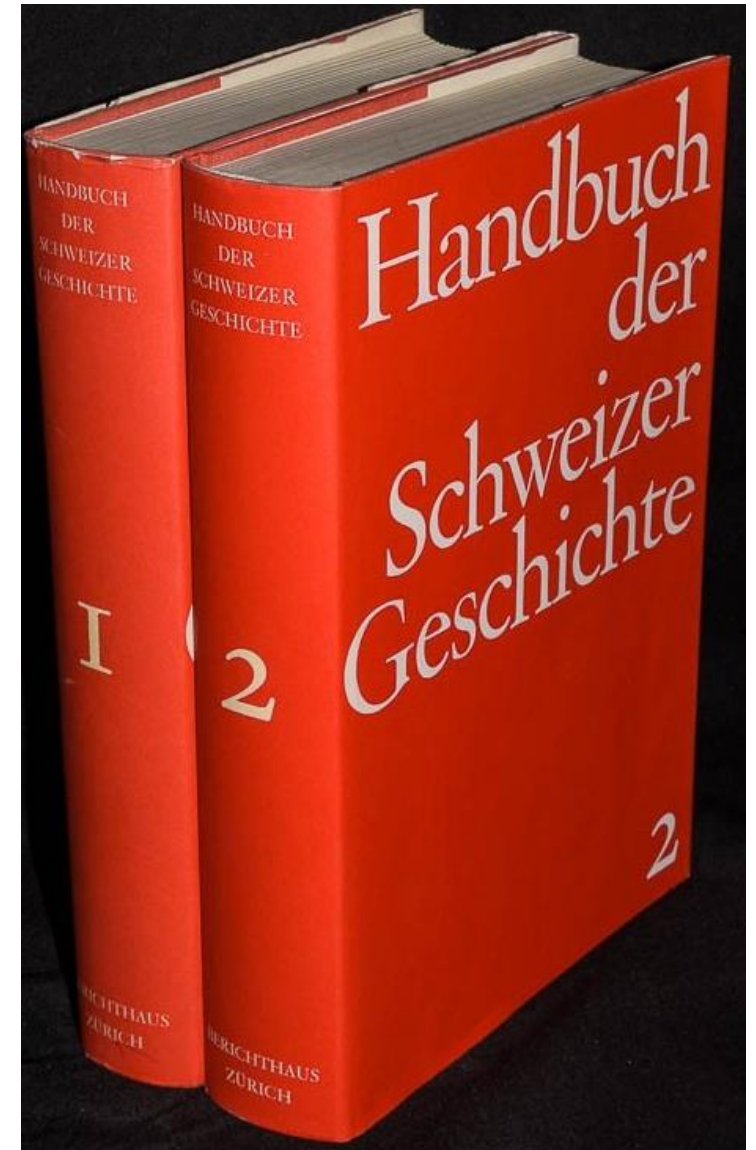
4. National Spiritual Defence

Edgar Bonjour (1965-75): Geschichte der Schweizerischen Neutralität (9 vol.)



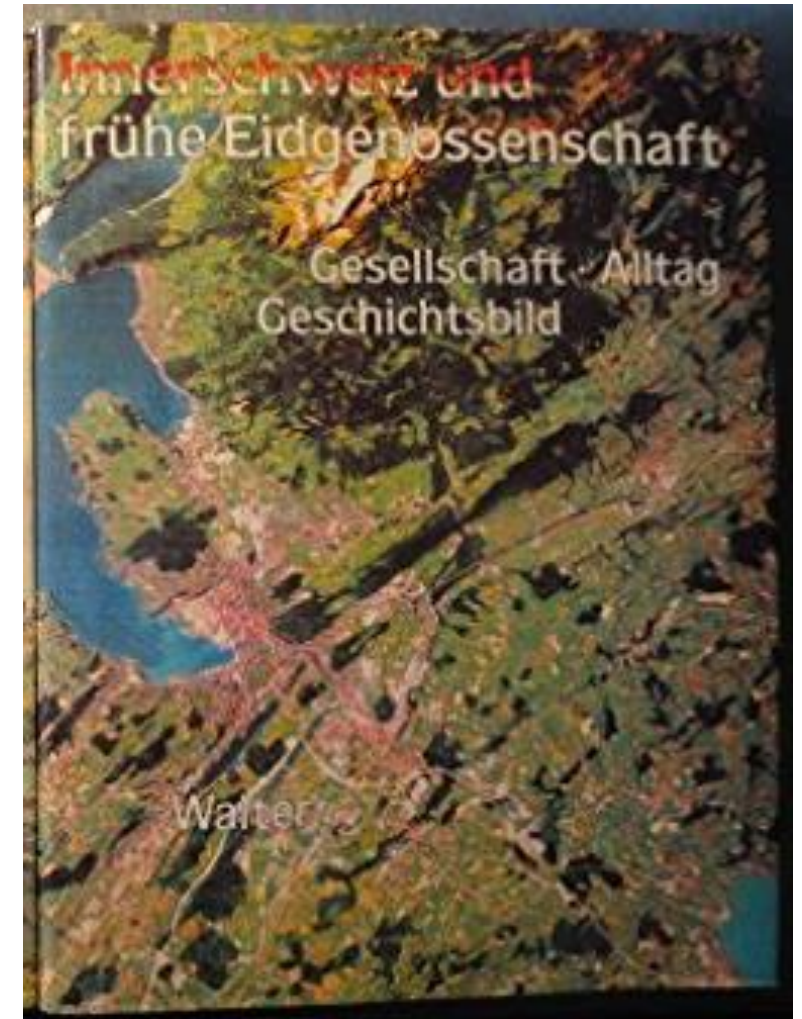
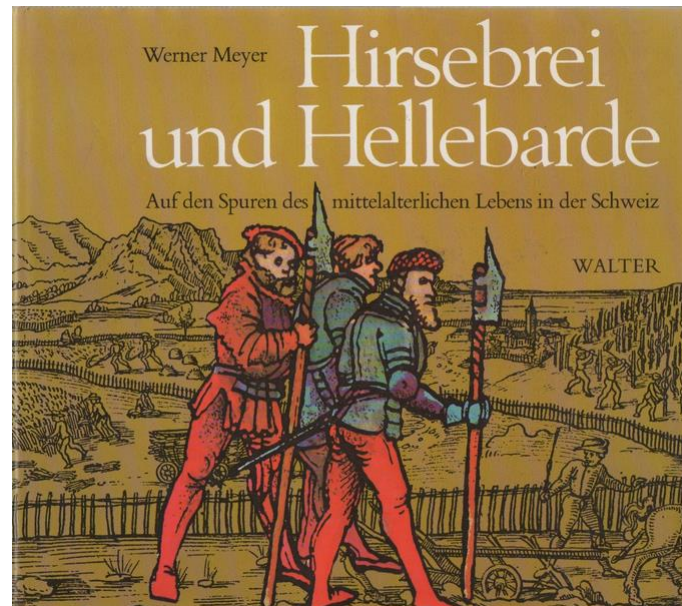
4. National Spiritual Defence

(1990/72): Handbuch der Schweizer Geschichte (2 vol), Chapters on the Medieval History by Walter Schaufelberger and Hans-Conrad Peyer



5. New approaches since 1990

Werner Meyer: Hirsebrei und Hellebarde (1986);
Siedlung und Alltag. Die mittelalterliche
Innerschweiz aus der Sicht des Archäologen
(1990)



5. New approaches since 1990

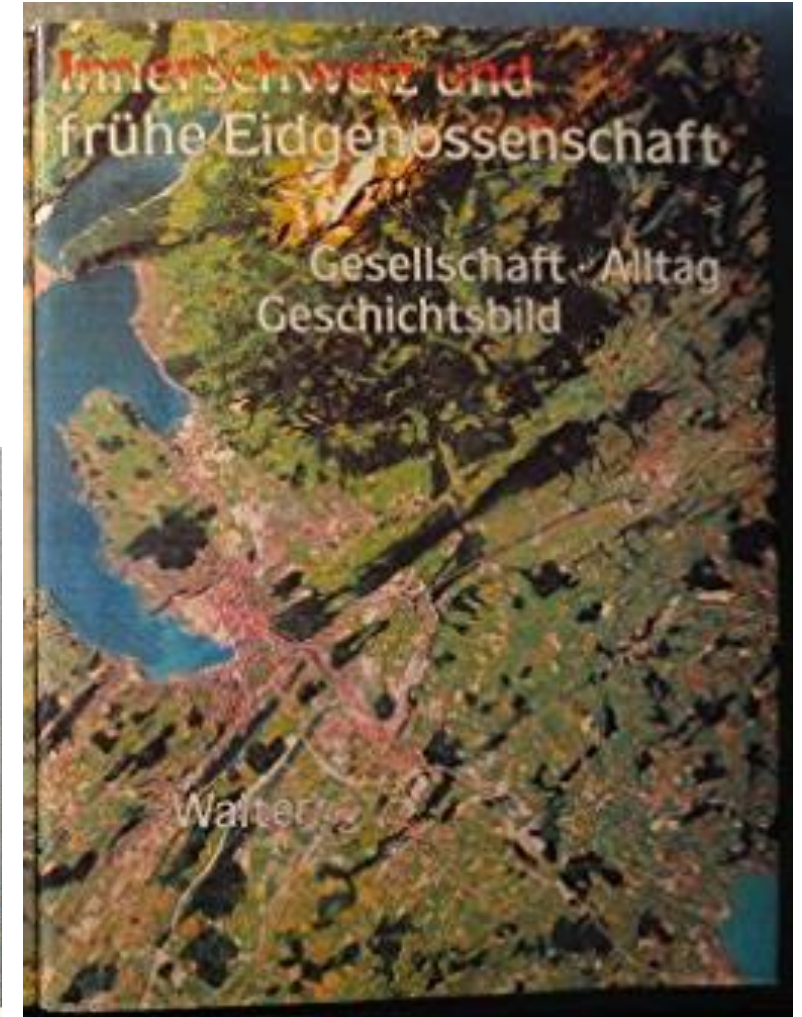
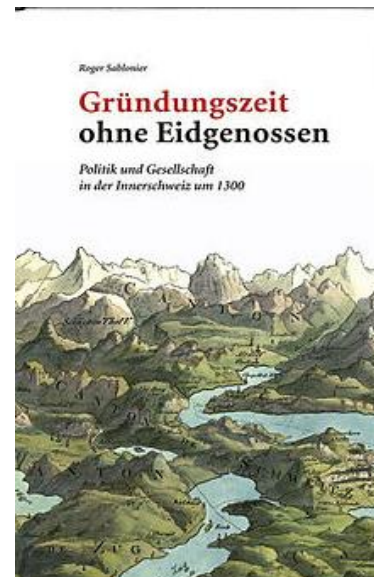
Guy P. Marchal: Schweizer Gebrauchsgeschichte :
Geschichtsbilder, Mythenbildung und nationale
Identität (2006)



5. New approaches since 1990

Roger Sablonier: Innerschweizer Gesellschaft im 14. Jahrhundert : Sozialstruktur und Wirtschaft
Sablonier (1990)

Gründungszeit ohne Eidgenossen : Politik und Gesellschaft in der Innerschweiz um 1300 (2008)

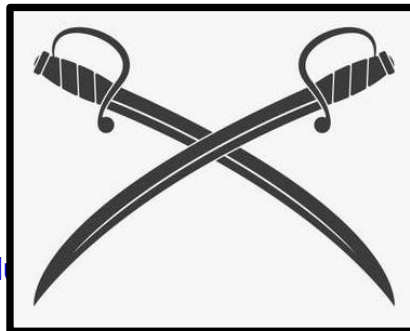
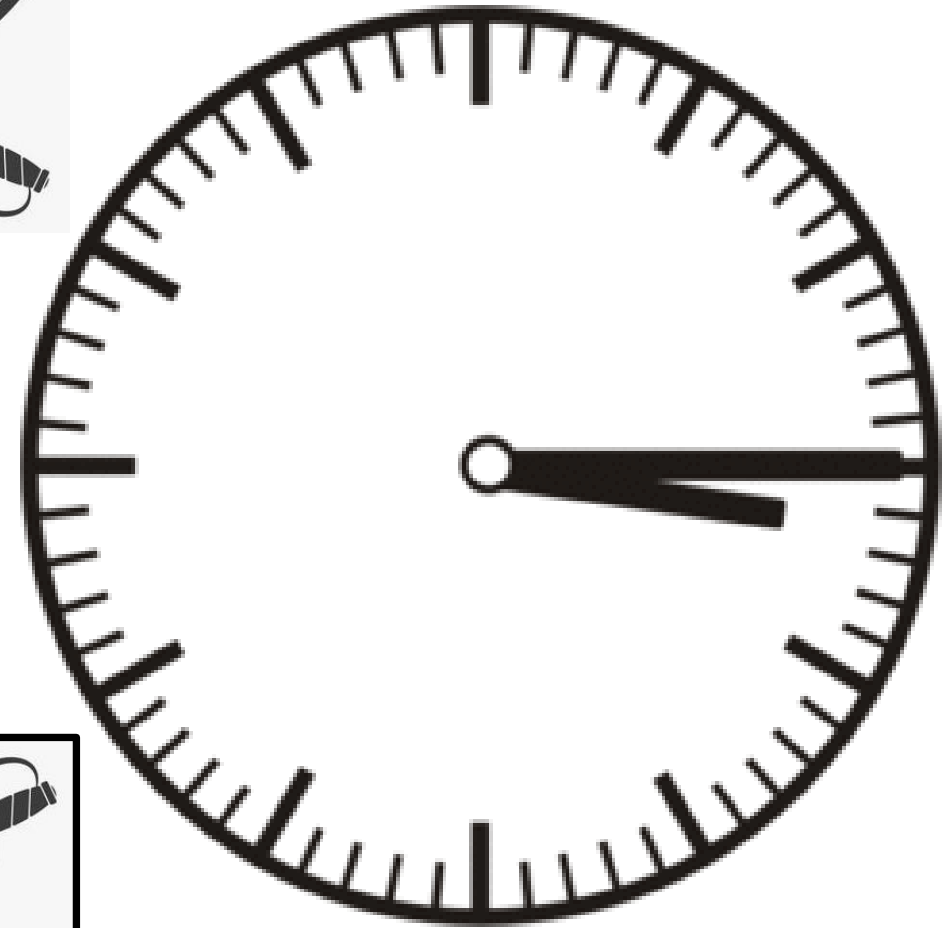
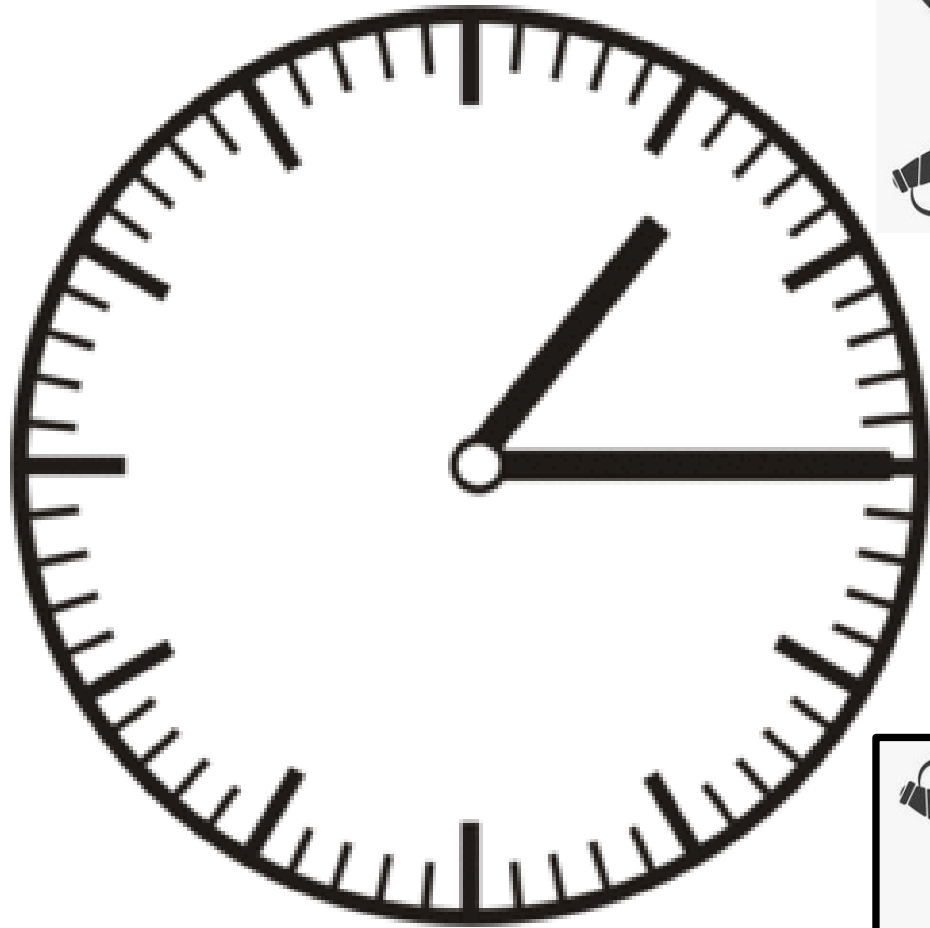


Break

5. The Swiss watch on medieval battles

1. Umschriebener ländlicher Raum
2. Keine mächtige Stadt
3. Alpines / voralpines Umfeld
4. Wirtschaft auf der Basis von Grossviehhaltung
5. Kollektive Freiheiten

5. The «Swiss watch» on medieval battles



5. The Swiss watch on medieval battles

1315	Morgarten
1386	Sempach
1388	Näfels
1405	Stoos
1444	St. Jakob an der Birs
1476	Grandson
1476	Murten
1477	Nancy
1499	Calven / Dorneck
1515	Marignano

5. Morgarten 1315



- Context: Double election in 1314
Local transgressions on Einsiedeln monastery
- Opponents: Habsburgs contingent (1000 men apr. Tschudi)
Schwyz, Uri, Obwalden (600 men apr. Tschudi)
- Course: uncertain. Traditionally: Duke Leopold's troops marching in column were cut off, pelted with tree trunks and stones and forced into Lake Aegeri
- Results: Federal pact of Brunnen (1315)
Tightening relations to king Ludwig



5. Sempach 1386

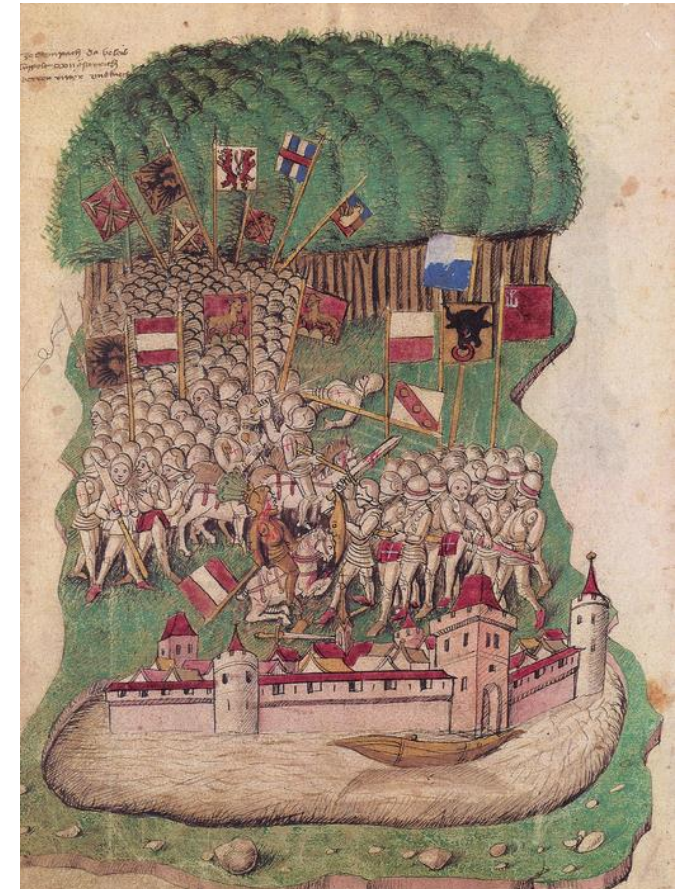


Context: Dissent between Habsburg and Luxemburg dynasty
Local transgressions on Habsburg properties
Great western schism

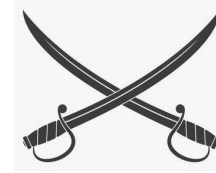
Opponents: Habsburgs contingent (4000 men apr. Tschudi)
Schwyz, Uri, Obwalden (1400 men apr.)

Course: uncertain. Traditionally: Duke Leopold III seeks battle from top of a hill. Phalanx of unmounted knights against triangle of Swiss light equipped infantry. Victory after the heroic sacrifice of Arnold Winkelried.

Results: Federal positions strengthened
The Landfrieden of Eger could not enforce dissolution of the Confederation



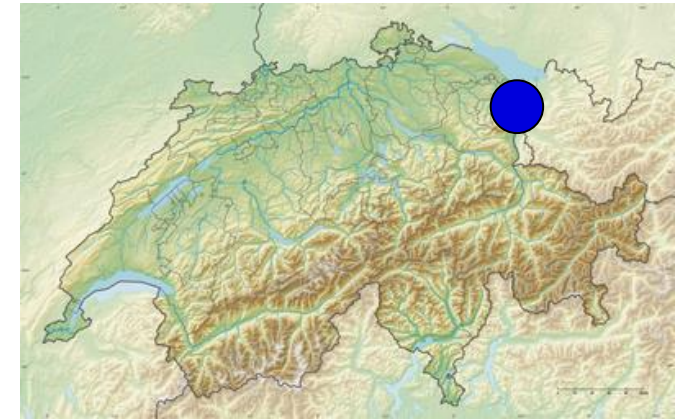
5. Näfels 1388



- Context:** Dissent between Habsburg and Confederates
War of the Cities in Upper Germany (1387-1389)
- Opponents:** Habsburgs contingent 6'000 (15'000 men apr. Tschudi)
Glarus, Schwyz, Uri, 600 (400 men apr. Tschudi)
- Course:** The plundering main force is attacked and beaten on the trigger.
- Results:** The Federal pact between the Confederates and Glarus from 1352 is confirmed.
Glarus is established as Partner, not as subject to the Confederates



5. Stoos 1405

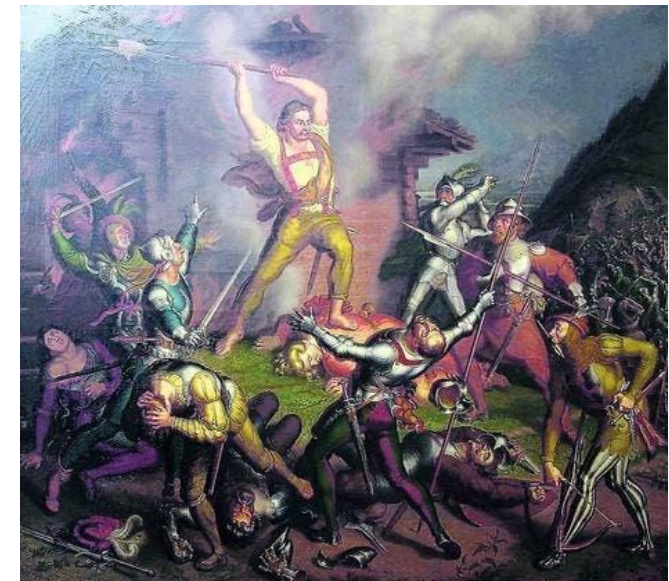


Context: Appenzell wars (1401-1429)
Peasants uprisings around Lake Constance

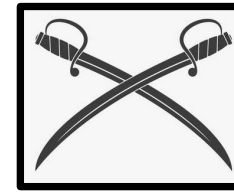
Opponents: Monastery of St. Gall, with its protectors
Stoos: Habsburg: 4000 men (Tschudi)
Appenzell, Schwyz, etc. 400 men (Tschudi)

Course: Traditional: A part of the marching column coming up the hill is attacked at the border fortification. Victory by heroic bravery.

Results: Strengthening of the regional alliance «Bund ob dem See» lead by Appenzell, weakening of the abbey of St. Gall and its protectors



5. St. Jakob an der Birs 1444



Context: Old Zurich wars (1436-1450), Hundred years war (1337-1419) England vs. France; Habsburg' claims on the Upper Rhine Region, coucil of Basel (1431-1449), Schism

Opponents: French mercenary army «Armagnaks» 15'000 men
Confederates (vanguard): 1'500 men

Course: The vanguard of the Swiss attacked without permission and was weared down to the last man in an orchard – defending themselves heroically

Results: Withdrawal of the French army



5. Grandson 1476



Context: Burgundian wars (1476-77)

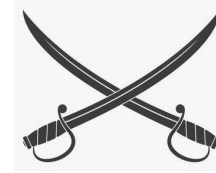
Opponents: Burgundian army 22'500 men
Confederates, 22-24'000 men

Course: The Swiss attacked ferocely while the Burgundians regrouped.

Results: No political advantages for the Confederates
Burgundy-booty



5. Murten 1476

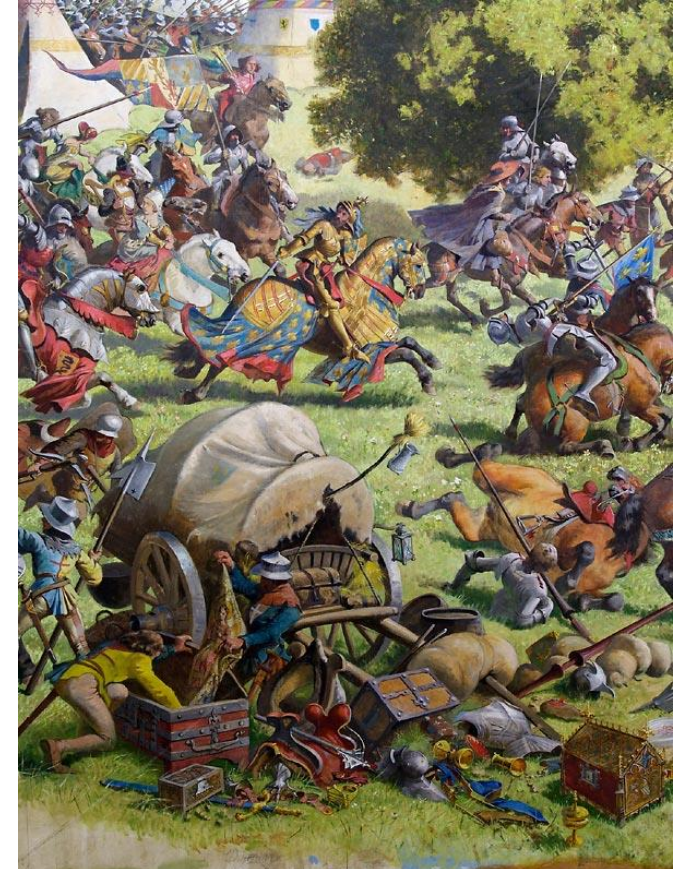


Context: Burgundian wars (1476-77), dissent between Confederates

Opponents: Burgundian army 20'000 men
Confederates, Habsburg fiefs : 18'000 men

Course: The vanguard of the Swiss attacked without permission and was weared down to the last man in an orchard – defending themselves heroically

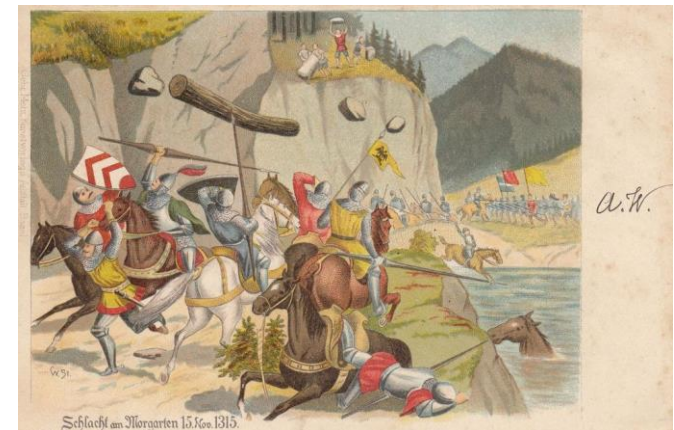
Results: No political advantages for the Confederates
Burgundy-booty



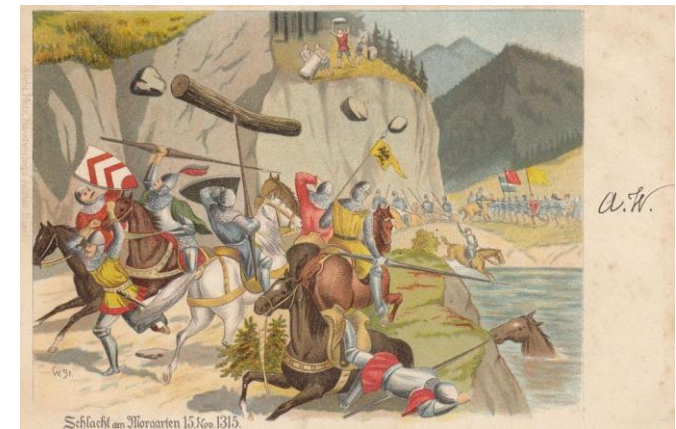
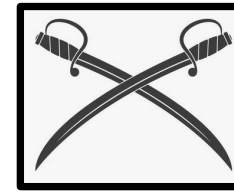
5. Nancy 1477



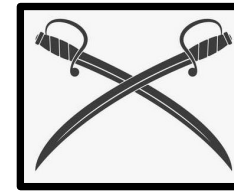
5. Calven / Dornach 1499



5. Marignano 1515



5. Medieval battles



Home exercise:

Make your own observations on another battle:

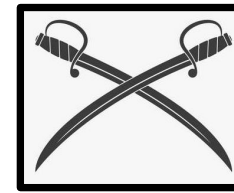
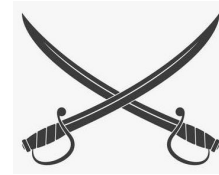
- Read the texts on «wikipedia» in English / German
- Look for pictures, plans and medial representations
- **Make a presentation of 3 minutes, explaining the events**
- Further reading: Swiss cronicles:
 - a. Tschudi: [aegidius tschudi chronicon - e-Helvetica](#)
[Access \(admin.ch\)](#)

b. Schilling: [Die Berner-chronik des Diebold Schilling 1468-1484: Im Auftrage des historischen Vereins des ... : Gustav Tobler , Historischer Verein des Kantons Bern , Diebold Schilling](#) : [Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet](#)

Archive



Content: 29.09.2022



1. Questions on 22.09. 5'
2. Short presentations of further battles 30'
3. How it all began: the early middle ages 30'
4. Abbeys, lords, peasants and towns 60'
5. Break
6. Exercise: The Federal Charter of 1291 45'

