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The Battle of Morgarten (1315) was the first military encounter between the Swiss and the Habsburgs. Depiction from Christoph Silbereysen's pictorial chronicles of 1576



The oath of confederation sworn by 13 Swiss cantonal delegates with Saint Nicholas of Flüe pictured front left. Humbert Mareschet's painting from 1586 hangs in Berne's city hall



The first Federal Council in 1848. Swiss President Jonas Furrer in the centre, with Josef Munzinger, Henri Druey, Wilhelm Matthias Naeff, Friedrich Frey-Hérosé, Stefano Francini and Ulrich Ochsenbein (clockwise from top)

Swiss history in pictures

Two years ago, Thomas Maissen, an expert in modern history, gave Switzerland a book bearing the simple title "Schweizer Geschichte" (Swiss History). His publication was extremely well received by the general public and historians alike. It was regarded as a new standard text. Maissen has now published

"Schweizer Geschichte im Bild" (Swiss History in Pictures).

This pictorial book impressively and dispassionately illustrates the path taken by the fractious and often internally divided Swiss people as they developed to become a modern society in an effective state. Myths surrounding the Rütli oath, Tell's apple shot

and the Battle of Marignano, for example, are also set straight. This book is an informative and enjoyable read.

"Schweizer Geschichte im Bild"; HIER+JETZT Basel; 292 pages, 425 images; ISBN 978-3-03919-244-1; CHF 78, EUR 60; www.hierundjetzt.ch



Großer Flüchtlings-Saal im Kornhaus in Bern, Januar 1850.
Salon des réfugiés

The great refugee hall in the Kornhaus in Berne. Picture from 1850



Refugees at the St. Margrethen border fence near St. Gallen in May 1945

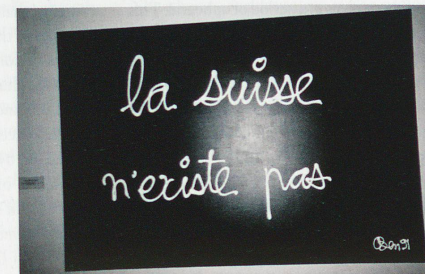


Unsere Neutralität

"Isolated Switzerland" - a caricature published in "Nebelspalter" in October 1945



February 1986: The committee opposing Switzerland's accession to the UN with Otto Fischer, Hubert Raymond and Christoph Blocher. UN accession was rejected by 76 % of the electorate at the time



Artist Ben Vautier's contribution to the 1992 World Expo in Seville. Was it an acknowledgement of Swiss diversity or a renunciation of the fatherland? It provoked great outrage anyway