

Schweizer Migrationsgeschichte [André Holenstein, Patrick Kury, Kristina Schulz]

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Immigration and emigration in Switzerland

“It’s profitable, and that’s a privilege”



ANDRÉ HOLENSTEIN, PATRICK KURY, KRISTINA SCHULZ: “Schweizer Migrationsgeschichte”
Hier und Jetzt Verlag 2018
384 Seiten; CHF/E 39.–
E-Book (epub) € 30.–

“Migration is normal for Switzerland” is written on the back cover of the non-fiction book “Schweizer Migrationsgeschichte”. The three historians André Hostenstein, Patrick Kury and Kristina Schulz provide the first comprehensive description of migration movements in Switzerland from their beginnings to the present day. The starting point is the period of ancient history after the last ice age around 15,000 B.C., when humans started to arrive in the Swiss Central Plateau region. The book then covers a wide chronological range up to the French Revolution, a long period during which Switzerland as we know it today did not yet exist. Afterwards, the focus lies on immigration and emigration in the modern federal state of the 19th century up until the two world wars. The last chapters are dedicated to

the time between the post-war period and the present day.

The authors illustrate the economic, political, religious or ethnic, private and family-related reasons why individuals, families or entire population groups immigrated to or emigrated from Switzerland. All migrants had, and certainly still have, in common the desire to start a new life in a foreign place. In the last chapter called “insights and outlooks”, the authors summarize how decisive migration was for Swiss history. The migration movements are the foundation of Switzerland’s multiculturalism and multilingualism, and have contributed to the great economic prosperity of our country.

The authors have succeeded in vividly illustrating the significance of migration by focusing on individual fates. The content of the book, which is clearly formulated and easily accessible for non-experts, is based on research conducted by the authors and further studies. A highly interesting and far-reaching non-fiction book, which shows how immigration and emigration have shaped Switzerland.

Prof. Dr. André Hostenstein is full professor of early Swiss history and comparative regional history at the Institute of History of the University of Bern. Prof. Dr. Patrick Kury teaches modern general and Swiss history at the Historical Seminar of the University of Lucerne and is co-director of Stadt.Geschichte.Basel. Dr. Kristina Schulz is a lecturer for migration history at the Institute of History of the University of Bern. “Schweizer Migrationsgeschichte” is currently only available in German.

RUTH VON GUNTEN



The duo Lo & Leduc created “079”, the most successful pop song in Swiss music history to date. It has more than 3.5 million plays and was at the top of the Swiss charts for weeks. Nevertheless, Lo alias Lorenz Häberli needs his office job.

DANIEL DI FALCO

Of course he is one. But he doesn’t like the word “star”. Lo from Lo & Leduc, also known as Lorenz Häberli, prefers to call himself a “musician”. Even when it comes to the problems that such a star-musician can experience when one of his songs conquers a country, the school playgrounds, the public pools, club meetings. “On the street people I don’t know feel like they know me. They expect closeness, but this closeness has nothing to do with me.” Häberli says this apologetically. He is talking about the “imbalance” in the relationship between the “musicians” and their fans. And about how that gives him a bad feeling. “You have a certain amount of social energy per day. At some point it gets exhausted. Then you become taciturn.”

It’s easier for him at the office. There he is not Lo, but “Lorenz who works here”, and that’s how it should remain. Häberli works in the field of corporate communications, in other words PR; he edits communiques, manages websites, writes blog posts. “Everything is sector-specific.” He’s in the media industry, but Häberli does not want to reveal his employer. The reason is that Lorenz doesn’t want to be bothered by Lo.

It all began a little over ten years ago; Lorenz Häberli and his current partner Luc Oggier played in a high school band. Then came dialect rap. And the decisive idea of adding something else to their rap: musicality influenced by Caribbean, African and South American music. Häberli and his companion Oggier continued their ad-



vance into the radio pop universe. And then this spring, they released their catchy tune, “079”, that has broken all the Swiss charts records.

Pop is a fickle business. But currently Häberli & Oggier are able to live off Lo & Leduc. “Very well, actually,” says Häberli. With his 70 percent workload he earns around four thousand Swiss francs a month in the office. “That’s enough for everything I need for myself.” That’s three and a half days in the office. The other days are dedicated to music. The earnings from making music can be added to what he makes from his office job. This won’t make him rich. “But it’s profitable. And that’s a privilege.”

The question is, why does Lorenz Häberli still need his office job? He’s 32 years old now. But he doesn’t want to have to stand on festival stages when he’s 50 and might have a bad back or to run out of ideas for new songs. “Years ago, Luc and I decided that we always wanted to do something else alongside making music.” In addition, there’s the orderliness that the office brings into a musician’s life. “If a significant part of the week is already structured, then I can structure the rest of the time more easily.” This results in the routine and concentration that Häberli needs to write his songs. And finally: It’s about the same stuff, whether it’s pop or PR – language. So it’s about “why and how I say what I say”. Häberli says that what interests him in music is the opportunity of working with language.

It is said that there are people who still don’t have “079” stuck in their heads. But you don’t have to like the song in order to notice the clever way in which a story is told during it. So someone falls in love with a voice on the information telephone line and ends up getting hit by a tram while talking on the phone – not even three and a half minutes, but an entire drama. And, according to the NZZ, “Every line is an aphorism”.

The album “Update 4.0”, which includes the song “079”, can be downloaded for free at: <http://lo-leduc.ch/>

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Two resignations from the Federal Council

5 December 2018 promises to be a day of great suspense in the Federal Palace. The United Federal Assembly will simultaneously elect two new Federal Councillors, following the announcements by Federal Councillors Doris Leuthard (CVP) and Johann Schneider-Amman (FDP) that they will resign by the end of the year, as had been expected for some time. Leuthard has been in office since 2006 and headed the Department for Economic Affairs until 2010, followed by the Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications. Schneider-Amman has served as the Minister for Economic Affairs and Head of the Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research since his election to the Federal Council. [JM]

Paediatrician Beatocello has passed away

On 9 September 2018 Beat Richner, arguably Switzerland’s most well-known paediatrician, passed away at the age of 71. In 1974/1975, Richner worked in Cambodia but had to leave the country after the Khmer Rouge offensive, whereupon he returned to Zurich. In 1991, King Sihanouk asked him to rebuild the Kantha Bopha Children’s Hospital in the capital city of Phnom Penh, since it had been destroyed by the Pol Pot regime. Four more clinics were opened up between then and 2007. Today, the five hospitals treat over 80 percent of the country’s sick children free of charge. They are financed by the Swiss Confederation, the Cambodian government and private donors. Richner, who was also known as the cello-playing musical clown Beatocello, played an important role in collecting donations for this cause. [JM]

An unusual number of fatal accidents in the mountains

The persistently sunny summer of 2018 drew a particularly large number of hikers and alpinists to the Swiss mountains, which in turn resulted in an unusually large number of accidents in the mountains. In the first half of the year alone, 80 mountain climbers were killed in accidents (first half of 2017: 38 casualties). Ten people lost their lives on the Matterhorn during the first six months alone. According to the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC), most fatal accidents in the mountains occur in July and August. Therefore, the SAC expects a record in mountain emergency statistics for the current year. [JM]

St. Gallen also introduces burqa ban

In the canton of Ticino, covering one’s face in public spaces has been banned since 2016. In September 2018, St. Gallen became the second canton to introduce a burqa ban by popular vote. Violations will be fined at between 100 and 200 Swiss francs. In St. Gallen, the ban only applies when public safety or religious or social peace is endangered. This gives the police a great deal of discretion. [JM]