**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch**

*Airview of Zurich, Switzerland's largest city (450,000 inhabitants) and its financial centre. Ringed by wooded hills and in full view of the Alps, it is also one of Europe's most beautiful and pleasant towns. The Western end of the lake was first settled by prehistoric lake dwellers, then by Celts, who built a fort which the Romans took in 58 BC and named Turicum. Zurich eventually became a dependency of a Benedictine Abbey founded in 853 by Charlemagne's grandson, Louis the German, and later won the status of free imperial city in 1218. It joined the Confederation in 1351 and in 1519 became the first city to be involved by the Reformation. It was in that year that Huldreich Zwingli's sermons at the Grossmuenster set the Swiss Reformation in motion. This movement was to have a lasting effect in shaping the Swiss mind. Three hundred years later, Zurich became a haven for intellectuals of the German speaking world before accepting Lenin and avant garde artists in the early 20th Century.*