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978-0-521-19444-0 - A Concise History of Switzerland

Clive H. Church and Randolph C. Head

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A CONCISE HISTORY OF SWITZERLAND

Despite its position at the heart of Europe and its quintessentially European nature, Switzerland's history is often overlooked within the English-speaking world. This comprehensive and engaging history of Switzerland traces the historical and cultural development of this fascinating but neglected European country from the end of the Dark Ages up to the present. The authors focus on the initial Confederacy of the Middle Ages; the religious divisions which threatened it after 1500 and its surprising survival amongst Europe's monarchies; the turmoil following the French Revolution and conquest, which continued until the Federal Constitution of 1848; the testing of the Swiss nation through the late nineteenth century and then two World Wars and the Depression of the 1930s; and the unparalleled economic and social growth and political success of the post-war era. The book concludes with a discussion of the contemporary challenges, often shared with neighbours, that shape the country today.

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CLIVE H. CHURCH

RANDOLPH C. HEAD



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*In memory of Margaret Ann Church, wife, friend
and facilitator of studies of Switzerland*

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AHV/AVS	Old Age and Survivors' pension system
ASUAG	General Swiss Watch Industry Company Limited (Allgemeine Schweizer Uhrenindustrie AG)
AUNS/ASIN	Action for an Independent and Neutral Switzerland
BGB/PAB	Burgers, Artisans and Peasants Party
COCOM	[US] Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls
COMCO	Swiss Federal Competition Commission
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EC	European Community, later EU (European Union)
ECHR	European Convention (or Court) on Human Rights
EEA	European Economic Area
FDP	Free Democratic Party (Radicals)
FINMA	Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HSBC	Hong-Kong and Shanghai Bank Corporation
MP	Member of Parliament
NA	Nationale Aktion gegen die Überfremdung von Volk und Heimat
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NSDAP	German National Socialist Workers party (Nazi Party)
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEEC	Organization of European Economic Cooperation
PBD	Conservative Democratic Party
SMH	Swiss Corporation for Microelectronics and Watch- making Industries Ltd (Société de Microélectronique et d'Horlogerie)
SPS	Swiss Social Democratic Party

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SVP/UDC	Swiss People's Party
UBS	formerly Union Bank of Switzerland; known simply as UBS after its 1998 merger with Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations' Educational, Social and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations' International Children's Emergency Fund.
UNRRA	United Nations' Refugee Relief Agency
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VAT	Value Added Tax