

Swiss Made The Untold Story Behind Switzerlands Success

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why has switzerland a tiny land locked country with few natural advantages become so successful for so long at so many things in banking pharmaceuticals machinery even textiles swiss companies rank alongside the biggest and most powerful global competitors how did they get there how do they continue to refresh themselves does the swiss sonderfall special case provide lessons others can learn and benefit from can the swiss continue to perform in a hyper competitive global economy swiss made offers answers to these and many other questions about the country as it describes the origins structures and characteristics of the most important swiss companies the authors suggest success is due to a large degree to sound entrepreneurial thinking and an openness to new ideas and they venture a surprising forecast on the country's ability to keep pace in an age of globalisation

for many reasons some of which are obvious to the least thoughtful the history of switzerland is peculiarly interesting and not least so to english speaking peoples in the first place the playground of europe is every year visited by large numbers of british and americans some of whom indeed are familiar with almost every corner of it then to the anglo saxon race the grand spectacle of a handful of freemen nobly struggling for and maintaining their freedom often amidst enormous difficulties and against appalling odds cannot but be heart stirring to the citizen of the great american republic a study of the constitution of the little european republic should bring both interest and profit a constitution resembling in many points that of his own country and yet in many other respects so different and few readers of whatever nationality can we think peruse this story without a feeling of admiration for a gallant people who have fought against oppression as the swiss have fought who have loved freedom as they have loved it and who have performed the well nigh incredible feats of arms the switzers have performed and as sir francis o adams and mr cunningham well point out in their recently published work on the swiss confederation as a study in constitutional history the value of the story of the development

of the confederation can hardly be over estimated few of the existing accounts of swiss history which have appeared in the english language go back beyond the year 1291 and the date of the earliest swiss league and of course switzerland as a nation cannot boast of an earlier origin but surely some account should be given of the previous history of the men who founded the league for a country which has been occupied at different periods by lakemen helvetians and romans where alamanni burgundians and franks have played their parts where charlemagne lived and ruled and charles the bold fought where the great families of the zaerings the kyburgs and savoy struggled and whence the now mighty house of habsburg sprang and domineered all this before 1291 a country with such a story to tell of its earlier times we say should not have that story left untold accordingly in this volume the history of the period before the formation of the confederation has been dwelt upon at some little length it should be mentioned too that in view of the very general interest caused by the remarkable discovery of the swiss lake settlements a few years ago a chapter has been devoted to the subject

from time immemorial geneva has been the home of conspiracy and the refuge of political adventurers from all parts of the world nihilism exterminated from its own goil found a congenial atmosphere there and has taken root and flourished when prince krapotkin was being tried at lyons the president of the tribunal described geneva as the cancer of europe this was severe but it was not altogether an undeserved reproach and if nothing else had justified it the assassination of the late emperor of russia would have done so for it was in geneva beyond all question of doubt that the plot for that dastardly deed was organized the assassins are known to have gone from geneva direct to russia and one of them who escaped russian vengeance a female still lives and finds a refuge and a home under the fostering care of the swiss republic if one is asked why the city on the shores of lake leman should have been chosen as the favourite abiding place of those who would reform society and reconstitute their country by the aid of dynamite and bombshells the answer is easily given it is due to its geographical position one can step out of geneva into french territory in a few minutes and half a dozen hours will place one on italian or german soil the advantages of this will at once strike the reader a man commits an offence in germany say and he flies for shelter to geneva la time he hears that the german police have a warrant and are seeking permission from the swiss government to take him but before this can be done he strolls into france or takes the train or crosses one of the passes into italy and

before he could be arrested permission from the respective governments of those countries would have to be sought if a man murders another man in a drunken brawl and flies to an alien country his extradition is simple and easy but if a man slays an emperor or king or throws a dynamite bomb into the midst of a crowd of innocent people so long as he does it in the name of some political agitation most of the european governments will afford him protection and shelter and his extradition is a matter of extreme difficulty he is looked upon as a political refugee and political refugees are treated with peculiar leniency and toleration though heaven knows why the worst sinners in this respect are switzerland and england and in london and geneva may be found men who might not inaptly be described as neither ghoul nor human but a mixture of both with the very worst attributes of the latter geneva is not an extensive city but it has a population of 80 000 souls within late years it has extended and improved and the so called new town has to a large extent hidden away the squalor and dingy wretchedness of the old as one approaches geneva from the upper part of the lake and beholds its site it is impossible to prevent a mental exclamation what a wonderful city the french or the italians would have put there a city of marble surely for on the simplon a few hours away are exhaustless hoards of marble and it was from these hoards that wonder of the world milan cathedral was built all europe might be ransacked and it would scarcely be possible to find a more beautiful site for a city than that occupied by geneva at the present day the delightful country the superb lake stretching for fifty six miles the long line of the blue juras the elevated and rugged crags of the great and little salveve that rise to the south and the densely wooded range of the voirons to the east while further away in the dim distance are the eternal snows of the mighty alps and mightiest amongst them all towers the head of hoary mont blanc these physical features seen under the aspects of clear atmosphere and sunny skies constitute a panorama that can hardly be outrivalled and even when the winter snows have whitened all the landscape it still possesses a beauty that is enchanting the deeply blue rhone with its clear sparkling water flows through part of the town while in the western suburbs the white arve having its birth amongst the eternal snows of mont blanc rushes along to wed itself to the rhone two miles away whether the traveller directs his steps east west north or south of the city he cannot fail to be struck by the beauty of its surroundings the richness and variety of the foliage the vivid greenness of the grass the profusion of wild flowers which everywhere grow in rank luxuriance the magnificent chestnuts which finding something congenial in the soil the atmosphere or both flourish amazingly the vine clad slopes the rolling country the splendid

mountains on which the shifting lights ever play and which are for ever passing through gradations of colour all tend to make up a picture of chaste and artistic beauty and yet this site with all its unique advantages is occupied by an architectural excrescence so to speak and that excrescence has been defined as the cancer of europe

combines an outline history of switzerland with a survey of its modern political and economic development

this 1922 english translation of a german original gives a broad overview of the history of switzerland

the story of switzerland offers a compelling account of the historical events shaping the swiss confederation authored by lina hug and richard stead this volume explores switzerland s rich past delving into key aspects of swiss history and its place within the broader context of european history from the early struggles for independence to the establishment of a unique national identity the narrative traces the evolution of switzerland readers will encounter the figures and events that define the nation s social history including the enduring legend of william tell this meticulously prepared print edition provides a valuable resource for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of switzerland s journey explore the revolutions uprisings and rebellions that forged the nation and discover the story of a country renowned for its enduring spirit of independence this work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it this work is in the public domain in the united states of america and possibly other nations within the united states you may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work scholars believe and we concur that this work is important enough to be preserved reproduced and made generally available to the public we appreciate your support of the preservation process and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant

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this comprehensive and engaging new history traces switzerland s changeable development from its medieval origins to the present

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