



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
**General Secretariat GS-FDFA**  
Presence Switzerland

# SWISSNESS IN A NUTSHELL

October 2020

All rights reserved



Switzerland.

# AGENDA

- ▶ What comes to your mind when you think about 대한민국?



Switzerland.



Switzerland.

# AGENDA

- ▶ What comes to your mind when you think about Switzerland?



Switzerland.





Switzerland.



# KOREA AND SWITZERLAND – AN OVERVIEW (1)

	Korea	Switzerland
GDP	1'531 bn. USD [11]	679 bn. USD [20]
GDP per capita	29'743 USD [28]	80'190 USD [2]
Economic growth	2.7%	2.5%
Trade (imp./exp.)	599/624 bn. USD	269/305 bn. USD
R&D Spending	4.3% of GDP [1]	3.2% of GDP [5]



# KOREA AND SWITZERLAND – AN OVERVIEW (1)

	Korea	Switzerland
Population	51.45 mio.	8.48 mio.
Unemployment rate	3.73%	2.6%
University degrees	69.8%	50.1%
Life expectancy	82.02	82.90
Suicide rate	26.9	17.2
Happiness index	5.90/10	7.48/10



Switzerland.

# SWISS CHARACTERISTICS



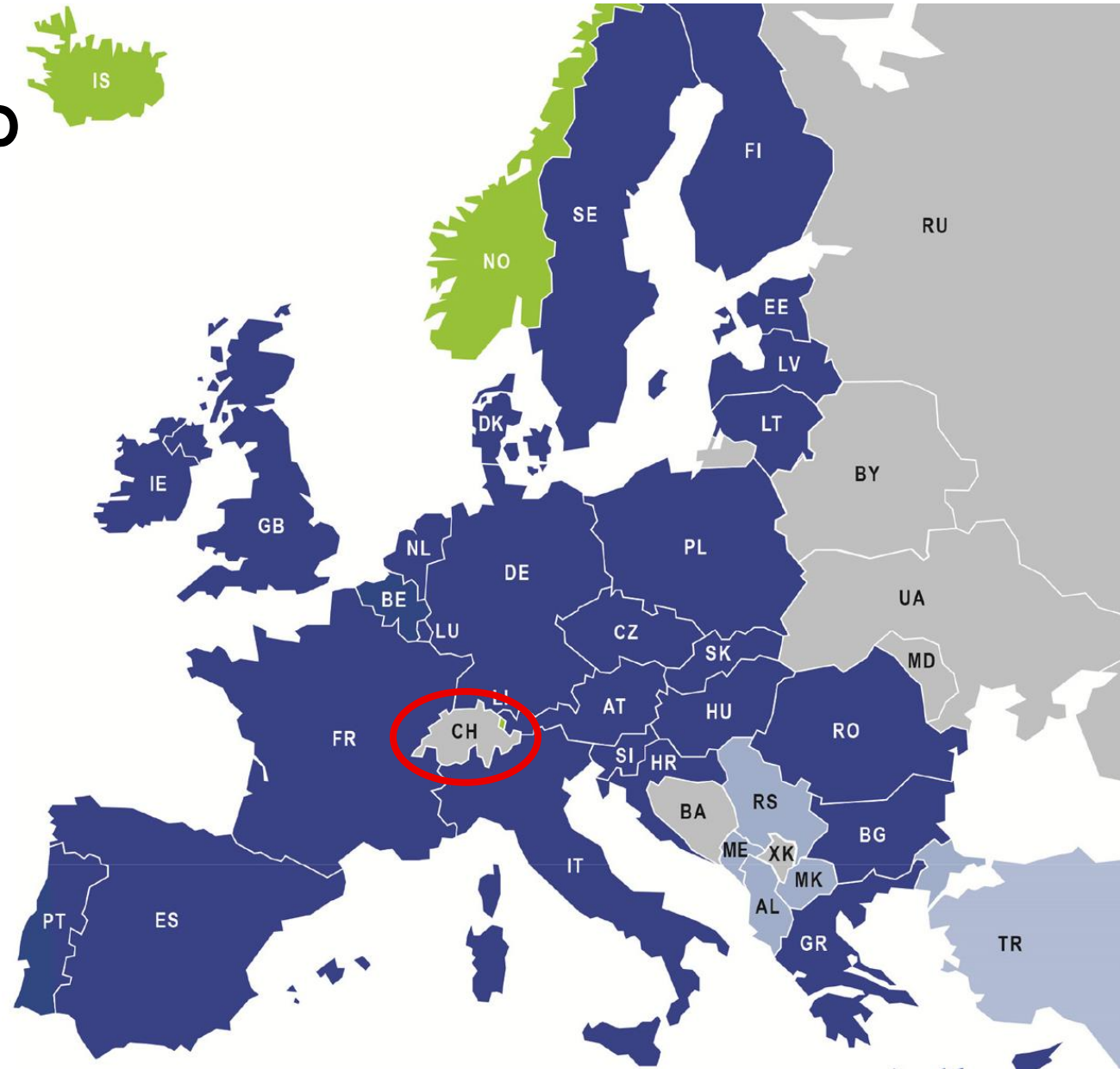
Switzerland.



# LANDLOCKED, BUT A POLITICAL ISLAND



-  The 28 EU countries
-  EEA
-  EU membership candidates



Switzerland.

# LANGUAGES

- ▶ National languages

- German (~63%)

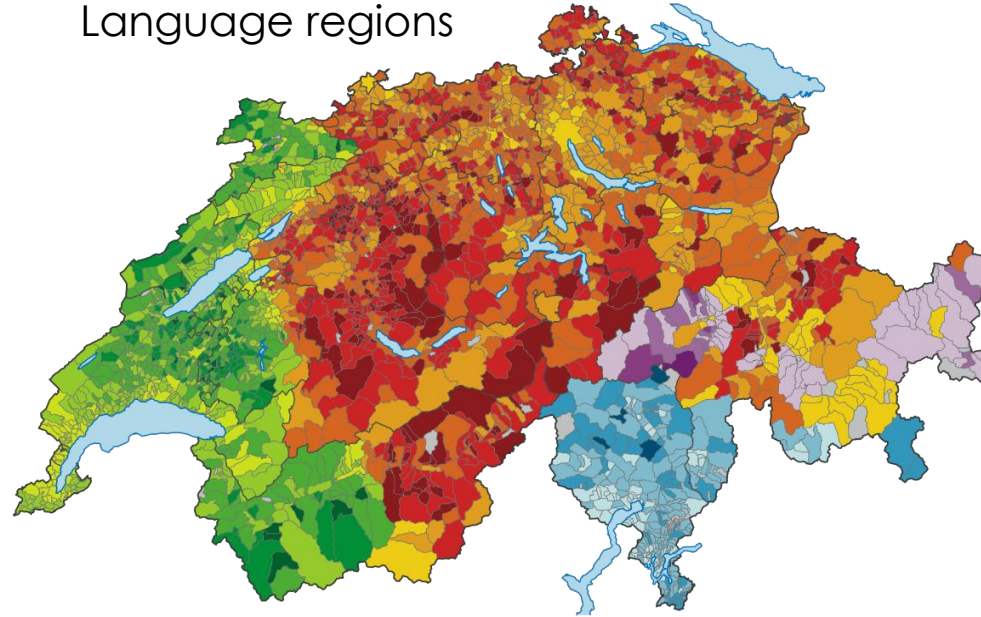
- French (~23%)

- Italian (~8%)

- Romansh (~0.5%)

\*Native speakers in parentheses

Language regions



- ▶ “Swiss German” is an umbrella term, referring to all of the various different dialects.

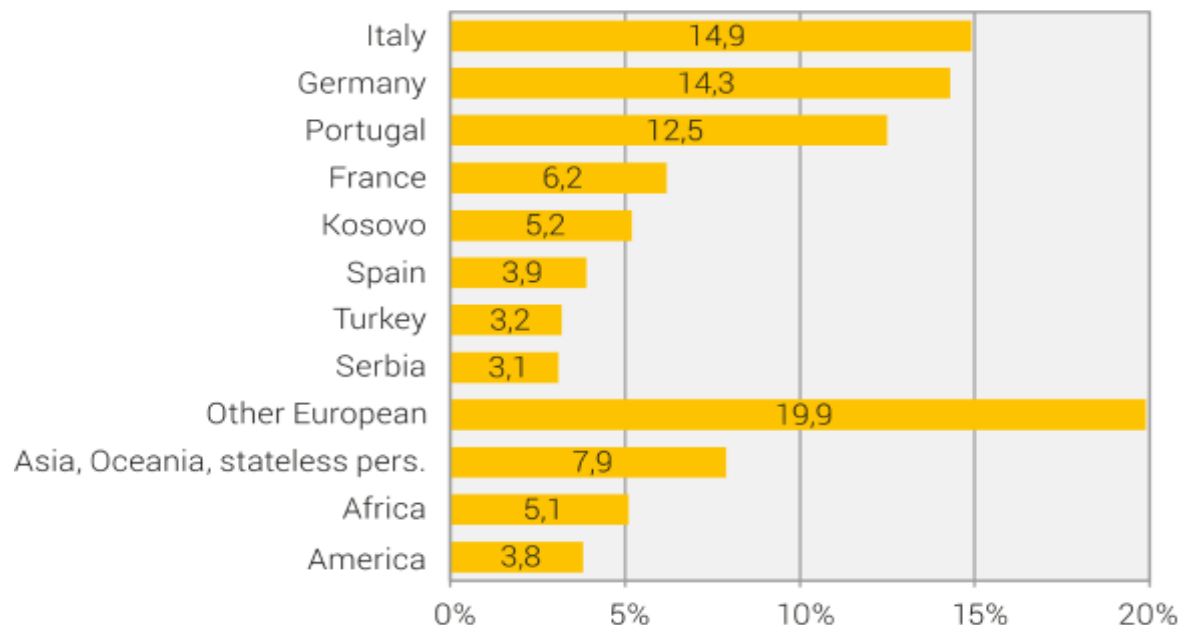


# FOREIGN NATIONALS

- ▶ The percentage of foreigners on Switzerland's residential population stands at 25%, corresponding to around 2 million people.

## Permanent foreign resident population, on 31.12.2017

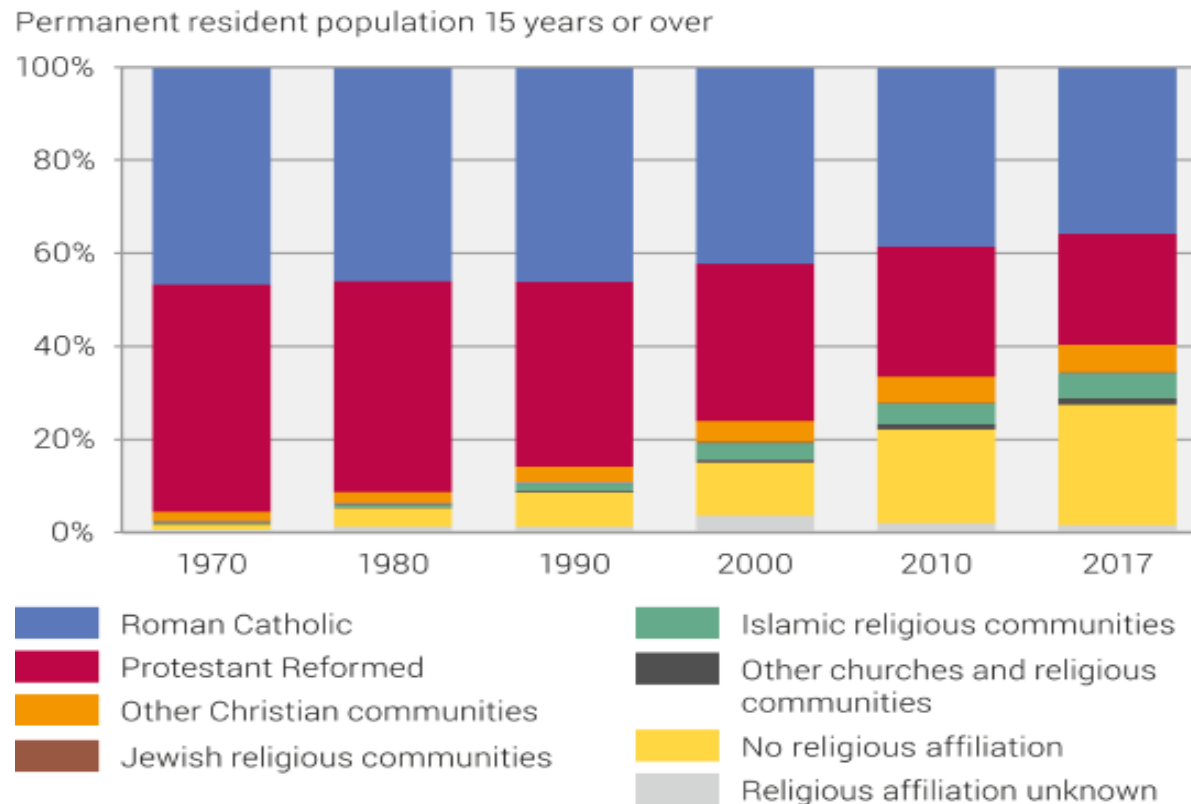
By nationality





# RELIGION

- ▶ Christianity is the predominant religion of Switzerland, divided into Roman Catholic and Reformed confessions. However, adherence to Christian churches has declined considerably over the past years.



# REASONS FOR SWITZERLAND'S STABILITY



Federal State



Direct  
Democracy



Neutrality



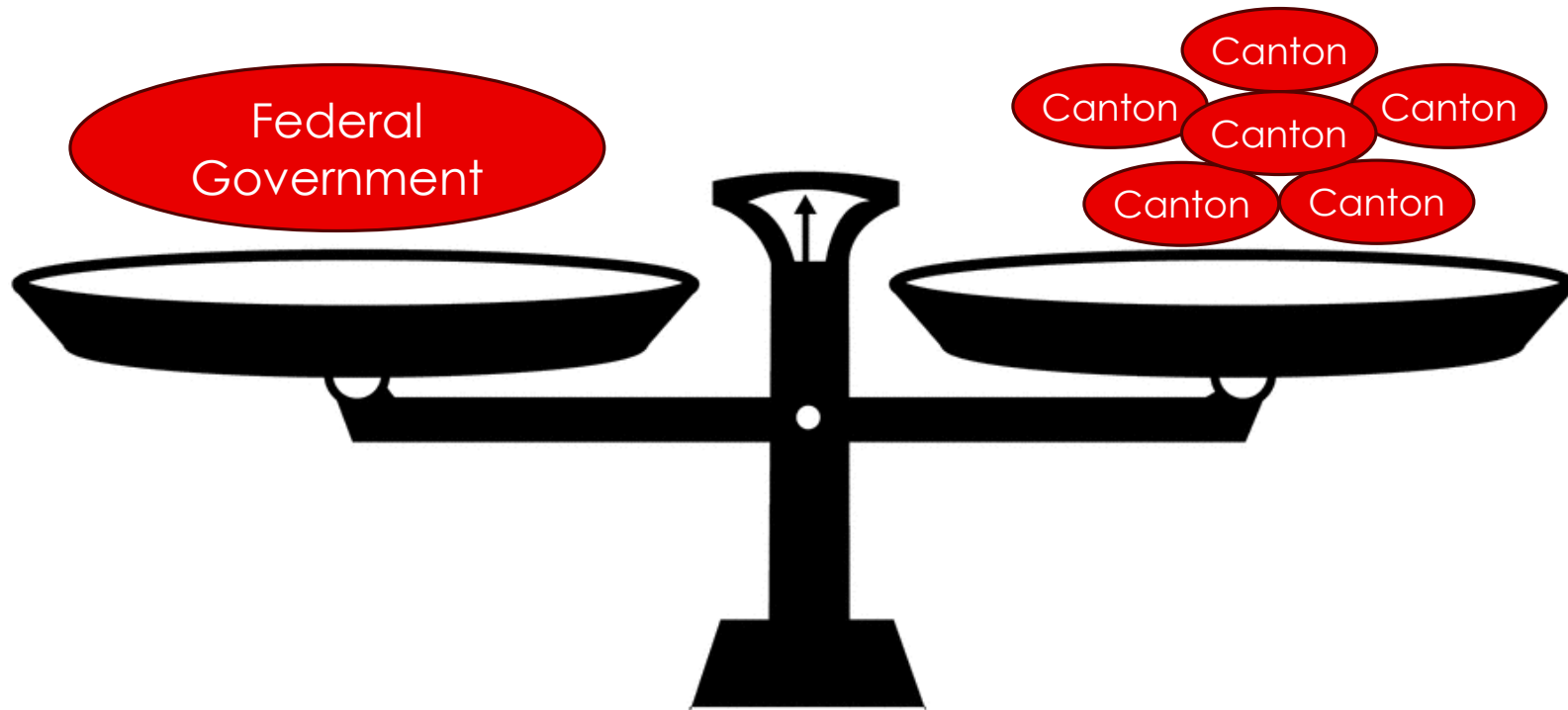
Open Society



Dual Education  
System

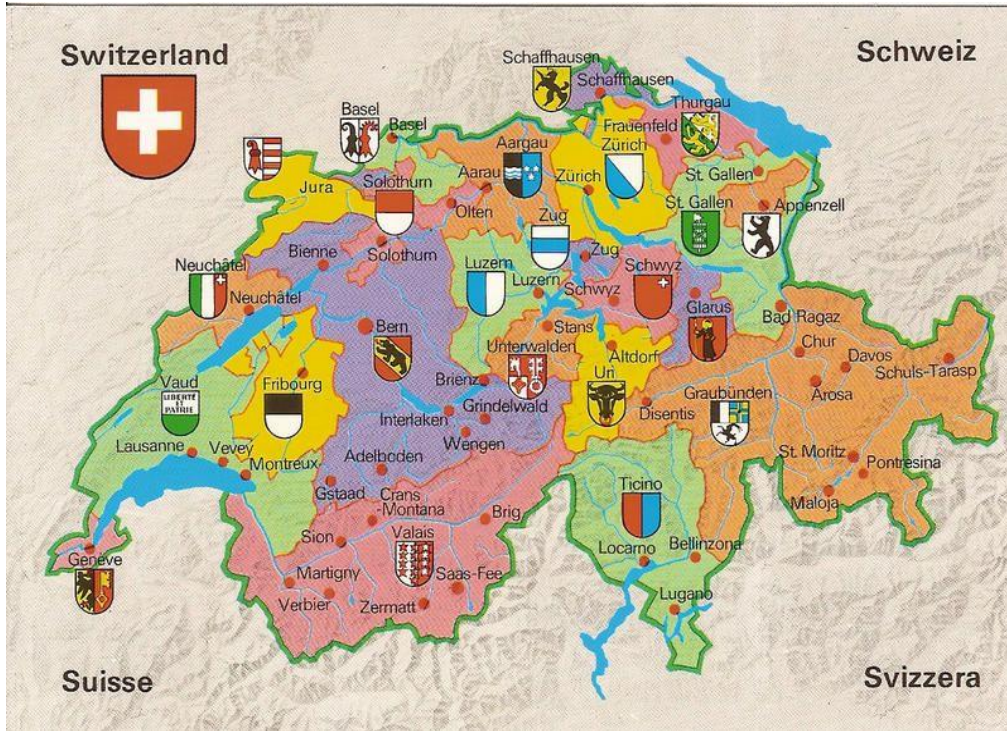


# FEDERALISM





# FEDERALISM – FEDERAL VS. CENTRAL STATE

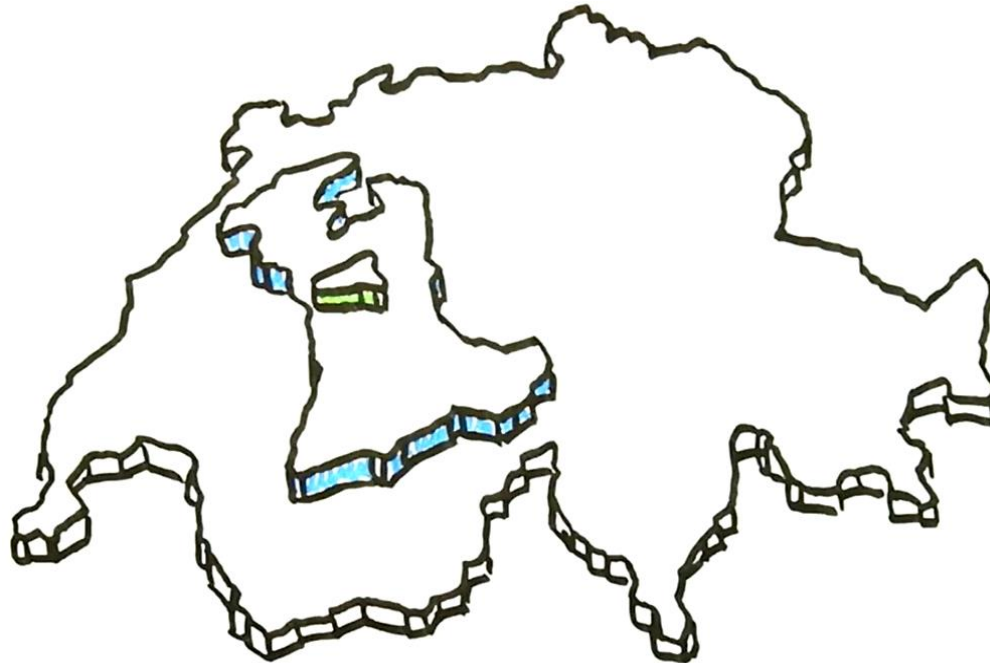


- ▶ Federal State: Division of power between the central government and self-governing regions. Examples: USA, Switzerland...

- ▶ Central State: State power is exercised centrally from the capital over the entire nation. Examples: Korea, China, France...

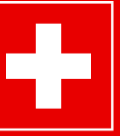
# FEDERALISM

- ▶ Switzerland, officially known as the *Swiss Confederation*, is a federal state.
- ▶ Three political levels share power in Switzerland: the Confederation, the 26 cantons and over 2,250 communes.
- ▶ The cantons are sovereign, in the sense that they exercise all rights not conferred on the Confederation themselves.



# FEDERALISM

- ▶ Subsidiarity Principle: Competencies are divided between the Confederation, the cantons and the municipalities. The cantons and communes have authority over a wide range of matters (e.g. schools, hospitals, taxes) and a great deal of autonomy. The federal government only takes on tasks that the cantons and communes cannot manage alone.
- ▶ *Federalism allows to accommodate communal/cantonal diversity across the country. The notion of “unity in diversity” lies at the very core of federalism.*





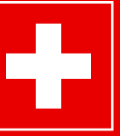
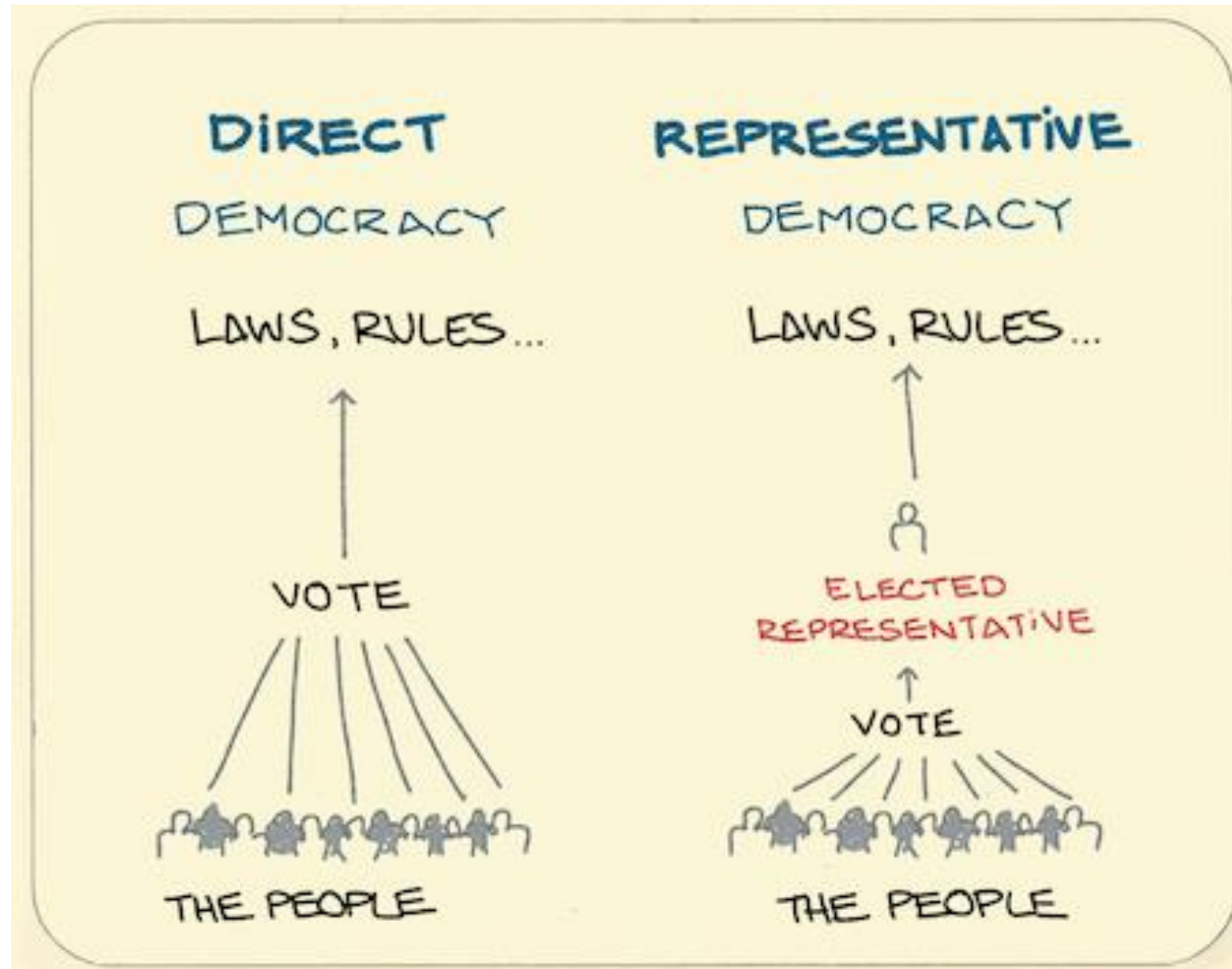
# DIRECT DEMOCRACY



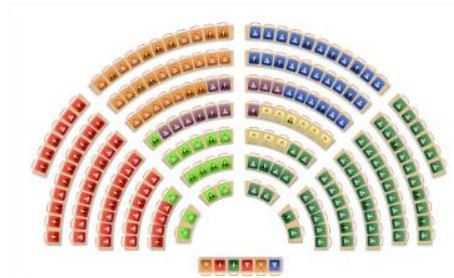
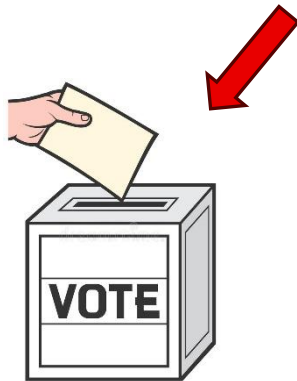
Switzerland.



# DEMOCRACY



# DIRECT DEMOCRACY – INITIATIVE VS. REFERENDUM

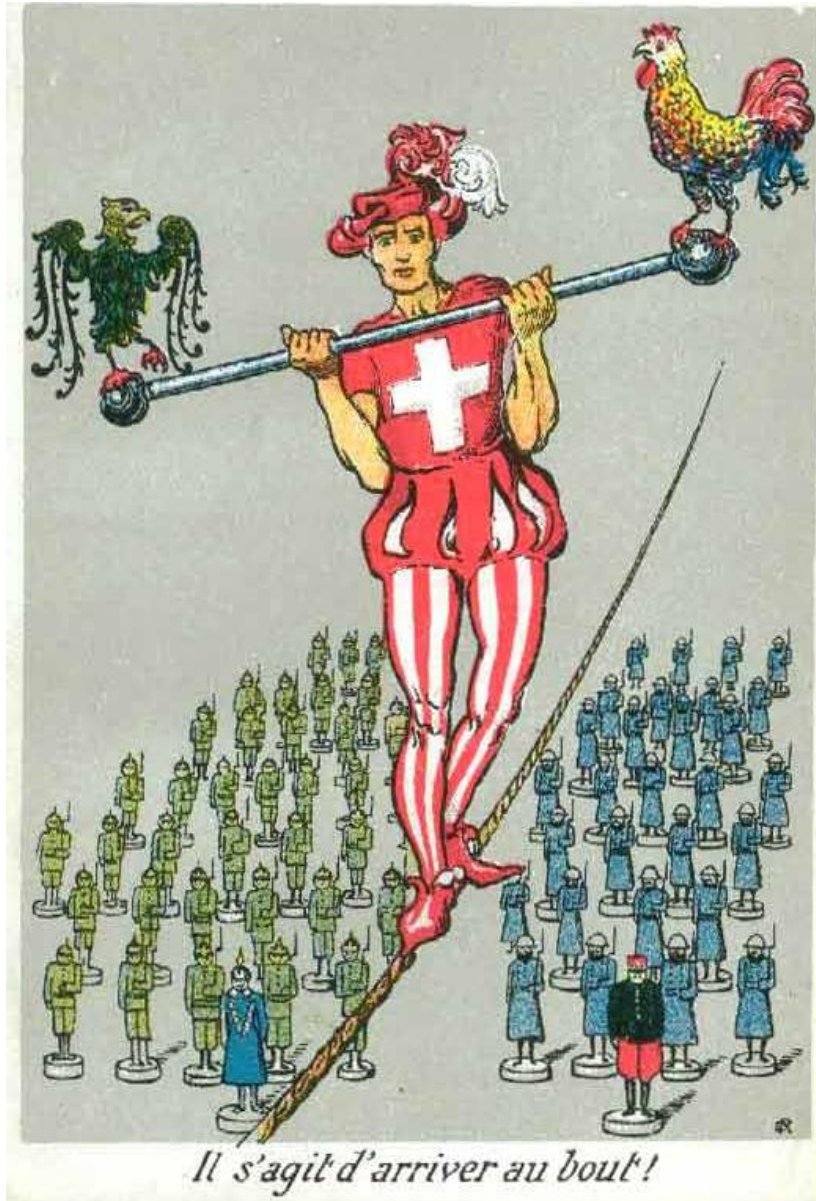


- ▶ Initiative: Power of the citizens to *propose* any ordinance.

- ▶ Referendum: Power of the citizens to *approve or reject* ordinance enacted by the legislative.



# NEUTRALITY



Switzerland.



# NEUTRALITY

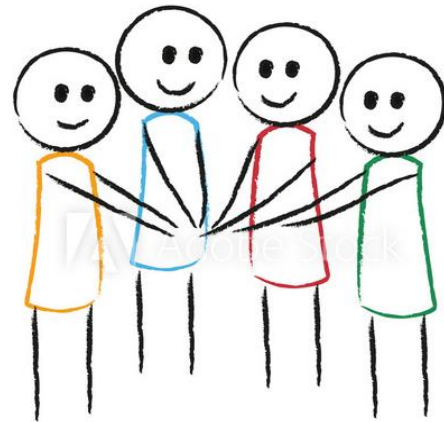
- ▶ Neutrality is a legal status arising from the abstention of a state from all participation in a war between other states, the maintenance of an attitude of impartiality toward the belligerents, and the recognition by the belligerents of this abstention and impartiality.
- ▶ Switzerland's neutrality is self determined, permanent and armed.
- ▶ The rights and duties of a neutral state are defined in the Hague Convention of 1907:
  - ▶ The most important obligations are:
    - Non-participation in war
    - Self-defence
    - Impartiality towards belligerents (concerns the export of war material)
    - No mercenaries for belligerents
    - Denial of territory to belligerents
  - ▶ The most important right is that of territorial inviolability.



# NEUTRALITY - IMPLICATIONS



No War



Internal  
Cohesion



International  
Peacebuilding



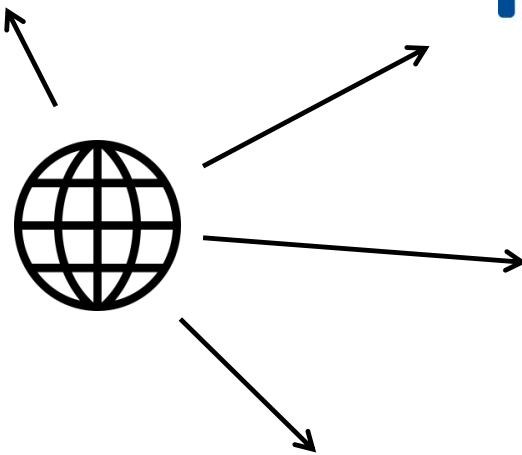
# OPEN SOCIETY



Switzerland.

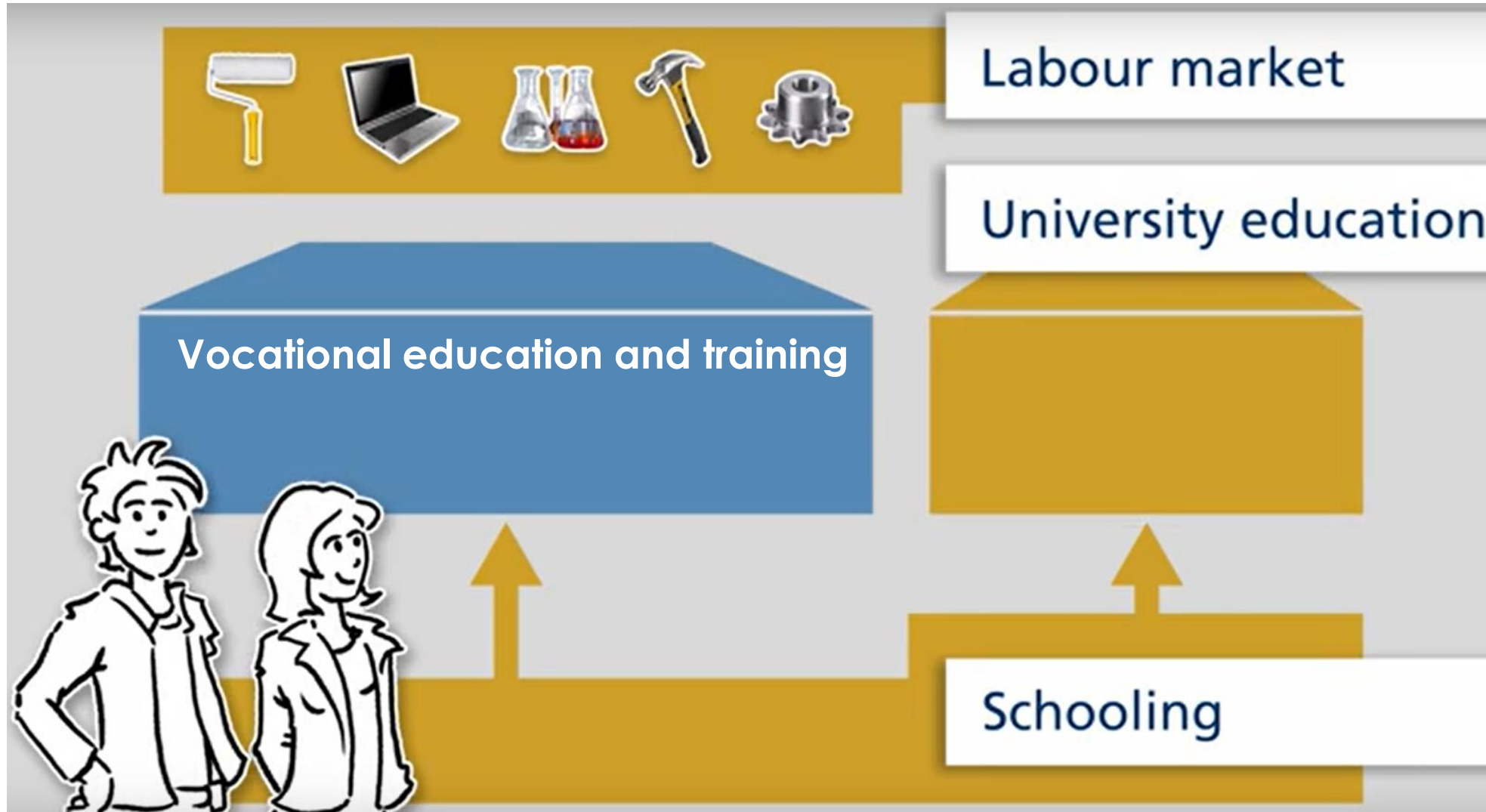


# OPEN SOCIETY: FAMOUS SWISS COMPANIES





# DUAL EDUCATION SYSTEM



# DISCUSSION: WHAT CAN KOREA AND SWITZERLAND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER?



Switzerland.