



**University of
Zurich^{UZH}**

UZH International Summer Schools 2021

What defines a country's success?

Switzerland's experience in comparison

(online course)

Prof. Dr. Patrick Ziltener
Department of Sociology, UZH

4 – 23 July 2021





Preface

This online summer school looks at the **development of Switzerland in comparison with other successful small countries**.

Students will find out how Switzerland became one of the richest and most globalized countries in the world. During the three weeks of the summer school, you will learn about the **country's roots and how it became an international finance center. We will also study its worldwide successful industries** like watchmaking, pharmaceuticals, and food processing, through talking to leading experts.

We will then compare Switzerland to other **successful small and open countries** in today's world. Together we will explore their **singularities, similarities and remarkable differences**. This will help us to understand whether there is one recipe for political survival and economic success, or if there are many different development paths.

By doing so, we will examine which **historical, sociological, and political factors** have to be taken into account when explaining a country's success.

Last but not least, this will also help us to understand **why countries react differently to crises** such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic.



Main Learnings



Understand the different preconditions and historic experiences in economic development of small countries, based on a comparative, interdisciplinary approach.



Analyze the Swiss success stories and identify Switzerland's singularities and commonalities with other countries.



Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the different “national models” and how their elements fit together.



Draw conclusions for ongoing debates on the relevant factors for successful economic and crisis management of countries.

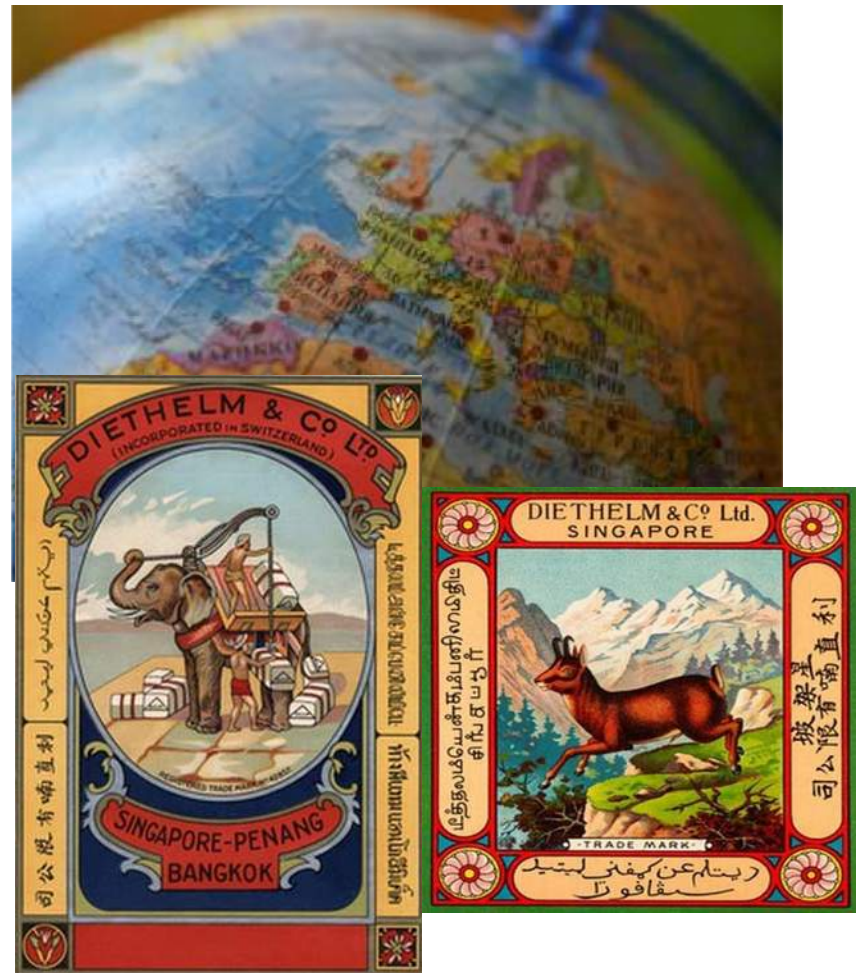
Content: Switzerland's Humble Beginnings

- The world of farmers, craftsmen and guilds, haulers and mercenaries (15th – 18th century)
- Protoindustrialization
- The associational way of state building – how a confederation stood its ground in a world of powerful monarchies and empires



Content: Switzerland as an Early Globalizer – Global Trading in a World of Empires

- How small and landlocked countries got involved with the emerging world economy
- How companies secured their interests in a world of colonial empires
- The global silk industry:
Switzerland as processing location
- How to go successfully global?
Swiss companies in Africa and Asia



Content: Three sectors for which Switzerland is famous

- More than chocolate:
Switzerland's food industry
- Clockwork Switzerland: The story of the watch industry
- How Switzerland became one of the most important financial centers in the world



Content: *How to catch up with the UK* – Small Countries' Industrialization in 19th-20thc.

Switzerland as one of the early industrializers:

- The *copy cat* strategy
- The springboard: export-oriented textile production
- The significance of coal vs. hydropower, electrification
- The mechanization of production, the development of machines and the export of heavy machinery
- The beginnings of food industry



„Electricity from hydropower, our national good“

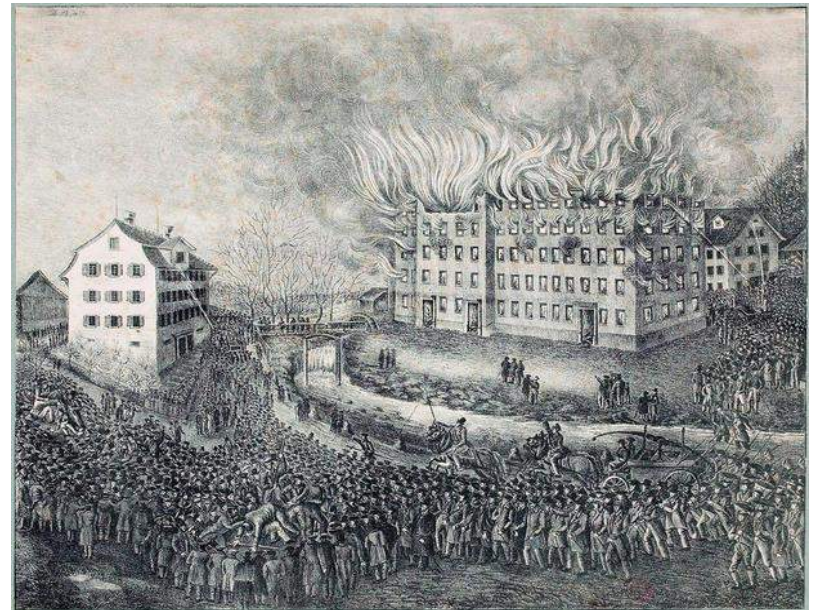
Content: *The Search for Social Peace - From Class Struggle to Social Partnership & Welfare State*

One or many ways to „social peace“?

- Intensified class struggle due to industrialization – strikes, luddites and the formation of the labor movements
- The emergence of industrial peace, „social partnership“ and a rudimentary welfare state

The „many worlds of welfare capitalism“:

- Swiss pattern of standard living as a «combination of modest expectations concerning the minimum acceptable standard of living and a high level of actual standard of living» (Suter 2005)



Usterbrand, November 22, 1832

Content: *The Search for Political Stability* – Overcoming regional, political, and religious cleavages

- Small states also have a variety of cleavages threatening social cohesion and political survival.
- How to mitigate religious confessionalisation, overcome sectarianism and gender discrimination?
- Comparing the ways to preserve a state of independence and to achieve political stability
- The „many worlds of political stabilization“: Monarchies, party rule, federalism, representative and direct democracy, corporatism, „verzuiling“, power sharing...



A collective Oath has been and still is a ritual in many countries



Course Director and Guest Speakers



Professor Patrick Ziltener

Patrick Ziltener has been Associate Professor in Sociology at UZH since 2008. His teaching and research focuses on economic, political and development sociology as well as on globalization/transnationalization and the sociology of world society.

Professor Ziltener also worked for the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and spent several years in East and Southeast Asia as a research fellow.

Additionally, the online summer school will feature **guest lectures by experts** from different fields and backgrounds.



Teaching and Learning Methods

- **Podcasts and Livestreams:** Watch sessions on our online platform* and interact with lecturers during live sessions or watch them again if they have been recorded
- **Q&A and mentoring sessions:** Ask your questions and get answers from your Course Director, Professor Patrick Ziltener
- **Group work:** Interact with other students and work together on your projects
- **Individual presentations:** Improve your presentation skills, discuss your project and get immediate feedback from classmates and your Course Director
- **Comparative analysis and discussion of recent topics:** Benefit from a diverse classroom and discuss about commonalities of different countries.

*All course content will be provided via Microsoft Teams. Enrolled students will get an invitation to join the platform before the summer school starts. Some interactive sessions might be provided over Zoom.



Assessment

In order to get 6 ECTS for this online summer school, you have to:

- Prepare properly for the course. Instructions and a reading list will be sent to all enrolled students by the end of May 2021.
- Participate actively in the interactive sessions.
- Watch all pre-recorded sessions in accordance with the schedule.
- Work in groups on different topics.
- Give project presentations and hand in your paper in time.

You will receive your Transcript of Records (stating your grade with „**pass**“ or „**fail**“) and a Certificate of Completion by the end of July 2021.



Tentative Schedule Week 1 (4 – 9 July 2021)

Half Day 1		Half Day 2
Sun, 4 July		Welcome to the UZH International Online Summer Schools / Social Program open to all summer programs (International Relations Office)
Mon, 5 July	Live Session: Welcome and Introduction to the Course: • Course Concept • Topics and Research Questions	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Optional mentoring session with Course Director
Tue, 6 July	Live Session: Humble Beginnings: • Farmers, Craftsmen, Haulers and Mercenaries • Statebuilding by Association	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Optional mentoring session with Course Director
Wed, 7 July	Live Session: Switzerland as an Early Globalizer 1: Textiles	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Optional mentoring session with Course Director
Thu, 8 July	Live Session: Switzerland as an Early Industrializer 1: Hydropower, Electrification, the Rheinfalls	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Mentoring session with Course Director
Fri, 9 July	Live Session: Switzerland as an Early Globalizer 2: Swiss Companies in Asia	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Mentoring session with Course Director
Sat, 10 July	Day off / Social Program (tbc)	

This course offers daily interactive live sessions (Monday – Friday) of 3 – 4 hours each. We will create a detailed schedule with exact times as soon as we know where students are coming from and which time zones we need to take into account. Students will join groups that allow working together despite time shifts.



Tentative Schedule Week 2 (11 – 16 July 2021)

Half Day 1		Half Day 2
Sun, 11 July		Day off / Social Program (tbc)
Mon, 12 July	Live Session: Recap Research Questions	Pre-Recorded Session: How Switzerland became a World Financial Center by Prof. Dr. Tobias Straumann (Part 2) Guest Speaker: Prof. Dr. Tobias Straumann, University of Zurich
	Pre-Recorded Session: How Switzerland became a World Financial Center (Part 1) Guest Speaker: Prof. Dr. Tobias Straumann, University of Zurich	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation
Tue, 13 July	Live Session: Switzerland as an Early Industrializer 2: Watches	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Optional mentoring session with Course Director
	Live Session: Switzerland as an Early Globalizer 3: Switzerland and the Global Silk Industry (Guest Speaker: lic. phil. Philippe Dallais)	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Optional mentoring session with Course Director
Wed, 14 July	Live Session: Switzerland as an Early Globalizer 4: Swiss Companies in Africa (Guest Speaker: Dr. Daniel Künzler, University of Fribourg)	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Mentoring session with Course Director
	Live Session: "Labour Day": Working Conditions, Labour Movement, Strikes & the Way to Industrial Peace Guest Speaker: lic.phil. Heinz Gabathuler	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation Mentoring session with Course Director
Sat, 17 July		Day off / Social Program (tbc)

This course offers daily interactive live sessions (Monday – Friday) of 3 – 4 hours each. We will create a detailed schedule with exact times as soon as we know where students are coming from and which time zones we need to take into account. Students will join groups that allow working together despite time shifts.



Tentative Schedule Week 3 (18 – 23 July 2021)

Half Day 1		Half Day 2
Sun, 18 July		Day off / Social Program (tbc)
Mon, 19 July	Live Session: Recap Research Questions	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation
	Presentations by students	Optional mentoring session with Course Director
Tue, 20 July	Live Sessions: Comparative Analyses: Economic Topics, Case Studies	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation
	Presentations by students	Optional mentoring session with Course Director
Wed, 21 July	Live Sessions: Comparative Analyses: Historical & Social Topics, Case Studies	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation
	Presentations by students	Optional mentoring session with Course Director
Thu, 22 July	Live Sessions: Comparative Analyses: Various Topics, Case Studies	Individual research time to work on your paper and presentation
	Presentations by students	Mentoring session with Course Director
Fri, 23 July	Live Session: Concluding Discussion: The Sources of Wealth	Live Session:
	• What have we learnt? • Open questions • Feedback and Evaluation	Graduation Ceremony for students of all summer school programs

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Contact

In case of any questions regarding the UZH International Summer Schools please contact **Ms. Carmen Richard**:

UZH International Relations Office

Email: summer@int.uzh.ch