

# Switzerland and the World

- Comparison of Switzerland with other countries of the world
- Key Question: Is Switzerland an integrated or an isolated country?

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- Cold War legacy of the country? (Neutrality)
- Zbigniew Brzezinski claimed in 2001 that Switzerland did not exist internationally (EU, NATO, UN)
- After rejection of UN (1986), EEA (1992), UN-Bluehelmets (1994), negotiations with EU (2001) and Swiss Solidarity Foundation (2002) Switzerland was branded as „isolated“ and „Sonderfall“

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Three Dimensions of Integration and Isolation:

1. Social Integration (Isolation)
  
2. Economic Integration (Isolation)
  
1. Political Integration (Isolation)

# Socially highly integrated

- Every tenth Swiss lives abroad
- 30% of the Swiss are immigrants or children of immigrants
- With 20% Switzerland is inhabited by more foreigners than Austria (9%), Germany (9%) or Denmark (5%)
- The average Swiss goes abroad twice a year
- Foreign news feature as the first bloc in newspapers
- Movies are shown in their original language (with subtitles)

# Economically highly integrated

- The Swiss economy is more open than that of Singapore (sum of imports and exports in percentage of BIP)
- Almost every second Swiss Franc is earned abroad
- With Novartis, Nestle and UBS Switzerland features three public companies among the world's largest 50 (US 33; England 8; Japan 3; France, Italy, Finland one each)
- The Globalization Index 2002 of Foreign Policy ranks Switzerland 2nd, in 2001 Switzerland ranked 4th
- Four out of five Swiss Franks given to Swiss Solidarity („Glückskette) go to foreign countries

# Selective Political Integration

- Not a member of EU and NATO
- Free Trade Agreement with EU (1972)
- Member of IMF and Worldbank (1992)
- Member of NATO's PfP (1996)
- Armed Swiss Soldiers abroad (2001)
- Full Member of UN (2002)
- Bilateral Agreements with EU (2002 in force)
- Member of OSZE (1973), OECD (1960, 1948 OEEC), EFTA (1960), Council of Europe (1963) WTO (1995, GATT 1966)
- Member of almost 100 int. organisations (ESA, JAA, CERN)

# Conclusions

- The thesis of „isolated Switzerland“ is a myth
- Out of 194 countries on the globe - taking into account social, economic and political features – Switzerland arguably ranges among the 20 most integrated in the world.