

EU Gun Ban / Swiss Perspective

I'm a Swiss citizen, in Switzerland we say citizen soldier.

One of 8 millions.

You think you know my country ? Our political system ?
Our state of mind ?

Think again...

**5 minutes is all it takes to prove you
wrong...**



Swiss language ?

We have four official languages:

German, French, Italian and Romansh.

Most of us are bilingual, thanks to our education system.

We watch European TV and read European news in your language.

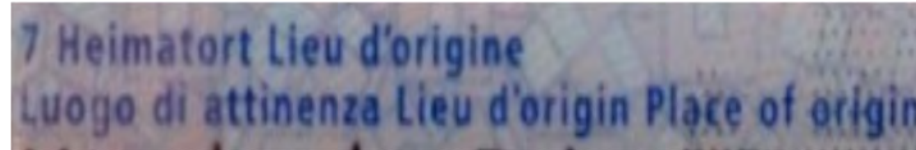
And we almost all speak a bit of English... too, because we're (very) pragmatic and do business world wide.



Swiss Citizenship ?

Every Swiss citizen has

roots in a



It's in my official documents, everywhere.

THIS Place of origin belongs to a Canton (State)

THIS Canton (State) belongs to the Swiss Confederation....

In THIS order... and yes, the order is important.

The place I was born, or the color of my skin is not mentioned in my passport, it's not important in our country. We have 4 languages and many religions living together in a rather small territory, peacefully, since hundred of years.



Swiss Citizenship ?

In Switzerland, you can find Swiss citizens, legal & illegal foreign residents.

It's difficult to account for illegals, let's focus on the legal ones...

There are 8'121'830 (July 2015 est.) residents.

About 2'000'000 of them are legal foreign residents (1 out of 4), among the highest percentages of foreign residents in the world (24.3% in 2014)

We have cross-borders workers (frontaliers from France, Italy, Austria and Germany), about 300'000, taking CHF20'000'000'000 / year into the Euro Zone

I'm NOT talking about bi-nationals, or Swiss citizens with a foreign origin, if they are Swiss, they ARE Swiss.

Europe does not always share the result of our votes, does it make us xenophobic ?



Fact versus fiction

Switzerland for most people is about chocolate, mountains with chalets : a peaceful country as on postcards, but cleaner, right ?

It's accurate...

And it's not !

Let's start with Swiss chocolate...



Swiss Chocolate for most people is Toblerone



I love Swiss chocolate, but this is what Toblerone means for us.

It's an anti-tank protection, all around the borders of Switzerland



Your Swiss Chalet looks like this...



Or is it Swiss Villa, maybe?



Actually the “Swiss Chalet” is an underground artillery fort



And the “Swiss Villa” hides a cannon, protecting the border between France & Switzerland

Youth activities makes you think about :



I love skiing, but this is MY image of youth activities.

Shooting a fully automatic Stgw90. Over 4000 youth (age 13-17) compete, in Zürich, every year at the *Knabenschiessen*.



By the way, when you are 15 or older, you can have a fully automatic rifle at home and targets are 300 meters away... because it's the average distance between the two sides of a valley.



Yes, we shoot over valleys, cattle, sometimes busy roads, and no, no accidents.

We have a lot of shooting ranges, in fact, every Town / City / Village MUST have one, it's a nationwide, federal law.

Every man is a soldier and keeps his service gun at home and must re-qualify with HIS firearm, every year, until the end of his military duty.

At the end of his duty, he has the right to keep his military weapon (assault rifle or pistol) only paying a fraction of its price (it used to be CHF5, now CHF100 for a SIG550, CHF60 for a SIG510, and CHF30 for a SIG P220 pistol, plus the cost of the paperwork).

He can choose to keep the assault rifle full auto or have it converted to semi automatic. Before 1999, everyone had the right to keep and bear arm, now the regulations are much stricter.

That's the reason why the citizens rejected a tightening of gun law in 2011... and why they will not accept it today or tomorrow!



Because of that, Switzerland has a very HIGH rate of gun ownership. We're actually 3rd after USA and Yemen.

Historically, such ex-military weapons were not registered / accounted for... The official registered gun ownership rate is ~50%, and this is a dramatic underestimation. Practically all Swiss families have at least one firearm in the household.

On February 13th 2011, a gun control initiative was sharply rejected by the Swiss people. That very day, despite obvious popular will, Simonetta Sommaruga (Federal Council, SP) asked Swiss citizens to surrender their firearms. The call was spectacularly ignored.

Now S.S. is telling swiss people that there's "no problem" with European Gun Ban (i.e. 91/477/EEC directive).

There's a possibility Swiss people don't completely trust this assessment... That's an understatement !!!

Anyway hundreds of thousands of citizens will not tolerate to have their way of life criminalized.



Maybe you know that guy



Ueli Maurer, Swiss president in 2013, shooting, like hundreds of thousands of us.



In other countries, commemorating a war may look like this



By us, battles and wars are commemorated with shooting tournaments.

Morgarten Schiessen in memory of a battle which took place 700 years ago (celebration date was yesterday !).



Switzerland is the crossroad of Europe. You probably love swiss roads, tunnels, bridges, as they're convenient to cross Europe.

We love them too.

That's why we put explosives, anti tank devices, machine guns nests in them, so no-one can take control of them.

You don't notice them, it doesn't mean they aren't there!



When you think Democracy, you think of



We think of the Sovereign: The People.



The government is asking the people about laws and regulations.
And the “Swiss people” are telling the government how to lead the country.

We used to do that, in public, raising a hand holding a sword...it's called
Landsgemeinde, the oldest form of direct democracy.

And it's the difference between a tax-payer and a citizen.



We know Europe does not understand how “the Swiss people” vote.

2012 December: Expulsion of foreign criminals

2012 March: Rejection of 6 paid vacation weeks for everyone

2011 February: Rejection of “for protection against gun violence”

2009 November: Prohibition of minarets in Switzerland

1992 December: Refuse to entre EEE

In today’s democracies, a referendum is rarely used and often mistrusted. Not in Switzerland! For us, referendums are part of day to day life. Any Swiss citizen can launch a Referendum to propose a new law, change an existing one or terminate an international agreement.



Lately, Europe suffered:

Swiss initiative to limit European immigration, Brexit, Trump and TTIP, Bulgaria and Moldova (Russian friendly presidents elected), Parexit, Upcoming re-elections in Austria, Upcoming Referendum in Italy...

There are many euro-sceptics in Switzerland. Having them sign for a referendum will be easy. Political parties are already planning it.

Around 50 weapons per 100 inhabitants... 8 millions inhabitant... 50'000 signatures needed for a referendum to exit Schengen...

Getting the signatures to get the referendum will be easy.

If the EU Gun Ban is adopted, it would apply to Switzerland through Schengen agreement. It is a strong misunderstanding of the Swiss mentality to believe it will go smoothly...

Are you ready for Switzerland exiting Schengen? How do you plan to name it ?

Swixit

CHexit



In Switzerland, we love traditions, culture and history.

William Tell a 14th century legend and a Swiss national hero.

On 18 November 1307, the strong, mountain climber, refused to bow before the Gessler's hat, the newly appointed Austrian Vogt of Altdorf. He was arrested.

Gessler—intrigued by Tell's marksmanship but resentful of his defiance—devised a cruel punishment. Tell and his son were to be executed. However, he could redeem his life by shooting an apple off of his son Robert's head, in a single attempt. Tell split the apple with a bolt from his crossbow.

Gessler then noticed that Tell had removed two crossbow bolts from his quiver... the rest is history.

We don't use crossbows anymore... we use assault rifles.

And we know we don't "own" our military rifles, we merely pass it on to the next generation. Today, the guns are legally owned. Should they become illegal, as most are not registered, they won't be given back, they'll be "stolen", "lost", buried, millions of them...



Millions of vetted legal gun owners in Europe...

Millions of firearms...

Billions of rounds of ammunition...

We are not the problem!

There is no civil war in Europe. There are terrorist attacks using illegally acquired guns, illegally made explosives, knives, trucks and cars to kill people.

There are millions of trucks used safely every day, **like our guns.**

A truck was used in Nice to kill dozens of people. No directive is being drafted to restrict access to trucks, and rightly so!

We want to be treated like every other responsible citizen!

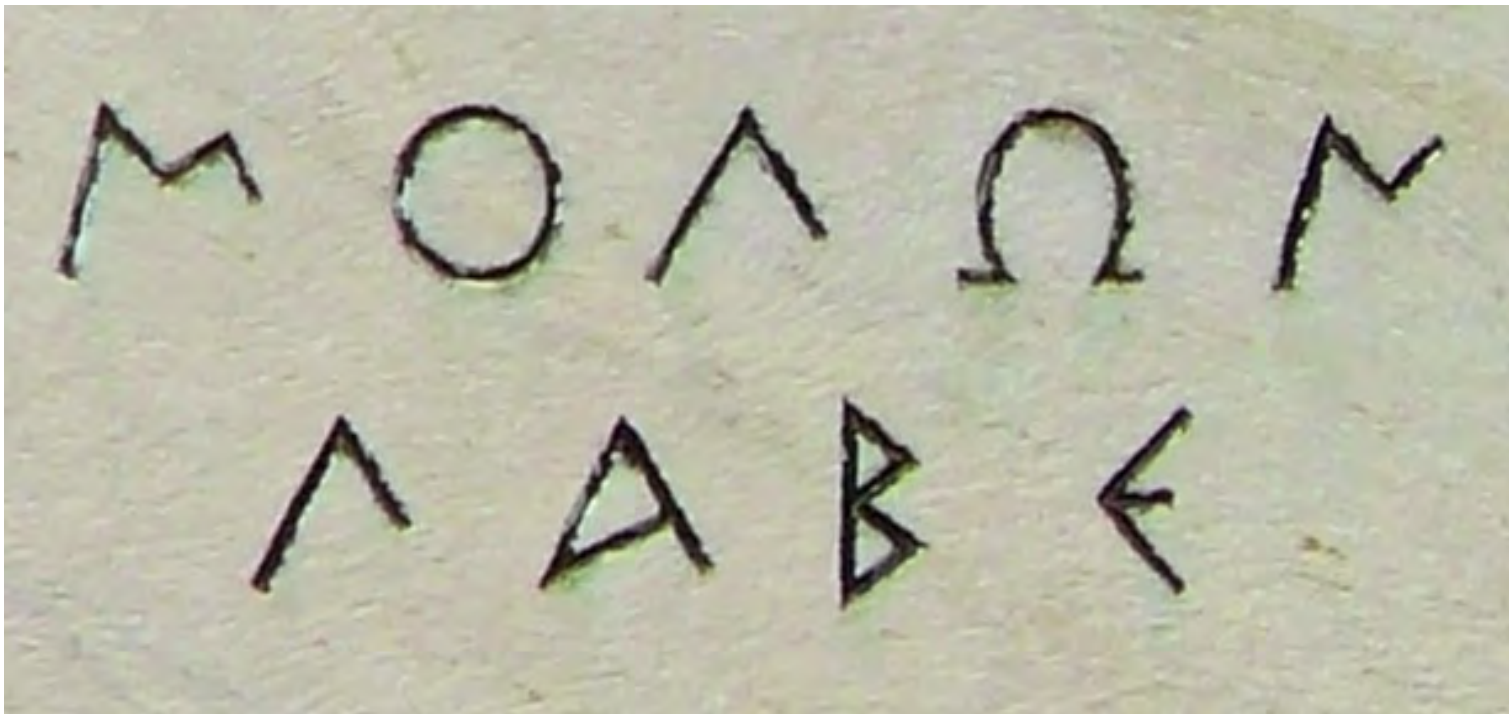


We use latin to describe our country. For us, it's Confederatio Helvetica (CH), or Helvetia.

But we know a little bit of Greek history as well.

You have probably heard about the Battle of Thermopylae (480 BC), when Xerxes I of Persia demanded that the Greeks and Spartans lay down their arms and surrender.

The defiant response of King Leonidas I of Sparta was: Molon labe



It means : Come and take them !

We are Swiss, we under promise and we over deliver !

