

SWITZERLAND

Continent: Europe

[Population](#): 8.7 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 84.3

[Governance System](#): Republic

Capital: None (de jure), Bern (de facto)

[Area](#): 39,516 km²

Major Languages: German, French, Italian
Romansch, English

[GDP \(2021\)](#): 812,967 US\$ millions

Select Global Rankings

[Human Development Index](#): 1st

[Fragile States Index - Inverted](#): 6th

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): 6th

[Human Freedom Index](#): 1st

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 4th

[Good Country Index](#): 15th

Elite Sport System Rankings

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 13th

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): 3rd

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 13 (20th)

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 14 (12th)

Football/World Cup Profile

[FIFA Region](#): UEFA

[FIFA Ranking](#): 15th

World Cup Appearances: 12

Best World Cup Performance(s): Quarter Finals (1934, 1938, 1954)

Qualification: UEFA Group C winners

[World Cup Group](#): G

Last World Cup Appearance: 2018

SWITZERLAND in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Matt Olsen)

While Switzerland's position in central Europe has long implicated the mountainous nation in European and International affairs, its famous position of armed neutrality has characterized its relations with other states.

[Switzerland gained independence from the Holy Roman Empire in 1648, when it first solidified its independence](#), and has not fought in an international war since 1815, [the year its policy of neutrality was officially recognized at the Congress of Vienna](#).

Despite its neutrality, Switzerland is home to a number of international organizations, particularly in Geneva, its second-most populous city. While it did not fight in the First World War, Switzerland joined the League of Nations in 1920, and hosted its headquarters until it ceased operations in 1946.

[Today, Switzerland is home to 40 international organizations with more than 25,000 staff](#). This includes, among others, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies, the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the International Olympic Committee.

However, though it plays host to many of the world's most prominent International organizations, its participation in these IOs has only recently grown. Switzerland joined the United Nations in 2002, where it previously held an observer role. Switzerland was also recently elected to the UN Security Council for the 2023-2024 term, and plays an active role in many UN specialized institutions, including the Economic Commission for Europe, the UN Environment Programme, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and more.

Outside of the United Nations, Switzerland is a member of the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Free Trade Association, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and, among many others, the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, where the Swiss Foreign Minister served as the organization's Chairman-in-Office in 1996.

In spite of its many recent attempts to increase its involvement in the international community, Switzerland is not a member of the European Union, but maintains bilateral treaties with the EU to take part in the European Single Market and the Schengen Agreement, which offers Switzerland and its citizens free trade and reduced labour movement restrictions with other member states.

Additionally, though it does not fight in wars, Switzerland is an active peacekeeping force around the world. Switzerland is a part of NATO's Partnership for Peace, the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council, and deployed members of its armed forces to support the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Bosnia. The Swiss army also continues to provide support for the Kosovo Force, supervising civilian reconstruction efforts, monitoring and protecting patrimonial sites, supporting military police and offering medical assistance.