

1653? Niklaus Leuenberger: Predating Gandhi in

Concerning the Vindication of the Insurgents in the Swiss Peasant War



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Klaus Eichler's Comments with respect to Hans Leuenberger's SAHS Review contribution:

Klaus (Mahatma?) Leuenberger

When Hans Leuenberger asked for my opinion why the European Union (EU) missed the chance to implement the proven constitution of the direct Swiss democracy, I spontaneously remembered a statement of Will Durant ([Will Durant - Wikipedia](#)):

„Despite different languages, religions and traditions the Swiss confederation has been kept consistent by a voluntary obligation for an only internal conciliation of arising disputes by the participation of the entire country and by common foreign politics, such giving a bright example to the world!“

I believe, that the many diversities did result in the necessary by Erasmus ([Erasmus - Wikipedia](#)) inspired virtues for this achievement: great patience and mutual tolerance of the people, living their convictions for over 700 years, and the readiness to fight for it when necessary.

Drawbacks had to be suffered, like in the history of other nations, involving the usual bloodshed and sacrifice of many human lives as in the case of Niklaus Leuenberger, beheaded and quartered in 1653.

However, the Swiss eager search for consensus, striving to avoid selfish egoism is still very much alive.

In this context, I had the chance to participate in a Swiss team for implementing the Bologna Declaration of the European Union (https://www.eurashe.eu/library/bologna_1999_bologna-declaration-pdf/) in Switzerland; at the time I was an ethnical minority myself.

Being involved in many other projects in Europe I had the impression that the participants were mainly looking for a boxer's „clinch“, instead of a broad consensus. I suspect that traditions and customs being hundreds of years old, as well as community spirit, require ample time to germinate, grow and mature. Such results need the commitment of determined people like Niklaus Leuenberger.

It also needs efforts shown by authors such as Hans Leuenberger that the merits of important historical characters will not be forgotten.

Klaus Eichler, hobby painter with regular participation in art exhibitions critical of time and society (http://follyship.com/follyship_content.php)

P.S. by Hans Leuenberger

The statement of Will Durant is correct and supported by the publication of Prof. Wuergler (University of Geneva):

**Aushandeln statt prozessieren : zur
Konfliktkultur der alten Eidgenossenschaft im
Vergleich mit Frankreich und dem deutschen
Reich (1500-1800)**

Autor(en): **Würgler, Andreas**

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However, in this context, Prof. Wuergler does not mention that the negotiations of the peasants with the Bernese authorities, which led to the Murifeld Peace Treaty of 1653 If the Murifeld Peace Treaty, which was legally signed by the parties, but had not been accepted by the Federal “Tagsatzung” in Baden. Thus, the Swiss Peasants' War of 1653 would not have taken place, i.e. would not have claimed any casualties on the battlefield or by the subsequent judge's sword. The relatively low number of battlefield deaths cited by Würgler is also a result of the Murifeld Peace Treaty, as it was used by Niklaus Leuenberger to negotiate the truce at the battle of Wohlenschwil (see downloads: Niklaus Leuenberger: Predating Gandhi in 1653?).