

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 23 (1996)
Heft: 6

Inhaltsverzeichnis

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 17.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

CONTENTS

Forum

The future of the welfare state 4-7

Official News

9/10

History

Switzerland under fire: stolen gold and unclaimed assets 11

Media

Swiss media on the Internet 12

Culture

A museum for Jean Tinguely 13

Votes

Federal referendums of December 1, 1996:
The results 14/15

Mosaic

16/17

SSA News

18/19

Cover:

The pension system for a peaceful and protected twilight of life built up over the last 50 years is coming up against its financial limits and must be reformed. (Photo: Incolor)

I M P R E S S U M

Swiss Review, the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 23rd year of issue and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in more than 20 regional editions. It has a total circulation of over 310,000. Regional news appears four times a year.

Editors: René Lenzin (RL), Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad (Chairman); Alice Baumann (AB), Press Bureau Alice Baumann Conception; Pierre-André Tschanz (PAT), Swiss Radio International, Berne; Ilaria Bignasci (IB), parliamentary correspondent of Giornale del Popolo; Editor of Official News: Robert Nyffeler (NYF), Service for the Swiss Abroad, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, CH-3003 Berne. Translator: Ian Tickle.

Publisher, Editorial Office, Advertising: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16; Tel: 41 31 351 6100, Fax: 41 31 351 61 50, Postal Cheque Account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. Printed by: Buri Druck AG, CH-3084 Wabern.

Internet: <http://www.revue.ch>

No. 6/96 (27.12.1996)



The social policy climate has become more harsh. This is shown by the increasingly tough tone of the debates which are taking place on the social responsibilities of the state. Over the past 50 years, western industrial societies have experienced a growth period in which the steady increase of economic returns has led to an equally steady rise in the prosperity of virtually the whole population. Is this now coming to an end? There are indications that this is the case.

The accelerating pace of globalisation means that an increasingly large part of the international economy is escaping from the sphere of influence of national policies – thus depriving individual countries of taxable income and workplaces. But the main problem is that the model of prosperity built up shortly before and immediately following the Second World War is now beset with financing problems due to the changing age structure of our society. These can be overcome only through increased revenue or a reduction in benefits.

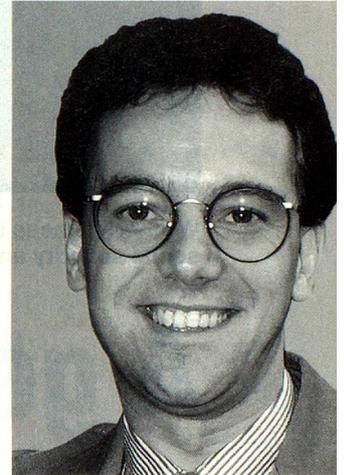
High unemployment, with its associated social costs, and the exponential growth in the price of health care suggest that we have reached the limits of what our society can finance. This is true even for rich Switzerland, where things are still going relatively well.

What is required in this situation is a debate on fundamental principles aimed at working out long-term strategies for the further development of our system of social security. How much social se-

curity can we afford, and indeed how much do we wish to afford? This is the question – at the same time banal and complex – which we must face. But unfortunately a democracy such as ours is increasingly influenced by superficial mass media which encourage short-term thinking. Serious debate relating to the medium and long term is not one of its strengths. This means that in political discussions on the future of our social security the main issues are often sidelined. In consequence, we have decided not to consider specific aspects in detail but rather to approach this subject in the form of a genuine debate on principles.

And we include an interview with Federal Councillor and Social Affairs Minister Ruth Dreifuss on the government's long-term strategies.

Berlin sociology professor Wolf Lepenies recently stated that western societies have lost long-term orientation and that policy horizons are now measured only by terms of office or of legislature. It is greatly to be hoped that we will be able to refute this diagnosis, at least with respect to the future arrangement of the welfare state. Otherwise the least we can say with certainty is that a period in Swiss history will come to an end – that of social peace.



René Lenzin
René Lenzin