

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 14 (1949)
Heft: 7

Artikel: The Marshall plan and Switzerland
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942892>

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: 18.01.2026

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

XXXXXX THE MARSHALL PLAN AND SWITZERLAND. XXXXX

In a speech on Switzerland's foreign policy and European economic co-operation delivered before the National Council (lower house) on the 31st of March, 1949, Monsieur Max Petitpierre, member of the Federal Council and head of the Federal Political Department (Foreign Office), expressed himself as follows with regard to the Marshall Plan:

The Marshall Plan and American aid to Europe, which do not affect Switzerland directly, have for her both favourable and unfavourable aspects. By furthering the economic development of the countries hit hardest by the war and enabling them to rehabilitate and improve their means of production, the Plan abolishes the privileged situation we have enjoyed since the end of the war. We are already witnessing and shall certainly witness in ever increasing measure, the return of competition on the markets of the world. We shall have to adapt ourselves to more normal conditions than those by which we have profited during the last three years.

However, there is another side to the matter. American aid is bringing a flow of dollars and gold to Europe. This wealth is being caught up in the economic process and the recipient countries have now increased possibilities in the sphere of bilateral trade.

There can be no doubt that we are benefiting thereby. Thanks to American aid, certain difficulties on the bilateral level can now be solved to the advantage of export trade, tourist traffic and money transfers. It is certain that without American aid the economic position of our European partners would have continued to deteriorate, this in its turn leading to a progressive shrinkage in our commercial exchanges with them and to considerable damage to our export trade. Free competition in a healthy Europe is better than a virtual monopoly in a stricken one.

XXXXXX SWISS FEDERALISM. XXXXX

(Continued).

The people as a whole, as well as the cantons, are responsible for the election of the legislature, i.e. the Federal Assembly. One of the two chambers, the National Council, is representative of the people and is, by the constitution, so elected that there is one National Councillor for every 22,000 citizens, each canton, even the smallest, having a representative. Every canton forms an electoral area. At the elections to the National Council held in Autumn, 1943, 194 members were elected. Out of a population of 4.26 million, it was calculated that 1,300,784 were eligible to vote. The seats were then, as the law prescribes, allocated among the parties according to the strength of their polls. The present National Council, which remains in office till the end of 1951, comprises 44 Catholic Conservatives, 52 Radicals, 7 Liberal Conservatives, 21 members of the Party of the Citizens' Farmers and Artisans, 48 Social Democrats, 8 members of the National Ring, 5 of the Democratic party, 7 of the Party of Work (Communists) and 2 with no affiliation.

The second chamber, called by the old cantonal name of Council of States, is elected, according to cantonal legislation, by elections in the Cantons or by the cantonal authorities. It consists of 44 members, which means that each canton has two seats. Three cantons have been divided by Federal law into half-cantons each, Unterwalden, by a very old tradition into Obwalden and Nidwalden, Appenzell into Catholic Inner Rhodes and Protestant Outer Rhodes, and Basle, after the