

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 75 (2009)
Heft: [5]

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](#)

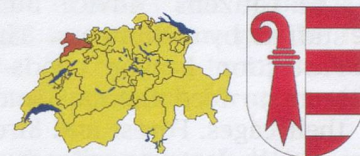
Terms of use

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: 22.02.2026

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

Jura - Switzerland's newest canton



Canton Jura was formed 30 years ago after voters in the north-western region bordering France decided to split from canton Bern. The decision to establish a new canton was the culmination of one of the most bitter territorial conflicts in modern-day Switzerland.

Thirty-five years ago voters in the Jura took the first step to-

but most Jura residents are French-speaking Catholics.

The Jura region became part of canton Bern back in 1815 as Europe's major powers reshaped the political map of Europe following the downfall of Napoleon.

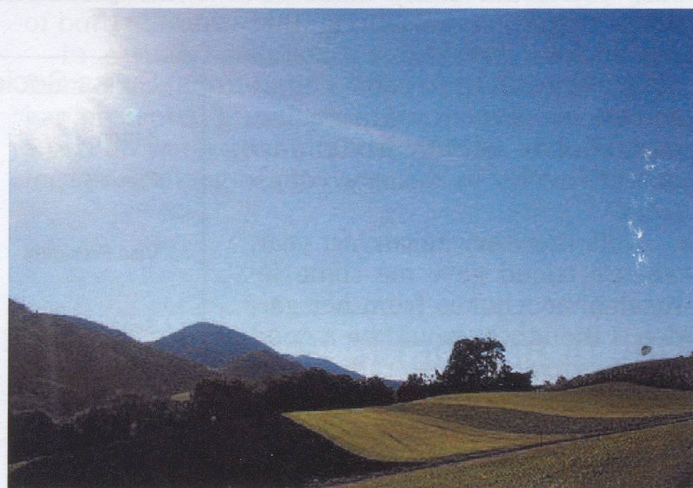
Matters came to a head more than a century later in the late 1940s, as Jura residents began to criticise the authorities in Bern

The Jura authorities are still seeking to bring the three remaining districts into the canton. In 1994, a special Jura Assembly was set up to encourage a spirit of cooperation in the region.

In canton Bern, meanwhile, attempts are underway to grant its French-speaking districts more autonomy in the areas of culture and education.



Jura landscape



Rolling farm land

wards establishing their own canton. The ballot in 1974 was the first in a series of votes which led to the establishment of canton Jura five years later.

The moves to split from canton Bern went against the political mood of the time, when the country's politicians were rallying behind the idea of national unity in the decades following the Second World War.

At the heart of the conflict were underlying linguistic and religious differences as well as economic and political problems between the authorities in Bern and the Jura.

Canton Bern is predominantly German-speaking and Protestant,

for ignoring the region and its population.

Efforts to defuse tensions failed and led to the launch of several separatist groups, some of which resorted to violence in a bid to win independence for the region.

The moves to create a new canton also led to divisions within the Jura region itself. In the first ballot in 1974, all seven of the districts in the Jura voted in favour of severing ties with canton Bern. But in a later vote three of them decided to remain under Bern's control. After a series of polls, canton Jura was finally established in 1979 as the 26th canton of Switzerland.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial	2
Free water debate	3
The Canton Jura	4
Planned motorway was once a dinosaur thoroughfare	5
Retirement Villages - for horses	6
Swiss Club News	7-9
We know now!/Obituary	10
Getting a taste for tradition	11
The hidden past of Swiss	12
Parental fines considered	13
"Trendy" Giacometti/Recipe	14
Sad news from Bern	15
More!	16