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# HELVETIA

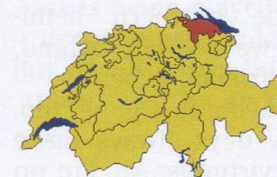
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## The canton of Thurgau

Thurgau lies in the north-eastern corner of Switzerland on the shores of Lake Constance and the Rhine. Thurgau means 'the region of the river Thur'. The area of the canton is 991 km<sup>2</sup> and commonly divided into three hill masses. One of these stretches along the lake, the second one is further inland be-

ever, the area was not so clearly defined and changed frequently. Overall, the size of the Thurgau was larger; at one time even the town of Zürich was part of the Thurgau. The Swiss Confederation seized the lands of the Thurgau from the Habsburgs in 1460, and it became a subject territory of seven Swiss cantons, Zurich,



(1531) ended Reformed predominance. The First Peace of Kappel protected both Catholic and Reformed worship, though it generally favored the Catholics, who also made up a majority among the seven ruling cantons.

In 1798 the land became a canton for the first time as part of the Helvetic Republic. In 1803 the canton of Thurgau became a member of the Swiss Confederation.

The canton of Thurgau is known for its fine agricultural produce; particularly apples, pears and vegetables are well-known. The many orchards in the canton are mainly used for the production of apple juice and cider. Wine is produced in the Thur valley.

There is also industry in the canton of Thurgau. Small and middle-sized businesses are important for the cantonal economy. Many of these are concentrated around the capital.

*from the internet*



Diessenhofen

tween the river Thur and the river Murg. The third one forms the southern border of the canton and merges with the Hörnli mountain in the pre-Alps. The population is 238,316, of which about 20% are foreigners. The capital is Frauenfeld.

In prehistoric times the lands of the canton were inhabited by people of the Pfyn culture along the lake of Constance. During Roman times the canton was part of the province Raetia until in 450 the lands were settled by the Alamanni. It was only in the 8th century that the canton became a political unit similar to what it is known today. At that time, how-

Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Unterwalden, Zug and Glarus, who took turns in governing (and exploiting) it.

During the Reformation, both the Catholic and emerging Reformed parties sought to swing the subject territory to their side. In 1524, in an incident that resonated across Switzerland, local peasants occupied the cloister of Ittingen in the Thurgau, driving out the monks, destroying documents, and devastating the wine-cellar. Between 1526 and 1531, most of the Thurgau's population adopted the new Reformed faith spreading from Zurich, but Zurich's defeat in the War of Kappel

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