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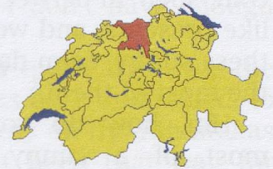
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## Aargau

Aargau is one of the more northerly cantons of Switzerland. It comprises the lower course of the river Aare, which is why the canton is called Aar-gau

bailiwicks (Mellingen, Muri, Villmergen, and Bremgarten), and Baden were governed as "subject lands" by all or some of the Confederates.



"Halde" Aarau

(meaning Aare district). The capital is Aarau. It borders Germany to the north, Basel-Landschaft, Solothurn and Bern to the west, Lucerne to the south, and Zürich and Zug to the east.

In early medieval times, Argovia or Argowe was a disputed border region between the duchies of Alamannia and Burgundy. From the extinction of the Hohenstaufen dynasty in 1254 until 1415, the area was ruled by the Habsburgs, and many castles from that time still stand. In 1415, the Aargau was taken from the Habsburgs by the Swiss Confederates. Bern kept the south-west portion. Some districts, named the Freie Ämter or free

French forces occupied Aargau in 1798; thereafter the Bernese portion became the canton of Aargau in the Helvetic Republic and the remainder formed the Canton of Baden. In 1803, the two halves were united under the name of canton of Aargau, which was then admitted as a full member of the reconstituted Confederation. Fricktal, ceded in 1802 by Austria, was briefly a separate Swiss canton, but was soon incorporated in the canton of Aargau.

The canton of Aargau is one of the least mountainous Swiss cantons, forming part of a great table-land to the north of the Alps and the east of the Jura,

above which rise low hills. The surface of the country is beautifully diversified; undulating tracts and well-wooded hills alternate with fertile valleys watered mainly by the Aare and its tributaries. The valleys alternate with pleasant hills, most of which are full of woods. Slightly over one third of the canton is wooded, while nearly half is used for farming. About 2.4% of the canton is considered unproductive, mostly lakes and streams.

The population of Aargau is just over 600,000.

The farmland of the canton of Aargau is some of the most fertile in Switzerland. Dairy farming, cereal and fruit farming are among the canton's main economic activities. The canton is also industrially developed, particularly in the fields of electrical engineering, precision instruments, iron, steel and cement.

*from the internet*

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