

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

SCHWEIZER NATIONALFEIERTAG—SWISS NATIONAL DAY

der 1. August (1291)

20 KEY DATES IN SWITZERLAND'S HISTORY



The Swiss parliament building in Bern.

1850

The Swiss franc was introduced. Prior to this point the cantons had been allowed to mint their own money, causing currency chaos.

1874

Direct democracy was introduced, giving the Swiss people the right to challenge government legislation through an optional referendum.

1891

The popular initiative was introduced, allowing Swiss people to demand a change to the Constitution through a referendum.

1971

Women gained the right to vote at federal level, though some cantons still hold out granting them suffrage on cantonal issues.

1979

Switzerland's youngest canton, Jura, was created.

2000

Swiss voters approved a series of bilateral agreements with the EU, allowing free movement.