

International Geneva

At the crossroads of history, culture, IHL, diplomacy
and religion

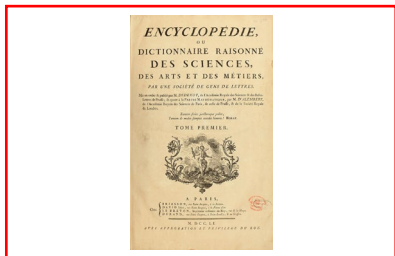
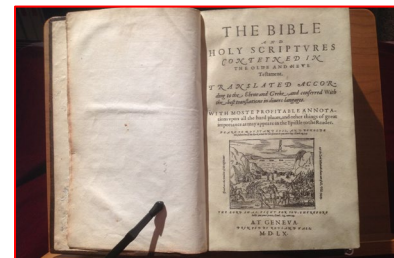
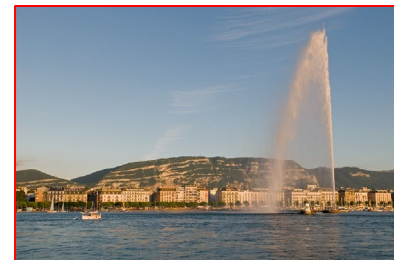
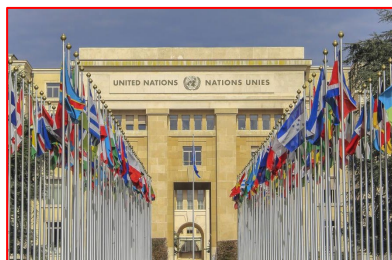
COLONEL (GS) Christian Bühlmann - RCDS



Questions

1. Why International Geneva?
2. What is the impact of Geneva on global security?
3. What benefits has the neutrality of Switzerland for the establishment of UN organisations?
4. What are the Geneva Conventions?

What does Geneva represent for you?

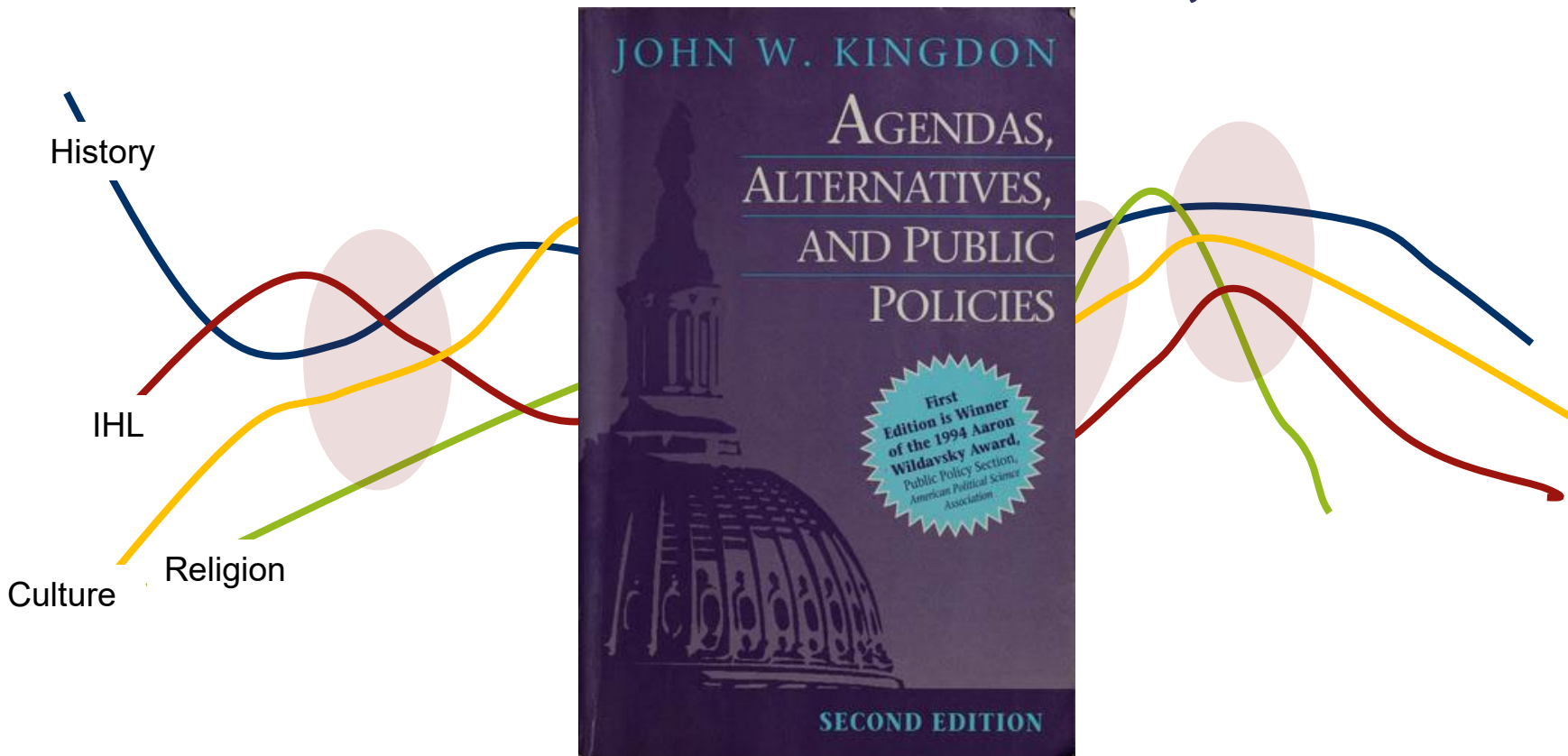


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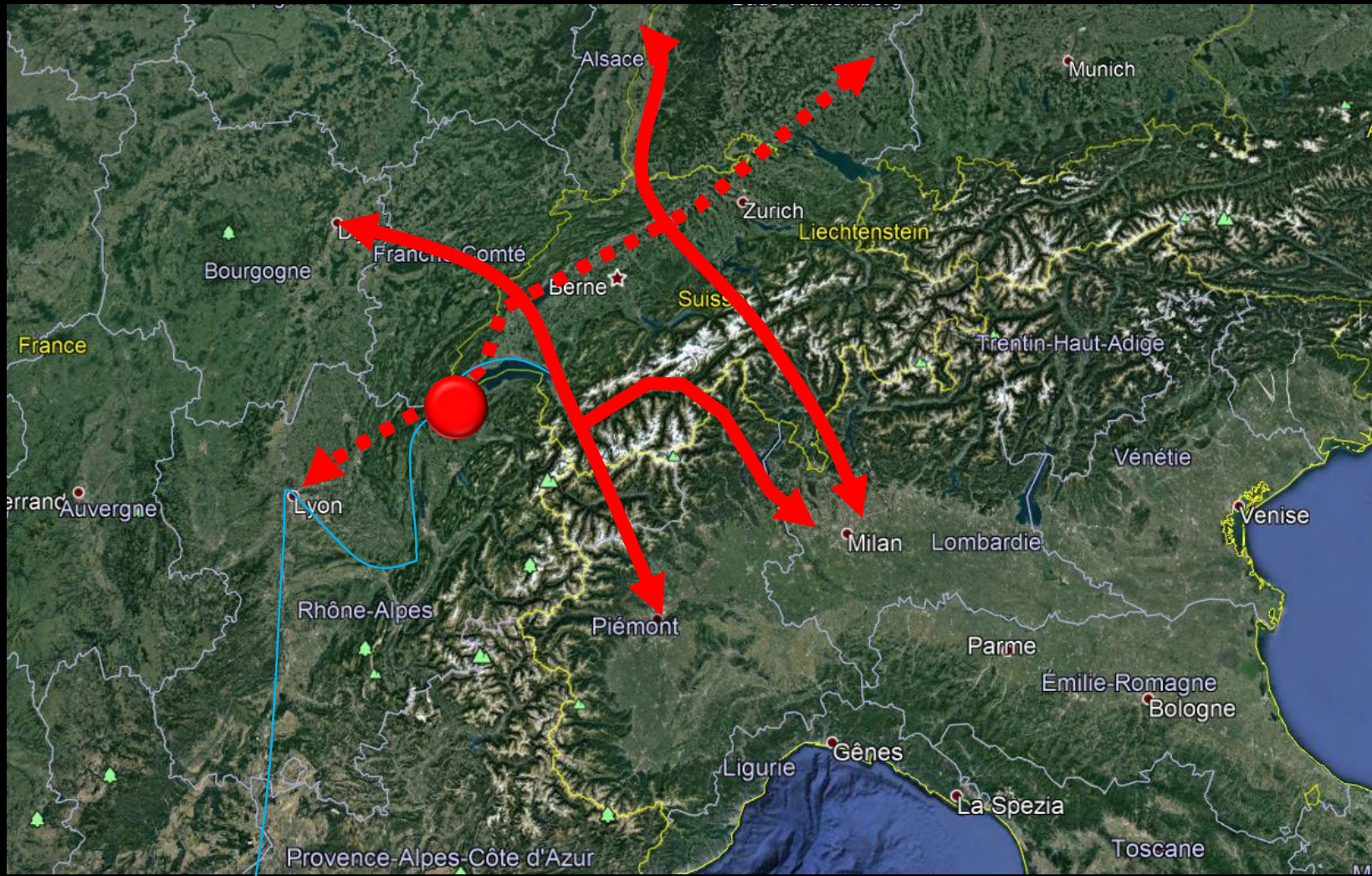
ICRC

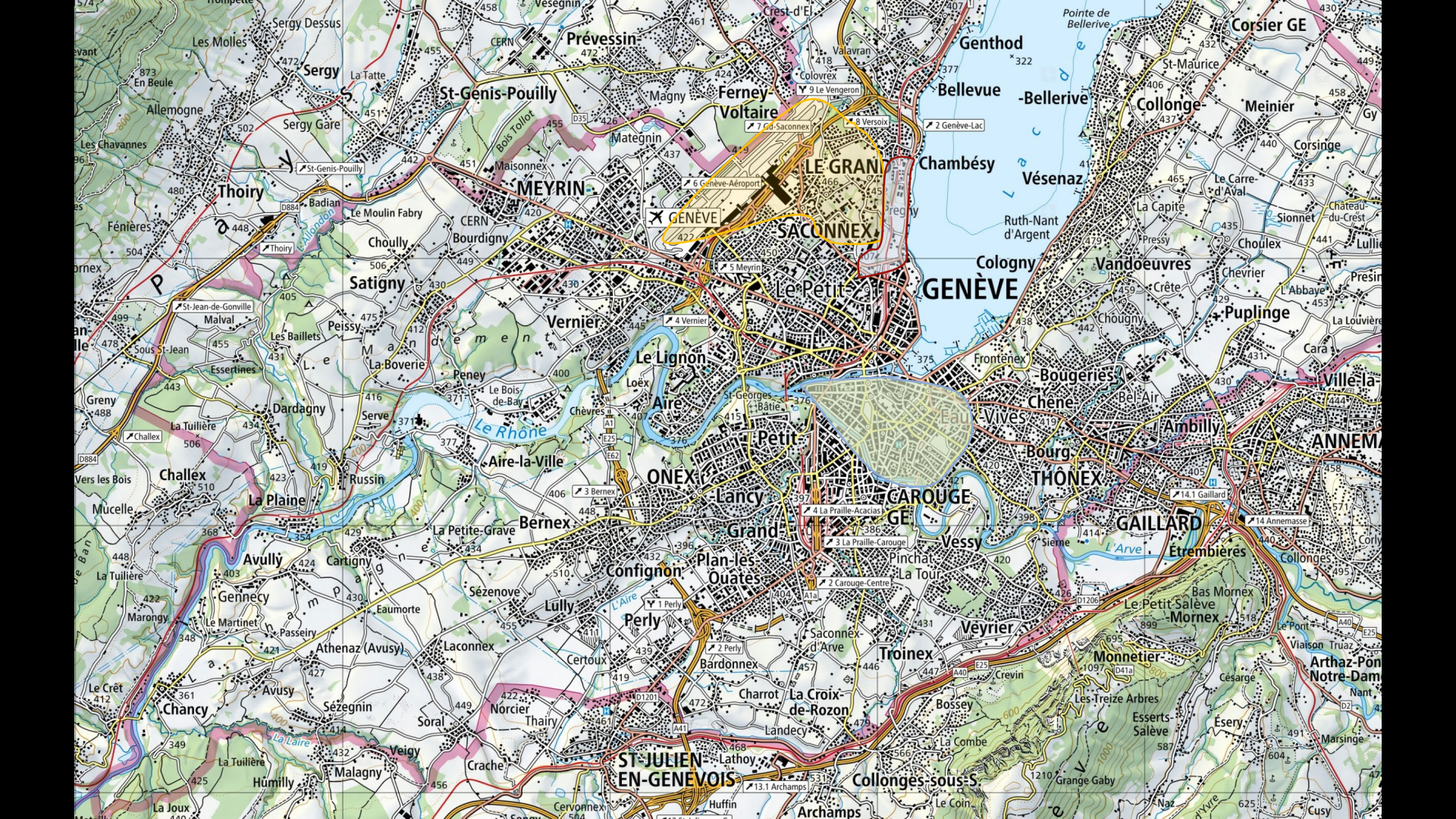
International Geneva in the Streams of History



Geography

A safe place in a complex world





History, culture, religion, ...

Streams and «la longue durée»

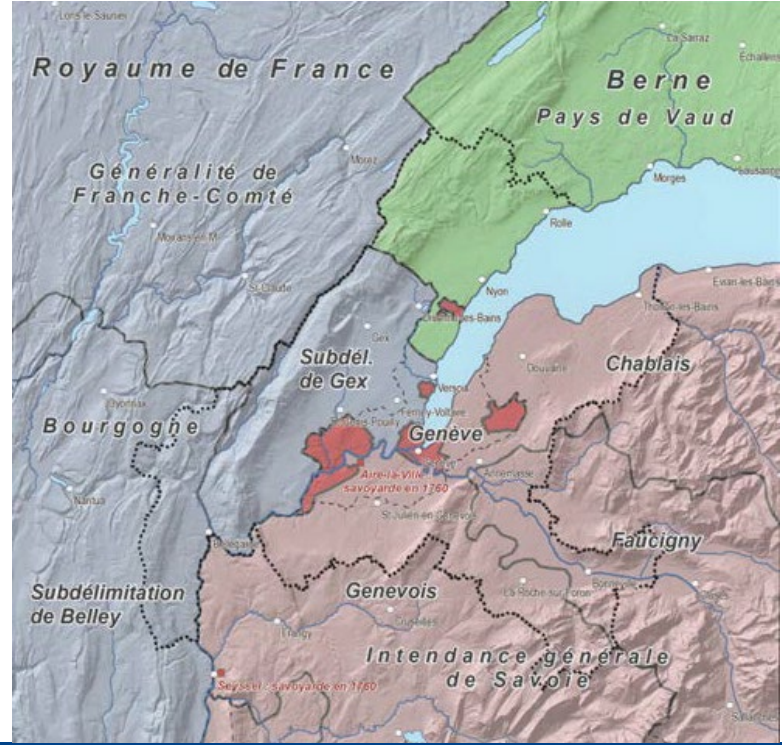
Ceasar stops migrants in *Genava*

58 BC



Geneva becomes a free imperial city

1032



Calvin in Geneva

“Calvinism”

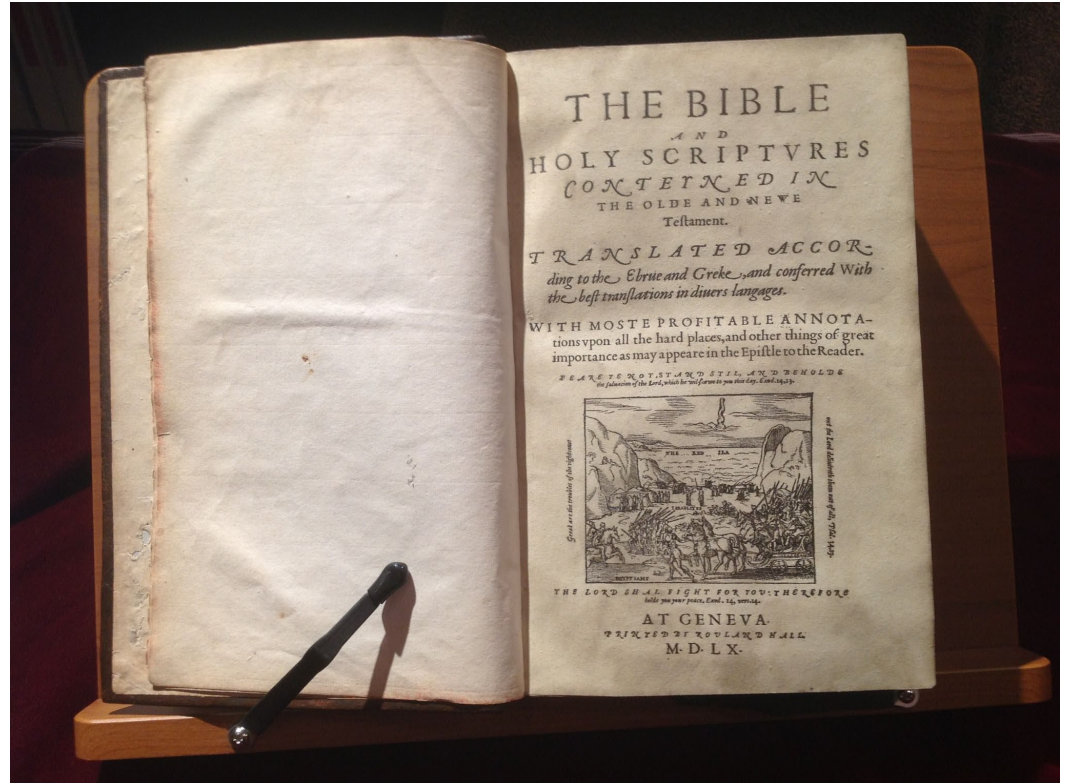
- Sternly ascetic
- Religion pervades government and society
- Manicheism
- Salvation of the ‘Elect’ only

1536
↓



The Geneva Bible

↓
1560



Calvinist influence on the Anglo-Saxon World

- Through Scottish theologian Knox to Britain
- Puritans were mostly Calvinists
- Calvinist influence on several Founding Fathers
- Influence on U.S. Conservatism : “The poor are poor because they deserve to be poor because of their sinful nature”
- American exceptionalism is inspired by Calvinism

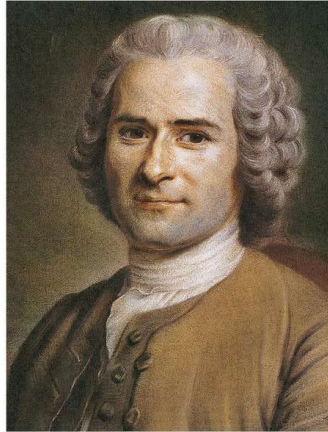
1680 Hugenots expelled out of France
1681 Geneva hosts Hugenots.
Population grows 16'000 to 30'000 inhabitants.



Which authors have nothing to do with Geneva?



Voltaire



Rousseau



Mme de Stael

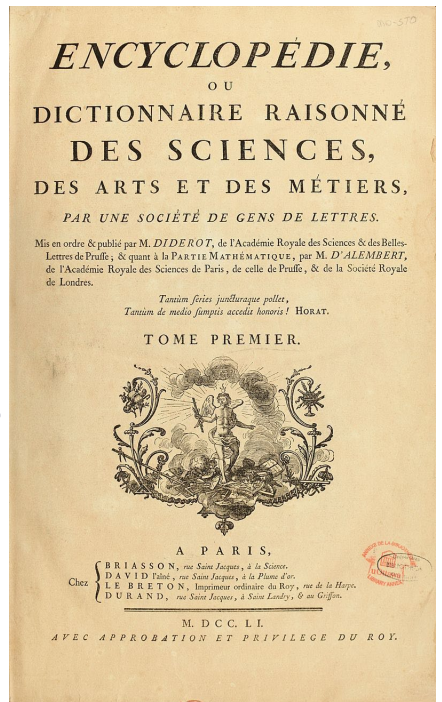


Kant

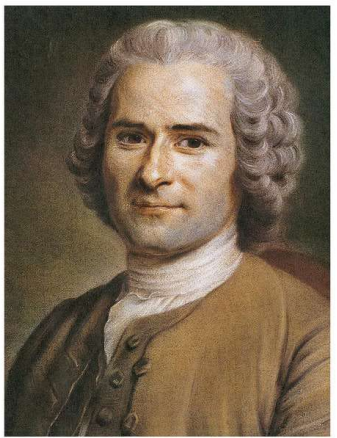


Clausewitz

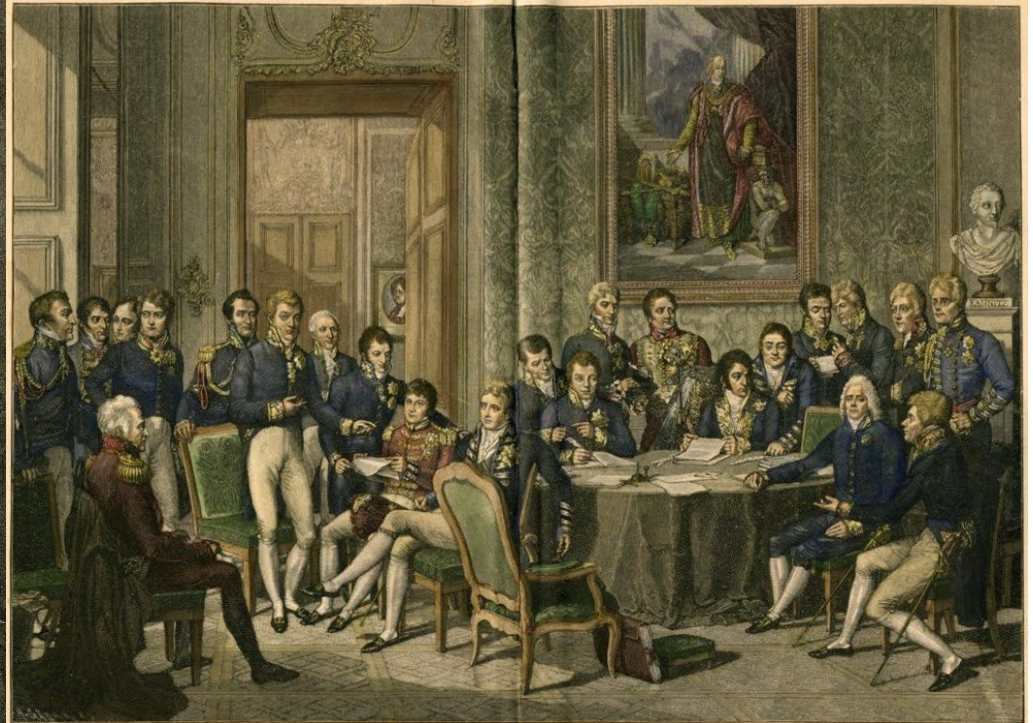
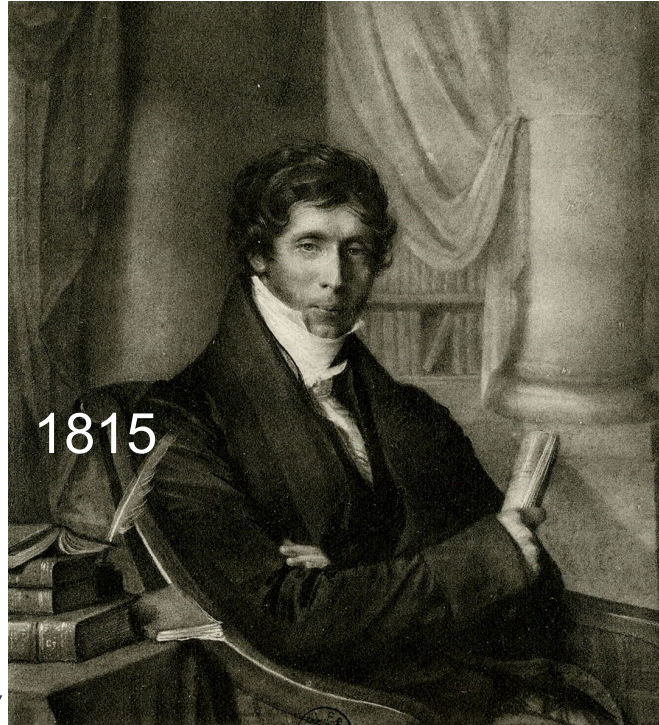
Geneva, A Refuge for Free Thinkers



1755
↓



The Congress of Vienna



Which monster is linked with Geneva?



Geneva, City of Culture



1816
↓

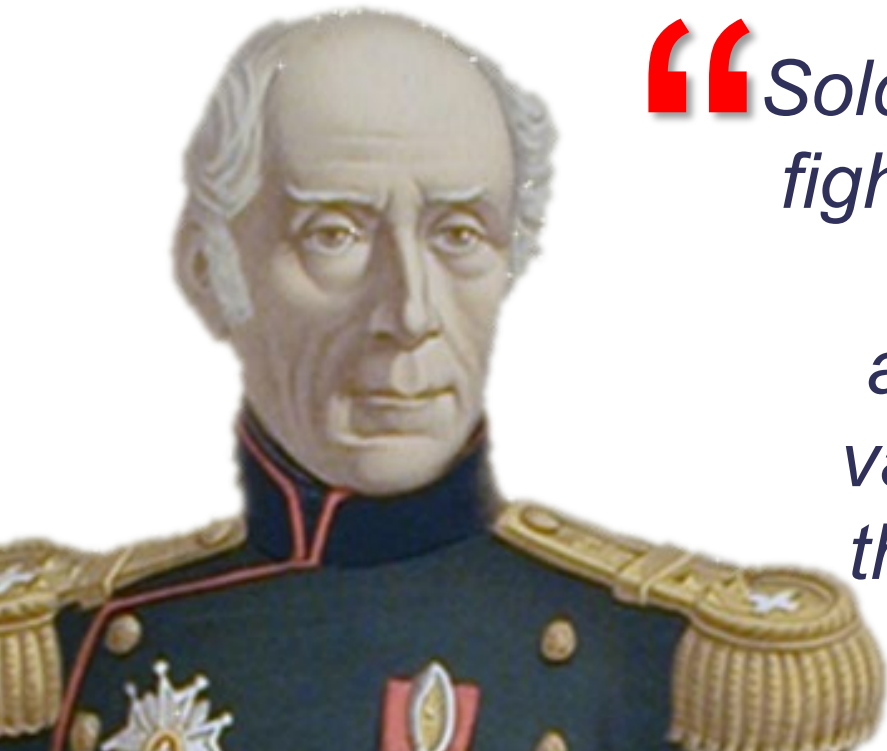


The Sonderbund War

1847
1848



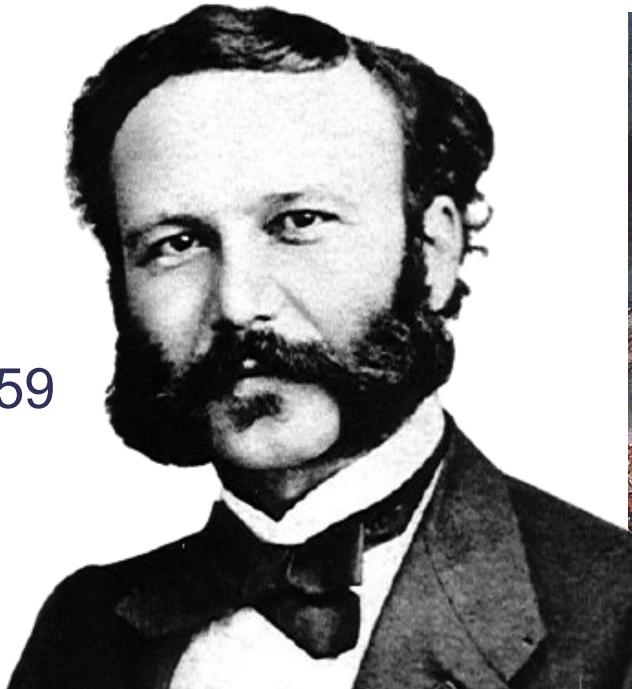
The Sonderbund War



“Soldiers, you must get out of this fight not only victorious, but also without blame. One must be able to say: They have fought valiantly when they had to, but they have shown humane and generous virtues throughout

Dufour's address to the federal army on 5 November 1847

The Battle of Solferino



1859

Propositions (Dunant 1862)

1. *“Form relief societies for the purpose of having care given to the wounded in wartime” (115)*
2. *“Formulate some international principle, sanctioned by a Convention in character ... [to] constitute ... societies for the relief of the wounded in the different European countries” (126)*

Creation of the ICRC

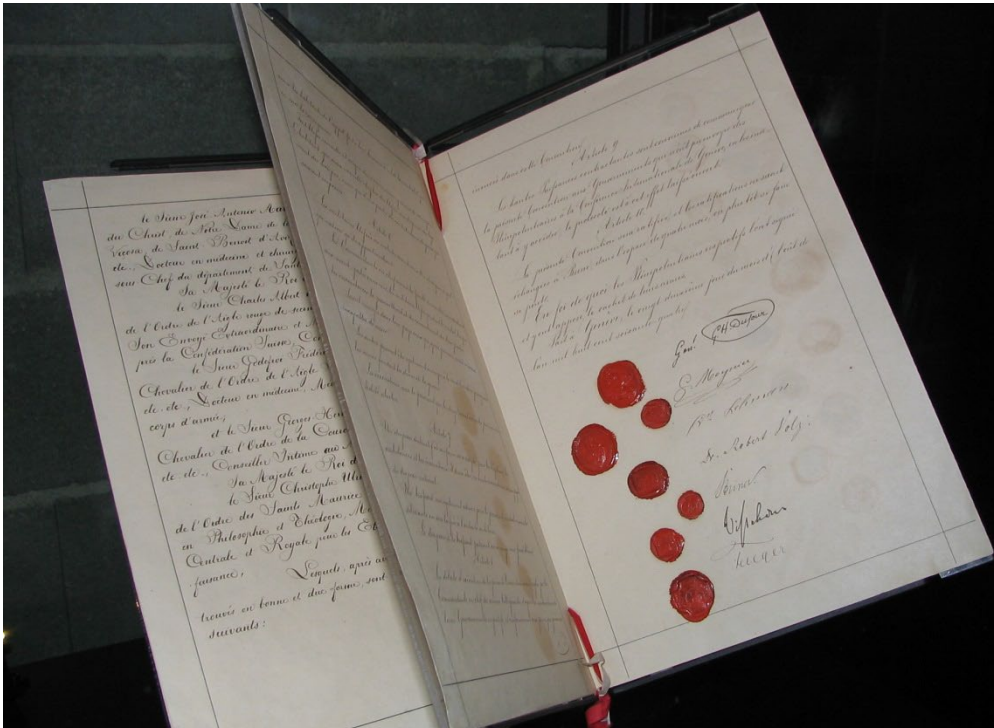


1863



The First Geneva Convention

1864



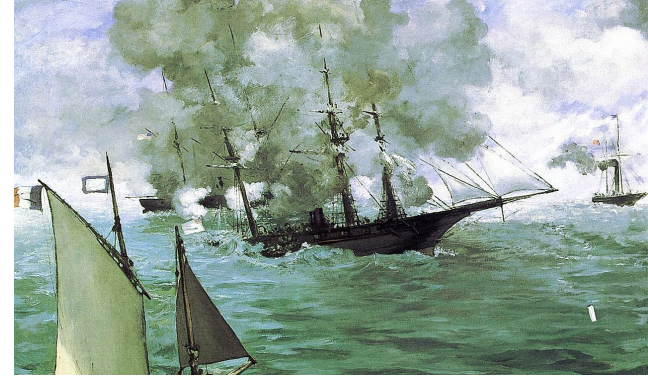
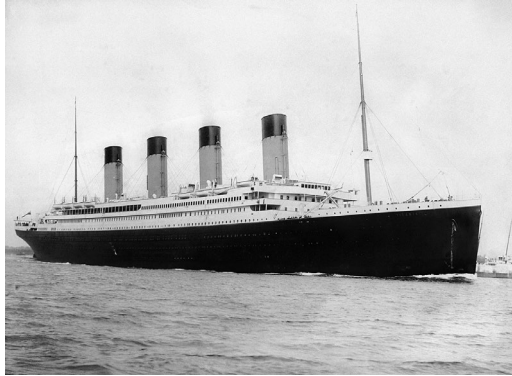
The *Geneva Conventions*

- I, II Protection of the sick, wounded and shipwrecked as well as medical personnel, ambulances and hospitals.
- III Treatment of prisoners of war.
- IV Protection of civilians in the hands of the enemy.

Additional protocols

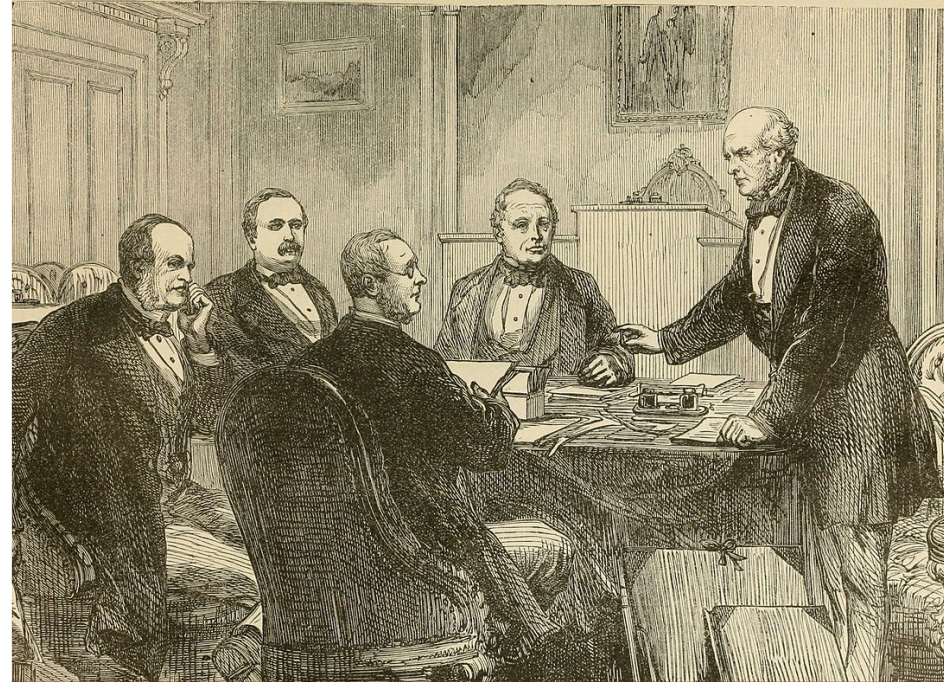
- First (1977) Restrictions on the conduct of hostilities (prohibits attacks against civilians and civilian objects and restricts the means and methods of warfare).
- Second (1977) Supplements Article 3 and is the sole provision applicable to non-international armed conflicts.
- Third (2005) Provides for an additional emblem (red crystal).

The sinking of the Alabama



The *Alabama* Arbitration

1872



ICRC engagement during WWI

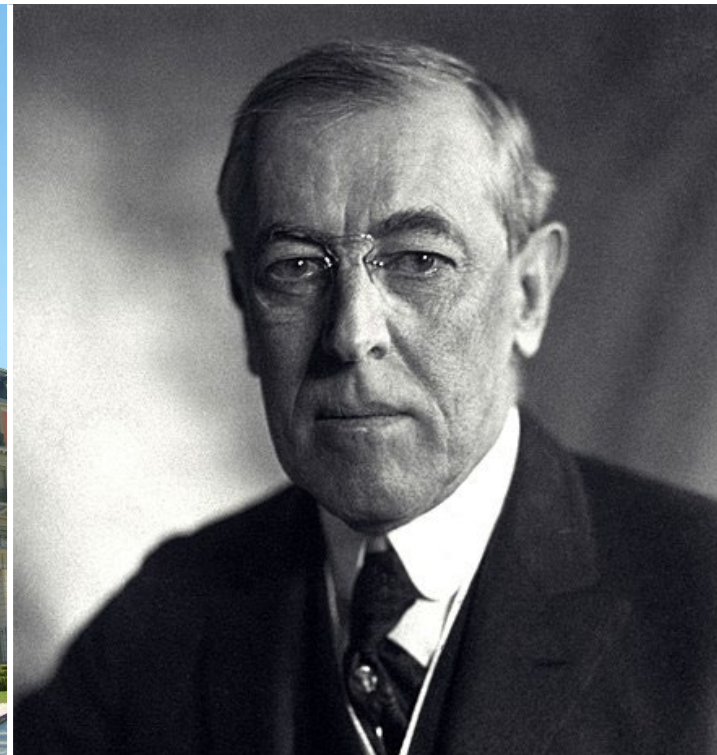
1914 -1918



The League of Nations



1920



The League of Nations - Geneva, Brussels or The Hague?

- Wilson influenced by his faith and the Geneva Bible
- Federal Councilor Ador (from Geneva) was a former ICRC VP
- Economist W. Rappard, founder of the Graduate Institute, trained in the USA
- Role of the ICRC during WWI
- Swiss People voted in favour of the League
- Neutrality less an issue

The United Nations

1946
↓

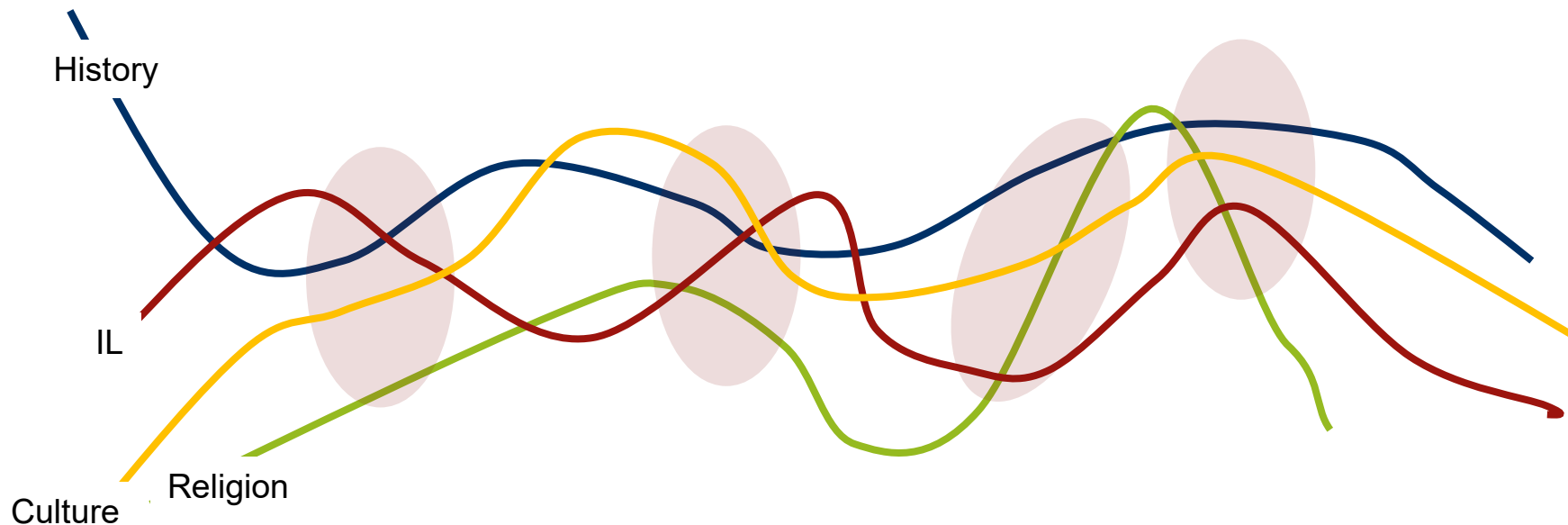


The CERN

1954



International Geneva in the Streams of History



International Geneva today

A major governance centre

International Geneva – Facts & Figures



181



37



~750



32'000



3'400



4'700

Geneva Summit (1955)



1985 Reagan-Gorbachev Summit





2021 Biden-Putin Summit

Conclusions

Why “International Geneva”?

1. Geopolitics of the city of Geneva
2. Religion as a policy instrument
3. Swiss neutrality
4. Religious beliefs of US Elites
5. IHL and ICRC
6. Will of the Swiss Population

What is the impact of Geneva on global security?

Strong theological influence on the U.S. Worldview

Foundation of International Law

Foundation of International Humanitarian Law

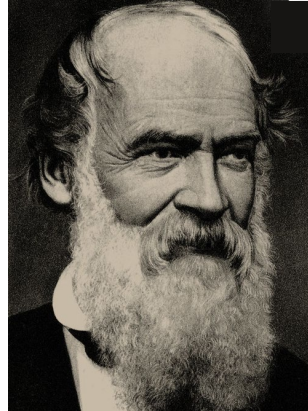
Political philosophy (“Social Contract”, Voltaire’s thinking)

Influence of Swiss general Antoine-Henri Jomini on the US military thought

Conclusion

- Role of religion, institutions, culture and history in determining the current position of international Geneva
- Impact of Geneva on US political culture through calvinist beliefs
- Religion as belief and policy instrument

Find the link



ICRC



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GCSP

**Geneva Centre for
Security Policy**