

## Werk

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*Government.*] The government of Venice is aristocratical, under a chief magistrate called a Doge, who is said to be a King as to robes, a senator in the council-house, a prisoner within the city, and a private man out of it.

There are many different sovereignties in Italy. It is divided into little republicks, principalities and dukedoms, which, in spiritual matters, are subject to the Pope, who, like the ghost of the deceased Roman empire, sits crowned upon its grave.

*History.*] The era of the foundation of Rome begins April 20, 753 years before the birth of Christ. Authors generally assign the honour to Romulus its first King, who was but eighteen years old. He was a wise, courageous and politick prince.

St. Peter is placed at the head of the Popes or Bishops of Rome, in the 33d year of the common era. The present Pope is Pius VI. elected February 15, 1775.

SWITZERLAND.

Length <sup>miles.</sup> 260 } between { 6° and 11° East Longitude.  
Breadth 100 } { 45° and 48° North Latitude.

**B**OUNDED north, by Germany ; east, by Tirol, Trent and Lake Constance ; south, by Italy ; west, by France.

*Cities.*] **BERN**, on the river Aar, is the most considerable city in Switzerland. **BASIL**, on the banks of the Rhine, contains 220 streets, and by some is reckoned the capital of all Switzerland.

*Rivers.*] The principal rivers are the Rhine and Rhone, both of which rise in the Alps.

*Air, Soil and Productions.*] This country is full of mountains ; on the tops of some of them the snow remains the year round ; the air of consequence is keen and the frosts severe. In the summer the inequality of the soil renders the same province very unequal in its seasons.

seasons. On one side of the mountains, called the Alps, the inhabitants are often reaping, while they are sowing on the other. The vallies, however, are warm, fruitful and well cultivated. The water of Switzerland is excellent, descending from the mountains in beautiful cataracts, which have a most pleasing and delightful effect. Its productions are, sheep, cattle, wine, flax, wheat, barley, apples, peaches, cherries, chesnuts and plumbs.

*Population and Character.*] For the number of inhabitants, see table of Europe.

The Swiss are a brave, hardy, industrious people, remarkable for their fidelity and their zealous attachment to the liberties of their country. A general simplicity of manners, an open, unaffected frankness, together with an invincible spirit of freedom, are the most distinguishing characteristicks of the inhabitants of Switzerland. On the first entrance into this country, travellers cannot but observe the air of content and satisfaction, which appears in the countenances of the inhabitants. A taste for literature is prevalent among them, from the highest to the lowest rank. These are the happy consequences of a mild republican government.

*Religion.*] The established religions are calvinism and popery ; though, in some doctrinal points, they differ much from Calvin. Their sentiments on religious toleration are much less liberal, than upon civil government.

*Government.*] Switzerland comprehends thirteen cantons, that is, so many different republicks, all united in one confederacy, for their mutual preservation. The government is partly aristocratical, and partly democratical. Every canton is absolute in its own jurisdiction. But whether the government be aristocratical, democratical or mixed, a general spirit of liberty pervades and actuates the several constitutions. The real interests of the people appear to be attended to, and they enjoy a degree of happiness, not to be expected in despotick governments.

*History.*] The old inhabitants of this country were called Helvetii ; they were defeated by Julius Cæsar, 57 years before Christ, and the territory remained subject