

Overcoming anxieties with sober-mindedness

Immigration is currently a highly emotive issue. The debate is dominated by fears rather than facts and stoked by dramatic images of refugees in the Mediterranean Sea and illegal immigrants in the southern USA. In his book "Exodus", the British development economist Paul Collier tackles the issue from various perspectives. He firstly outlines the story of his grandfather Karl Helleenschmidt, who left Germany to escape poverty and moved to Bradford in the UK. This is a clever introduction because it is touching on a human level and illustrates that immigration is not a new problem. The book covers many aspects, including integration as well as

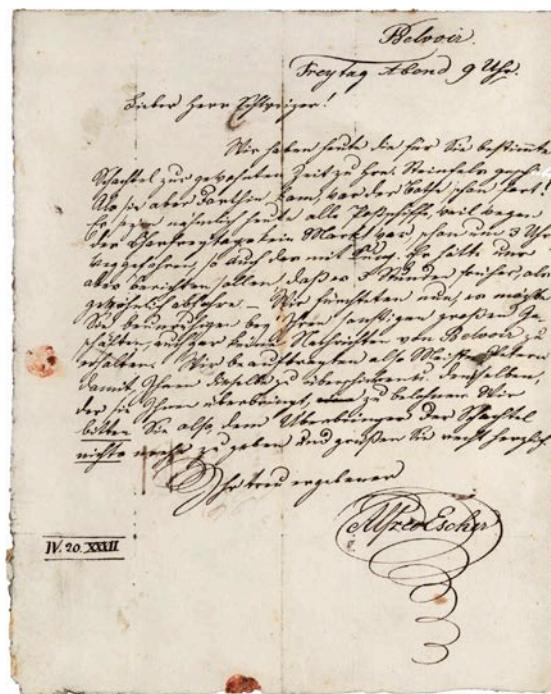


the deficiencies and gaps created in poor countries as a result of emigration, known as the brain drain. Collier is no ideologist but an academic able to observe and analyse problems objectively. His analysis suggests that mass migration is a temporary phenomenon and will end once prosperity is better distributed. The book, which came out in English in 2013 but is now also available in translation, is an absolute gem.

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■ Paul Collier: "Exodus"; Siedler-Verlag, Munich 2014. 320 pages; CHF 32.90, EUR 23.

■ Paul Collier: "Exodus. Immigration and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century" Allen Lane 2013; EUR 19.



Alfred Escher – digital

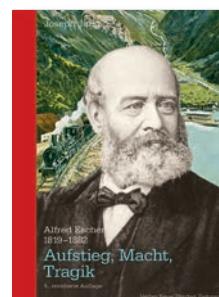
Hardly anyone has shaped the development of modern Switzerland as much as Alfred Escher, the business leader and politician from Zurich (1819–1882). He created synergies between politics, the railway network, the financial sector and the education system, and helped the emergent federal

state to achieve a significant upturn. An outstanding editorial project concerning Escher is set to be completed mid-way through the year: All of his 5,000 or so letters are being digitised, transcribed and made available online. Lots of manuscripts and libraries are being digitised today but not always to this high quality standard. The digital edition of the Escher letters provides easy access to the documents via various paths. This is not just of great value to research but also of benefit to the general public with an interest in the subject. The navigation is clearly laid out, and contexts and historical comments can be displayed.

The Alfred Escher Foundation is behind the project, and the historian Prof. Dr. Joseph Jung, who was chief historian at Credit Suisse for many years and Escher's biographer, is the publisher and research director.

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■ www.briefedition.alfred-escher.ch



Art every day for young and old

There is an art book that contains an exercise, story or puzzle for every day of the year. Who can find the proverbs in Pieter Brueghel? How many colours are there in a rainbow? Who was The Blue Rider? And who was August Macke? Did he paint in a representational or abstract style? And what is abstract art exactly? Is still life really still? These are just a few of the many questions asked. Readers will discover famous works of art on their journey through the year, including by Gauguin, Sisley, Rousseau, Klimt, Turner, Picasso, Kahlo, Botticelli and many others. The book entitled "365 Tage Kunst entdecken – sehen, rätseln, spielen, malen" has been produced for children (aged six



and over) but is also a fascinating and informative read for many older people.

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■ Doris Kutschbach, Christiane Weidemann: "365 Tage Kunst entdecken"; Verlag Prestel Junior, Munich; 376 pages; CHF 28.50, EUR 20.



A third from immigrant backgrounds

Of the 6.8 million people living in Switzerland aged 15 and over, 2.4 million come from an immigrant background. This is indicated by an analysis carried out by the Federal Statistical Office in 2013. Four fifths of people from an immigrant background were born abroad, while one fifth were born in Switzerland but have parents born abroad. Well over a third (35 %) hold a Swiss passport. The population from an immigrant background is younger than the long-established Swiss population and is therefore slowing down the ageing of the permanent resident population.

More asylum applications

23,765 people made an asylum application in Switzerland in 2014. That is 2,300 or 11 % more than in 2013. In Europe, the number of asylum applications recorded rose by 35 % from around 444,000 to roughly 600,000. Switzerland's share of the number of asylum applications made in Europe as a whole fell from 4.8 % to 4 %. This development is influenced by the various crisis and conflict situations around the Mediterranean Sea and in Africa, as indicated by the State Secretariat for Migration. This is leading to high numbers of migrants arriving in Italy irregularly by sea. Eritrean citizens constituted the largest group of asylum seekers in Switzerland in 2014, followed by those from Syria and Sri Lanka.

Film about nostalgic natives of Central Switzerland

The Lucerne filmmaker Romana Lanfranconi is making a documentary entitled "Sehnsucht Innerschweiz" (Longing for Central Switzerland). For this project she is looking for people living outside Switzerland but in whose lives Central Switzerland still plays an important part. Lanfranconi is interested in the family-related and personal stories of homesick Swiss or those who have returned. More on this film project about people from Central Switzerland feeling a sense of nostalgia for their homeland can be found at www.morbushelveticus.com

Correction

In the article "A second lease of life for Swiss alpine fortresses" in the February 2015 issue of "Swiss Review", two images were incorrectly attributed to the company Swiss Data Safe. The images show the bunker and storage facilities of the company Mount10 in Baar, the largest Swiss company in this field. <https://www.mount10.ch>

"Safeguarding the bilateral agreements is the key element of a pact with the SVP."

Christoph Darbellay, President of the CVP, on a possible alliance with the SVP if a second SVP Federal Councillor is elected in December.

"Woe, that too late repents."

William Shakespeare (1564 to 1616), English playwright and poet in "King Lear".

"The bilateral agreements must be secured."

FDP National Councillor Ruedi Noser, also on an alliance with the SVP if a second SVP Federal Councillor is elected in December.

David Larible

The Italian clown David Larible, who featured in the cover photo of "Swiss Review" in December, made a guest appearance at Amsterdam's Carré circus theatre over the holiday period. The Swiss representation there sent him a copy of "Swiss Review", and the clown was so thrilled by the cover photo that he took a photo of "Larible with Larible" and sent it to us.



"Egalitarianism to such an extent inevitably spoils the broth."

FDP President Philipp Müller, on the same day but not on an alliance with the SVP, instead in an open letter to the members of the SP.

"Those who are liberal believe they and the world are capable of doing good (...), whereas conservatism is based on diffidence and narrow-mindedness."

Gottfried Keller (1819 to 1890), Swiss author and politician in "Die Leute von Seldwyla".

"Mediocre minds usually condemn everything that extends beyond their horizons."

François de La Rochefoucauld (1613 to 1680), French military officer, diplomat and author.

"We are quick to talk of shocks or crises. Unjustly so. This is not a time of crisis but one of uncertainty."

Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter at the World Economic Forum.