

Module S1

“Microeconomics & Accounting”



Sociopolitics

III. The Swiss political system (Second part)

Prof. Dr. Marc Schnyder

Contents

I. Some basics

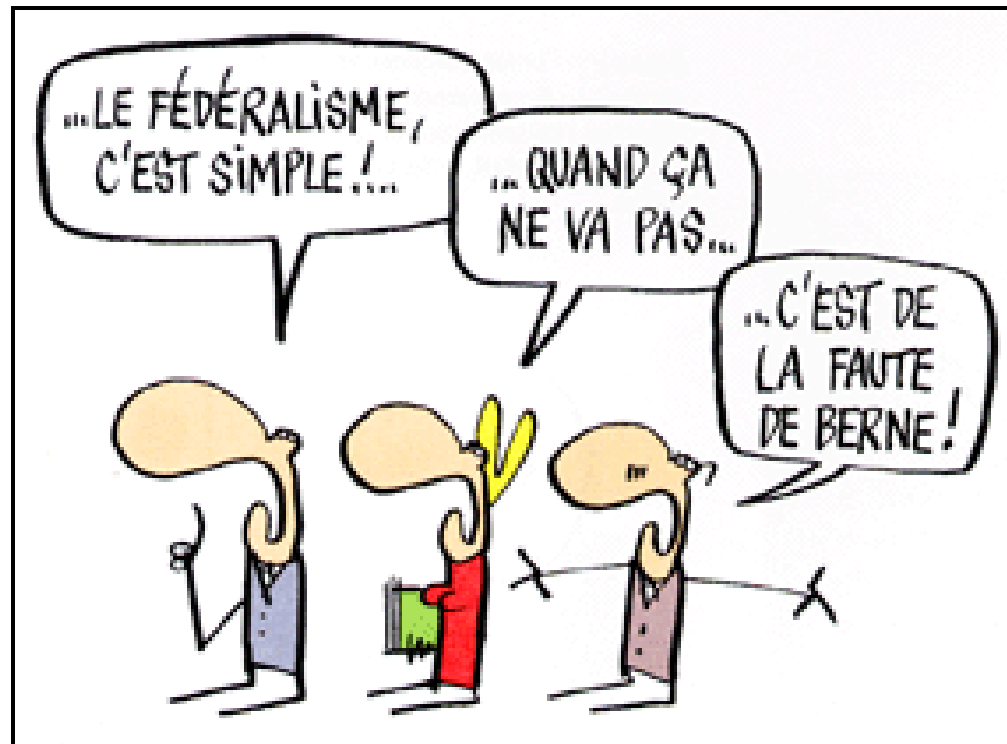
II. Direct democracy

III. Federalism

IV. Hierarchy of norms

V. Legislative process

VI. Public administration



Mix & Remix

Federalism

Some definitions

- *"Federalism is a political organization in which the activities of government are shared between regional governments and a central government, so that each type of government decides on its [own] activities"* (Riker, 1975: 101; translation).
- *"Federalism implies a fundamental distribution of power among multiple centres (...), not the delegation of power from a single centre (...)"* (Elazar, 1997: 239; translation).
- *"Federalism is an organizing principle of a state which allocates, through constitutional provisions, political power to a general government and regional governments in a way that creates substantially autonomous component units as well as a federal nation"* (Linder, 2005).

→ Division of power

Federalism

Federalism is a means:

- to organize a territory;
- to manage cultural differences;
- to manage economic differences;
- to organize public services.

<https://www.ch.ch/en/political-system/operation-and-organisation-of-switzerland/federalism/>
(website)

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/federalism/28859324>

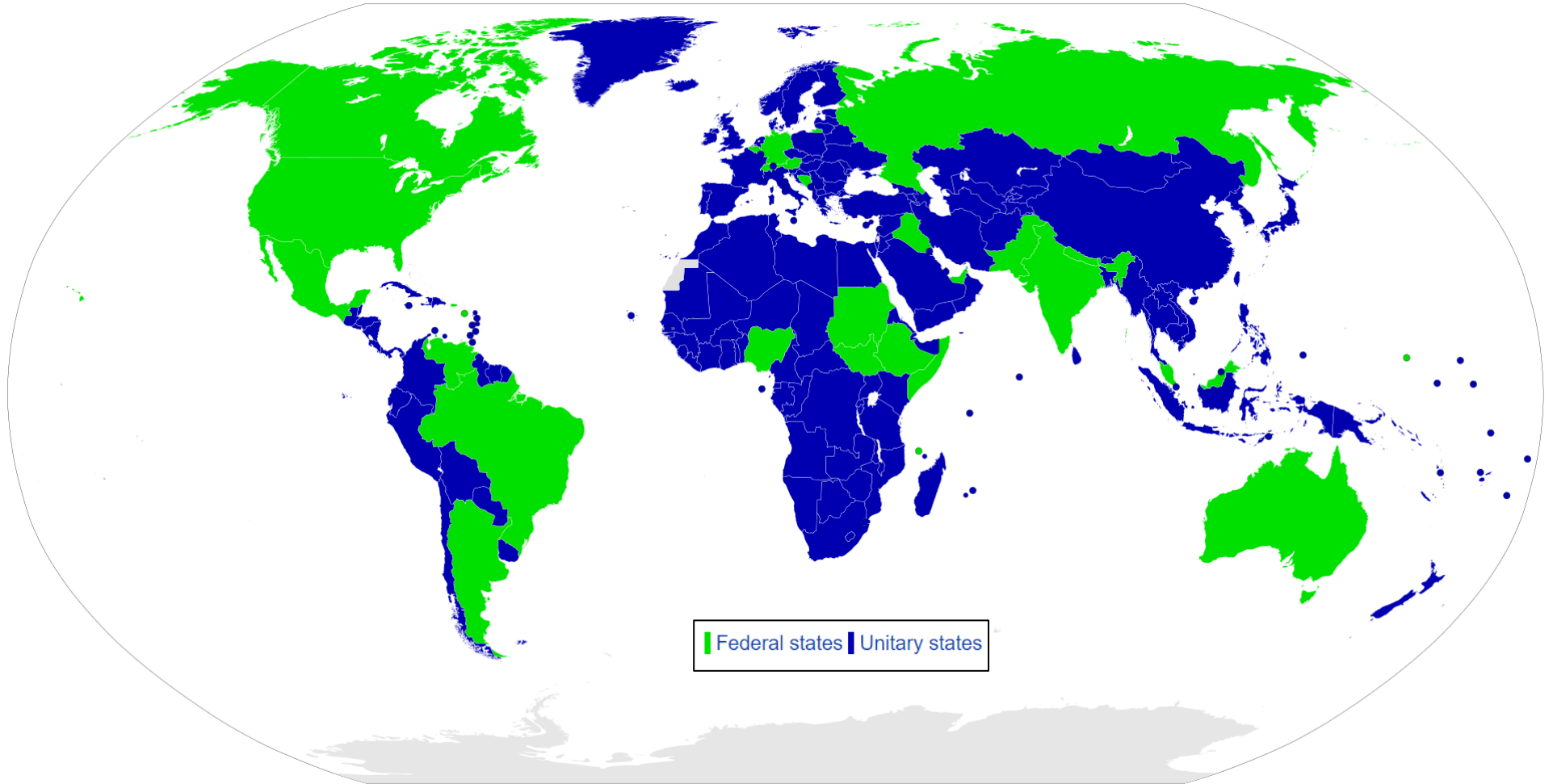
https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/democracy-lab_what-is-federalism-/44374058

Federalism

Federal system vs. unitary system

- In a federal system, the federal government (or central government) is legally created by the federated entities.
- In a unitary system, regional governments are the legal creation of the central government (devolution or transfer process).
- Some unitary countries are more decentralized than some federal countries.
- Unitary countries like Colombia, Italy and Japan have relatively strong regional governments. France and Peru are moving towards significant decentralisation (including strengthening the power of elected regional governments). In some countries, such as the UK, some regions request more power.

Federalism



Federalism

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Belgien , 3 Regionen, 3 Gemeinschaften, Verfassung von 1994 | Kanada , 10 Provinzen, 3 Territorien, Verfassung von 1867/1982 | Äthiopien , 9 Bundesstaaten, 2 eigenständige Städte, Verfassung von 1995 |
| Bosnien und Herzegowina , 2 Entitäten (innerhalb der bosniakisch-kroatischen Entität "Föderation Bosnien und Herzegowina" 10 Kantone) | Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika , 50 Bundesstaaten, 1 Bundesdistrikt, Verfassung von 1787 | Komoren , 3 Territorien, Verfassung von 2001 |
| Deutschland , 16 Länder, Grundgesetz von 1949 | | Nigeria , 36 Bundesstaaten, 1 Territorium, Verfassung von 1979 |
| Österreich , 9 Bundesländer, Verfassung von 1929. | Mexiko , 31 Bundesstaaten, 1 Territorium, Verfassung von 1917 | Südafrika , 9 Provinzen, Verfassung von 1996 |
| Schweiz , 26 Kantone (bis 2000: 20 Kantone und 6 Halbkantone), Verfassung von 1848 (Totalrevisionen von 1874 und 1999) | | |
| Spanien , 17 autonome Gemeinschaften, zwei Autonome Städte (Ceuta, Melilla) | Saint Kitts and Nevis | Indien , 28 Staaten, 7 Territorien, Verfassung von 1950 |
| Serbien Montenegro | Venezuela , 23 Bundesstaaten, 1 Bundesdistrikt, Verfassung von 1999 | Pakistan , 4 Provinzen, 2 Territorien, Verfassung von 1973 |
| Russland , 21 Teilrepubliken, 6 Regionen, 49 Gebiete, 2 Städte föderaler Bedeutung, 1 autonomes Gebiet, 10 autonome Bezirke und 7 Föderationsbezirke, Verfassung von 1993 | Argentinien , 23 Provinzen, 1 Bundesdistrikt, Verfassung von 1994 | |
| | Brasilien , 26 Bundesstaaten, 1 Bundesdistrikt, Verfassung von 1988 | Irak , 3 Bundesstaaten, Verfassung von 2005 |
| Australien , 6 Bundesstaaten, 2 Territorien, 3 Außengebiete, Verfassung | | Vereinigte Arabische Emirate , 7 Emirate, |

Characteristics common to all federal systems (Anderson, 2008):

- At least two levels of government, one for the whole country and one for the regions, with different elections.
- A written constitution, parts of which cannot be changed by the federal government alone.
- A constitution that formally assigns legislative and fiscal powers to both levels of government, guaranteeing genuine autonomy to each.
- Special provisions in the upper houses [of parliament] for the representation of federated entities, giving small units more weight than they mathematically deserve.
- An arbitration procedure to settle constitutional disputes between governments.
- A set of processes and institutions designed to facilitate or conduct relations between the different levels of government.

Federalism

The essential distinctions

- Symmetrical federalism
 - All federated entities have the same tasks, competencies and resources.
- Asymmetric federalism
 - There are differences between the federated entities, particularly with regard to their autonomy..
- Congruent federalism
 - The federated entities are ethnically and culturally similar to the state as a whole.
- Incongruous federalism
 - The federated entities differ from each other. Each unit is more homogeneous than the state as a whole.

Federalism

The foundations of Swiss federalism:

All information can be found in the compulsory reading “Federalism” by Adrian Vatter (2007).

Federalism

The vertical institutions of Swiss federalism:

All information can be found in the compulsory reading “Federalism” by Adrian Vatter (2007).

Federalism

The horizontal institutions of Swiss federalism:

All information can be found in the compulsory reading “Federalism” by Adrian Vatter (2007).

Federalism

The future challenges of Swiss federalism:

All information can be found in the compulsory reading “Federalism” by Adrian Vatter (2007).