

The Swiss Experiences on Federalism –

as a source of inspiration for Malaysians
7 thesis and questions

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Presentation for the “Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute” (ASLI)

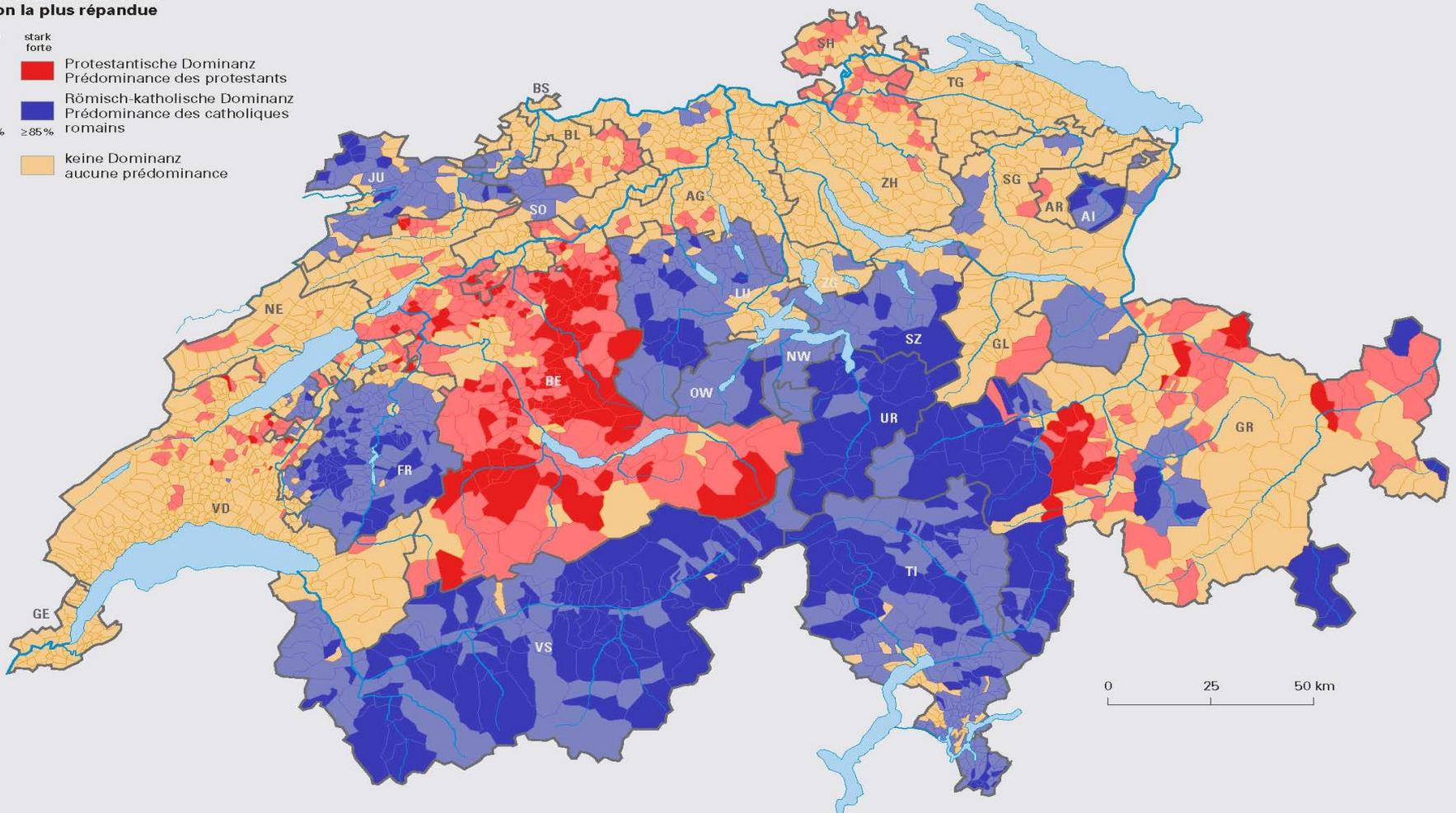
Kuala Lumpur, October 14th 2014

*Although geography,
size and history matter ...*



Religious diversity

Dominierende Konfession Religion la plus répandue



I. Federalism is a way to share and decentralize powers – in order to marriage the unity of the state and the diversity of the society

Why in Malaysia so many powers are still so centralized and the autonomy of it's states so rare ?

II. Federations with their decentralizations and autonomies have a centrifugal tendency which needs to be balanced. In CH this function is realized paradoxically by it's Direct Democracy.

What is the centripetal moment of the Malaysian federation – it's monarchy, it's ruling party ?

III. Direct Democracy can be understood as the democratic sister of Federalism, because it's another way how to share power (vertically, instead of horizontally)

Are there tendencies or efforts in Malaysia too in order to enlarge the scope of representative democracy towards Direct democracy?

*IV. Federations are power-arrangements,
which now and then have to be renigo-
ciated in ways which are fixed in the con-
stitution, the basic agreement between
the citizens, the states and the
Federation.*

Is the Malaysian constitution also the
expression of an agreement between
and accepted by all the different actors
within the Federation?

V. In CH people appreciate Federalism and Direct Democracy because both are seen as ways to maximize freedom – in the sense that together we can influence the conditions and form of our lives.

Which are the highest values the Malaysian people want to realize with their polity ?

VI. The blood of Direct Democracy and Federalism are the open and never ending deliberations – their hart the open public sphere.

The quality of both determine the political stability of the system.

How open and deliberative is the public sphere in Malaysia ?

VII. Today we need to think about Federalism, because it's the only way how Democracy can go transnational and might be constituted transnationally – in order to be able to civilize the global market forces – one of the (hidden) perspectives of the European Union (EU)

Are Asian people discussing similar projects e.g. within and with ASEAN?