

Switzerland

The Swiss Confederation

There are four official languages in Switzerland: German, French, Italian, and Romanch. English is sort of an unofficial fifth language.





In 1850 the **Swiss franc** became the Swiss single currency

7,591,400

or 182 people per square kilometer





Switzerland is the closest in the world to a **direct democracy**.

judiciary, executive + legislature branches

REFERENDUMS (truly democratic vote)

- mandatory for constitutional change
- can be requested for any change in law
- citizens to challenge any law
- citizens to introduce constitutional amendments

“The Swiss system of government was patterned after the US Constitution. Unfortunately, the US courts have invalidated many important parts of the US Constitution whereas Switzerland still upholds those principles.”



\$388,000,000,000 GDP

(\$56,711 per capita, 7th highest in the world)



QUALITY OF LIFE



EXPECTANCY

79.6

HUMAN DEV.

0.955

LITERACY

99%



79.2%
christian

11.1% none

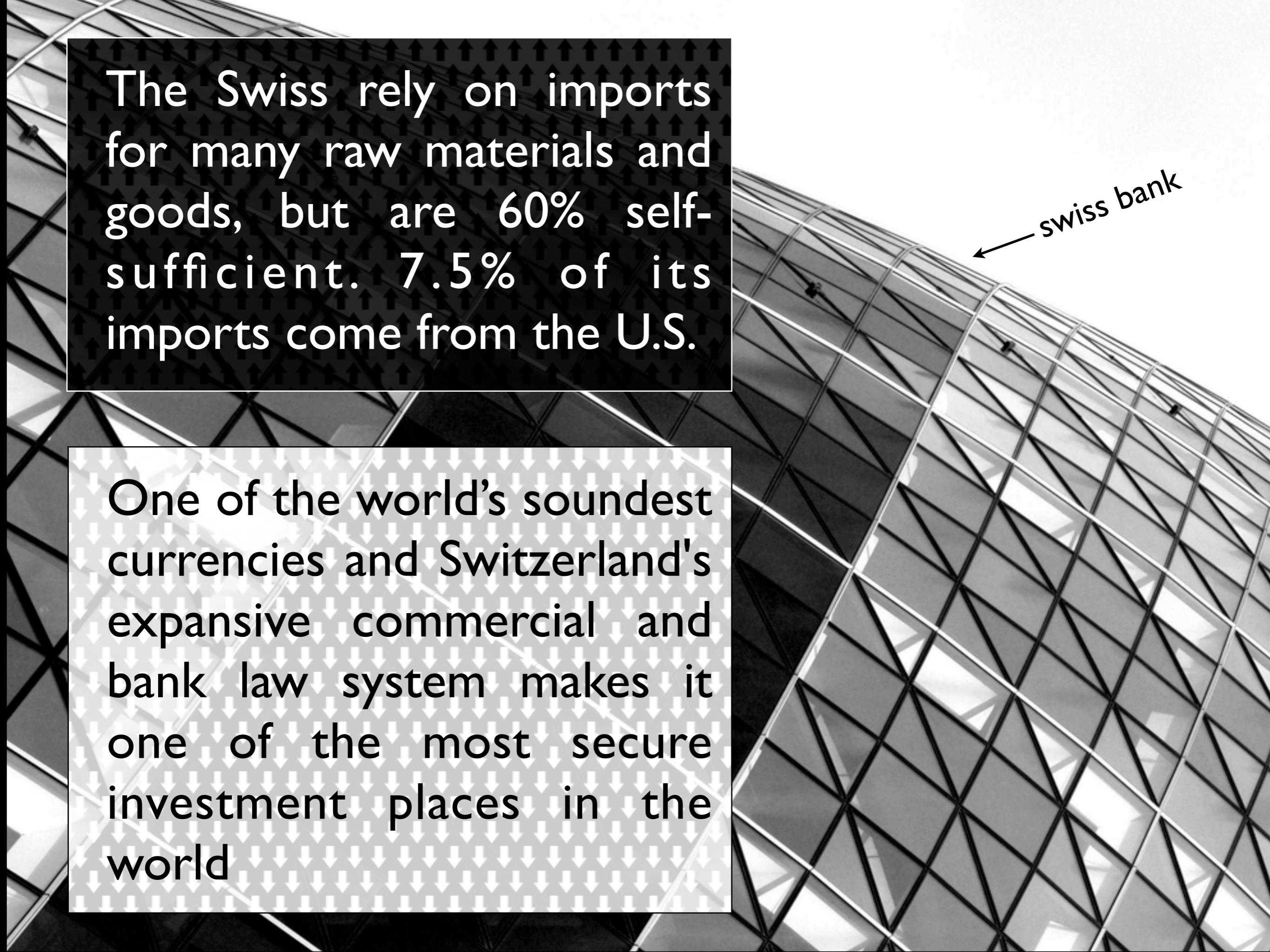
4.3% muslim

0.2% jewish

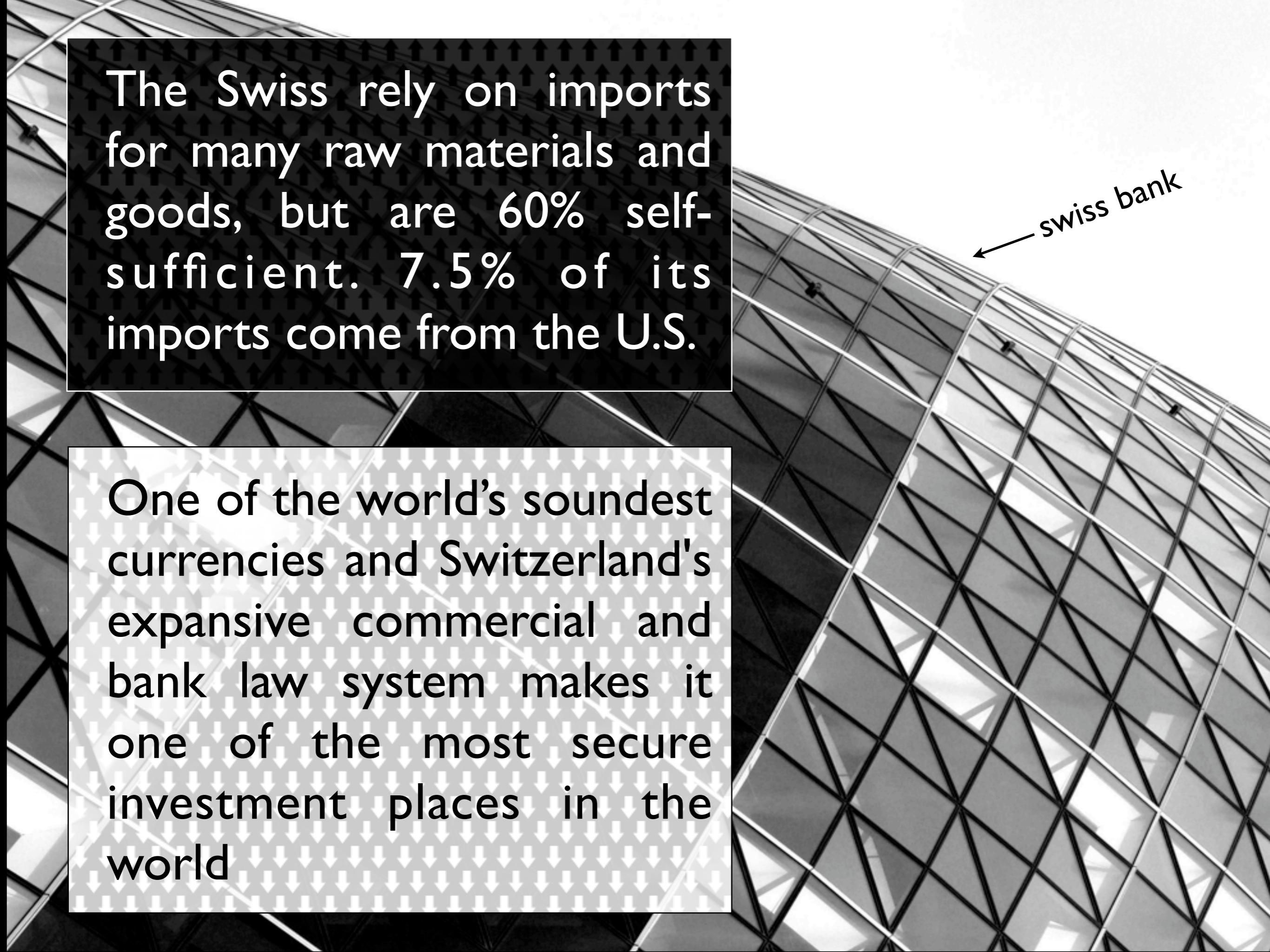
Swiss Cuisine is a combination of Italian, French, and, to a lesser extent, German influences

Specialties include potatoes, cheese, & chocolate





The Swiss rely on imports for many raw materials and goods, but are 60% self-sufficient. 7.5% of its imports come from the U.S.



One of the world's soundest currencies and Switzerland's expansive commercial and bank law system makes it one of the most secure investment places in the world

swiss bank

