

Chronology to 1798: lakes, passes and Lombard commerce

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This part of the chronology of Lugano and Ticino as a financial centre covers 87 entries. Each entry names the chapter of the book in which the event is discussed.

Date	Event
c. 9th–4th century BC	The Golasecca culture flourishes, linking the Alpine valleys with the Etruscan and Celtic world of the Po plain. Large cemeteries at Giubiasco and Castione. (Chapter A.I)
c. 6th–1st century BC	Lepontic inscriptions in the so-called "alphabet of Lugano" record one of the oldest written Celtic languages. (Chapter A.I)
59 BC	Caesar strengthens Comum (Como) with colonists. The southern part of the later Ticino is attached to its municipal district after the conquest. (Chapter A.I)
16–15 BC	Campaigns of Drusus and Tiberius under Augustus secure the Alpine passes and valleys. (Chapter A.I)
1st–4th century AD	A Roman <i>vicus</i> at Muralto, beside the later Locarno, prospers, as its buildings, cemeteries and glass finds show. (Chapter A.I)
22 November 643	The Edict of King Rothari regulates the liability of the <i>magister commacinus</i> building "with his colleagues", the first legal trace of the lake builders. (Chapter A.III)

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Late 8th century	Charlemagne's reforms fix the system of one lira equal to 20 soldi or 240 denari, which governs Lombard accounting for a thousand years. (Chapter A.I)
948	By tradition, a bequest of Bishop Atto of Vercelli brings Blenio, Leventina and Riviera (the <i>Tre Valli ambrosiane</i>) to the cathedral chapter of Milan. (Chapter A.I)
Late 10th or early 11th century	The bishops of Como exercise comital rights over Bellinzona and parts of the Sopraceneri, collecting tolls and market dues. (Chapter A.I)
1118–1127	The Ten Years' War between Milan and Como ends with the capture and partial destruction of Como. (Chapter A.I)
From the 12th century	Rural <i>vicinanze</i> and valley communities are documented in notarial deeds, and the Lombard notariat records sales, loans, dowries and wills in the region. (Chapter A.I)
1162	Emperor Frederick Barbarossa destroys Milan and confirms Como's rights over Lugano and the routes to the passes. (Chapter A.I)
1164	Frederick Barbarossa grants Locarno a market. In 1186 its inhabitants receive imperial immediacy. (Chapter B.I)
1182	Pact of Torre: the men of Blenio and the Leventina swear to besiege the da Torre castle of Curterio and tolerate no new fortifications in the valleys. (Chapter A.I)
c. 1150–1230 (probably c. 1200)	The Schöllenen gorge is made passable by a bridge and the <i>Twärrenbrücke</i> walkway, and the Gotthard becomes a through route between Basel and Lombardy. (Chapters A.I, A.IV)
1231	King Henry VII places Uri directly under the empire. (Chapter A.I)
1237	A hospice on the Gotthard summit is attested. A village ordinance of Osco in the Leventina dates from the same year. (Chapter A.IV)
1335	Franchino Rusca surrenders Como to Azzone Visconti, lord of Milan. (Chapter A.I)

Date	Event
1340	The Visconti take Bellinzona after a siege, bringing the whole territory south of the Alpine valleys under Milanese lordship. (Chapter A.I)
After 1360	Uri takes over the imperial toll at Flüelen in stages. It becomes the canton's principal revenue. (Chapter A.IV)
11 May 1395	King Wenceslas grants Gian Galeazzo Visconti the ducal title of Milan for 100,000 florins. The investiture follows on 5 September 1395. (Chapter A.I)
1403	After Gian Galeazzo's death, Uri and Obwalden take the Leventina under their protection. (Chapter A.I)
1419	Uri and Obwalden buy Bellinzona from the lords of Sax-Misox. (Chapter A.I)
c. 1420	Bellinzona's great fair of St Bartholomew (24 August) is first attested. (Chapter A.IV)
30 June 1422	A Milanese army retakes Bellinzona and defeats the Confederates at Arbedo, halting their advance for more than half a century. (Chapter A.I)
1426	In the first Milanese capitulation Uri and Obwalden renounce Bellinzona and the southern valleys in exchange for freedom from tolls on the road to Milan. (Chapter A.II)
1441	The duke of Milan pledges the Leventina to Uri, leaving the title with Milan and government with Altdorf. (Chapter A.II)
1450	Francesco Sforza takes Milan and founds a new ducal dynasty. (Chapter A.I)
1452	The Medici bank of Florence opens a Milan branch under Pigello Portinari. (Chapter A.I)
1467 and 1477	Capitulations with the Sforza fix toll privileges and access to Lombard grain and salt for the Confederates. (Chapter A.IV)
From 1468	Galeazzo Maria Sforza promotes the planting of mulberry trees, laying the basis of the Lombard silk economy. (Chapter A.I)
1474	First striking of the Milanese silver <i>testone</i> worth 20 soldi, the first lira in coin form. (Chapter A.I)

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28 December 1478	A small force from Uri and the Leventina defeats the Milanese army at Giornico. (Chapter A.I)
1480	Peace confirms Uri's sovereignty over the Leventina. (Chapter A.I)
1483	The Monte di Pietà of Milan is established at the wish of Ludovico il Moro. It receives its statutes in 1496. (Chapter B.III)
1487	The cathedral chapter of Milan gives up its claims to the Leventina, which remains a bailiwick of Uri alone until 1798. (Chapter A.II)
1490–1492	Pietro Antonio Solari builds towers of the Moscow Kremlin wall. An inscription of 1491 names him. (Chapter A.III)
1493–1503	The Lucerne <i>Zentnerzoll</i> registers show an average of about 170 tonnes of goods a year crossing the Gotthard, against about 4,500 tonnes on the Brenner. (Chapter A.IV)
1495	Uri, Schwyz and Lucerne occupy the Riviera and the Val Blenio. (Chapter A.II)
April 1500	Ludovico il Moro is captured at Novara. Bellinzona places itself under the protection of Uri, Schwyz and Nidwalden. (Chapter A.I)
1500–1798	
1503	Treaty of Arona: Louis XII cedes Bellinzona, the Riviera and Blenio to Uri, Schwyz and Nidwalden, which govern them jointly until 1798. (Chapters A.I, A.II)
1512–1513	In the Pavia campaign the Confederates occupy Lugano, Locarno, the Vallemaggia, Mendrisio and the Ossola. Locarno castle surrenders after the battle of Novara in June 1513. (Chapters A.I, A.II)
1515	The Fifth Lateran Council approves the <i>Monti di Pietà</i> and their fixed charges on loans. (Chapter B.III)
13–14 September 1515	Defeat at Marignano costs the Confederates Milan and the Ossola. (Chapter A.II)

Date	Event
29 November 1516	Perpetual Peace of Fribourg: Francis I recognizes Confederate possession of Lugano, Locarno and the Vallemaggia. The Confederates decline 300,000 crowns offered for the bailiwicks. (Chapters A.I, A.II)
1517–1522	Mendrisio and Balerna pass definitively to the Confederates (recognized by France in 1521), and a <i>landfogto</i> resides at Mendrisio from 1522. (Chapters A.I, A.II)
20 November 1531	The Second Landfrieden after the Second War of Kappel regulates religion in the common lordships in favour of the Catholic side. (Chapter A.II)
1535	The Duchy of Milan passes under Spanish rule, which lasts until 1706. (Chapter A.II)
1535	The Capuchins build their first convent on Swiss soil at Bigorio above Lugano. (Chapter B.III)
1535–1536	Giovanni Beccaria takes over the Latin school of Locarno. Reformed sympathies spread among the Orelli, Muralto, Duno and other families. (Chapter B.I)
1542	Reorganization of the Roman Inquisition. Ochino, Vermigli and Curione flee Italy, and Italians from Lucca, Genoa, Cremona and Milan seek refuge in Switzerland. (Chapter B.I)
July and November 1554	Two Diets at Baden. An arbitral award obliges the Reformed of Locarno to recant or leave by early March 1555, with the right to sell their property. (Chapter B.I)
3 March 1555	Over a hundred Locarnese Reformed leave the town. They cross the San Bernardino and reach Zurich in May 1555. (Chapter B.I)
1557–1558	Aloisio Orelli opens a shop in Zurich and adds silk fabrics and velvet from 1558. Evangelista Zanino begins satin weaving in 1558 and Milanese fustian in 1565. (Chapter B.II)
1560	Carlo Borromeo becomes administrator of the archdiocese of Milan and <i>Protector Helvetiae</i> at the papal court. He resides in Milan from 1565. (Chapter B.III)

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1561	The Dazio Grande at Rodi is built as toll station for the Piottino road. It remains a customs post until 1834. (Chapter A.IV)
December 1563	The Council of Trent closes. Its decrees require seminaries and parish registers. (Chapter B.III)
1567–1582	Borromeo visits the Swiss parishes of the archdiocese (1567, 1570, 1571, 1577, 1582) and holds six provincial councils and eleven synods by 1582. (Chapter B.III)
1569	Pius V regulates the annuity contract (<i>censo</i>) by the bull <i>Cum onus</i> , the basis of rural credit in the bailiwicks until the nineteenth century. (Chapter B.III)
1571	The bull <i>In eam</i> condemns "dry" and fictitious exchange. Pius V suppresses the Humiliati. (Chapter B.III)
1575	David and Heinrich Werdmüller found a textile enterprise in Zurich with 6,000 florins. From 1582 they process silk waste with the merchant Lodovico Ronco. (Chapter B.II)
1579	The Genoese exchange fairs "of Besançon" settle in Piacenza, where bankers meet four times a year to settle bills of exchange. (Chapter A.IV)
1579	Borromeo founds the Collegio Elvetico in Milan with fifty scholarships for Swiss clerics. Joseph II confiscates its building in 1786, and Napoleon suppresses the college in 1797. (Chapter B.III)
October 1584	The Collegio Papio in Ascona, founded on Bartolomeo Papio's bequest of 25,000 scudi (1580), opens. Borromeo dies on 3 November 1584. (Chapter B.III)
10 September 1586	Fontana's team re-erects the Vatican obelisk in front of St Peter's in a single day. (Chapter A.III)
5 October 1586	Seven Catholic cantons conclude the Borromean League in Lucerne. The papal nunciature in Lucerne opens the same year. (Chapter B.III)
1587	Spain extends the Milanese capitulations into an alliance with the Catholic cantons that brings pensions and grain. (Chapter A.IV)

Date	Event
1603	Carlo Maderno of Capolago completes the façade of Santa Susanna and is appointed architect of St Peter's. The basilica's façade bears the date 1612. (Chapter A.III)
1606–1611	Johannes Muralt founds the silk firm <i>Muralt an der Sihl</i> , the family's move from surgery into manufacturing. (Chapter B.II)
1 November 1610	Canonization of Carlo Borromeo, patron saint of Catholic Switzerland. (Chapter B.III)
c. 1619	Francesco Borromini of Bissone goes to Rome and joins Maderno's workshop. His San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane follows from 1634. (Chapter A.III)
3 September 1639	Spain concludes the <i>Capitolato di Milano</i> with the Three Leagues of the Grisons, restoring the Valtellina to them. Austria confirms it on 24 October 1726. (Chapter A.IV)
1662	Zurich creates a commercial directorate to regulate quality and wages and run the postal services to Italy and Lyon. A Pestalozzi is elected to it. (Chapter B.II)
1679	After refusals in 1606, 1639 and 1673, the Grand Council grants the Orelli full citizenship rights. Daniel Orelli becomes a city judge. (Chapter B.II)
1703–1704	Peter the Great calls Domenico Trezzini of Astano to Russia. He becomes the principal architect of St Petersburg until his death in 1734. (Chapter A.III)
1706	Austrian rule over Milan begins (confirmed by treaty in 1714). (Chapter A.II)
1707–1708	Pietro Morettini of Cerentino cuts the Urnerloch, about 64 metres long and regarded as the first road tunnel through the Alps. (Chapter A.IV)
1750	Caspar and Hans Conrad Schulthess found a silk-trading house in Zurich that later becomes the private bank Rahn+Bodmer. (Chapter B.II)
1752	The treaty of Varese fixes the border between the bailiwicks and Austrian Lombardy and targets contraband. (Chapter A.IV)

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15 April 1755	Leu & Co., a public bank under treasurer Johann Jacob Leu, opens in the Zurich city hall. It is later described as the oldest bank in Switzerland. (Chapter B.II)
8 May 1755	Revolt of the Leventina: rebels seize Uri's <i>landfogto</i> . (Chapter A.II)
2 June 1755	The revolt's leaders Forni, Sartore and Orsi are executed at Faido. Uri abolishes the valley's parliament. (Chapter A.II)
1764	Cesare Beccaria publishes <i>Dei delitti e delle pene</i> , criticizing torture and pecuniary justice of the kind practised in the bailiwicks. (Chapter A.II)
1770–1771	Famine across Switzerland and central Europe. Grain prices multiply in the bailiwicks. (Chapter A.II)
1770	Merger forming "Orell, Gessner, Füssli & Cie.", which founds the <i>Zürcher Zeitung</i> in 1780 (from 1821 <i>Neue Zürcher Zeitung</i>). (Chapter B.II)
1791	The Piedmontese Jacobin Giovan Antonio Ranza arrives in Lugano, the first of the political exiles from Italy. (Chapter C.II)
29 June 1797	Bonaparte proclaims the Cisalpine Republic in Milan. It annexes the Valtellina and occupies Campione. (Chapter C.I)

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