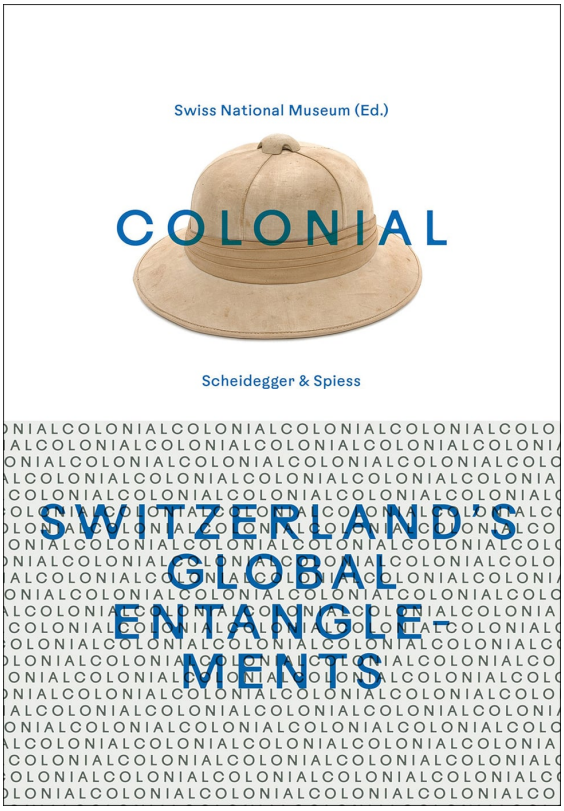
TITLE INFORMATION
Tel: +44 (0) 1394 389950
Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk



Colonial – Switzerland's Global Entanglements

Edited by Swiss National Museum

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- The history and heritage of European countries' colonisation of large parts of the world is highly topical and the subject of intense debate
- The cultural, social, economic, and ecological consequences of colonialism concern landlocked beneficiaries like Switzerland as much as Europe's colonial powers
- This illustrated volume invites an exploration of and critical engagement with Switzerland's history of global interdependence and colonial continuities
- Accompanies an exhibition: *Colonial—Global Entanglements of Switzerland* at the National Museum Zurich (September 13, 2024 to January 19, 2025)

Switzerland has been globally connected and entangled with colonies established by the seafaring European nations in Africa, the Americas, and Asia since the 16th century. ***Colonial — Switzerland's Global Entanglements*** offers a timely overview of this highly topical matter, placing a wide range of aspects in historical context and addressing as well questions of colonial continuities.

Contributions by distinguished scholars and experts from various disciplines investigate questions such as the involvement of Swiss companies in the trade with enslaved people, Swiss mercenaries in the service of colonial powers, the colonial legacy of the country's missionary societies, and the research and collection of artefacts by Swiss scientists in former colonies. Light is shed also on the involvement of anthropological institutes at the universities of Zurich and Geneva in scientific racism.

Conceived as an illustrated reader, this volume is both an invitation and a stimulus to explore and to engage critically with Switzerland's history of global interdependence.

The Swiss National Museum unites the National Museum Zurich, the Château de Prangins, and the Forum of Swiss History Schwyz, as well as the Collections Center in Affoltern am Albis, near Zurich. The three museums showcase the history of Switzerland from its beginnings to the present day, offering insights into Swiss identities and the rich tapestry of the country's culture.







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