

Matthias Buschle, Daniel Hagmann
How Basel changed the world

Basel is rich in ground-breaking discoveries and ideas that have changed the world, be that poisons or ecstasy drugs, missionary activities or scientific explorations, inaugural congresses or themed fairs. This collection of highly accessible essays proffers exciting and informative narratives. Their common denominator is this city on the so-called elbow of the Rhine – a treasure trove for those interested in history and an Eldorado for the generally curious.

Chaos theory posits a butterfly unleashing a tornado with a flutter of its wings. Just what this means is illustrated in *How Basel changed the world*, using concrete examples from history. Basel was the scene of events, discoveries and ideas that may initially have seemed minor, even insignificant, but that ultimately changed the world: the discovery of LSD or DDT, the impact of the Basel Mission, the Zionist World Congress. Personalities such as Hans Holbein, Karl Jaspers and Friedrich Nietzsche sojourned in Basel, exerted an influence on the city and helped to spread its name all over the globe. Who still remembers the once world-famous figure skaters from Basel 'Frick and Frack'? What has Basel got to do with the international cocoa trade or the beginnings of nature conservation? And did you know that the Koran appeared in printed form for the first time in that strictly Protestant city on the Rhine?

How Basel changed the world uses excitingly told tales to show just when and how the city was the hub of the universe – and to prove that, from time to time, Basel was actually more than just a "pocket-size metropolis" (Der Spiegel)

The authors:

Matthias Buschle (*1970) is a cultural scientist, journalist and exhibition curator. He studied Empirical Cultural science and Pedagogics in Tübingen and Dublin. He conceives and curates exhibitions and publishes on the themes of everyday culture and issues to do with perception.

Daniel Hagmann (*1966) has a doctorate in history. He has been writing about the cultural history of the Basel region for some time, his focal points being the politics of memory, village life, everyday piety, life history and historical photography.

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For more information please contact: Andrea Bikle, public relations, Christoph Merian Verlag, St. Alban-Vorstadt 5, Postfach, 4002 Basel, Tel. +41 61 226 33 50, a.bikle@merianstiftung.ch

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