

## La Place de la Concorde Suisse

*John McPhee*

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JOHN **La Place  
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**John McPhee : La Place de la Concorde Suisse** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised La Place de la Concorde Suisse:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FascinatingBy MBHKVery interesting book but dated at this point. Would love to know what the current status of the Swiss citizen military is. The most neutral country in the world is also the most blithely warlike. Personally, I think it's a great strategy. However, somehow the protection of the mountain passes seems out of date in light of today's drone led air warfare. A well placed aerial bomb could simply take out any valley. Would love to know what kind of defenses they have now.0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. Very interesting to learn about Swiss militaryBy Robert HurdIf I ever get to Switzerland again I'll be looking at it from a different perspective. Looking for while the defenses.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The usual well written McPhee book on the Swiss army ...By Edward O. WolcottThe usual well written McPhee book on the Swiss army. A fascinating account of a Switzerland that is far different than the Switzerland of cows and mountains, or the Switzerland of old banks with numbered accounts

La Place de la Concorde Suisse is John McPhee's rich, journalistic study of the Swiss Army's role in Swiss society. The Swiss Army is so quietly efficient at the art of war that the Israelis carefully patterned their own military on the Swiss model.

.com Anyone who has ever traveled in Switzerland cannot help but to have remarked upon the overwhelming tranquility of the country. But this tranquility is illusory. As John McPhee writes in *La Place de la Concorde Suisse*, a rich journalistic study of the Swiss Army's role in Swiss society, "there is scarcely a scene in Switzerland that is not ready to erupt in fire to repel an invasive war." With a population smaller than New Jersey's, Switzerland has a standing army of 650,000 ready to be mobilized in less than 48 hours. The Swiss Army, known in this country chiefly for its little red pocketknives, is so quietly efficient at the arts of war that the Israelis carefully patterned their own military on the Swiss model. You'll understand why after reading this outstanding book. "McPhee, in showing us as many aspects of the Swiss Army as their famous knife has blades, has produced one of his books." ?Edmund Fuller, *The Wall Street Journal*"The Swiss have avoided fighting a war for almost 500 years. To preserve that enviable record of peace, they maintain one of the world's largest armies, on a per capita basis. This paradox . . . is the core of McPhee's engaging *La Place de la Concorde Suisse*." ?Jack Schnedler, *Chicago SunTimes*"Delightful . . . What McPhee saw and learned he writes about with his inimitable light touch." ?Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*"Switzerland does not have an army,' says one of John McPhee's informants in *La Place de la Concorde Suisse*. 'Switzerland is an army' . . . McPhee put his reader inside Switzerland with elegance and insight." ?Jonathan Steinberg, *The New York Times Book About the Author*John McPhee was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and was educated at Princeton University and Cambridge University. His writing career began at *Time* magazine and led to his long association with *The New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer since 1965. Also in 1965, he published his first book, *A Sense of Where You Are*, with Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and in the years since, he has written nearly 30 books, including *Oranges* (1967), *Coming into the Country* (1977), *The Control of Nature* (1989), *The Founding Fish* (2002), *Uncommon Carriers* (2007), and *Silk Parachute* (2011). *Encounters with the Archdruid* (1972) and *The Curve of Binding Energy* (1974) were nominated for National Book Awards in the category of science. McPhee received the Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters in 1977. In 1999, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Annals of the Former World*. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.