

Balbi, Gabriele / Fari, Simone / Richeri, Giuseppe / Calvo, Spartaco

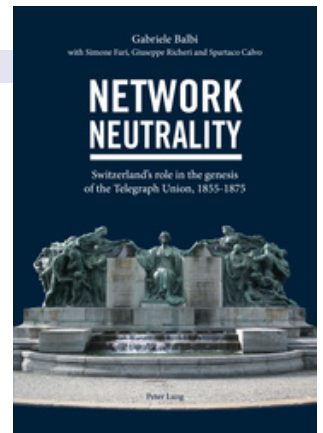
### Network Neutrality

Switzerland's role in the genesis of the Telegraph Union, 1855-1875

Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Oxford, Wien, 2014. 228 pp.

**Print:** ISBN 978-3-0343-1527-2 pb. (Softcover)  
SFR 72.00 / €\* 64.20 / €\*\* 66.00 / € 60.00 / £ 48.00 / US\$ 77.95

**Order online:** [www.peterlang.com](http://www.peterlang.com)



### Book synopsis

This book uses new sources to indepth the early history of the Telegraph Union (today the International Telecommunication Union) and focuses on the key role – political, diplomatic, economic and technical – Switzerland played in promoting its birth and managing its structures during the ten years preceding and following its creation (1855-1875). The history of the ITU tends to be neglected in telecommunication history and the role of Switzerland in its formation and management has been largely overlooked. This is surprising for three reasons: first, it was (and still is) the seat of the Bureau; second, until World War Two the secretary was a Swiss national; finally, the Bureau was under the direct control of the Swiss government. The main statement of this book is that the political economy of Switzerland, based on neutrality, diplomacy, internationalism and technical expertise, exerted a decisive influence over the origins of the ITU.

### Contents

Contents: Switzerland takes on telecommunications. The politics, economics, technology and society of the period – «Bringing together the two large electric currents dividing Europe» (1849-1865) – The birth of the Telegraph Union: the 1865 Paris Conference – The 1868 Vienna Conference – Towards Rome Conference: Moves and Counter-moves (1868–1872) – The Bureaucratisation of the Telegraph Union: St Petersburg (1875).

### About the author(s)/editor(s)

Gabriele Balbi is Assistant Professor at the Università della Svizzera italiana (Switzerland); Simone Fari is Assistant Professor at Universidad de Granada (Spain); Giuseppe Richeri is Full Professor at the Università della Svizzera italiana; Spartaco Calvo is an independent researcher.

Our prices are recommended retail prices and are exclusive of shipping costs. We reserve the right to alter prices. We supply to libraries at a discount of 5%.

\* incl. VAT - only applies to Germany and EU customers without VAT Reg No

\*\* incl. VAT - only applies to Austria