Swiss Neutrality

The world is changing and neutrality policy is changing with it. New situations require new answers. In every era, neutrality has had a specific meaning. The maps below show how the field of forces around Switzerland has changed.

TASK

Match the maps below with the corresponding descriptions.

Europe before the Great War:

Switzerland lies on the extended conflict line between France and Germany. Neutrality is required to keep internal strive at bay.

Europe is being reorganised:

Switzerland is in the middle of the field of forces of the great powers. These acknowledge Switzerland's perpetual (immerwährende) neutrality.

In 2014 Russia annexes the Crimean peninsula, which is a violation of international law. **Switzerland** applies neutrality and adopts measures to ensure that Swiss territory is not misused to circumvent international sanctions against Russia.

In February 2022, Russia attacks Ukraine militarily. In doing so, Russia massively violates elementary norms of international law. Neutrality remains applicable even during the military intervention. The Federal Council adopts the EU sanctions against Russia after some hesitation

Europe divided

Strategically, Europe is the zone of tension between two ideologically opposed alliances: the NATO and the Warsaw Pact. **Switzerland** remains militarily loyal to independent national defence.

Europe before the German attack on the Soviet Union:

Switzerland is enclosed by Germany and Italy and their conquered territories.

Europe undivided

The EU and NATO are making sure that Eruopa grows together. Democracy and the rule of law are gaining ground. **Switzerland** is committed to promoting peace.

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KEY

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