efficiency of political processes and preferences and perceptions that concern the competition of political processes were found to be correlated.

	Fit Indexes				
Models	**Chi²**	**df**	**Chi²/df**	**CFI**	**RMSEA**
Consensus Dimension					
One-factor model	272.718	10	27.27	.469	.236
Uncorrelated factors model	9.887	9	1.1	.999	.011
Correlated factors model	8.595	8	1.07	.999	.008
Efficiency Dimension					
One-factor model	465.045	10	46.5	.291	.296
Uncorrelated factors model	86.659	9	9.63	.883	.127
Correlated factors model	53.088	8	6.64	.934	.101
Competition Dimension					
One-factor model	63.844	6	10.64	.738	.129
Uncorrelated factors model	46.534	5	9.31	.805	.122
Correlated factors model	22.521	4	5.63	.916	.090

Table 5.4. Process Preferences and Process Perceptions as Distinct Concepts

5.3.4. Test of Cultural Invariance of Process Preferences Scale

Cultural invariance indicates that a construct has the same meaning in different cultures. The measurement invariance is a precondition for interpreting differences in scores in different cultures (cf. Bensaou, et al., 1999; Little, 1997). “Inadequate testing for the invariance of data across national groups weakens the interpretations that may be derived from cross-national empirical research” (Bensaou, et al., 1999, p. 672). In order to test the cultural invariance of the scale which is assumed in H2, data from the first pilot study was used. This study was conducted with college students in Germany (n = 163) and Switzerland (n = 150). Switzerland constitutes a typical consensus democracy, whereas Germany is a rather competitive democracy. The test of the cultural invariance is based on a restricted data set; for each of the

three dimensions the data set contains two variables;[54] the variables are shown in Table 5.5.

The test of measurement invariance between cultures is also evaluated as a continuum (Bensaou, et al., 1999; Steenkamp & Baumgartner, 1998). The invariance in model form and the similarity in parameter values, i.e. the invariance of factor loadings, the invariance of factor variances and covariances, and the invariance of error variances, were tested. The data supported the hypothesis of invariance in model form. In a set of multiple group analyses, the invariance of factor loadings, factor variances and covariances was tested by setting equality constraints. All parameters are found to be invariant across both samples. The model that in addition constrained the error variances to be equal across the two groups did not fit the data, however. Table 5.3 shows the items, factor loadings, and reliabilities of the process preference scale for the model with equality constraints on the invariance of factor loadings, factor variances and covariances. The model fit was satisfactory, with CFI = 1.00, RMSEA =.00 (90% CI = .00, .05), Chi-Square = 17.02, df = 20. Cronbach's Alpha is .53 for the Swiss sample and .67 for the German sample. Results clearly indicate that the process preference scale shows cultural invariance and support H2. Therefore, differences in scores on the items can be meaningful compared across countries. However, although the factor variances are equivalent, the error variances are not, indicating that the indicators might not be equally reliable across constructs (cf. Steenkamp & Baumgartner, 1998, p. 81).

54 The wording of items in this study is slightly different from the variables in the other two studies. The core messages are the same, however.

Latent factor	Items	Swiss Sample (n=147)[a]		German Sample (n=162)[b]	
	Please answers according to the following scale to what extent you agree to the following statements.	Factor loadings	Indicator reliabilities	Factor loadings	Indicator reliabilities
Consensus-orientation					
	Politicians should give consideration to diverging interests when searching for solutions.	.637	.405	.514	.265
	Political solutions are best found by searching for compromises.	.551	.303	.520	.271
Competition					
	Politicians should be decisive and shouldn't squabble that much.	.649	.421	.822	.676
	Politicians should give hierarchical orders, if a decision has to be taken.	.540	.292	.675	.456
Efficiency					
	Political problems should be solved as fast as possible.	.431	.186	.389	.152
	Simple and easy-to-understand political solutions are better than complex programmes.	.629	.395	.691	.477

Note. Entries are factor loadings and indicator reliabilities (i.e. squared multiple correlations) of the Swiss and German samples.

All factor loadings are significant at the 5 % level

a Cases missing to 150 were excluded from the data analysis because they are statistical outliers.

b Cases missing to 163 were excluded from the data analysis because they are statistical outliers.

Table 5.5. Cultural Invariance of Process Preferences

5.3.5. Process Preferences: Test of Invariance Regarding Objects of Assessment

H3 postulates that the scale is invariance as regards the objects of assessment, meaning that the scale measures process preferences equally well for different political institutions, such as the government and the parliament. In order to test this assumption, data from the second pilot survey with 530 Swiss citizens were used. Process preferences concerning decision-making processes in the Swiss government ("Bundesrat") and the Swiss parliament – which consists of National Council ("Nationalrat") and Council of States ("Ständerat") – were distinguished. To test the