Reflections on the Practice of History in the Netherlands

Willem Frijhoff
(VU University, Amsterdam)

This essay presents a series of reflections on the relevance of Dutch history. Taking different angles of approach, it examines in particular the historical image and self-image of the Dutch and the nation’s cultural identity; the role played by the heritage issue in the rise of the new political nationalism; ... read more

Abstract

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This essay presents a series of reflections on the relevance of Dutch history. Taking different angles of approach, it examines in particular the historical image and self-image of the Dutch and the nation’s cultural identity; the role played by the heritage issue in the rise of the new political nationalism; the fascination of foreign historians for Dutch history and their influence on Dutch historiography itself; the role of language in history-writing and the trans-national history. There is one Dutch historian whose name every cultivated European knows: or at least should know. That man is Johan Huizinga (1872-1945).