

# The Relevance of Dutch History, or: Much in Little? Reflections on the Practice of History in the Netherlands

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(Article)

## Abstract

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](#)

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HISTORY OF THE NETHERLANDS including Dutch trade in the east, Dutch in America, The prosperous Dutch republic, Anglo-Dutch wars, Calvinism and capitalism, The tolerant Dutch republic, Stadholderless, William III of Orange, Holland and England. In 1621 the States General in the Netherlands grant a charter to the Dutch West India Company, giving it a monopoly to trade and found colonies along the entire length of the American coast. The area of the Hudson river, explored by Hudson for the Dutch East India Company in 1609, has already been designated New Netherland. Now, in 1624, a party of thirty families is sent out to establish a colony. They make their first permanent settlement at Albany, calling it Fort Orange. History of the Netherlands has been listed as a level-4 vital article in History. If you can improve it, please do. This article has been rated as B-Class. In a more geneneral sense, I do not think it is proportionate to devote four or five paragraphs to Dutch-German relations in the aftermath of WW2. This Wikipedia article contains only one paragraph on the mass murder of more than 100.000 Jewish citizens of the Netherlands in German concentration camps. Devoting another three or four paragraphs to (only very partially implemented) plans for expulsion of Germans and annexation of German territory seems entirely out of proportion. Reflections on the Practice of History in the Netherlands willem frijhoff | vu university, amsterdam 7 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. and trans-national history There is one Dutch historian whose name every cultivated European knows: or at least should know. 1 That man is Johan Huizinga (1872-1945).