

# Netherlands

## *Ethnicity in Netherlands*

### *Group selection*

Distinguishing between "both religion and social class", Andeweg and Irwin (<sup>2403</sup>, 22) describe the Netherlands as a country of minorities. The system of pillarization, the "most notorious impediment to stable government in the Netherlands" (ibid, 44), however, has allowed these minorities to develop into "tightly organized social groups or subcultures that structured not just politics, but nearly every aspect of social life" (ibid, 23). Represented in these pillars are both political-ideological (Socialists, Liberals) and confessional (Catholics, Protestants) groupings.

<sup>2403</sup> [Andeweg Irwin, 2005]

Over time, however, starting around 1960, "not only did the size of the pillars decline because of persons no longer expressing a religious identification, those who continue to identify began to change the degree to which they practiced their faith" (ibid: 37) – a process widely referred to as depillarization. Due to this "depillarization", the older (confessional) cleavages expressed by this system are not of particular political relevance anymore and all the "minorities" formerly represented within the system can safely be assumed to form a more or less homogeneous national group of "Dutch".

Fearon (<sup>2404</sup>) lists besides the Dutch (96% of the total population) Muslims as another ethnic group, making up about 4 percent of the population.

<sup>2404</sup> [Fearon Laitin, 2003]

### *Power relations*

We code ethnicity as being irrelevant in the Dutch case, as the Muslim population, included in Fearon's list (<sup>2405</sup>) due to its size rather than its political relevance, is not represented by a significant political actor (although there are community organizations and national umbrella groups for the fractionalized group; <sup>2406</sup>). Furthermore, it seems difficult to disentangle the representativeness of these groups with regard to interest of Dutch and non-Dutch Muslims. This leads to the conclusion, that ethnicity is irrelevant in the case of Dutch politics.

<sup>2405</sup> [Fearon Laitin, 2003]

<sup>2406</sup> [Forum, 2008]

## *Bibliography*

- [Andeweg Irwin, 2005] Andeweg, Rudy Irwin, Galen. (2005). Governance and Politics of the Netherlands. New York: Palgrave and Macmillan.
- [Fearon Laitin, 2003] Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D. (2003). Ethnicity, insurgency, and civil war. *American political science review*, 97(01), 75-90.
- [Forum, 2008] Forum. (2008). Factbook: The Position of Muslims in the Netherlands: Facts and Figures. Utrecht: Instituut voor Multiculturele Ontwikkeling. From: <http://www.forum.nl/pdf/factbook-islam-en.pdf>

## *Political status of ethnic groups in Netherlands*

*From 1946 until 2013*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Dutch	1.0	IRRELEVANT



Figure 536: Political status of ethnic groups in Netherlands during 1946-2013.

## *Conflicts in Netherlands*

*Starting on 1962-01-15*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Indonesia	Government of Netherlands		1962-01-15			