

Netherlands

Key facts in 1929

Area: 39'235km²^[1,2,3]

With Colonies: 2'123'475km² ^[1,3,4]

Population: 7.73 Million^[5]

With Colonies: 68.6 Million^[5,6,7]

Life expectancy: 63 years^[8]

With Colonies: 34.6 years^[5,6,7,8,9]

Literacy rate: Above 95%^[10]

With Colonies: 14.5%^[5,6,7,10,11]

Biggest Minorities: Indonesians,
Surinamese, Caribbeans, Jews, Germans

Ethnic groups in Colonies: Indigenous
Islanders, Chinese, Surinamese^[7,12]

Select Main Cities: Amsterdam,
Rotterdam, Den Haag

In Colonies: Batavia (Jakarta),
Soerabaja (Surbaya), Bandung,
Semarang, Paramaribo^[4,7]

Neighboring countries: Germany,
Belgium

With Colonies: French Guyana, Brazil,
British Guyana, St. Martin, Territory of
Papua, Raj of Sarawak, North Borneo^[4]

Sea Access: Yes, North Sea

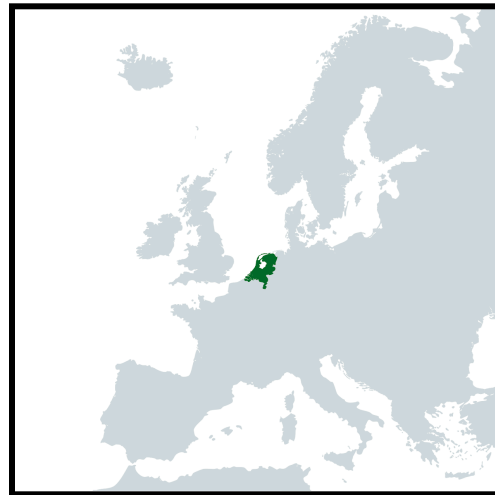
With Colonies: Caribbean Sea, Indian
Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean,
Java Sea, Celebes Sea, Timor Sea,
Arafura Sea, Banda Sea.^[4]

GDP: 5'800'000'000 \$1929^[13]

With Colonies: 13'700'000'000^[13,14]

Recent Historical Background

In the years preceding 1929, the Netherlands navigated through a tumultuous period marked by the aftermath of World War I, during which the nation maintained a policy of strict neutrality but faced economic strains due to disrupted trade.^[15,16] The post-war era was overshadowed by the Spanish Flu epidemic, killing tens of thousands in the



Netherlands.^[17] Meanwhile, tensions simmered in the Dutch East Indies, including a communist revolt in 1926.^[18,19] Internally, the Netherlands experienced a rise of socialist movements, such as the Social Democratic Workers' Party, which had been gaining quite some traction over the preceding decades.^[20]

Political Situation

In 1929, the Netherlands operated under a constitutional monarchy, with Queen Wilhelmina as the head of state.^[21] The government followed a parliamentary system with a multi-party democracy. The main political parties included the Christian Democratic “Roman Catholic State Party” and the socialist “Social Democratic Workers' Party”.^[22] Internally, the Netherlands contended with social unrest stemming from cultural and religious divisions, notably between the predominantly Catholic south and the Protestant north.^[23,24]

Economic Situation in 1929

In the years leading up to 1929, the Dutch economy was in a depression, suffering the combination of a weak economic situation in neighboring countries due to the consequences of World War I as well as a high dependency on international trade^[25]. The main imports of the Netherlands in these years were minerals, grains, miscellaneous inputs as well as food oils.^[26] In that period, the Dutch trade deficit was very high, with exports being less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of its imports and its main trading partners were the UK, Germany, Belgium and France.^[27] Additionally, the Dutch economy was notably less reliant on energy consumption than other economies at that time, consuming less than half the energy per unit of GDP compared to the UK, Germany and the US.^[28]

Military Strength in 1929

The Dutch military in 1929 was in a very weak shape. Its active personnel comprised only 14'000 people and its funding was only slightly above 1% of Dutch GDP.^[29,30] The Dutch military had only, a Renault FT acquired in 1927.^[31,32] When it comes to the planes the Dutch army used, most of them came from the Fokker-aircraft manufacturer.^[33,34] The Dutch navy used about 75 military ships, including 3 cruisers, 8 destroyers, 23 submarines and 20 ships in the “Gouvernementsmarine”, executing tasks in the east indies.^[35,36,37]

| Key Facts about Military Strength of the Netherlands ^[29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37] | |
|---|------------|
| Active personnel | 14'000 |
| Tanks | 1 |
| Other Vehicles | Unknown |
| Cavalry | Unknown |
| Ships | ~75 |
| Planes | ~200 |
| Funding in 1929\$ | 67'280'000 |

Allies/Enemies/Existing territorial disputes in 1929

The Netherlands, being a neutral country in 1929 did not have many enemies nor territorial disputes.^[38] It however had a territorial dispute in 1925/1926 with Indonesian Independentists over the Dutch East Indies^[7,18,19]

Some of the main goals for the 1930s

1. Economic stability: Find a way out of the economic depression hurting your country since 1925^[25]
2. Maintain control over the Dutch East Indies by avoiding Independentist struggle from succeeding^[7,18,19]
3. Find a way to increase global trade to facilitate economic growth.

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