

The Politics History of the Entry of Large Flows of Immigrants Originating from Islamic Countries to the Netherlands

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Article	Abstract.
Keywords: <i>Conflict; History; Immigrant; Politic</i> Article History Received: 2023-05-21; Reviewed: 2023-06-16; Accepted: 2023-06-16; Published: 2023-06-17. DOI: 10.30659/jdh.v6i2.31183	<i>Entering the 1990s, the existence of immigrants from Islamic countries began to raise pros and cons. One of the causes of the bad image of Islam in the Netherlands was the assumption that Islam was a lowly religion and culture and was not on par with European culture. A Dutch politician, Frits Bolkestein, who stated that Islam is a religion that often abuses women, besides that governments in Islamic countries implement an authoritarian system and limit the freedom of the population to speak and express opinions. The approach used in writing this research is a qualitative approach and the research basis is a case study and the author uses a descriptive analytical research type. The result show The conflicts that emerged made the Dutch government increasingly worried about the security and social conditions in the country. That's why the government is increasingly tightening the rules for anyone who wants to come to the Netherlands, especially for those who want to settle down or find work there.</i>
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1. Introduction

The Netherlands is a country located in Western Europe. This country adheres to a parliamentary monarchy system of government, namely a form of government headed by a Prime Minister by placing the parliament (DPR) as the highest authority holder. with the Queen named Beatrix and the Prime Minister named Jan Peter Balkenende who served from 2002 until now. The Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world with a population of 16,622. 025 in 2010, with an area of 41,528 km² and most of the land is below sea level. The Netherlands is also famous for its dijk (dykes), windmills, wooden trumpets, tulips and the open nature of its people¹. His liberal nature became the designation of the international community. The Netherlands is also the seat of the International Court of Justice. Amsterdam is the capital of the Kingdom of the

¹Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, International Information And Communication Division (DVL/VB), Focus On The Netherlands, The Hague, The Netherlands: 2004, p. 9

Netherlands and The Hague is the center of administration and government².

The Netherlands is a country that is open to the arrival of immigrants from various countries in the world. In recent decades, the Netherlands has developed into a multi-cultural society. As a country that gives great tolerance for the arrival of immigrants, the Netherlands allows these immigrants to continue to maintain their own culture such as religion, language and culture. However, this freedom is a problem in the Netherlands.

The number of immigrants causing problems in the Netherlands, cases after cases caused by immigrants began to occur in the country. The escalation of immigrant cases in the Netherlands is marked by the expansion of immigrants from Islamic countries. The sight of women wearing headscarves in big cities in the Netherlands is not uncommon. Of the 15.6 million Dutch population, around one million of them are Muslims or 4 percent of the total population³.

The large flow of immigrants from Islamic countries to the Netherlands can be traced back to the 1960s, when the Dutch government brought in foreign workers, most of whom came from the Mediterranean region because at that time there was a shortage of manpower in the Netherlands. At that time the Netherlands began to bring in workers from several countries such as Italy (1960), Spain (1961), Portugal (1963), Turkey (1964), Greece (1966), Morocco (1969), Yugoslavia (1970), Tunisia and Pakistan to meet the country's need for labour⁴.

After the fiscal crisis that occurred in 1973, the unemployment rate in the Netherlands increased sharply. This crisis also caused the Netherlands to stop "importing" labor. However, workers coming from Islamic countries who were previously brought in only to stay during their working period, many chose to stay in the Netherlands and hold family reunions.

Family reunification carried out by immigrants from Islamic countries who came in the 1960s multiplied and formed a new color in the Netherlands. Immigrants who came to the Netherlands in the 1980s were no longer just contract workers but also asylum seekers. These asylum seekers come for various reasons such as the unstable political situation in their country of origin, unresolved conflicts,

²The Netherlands country profile, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1043423.stm, accessed on July 7 2022 at 02.37 WIB

³Rhoades, Robert. E. 1978. "Foreign Labor and German Industrial Capitalism 1871-1978: The Evolution of a Migratory System", *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 5. No. 3

⁴Policy making related to immigration and integration; The Dutch Case, <http://www.imiscoe.org/publications/workingpapers/documents/IntegrationPolicymakingDutchcase.pdf>, accessed on March 3, 2023 at 01.04 WIB.

authoritarian regimes and so on⁵.

Frits Bolkestein's statement received support from well-known figures in the Netherlands such as Paul Scheffer and Ayaan Hirsi Ali who had almost the same opinion as Bolkestein. The situation heated up even more when the Muslim community in the Netherlands also issued comments that satirized the Dutch as an uncivilized nation and the Muslim community also insulted same-sex lovers in the Netherlands. Articles discriminatory or ridiculing each other between Allochtonen and Autochtonen have also appeared on a number of interactive internet sites and online discussion forums.⁶

In the Netherlands itself there are two names for western and non-western people who live in the Netherlands, namely Allochtonen and Autochtonen. According to the Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS), Allochtonen is a term for Dutch people with non-Western immigrant backgrounds, CBS categorizes these non-Western backgrounds as people who have Moroccan, Dutch Antilles, Aruba, Suriname, Turkish and other ancestry. While the term Autochtonen is a term for someone whose parents have been born and raised in the Netherlands and adheres to a lifestyle and way of thinking like most European/Western people or people with a western immigrant background.⁷

Some of the cases related to Allochtonen are the murder case of a famous controversial film director, screenwriter, columnist and television program maker in the Netherlands, Theo Van Gogh. Van Gogh was often involved in a number of public lawsuits and problems with public figures in the Netherlands. Van Gogh also had a negative view of Islam. Van Gogh regarded Islam as a "goat rapist" and a new form of colonialization⁸.

On November 2, 2004 Van Gogh was found killed by Mohammed Bouyeri, a citizen of Moroccan descent who adheres to Fundamentalist Islam. Van Gogh was murdered in front of the Amsterdam East office on the corner of Linnaeusstraat and Mauritskade13. He had been stabbed and shot seven times and died immediately. The motive for the murder was that Van Gogh together with Ayaan Hirsi Ali had made a short film entitled submission. The film drew strong reactions from the Muslim community in the Netherlands because the film showed scenes

⁵De Integratie Van Minderheden, <http://www.fritsbolkestein.com/site/references#this>, accessed on 15 April 2023 at 02.06 WIB

⁶Institute for Multicultural Development, Factbook. The position of Muslims in The Netherlands, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 2008, from the address <http://www.forum.nl/pdf/factbook-islam-en.pdf>, Matter. 30 accessed on April 13, 2023 at 23.59 WIB

⁷Allochtonen, http://www.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/themas/dossiers/allochtonen/cijfers/extra/aandeel_allochtonen.htm, accessed on June 30 at 22.14 WIB

⁸Dick Douwes, Martijn De Koning, Welmoet Boender (Ed.), *Nederlandse Moslims; Van Migrant Tot Burger*. Amsterdam University Press. Salome. Amsterdam: 2005, p. 151

about the suffering of women in the Islamic world, such as scenes of women who were beaten for disobedience to their husbands and women who were forced to marry men they did not love. Van Gogh's death sparked hatred against Muslims in the Netherlands. Between 2004 and 2005, around 20 Islamic institutions were damaged including Islamic schools in the country.⁹

Van Gogh's murder was not the first murder. Wilhelmus Simon Petrus Fortuijn or better known as Pim Fortuyn was also a character who was killed because of his bad views on Muslims. Pim Fortuyn is a well-known controversial Dutch politician. He fully supports the practice of euthanasia, same-sex marriage and drug trafficking in the Netherlands¹⁰. Fortuyn views Islam as a backward religion and supports strict immigration policies for immigrants from Islamic countries or asylum seekers who wish to come to the Netherlands. Fortuyn was killed on May 6, 2002. He was shot by an animal and environmental protection activist, Volkert Van Der Graaf. Van Der Graaf is known as an activist who is very active in fighting for the rights of minorities or in this case pig, cow and chicken breeders who often act frontally in fighting for the rights of minorities in court. Van Der Graaf's enthusiasm for minorities in the Netherlands has prompted him to kill Pim Fortuyn who he considers a politician who suppresses the rights of minorities.¹¹

The Dutch government has actually been trying to fully integrate the Alloctonen into Dutch society. On September 30, 1998 the Dutch Government issued an integration regulation called *Wet Inburgering Nieuwkomers* or the Law on the integration of immigrants, namely an integration regulation to enhance the development of integration of minorities and the empowerment of newcomers.¹²

This policy was revised in 2004 as a result of the difficulties the Muslim community, which is mostly dominated by citizens of Turkish and Moroccan descent, integrate with Dutch society. After the conflicts between Alloctonen and Autoctonen in the aftermath of Theo Van Gogh's assassination, the Dutch government reconsidered the right solution to be able to resolve the cases that occurred between Alloctonen and Autoctonen. In 2006, the Government of the Netherlands through the Minister voor Vreemdelingenzaken en Integratie or the Minister of Immigration and Integration Affairs, Rita Verdonk, began evaluating the *Wet Inburgering Nieuwkomers* that had been made and revised. The evaluation

⁹Roodenburg, Hans, Rob Euwals and Harry Terrele. 2004. "Effect of Immigrants on Labor Market and Government Budgets: The Case of the Netherlands", *European Review*, Vol 12. No 3, Academia Europea, United Kingdom.

¹⁰The Day I Became a Martyr: Islam Protest Brings Fatal Fatwa, <http://www.villagevoice.com/2004-11-09/film/the-day-i-became-a-martyr-islam-protest-brings-fatal-fatwa/>, accessed on April 26 2023 at 02.26 WIB

¹¹Eerbetoon aan Pim Fortuyn (19 February 1948 - 6 May 2002); Alles over de man die Netherlands wakker schudde, <http://www.pimfortuyn.com/asp/default.asp?t=show&var=793&tk=1>, accessed on March 18, 2023 at 23.23 WIB

¹²White, B. Jenny. 1997. "Turks in the New Germany in *American Anthropologist*" *New Series*, vol. 99. No. 4 . DOIs: <https://doi.org/10.14203/jkw.v1i1.130>

includes policies regarding permits to enter the Netherlands, permits to settle, permits to seek work, and so on, which are increasingly stringent.¹³.

On 1 January 2007 the Netherlands officially adopted a new integration policy. Under this policy, all prospective immigrants, especially those from Islamic countries, must take an integration exam held at the Dutch Embassy in the country of origin of the prospective immigrants. In this exam, prospective immigrants will be tested for their knowledge of Dutch culture and their ability to speak Dutch. Prospective immigrants will also be shown a 2 hour long film produced to help potential immigrants, especially from Islamic countries, get an idea of the lifestyle in the Netherlands.

The film is presented on DVD which is included in the study material package for the immigrant entrance exam held at the Dutch embassy in the country of origin of the immigrants. This regulation was enacted in the same year. The purpose of making a film which part of its contents shows a scene of a beautiful shirtless woman sunbathing on the beach and two men are seen kissing this is intended to give understanding to immigrants who want to live in the Netherlands that this is normal here (the Netherlands), as expressed by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Somali-born member of the Dutch parliament. The Dutch government also requires Oudkammers or immigrants who have settled in the Netherlands to return to take the exam if they are immigrants¹⁴:

- a. Do not have a Dutch passport;
- b. Do not have a certificate or diploma showing that they master the Dutch language and understand the culture in the Netherlands;
- c. Age 16-65 years;
- d. Have resided in the Netherlands before January 1, 2007;
- e. Lived less than 8 years in the Netherlands;

Not only limited to the policy of integration, the Dutch government itself has paid attention to the rights of minorities such as the right to speak and have an opinion, the right to organize, the right to participate in politics and other things that have been included in the laws of the Netherlands. The Dutch government also imposed new norms in society. An example is the prohibition for immigrants, especially those from Islamic countries, to carry out traditions in their religion which can trigger riots or misunderstandings, for example by prohibiting imams from

¹³Fortuyn killed to protect Muslims, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/netherlands/1425944/Fortuyn-killed-to-protect-Muslims.html>, accessed on March 18, 2023 at 23.23

¹⁴Institute for Multicultural Development, Op City, p. 10

maintaining the habit of not shaking hands with women who are not family members because in the Netherlands, this action is considered impolite.

2. Research methods

The approach used in writing this research is a qualitative approach and the research basis is a case study. A case study is a comprehensive description and explanation of various aspects of the life of an individual, a group, an organization (community), a program or a social situation. In answering the problems presented above the author uses a descriptive analytical research type. The author tries to describe what caused the Allochtonen and Autochthonen conflicts in the Netherlands and how much influence the changes in Wet Inburgering Nieuwkomers issued by the Dutch government had in resolving the conflict. The data collection technique used in writing this research is to do a literature study. Literature study is done by looking for references that are appropriate and relevant to the theme of this research. The literature study used by the author to answer the problems posed comes from books, scientific journals, articles from the mass media, and internet data that are relevant to the theme raised.

3. Results and Discussion

The Migration of Immigrants Originating From Islamic Countries To The Netherlands

Migration is part of population mobility. Population mobility is the movement of people from one area to another. Some population mobility is temporary, for example tourists both national and international and permanent population mobility (settled). The mobility of permanent residents is called migration. Migration is the movement of people from one place to another by crossing national borders or administrative boundaries with the aim of settling. Based on this, migration can be divided into two categories, namely Immigration and Emigration. Immigration is the entry of residents from one country to another with the aim of settling and emigration is the exit of residents from one country to another.

Theoretically, the motivation to migrate varies. In general, the motivation of people to migrate can be seen from two perspectives, namely¹⁵:

a. From an Individual Perspective, migration is seen as a rational decision to improve their life needs. This is in line with the Human Capital theory which argues that humans always try to get the optimum combination by considering salaries,

¹⁵What is Immigration?, http://edhelper.com/ReadingComprehension_54_131.html, accessed on May 26 2023 at 11.40 WIB

wages, job security and so on to meet their life expectancy.

b. From a structural perspective, migration is seen as a decision related to the pressures of external conditions faced by migrants such as political, economic and environmental structures both at the individual and societal levels.

Samuel Huntington revealed that the wave of migration that occurred in the 20th century was part of the "product" of decolonization, the establishment of new countries, and state policies that encouraged population migration. In addition, the modernization of technology and the growing means of transportation and communication are also the causes of migration flows.

Maswadi Rauf argues that conflict can be interpreted as a conflict between at least two people or groups. Maswadi Rauf also said that primordial identity plays an important role in the occurrence of a conflict. Strong primordial ties in a multicultural country can become a source of political conflict if someone offends their primordial identity.

Huntington also argues that one of the causes of conflict due to a clash between two civilizations is caused by the characteristics and cultural differences that are not able to unite or if it is associated with the conflict in the Netherlands, it is Islamic culture and the culture of liberalism adopted by the Netherlands which are opposite to each other. Huntington even sees that religion is an aspect that plays a large role in conflicts between civilizations in the future. We seem to be reminded that religion does not only function as a spiritual discourse that brings a sense of security and peace, but can also present a sinister and frightening image. Religion can trigger conflicts and fights when it is interpreted according to the unilateral interests of the people or religious groups.

Tadjuddin Noer Effendi revealed that theoretically social conflict can be divided into various types and forms, namely vertical social conflict and horizontal social conflict. Horizontal social conflict occurs due to feuds between two or more groups caused by primordial reasons (ethnicity, religion, race, class, ethnicity, etc.). In addition, horizontal social conflicts also occur between natives and immigrants.

One of the triggers for horizontal conflict is sentiment between religious adherents. This conflict can occur due to a shallow understanding of religious teachings because the meaning and in-depth understanding of the essence of religious teachings is not properly understood and practiced.

On the other hand, there is an acknowledgment that apart from cultural factors, there are several things that can hinder the occurrence of national integration, namely:

- a. Community interest and understanding of needs
- b. The absorption capacity of ethnic members towards change
- c. Customs are rigid because they are related to habits that are difficult to change
- d. Concerns about the destruction of values and social norms and traditional beliefs

According to the author, this is quite relevant to explain the causes of the conflict between Alloctonen and Autochthonen. The freedom granted by the Dutch government through the Verzuiling policy in the 1970s and the rights of minorities issued by the Dutch government were considered to provide too much freedom for immigrants, especially for immigrants from Turkey and Morocco as the largest group of Muslim immigrants in the Netherlands so that they did not can break away from the customs that apply in their culture where not all of these habits are acceptable in the Netherlands.

In terms of solving immigration and integration issues, Huntington argues that the state plays a fairly important role in overcoming conflicts that occur, namely the central government in a country is needed in dealing with conflicts that occur in that country. the central government has the Right to make a regulation that forces anyone who lives in the territory of the country to submit and comply with the rules that have been made in this case what is meant is the rules against immigrants.

Huntington gives two examples, the first example is around the early 1990s, French government policies tightened the rules for children and foreigners to become French citizens and the rules for granting asylum³⁴. The second example is the US government during the administration of President Bill Clinton in 1994 tightened immigration control, toughened the policy of granting asylum and expanded supervision and immigration services.

In 1998 the Dutch government has also enacted a new regulation called *Wet Inburgering Nieuwkomers*. The purpose of making these regulations is to expedite the process of integration and empowerment of newcomers. Through these rules, it is hoped that immigrants, especially those from Islamic countries, can adapt to the culture and culture of Dutch society so that the integration process can run smoothly.

Huntington's opinion is in accordance with the consensus model put forward by Maswadi Rauf. Maswadi Rauf argues that there are two ways of solving problems between the parties involved in the conflict. The first way is a settlement based on deliberation that occurs between the parties involved in the conflict. The second

way is to reach a consensus to resolve conflicts that are not based on changes in opinion from the parties involved in the conflict but are carried out through the government's authority to decide on a legal conflict resolution. In this case the Government seeks the most appropriate conflict resolution according to the applicable laws and regulations.

A similar opinion was also expressed by the Ministry of Defense's Strahan Research and Development Team when they were assigned to the horizontal conflict that occurred in Maluku. They have the opinion that the role of the central government in a country is very necessary in dealing with conflicts that occur in that country, one of the important roles of the central government is when they determine policies to be taken in dealing with conflicts. Conflict resolution policies that concern all people's lives should be handled in a thorough, comprehensive, integrated and integrated manner by involving all agencies/institutions as well as the community.

The unit of analysis for this research is *Wet Inburgering Nieuwkomers* which was issued by the Dutch government in 1998. The unit of observation is:

- a. The history of the arrival of immigrants from Islamic countries in the Netherlands
- b. Political socialization of immigrants from Islamic countries.
- c. The conflicts that arose between Allochtonen and Autochtonen
- d. *Wet Inburgering Nieuwkomers* before and which have been revised by the Dutch government
- e. The implications of the change in the *Wet Inburgering Nieuwkomers* for the settlement of conflicts between Allochtonen and Autochtonen in the Netherlands

4. Conclusion

The murder case of Theo van Gogh and the case of religious harassment committed by Geert Wilders are just two examples of the many conflicts that have occurred between the Allochtonen and Autochthonen communities in the Netherlands. The conflicts that emerged made the Dutch government increasingly worried about the security and social conditions in the country. That's why the government is increasingly tightening the rules for anyone who wants to come to the Netherlands, especially for those who want to settle down or find work there.

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