

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - *An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920: Demographic, Economic and Social Transition*

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800–1920

An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800–1920 provides a comprehensive account of Dutch history from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, examining population and health, the economy, and socio-political history. The Dutch experience in this period is fascinating and instructive: the country saw extremely rapid population growth, awesome death rates, staggering fertility, some of the fastest economic growth in the world, a uniquely large and efficient service sector, a vast and profitable overseas empire, characteristic ‘pillarization’, and relative tolerance. Michael Wintle also examines the lives of ordinary people: what they ate, how much they earned, what they thought about public affairs, and how they wooed and wed. This is the only single-authored book currently available in English on this crucial period of Dutch history, and it will be of central importance to Dutch specialists, as well as to European historians more generally.

MICHAEL WINTLE is Professor and head of the Department of European Studies at the University of Hull. He has also taught at Utrecht, Victoria (Canada) and Amsterdam. His research interests are in the modern social and economic history of the Low Countries, European identity (especially the visual representation of Europe) and European industrialization. He has published widely on the history of the Netherlands. Recent books include *The Idea of a United Europe* (2000) and *Culture and Identity in Europe* (1996).

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800–1920

Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition
Michael Wintle
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK www.cup.cam.ac.uk
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY10011-4211, USA www.cup.org
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain

© Michael Wintle 2000

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2000

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeset in Plantin 10/12pt [VN]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Wintle, Michael J.
An economic and social history of the Netherlands, 1800–1920: demographic,
economic, and social transition / Michael Wintle.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 78295 3

1. Netherlands – Economic conditions. 2. Netherlands – Social conditions.
3. Demography – Netherlands – History. 4. Netherlands – Population – History.
5. Netherlands – Statistic, Vital. I. Title.
HC323.W56 2000
306'.09492–dc21 99-086453

ISBN 0 521 78295 3 hardback

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Sjoukje

Cambridge University Press
 0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
 Demographic, Economic and Social Transition
 Michael Wintle
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of plates</i>	x
<i>List of figures</i>	xi
<i>List of tables</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
General introduction	1
Part I	
Demography, and the health of the nation	7
1 Demographic indicators	7
1.1 Population increase and vital statistics	7
1.2 Explaining the decline in mortality	13
1.3 Marriage and fertility	22
1.4 Regional differences	24
1.5 The Dutch demographic experience	29
1.6 Migration	31
1.7 Conclusion	38
2 The condition of the people: public health, diet and nutrition	40
2.1 The public health environment	40
2.2 Medical services	42
2.3 Cause of death	45
2.4 The food supply	53
2.5 The Dutch diet	59
2.6 Working conditions	66
2.7 Conclusion	68

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii Contents

Part II**Economic Transition**

	69
<i>Introduction</i>	69
3 Economic performance and industrialization: the Dutch debate	71
3.1 The Dutch compared to their neighbours in terms of GNP	71
3.2 Industrialization and the Dutch debate	75
3.3 Between two peaks? Transition from the Golden Age to the EEC	80
3.4 Conclusion	83
4 Factor inputs: labour, capital, materials	84
4.1 Introduction	84
4.2 The factor labour	85
4.3 The factor capital	93
4.4 Factor inputs: materials	108
4.5 The role of labour, capital and materials	121
5 Economic influences: entrepreneurship, technology, and government policy	123
5.1 Entrepreneurship	123
5.2 Technology	126
5.3 Government policy	135
5.4 Conclusion: the role of organizational inputs	163
6 Sectoral analysis	166
6.1 Introduction: the distribution of the labour force	166
6.2 The primary sector	168
6.3 The secondary sector	178
6.4 The tertiary sector	184
6.5 Conclusion	211
7 Features of demand	213
7.1 Introduction	213
7.2 The colonies as an economic stimulus	214
7.3 Population growth and economic growth	225
7.4 Domestic per-capita demand	227
7.5 Conclusion	234
8 Economic transition: conclusion	235
8.1 Summary of findings on the economy	235
8.2 Characteristics	238
8.3 Retardation?	241
8.4 Typologies of industrialization	244

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents	ix
Part III	
Social transition: state, society, individual and nation	249
<i>Introduction</i>	249
9 Authority and representation: the citizen and the state	252
9.1 Introduction	252
9.2 Democratization	252
9.3 Liberalism	256
9.4 Tolerance and <i>verzuiling</i>	258
9.5 Conclusion	266
10 Education and welfare: empowerment and protection	267
10.1 Introduction	267
10.2 Education	267
10.3 The state in service: the evolution of social legislation	275
10.4 Conclusion	280
11 Loyal subjects: state formation and nation formation	281
11.1 Internal colonization: the osmosis of state and nation	281
11.2 The nation abroad	289
11.3 Conclusion	297
12 Social groups	299
12.1 Introduction	299
12.2 Social stratification	299
12.3 The pillars and other ideological groups	312
12.4 Groups based on gender and sexuality	324
12.5 Ethnic groups	335
12.6 Conclusion	340
General conclusion	342
<i>Bibliography</i>	348
<i>Index</i>	385

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Plates

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1 | Vincent van Gogh, <i>The potato-eaters</i> , Nuenen near Eindhoven, lithograph, May 1885. By kind permission of the Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo. | 55 |
| 2 | The North Sea Canal, lithograph, 1876, Amsterdam. | 181 |
| 3 | Title page of J. W. B. Money's <i>How to manage a colony</i> (1861). | 218 |
| 4 | Colonial guilt. Cartoon by Albert Hahn, November 1904. | 219 |
| 5 | 'Dr A. Kuyper at his desk.' | 220 |
| 6 | Title page of <i>Wet van het lul-collegie</i> (c. 1850). | 323 |

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Figures

I.1	The Dutch and West European population, 1500–1970.	8
I.2	Mortality rates in the Netherlands, 1816–1975.	11
I.3	General soil map of the Netherlands.	18
I.4	Index of annual numbers of emigrants from the Netherlands to North America, 1840–1920.	36
I.5	The occurrence of major epidemics and the death rate in the Netherlands, 1850–1900.	51
I.6	Agricultural product prices, 1805–1914.	57
I.7	Wheat prices at Arnhem in the nineteenth century.	59
I.8	Spirits consumption in the Netherlands, 1831–1919.	63
II.1	Estimates of real per-capita national product for certain European countries, 1850–1910.	74
II.2	Estimates of average daily adult wage, 1819.	91
II.3	Mineral deposits in the Netherlands.	109
II.4	The development of real wages in the Netherlands, 1800–1913.	232

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Tables

I.1	Population in the Netherlands at census counts, 1815–1971, with sex ratio and average annual rate of increase.	9
I.2	Birth rates, death rates, infant mortality rates and marriage rates in the Netherlands, ten-year intervals, 1840–1955.	10
I.3	Migration surplus/deficit in the Netherlands, 1815–1909 ($\times 1,000$).	11
I.4	Life expectancy at birth in the Netherlands, male and female, 1840–1952.	12
I.5	Death rates in the Netherlands and its provinces, five-yearly periods, 1816–1975 (per 1,000).	17
I.6	Marital fertility. Average annual number of legitimate live births per 1,000 married women under fifty years of age in the Dutch provinces and the kingdom by successive five-year periods, 1850–1914.	25
I.7	Religious affiliation in the Netherlands, 1815–99.	28
II.1	Estimates of real per-capita national product for selected European countries in 1970 US dollars, 1850–1910.	73
II.2	Sectoral distribution of the economically active population in the Netherlands (and Belgium), 1807–1971.	78–79
II.3	Wages in agriculture. Estimates of average daily wage (summer) in Dutch agriculture (1810–1910), in cents.	89
II.4	The structure of private property and the assumed rate of return on the various components of wealth, 1807–c.1910 (%).	94
II.5	Steam engines in the Netherlands, 1850–1910, numbers and capacity.	131
II.6	Estimates of the development of production, employment and labour productivity, 1850–1910.	168
II.7	Share of occupational groups in the service industries on the basis of occupational census, 1807–1909 (in %).	186

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

	Tables	xiii
II.8	Dutch external trade, imports and exports, excluding transit trade, in millions of guilders (current prices), 1850–1920.	190
II.9	Dutch mercantile marine, 1870–1913 (000 net tons).	198
II.10	Length of rail track open in the Netherlands and Belgium, 1840–1939, in kilometres.	201

Cambridge University Press

0521782953 - An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920:
Demographic, Economic and Social Transition

Michael Wintle

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

The material for this volume has been collected over a period of more than twenty years, and I have been writing and revising various parts of it, on and off, for nigh on a decade. During that time I have been fortunate enough to earn my living teaching and researching modern European history, especially that of the Netherlands; I owe much to the stimulating environments in both the classrooms and the common-rooms of the universities in which I have been happily employed over the years. These include Ghent, Utrecht, Victoria (Canada), Amsterdam, and especially Hull, which has been my academic home base since 1977, and which has always provided a steady stream of students ready and willing to share my exploration of the subject-matter of this book. Countless individuals have assisted me towards a fuller understanding of Dutch history: they are too numerous to mention by name, but they know who they are, and I have much enjoyed and appreciated their help. The same goes for the anonymous referees who commented on drafts of this book. I am pleased to record my thanks for awards from the University of Hull's research funds, which have given me time and space to bring the project to fruition. My colleagues in the Department of European Studies, especially Philip Morgan and Jacky Cogman, have been endlessly stoical and supportive, especially during the lengthy final stages, and I could not have completed the project without their help. Finally, my preoccupation with Dutch history, and with this book in particular, has always been generously indulged by my family, and to them I am deeply grateful.