

Review of: "The soft power of neutrality Dutch humanitarianism in World War I, 1914-1918"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

An excellent article that pays ample attention to the political and societal difficulties and challenges connected with the status of a neutral country. The various groups from the warring nations, who entered the neutral Netherlands, are carefully surveyed. I hope that the author can be convinced to summarize this information in a table to be added to the text.

Perhaps the author could point out that sending children away to recuperate has a long tradition in Central Europe. Originally, the *Kinderlandverschickung* was set up in order to restore the health of children living in the inner cities in Germany. Did this tradition continue during WW I alongside the additional opportunities to send children abroad?

The article is almost silent about the societal impact of receiving so many foreigners in need of help. In spite of the fact that the Dutch are far more prosperous than during WW I, today there seems to be much more opposition to immigration. Was the immigration during WW I for instance of Belgian refugees seen as temporary? Did the Dutch political parties at the time differ about the issue?

The article seems to suggest that the refugees did not enter the Dutch labour market and that they were completely dependent upon subsidies. How much did the housing of immigrants and refugees' cost and which share was paid for by the tax payer and which part by private funds?