

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

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Potential competing interests: social history, WWI

Congratulations to the author for dealing with the poorly researched, but very complex topic of humanitarian work in the First World War. Previous works generally do not go beyond the framework of one country, or the warring side, which this work greatly surpasses. In some segments there may be too much Of the Netherlands and too little of Denmark, despite all the similarities of neutral position, but I suppose this is partly due to the usual practice of taking initiatives created in other countries. Given that according to the title of the paper, the emphasis should be exclusively on Denmark, I suggest to the author to stick more tightly to state borders in the future or to conceive the work differently and put a less decisive title.

Although this work can function neatly as it was written, its existence will stimulate numerous discussions about certain segments of what has been written, which is already evident from reviews. On this occasion, I would like to warn the author that humanitarianism, especially of a private character (as the author states in the introduction), is an extremely narrow topic, much narrower than what he wrote. From what is processed in the paper, this would belong exclusively to caring for children and sending medical teams to the battlefield, to which he paid less attention than caring for prisoners, refugees and deserters, although there are doses of humanity in this as well. In fact, there are doses of humanity in a number of segments of World War I, including the forced emigration of the population from war zones, but we would never call it by that name. In doing so, I do not want to diminish the author's efforts, but simply point out that he has gone beyond the framework he has set for himself. Therefore, I propose to the author to adopt the comments of reviewers and divide the paper into two parts, and strengthen them theoretically and factually. Thus, he will receive two excellent papers on separate segments of the First World War, which European historiography chronically lacks.