

GOVERNMENT
of the
NETHERLANDS

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PREFACE

Complaint is frequently made by teachers and students of comparative government that there is little material available in English on the constitutions and governments of the small and intermediate states. This complaint is well-founded as far as literature in English on the Dutch constitution and government is concerned. This is regrettable, for the Dutch government has some unique features. It is also one of the best established and most successful of the democratic governments. Furthermore, the Dutch and the Indonesians are at the moment groping for new forms of political association. The writers, convinced that an English translation of the Netherlands Constitution and a brief description of the Dutch government and politics would meet a need, have cooperated to publish this study.

In fairness to Dr. Eldersveld it is necessary to state that he is responsible for only Chapter IX, Trends in Government and Politics Since Liberation.

Whatever defects attach to the other chapters and whatever errors have been embodied in them are my responsibility. In the translation of the Netherlands Constitution I have sought accuracy rather than a literary rendition. The advantages of this for the student are obvious.

A. V.

June 10, 1947
Lexington, Kentucky.

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