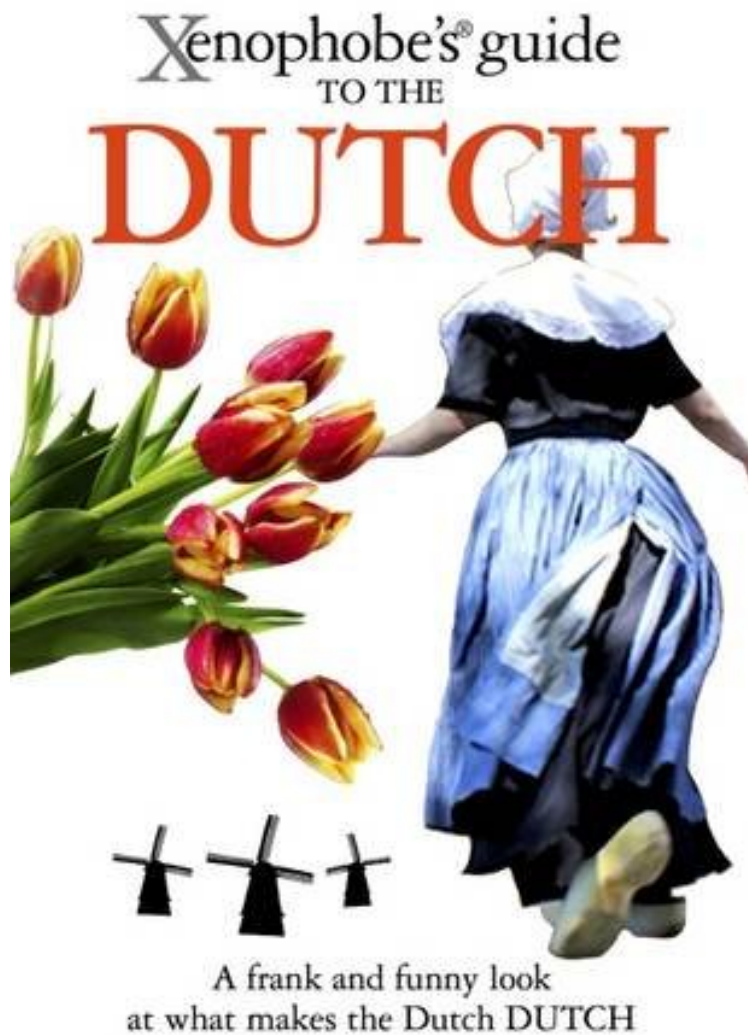


## Xenophobe's Guide to the Dutch

*Rodney Bolt*

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#341358 in Books Oval Books 2008-07-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.00 x .30 x 4.25l, .15 #File Name: 190604228492 pages | File size: 68.Mb

**Rodney Bolt : Xenophobe's Guide to the Dutch** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Xenophobe's Guide to the Dutch:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A little too much "gezellig" By RWoodBAs a native Dutchman, I can agree with his characterization of the Dutch. He does stretch the meaning of "gezellig" and "gezelligheid" well

beyond what I and most other native Dutch would. It is appropriate to use it to describe a cozy or comfortable room, or even a house. It also would apply to a cozy or comfortable bar or restaurant. The term suggests not just decor, but also the effect of other occupants on how one feels. A place that is "gezellig" is rarely large, nor have I ever heard the term used to apply to a large group. With that reservation, I recommend the book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice Easy Read - Pleasant Facts and Interesting Dialogue. By JenI gave this -- along with the flag from the Netherlands -- to my husband as a gift. He thoroughly enjoyed it and it is a topic of conversation when people visit. They pick it up and start browsing through it -- next thing you know - they're reading it and discussing it. A good coffeetable book when the Dutch family members come to visit. Nice book, easy read, plenty of interesting facts. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Informative and entertaining! By KMR This is a great run-down of the interesting cultural nuances of the Dutch. These are the things you DON'T learn from a textbook or a language program. Highly recommend it for anyone interested in the culture, and/or learning the language. A quick read, but well worth the investment! Enjoy it over a few cups of koffie. ;)

It's all in your mind The spirit of tolerance does constant battle with the ghost of Calvin for control of the Dutch psyche. Few Dutch people go to church anymore, but they don't need to. Inside every Hollander's head is a little pulpit containing a preacher with a wagging finger. Going Dutch This is the nation that once sold scrapers for getting the last remnants of the film of buttermilk from the inside of the bottle. The Dutch "think with their pockets." Parsimony is not an embarrassment, but a virtue. Culture vultures The Dutch are cultural magpies. They keep a beady eye on other people's cultural trends, and are swift to snap up sparkling new fashions. This means that rather than producing an indigenous culture, they have become voracious consumers of everybody else's—true Europeans, whose cultural fads and fancies know no borders. The Netherlands acts as a giant cultural sponge. Double Dutch For the Dutch, the other side of the question is as important as the question itself. Dialogue is the lubricant of tolerance, and the essential ingredient of dialogue is "Yes, but . . ."

"If I were a cabaret artist or stand up comedian, I'd just get up and read these books to the audience as they would bring the house down." --"Het Parool "(Holland) "An enlightened new series, good natured, witty and useful. The Xenophobe's Guides to different nations deserves a real cheer." --"The European "From the Back Cover The spirit of tolerance does constant battle with the ghost of Calvin for control of the Dutch psyche. Few Dutch people go to church any more, but they don't need to. Inside every Hollander's head is a little pulpit containing a preacher with a vermanende vinger, a wagging finger. Xenophobia is an irrational fear of foreigners, probably justified, always understandable. Xenophobe's Guides - an irreverent look at the beliefs and foibles of nations, almost guaranteed to cure Xenophobia. About the Author Rodney Bolt was born in Africa, has an Irish passport, a British driving licence and a Dutch residence permit. Having lived and worked in Greece, in England and in Germany, he has finally come to roost in Amsterdam, where such hybrid creatures pass unnoticed, and are even made to feel at home. For many years he ran a pub theatre in London, and has worked as a theatre director, English teacher, private tutor, letter-sorter and journalist. Now he makes his living mainly from travel writing, and is failing to fend off the Dutch desire to write novels. He divides his national affections between the Netherlands and Madeira, just as he hopes one day to divide his domestic arrangements between a canal house and a quinta in the hills. In the meantime he lives in one corner of a large 19th-century house, within walking distance of a street-market, a swimming pool and three excellent museums. He could ask for little more