

In the First World War (1914-1918), the Netherlands stayed neutral. As a result, the war had a relatively modest impact on the country compared to the Second World War, when the Netherlands was occupied by Nazi Germany. Accordingly, the First World War is not researched as much as the Second World War. However, the conflict may have had more impact than we think.

This study deals with the effects of the war on printing, publishing and bookselling in the Netherlands. In a time in which society was changing fast, the book trade witnessed new legislation and increasing regulation, as well as more collaboration between the government, employers and employees to create better conditions, while actions were undertaken to limit the negative effects of the war. The main source was the *Nieuwsblad voor den boekhandel*, the journal of the Dutch Booksellers' Association, which is a treasure trove for book historical research.

Emancipation, Regulation, Collaboration  
How the First World War changed the Dutch book trade



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