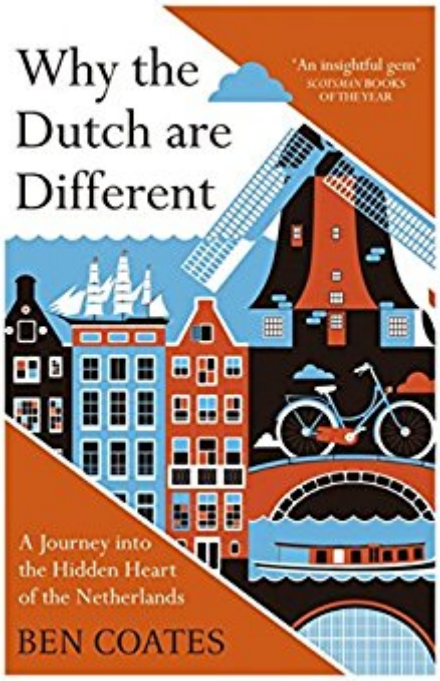
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Why The Dutch Are Different: A Journey Into The Hidden Heart Of The Netherlands



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Synopsis

Stranded at Schiphol airport, Ben Coates called up a friendly Dutch girl he'd met some months earlier. He stayed for dinner. Actually, he stayed for good. In the first book to consider the hidden heart and history of the Netherlands from a modern perspective, the author explores the length and breadth of his adopted homeland and discovers why one of the world's smallest countries is also so significant and so fascinating. It is a self-made country, the Dutch national character shaped by the ongoing battle to keep the water out from the love of dairy and beer to the attitude to nature and the famous tolerance. Ben Coates investigates what makes the Dutch the Dutch, why the Netherlands is much more than Holland and why the color orange is so important. Along the way he reveals why they are the world's tallest people and have the best carnival outside Brazil. He learns why Amsterdam's brothels are going out of business, who really killed Anne Frank, and how the Dutch manage to be richer than almost everyone else despite working far less. He also discovers a country which is changing fast, with the Dutch now questioning many of the liberal policies which made their nation famous.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Little nuggets of interesting information and quotable quotes, but a fair amount of dross worth skipping as well.

Great Writer. I am going to visit the Netherlands this spring to see the tulips. I am only 1/2 way through this book and enjoying every word. Just want I wanted...history mixed with current events, sprinkled with humor. The perfect book to help me learn about Dutch culture.

The perfect book to read before you go to the Netherlands. Devoured it, laughing out loud often. A very nice mix of history, current events, and personal experience, written well and entertainingly.

Interesting facts brought into the narrative. A little too much football discussion and current events, but enjoyable otherwise. Will pass it around to my Dutch relatives (yes, we can be frugal as the book suggests), and we're not Jewish!

It's a book that aims to provide an overview, not deep analysis, and it succeeds at that. Probably the most interesting chapter for me, because it is the subject that I knew the least about, was the description of the Dutch obsession with soccer/football.

great book! helps me understand my husband and his extended family much better. the Dutch really are different

A good read to know and understand Dutch cultureThe Dutch always look at all the options in life and pleasure.

Great book to read prior to a trip to the Netherlands. I returned from a trip there recently and I'm glad I read this before I went. It helped me to enjoy my trip much more.

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