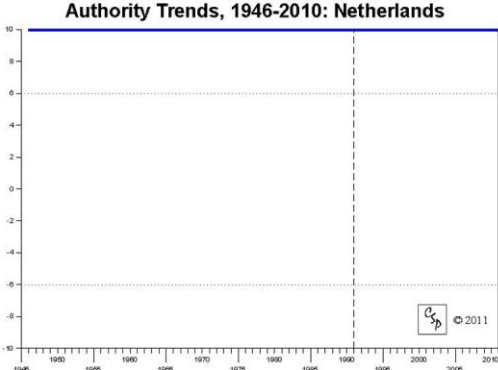


Polity IV Country Report 2010: Netherlands

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2009</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2010</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polity:</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democ:</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Autoc:</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durable:</td> <td></td> <td>64</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tentative:</td> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2009	2010	Change	Polity:	10	10	0	Democ:	10	10	0	Autoc:	0	0	0	Durable:		64		Tentative:		No		
Score:	2009	2010	Change																						
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Autoc:	0	0	0																						
Durable:		64																							
Tentative:		No																							
SCODE	NTH	CCODE	210	Date of Report	1 June 2011																				
Polity IV Component Variables																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
3	3	4	7	5	5																				
Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)																									
End Date	15 November 1917		Begin Date	4 May 1945																					
Polity Fragmentation: No																									
Constitution	1814																								
Executive(s)	Prime Minister Mark Rutte (VVD); became prime minister 14 October 2010																								
Legislature	<p>Bicameral:</p> <p>Second Chamber (150 seats; proportionally elected; most recent elections, 9 June 2010)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD): 31 Labour Party (PvdA): 30 Party for Freedom (PVV): 24 Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA): 21 Socialist Party (SP): 15 Democrats 66: 10 Green Left: 10 Other parties: 9 <p>First Chamber (75 seats; indirectly elected by 12 provincial councils on the basis of the proportional representation at the provincial elections; most recent elections, 29 May 2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDA: 21 PvdA: 14 VVD: 14 SP: 12 Other parties: 14 																								
Judiciary	Supreme Court																								

Narrative Description:¹

Executive Recruitment: Competitive Elections (8)

The Dutch prime minister is recruited through a competitive multiparty electoral system. The majority party (or majority coalition) in the Second Chamber selects the chief executive. Members of the Second Chamber are popularly elected.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte currently heads a minority government propped up by the anti-Islam party of Geert Wilders. His government, a coalition of his People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) and the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA), was installed on 14 October 2010, following lengthy negotiations after the elections in June. These elections were called after the former CDA-led government collapsed in February 2010. The VVD-CDA coalition commands only 52 seats in the 150 seat lower house of parliament. Given this minority status, it has made a deal with the right-wing Party for Freedom (PVV) for the support of its 24 MPs. The PVV, which does not hold any cabinet posts in the coalition government, campaigned for an end to Muslim immigration and a ban on the construction of any new mosques in the country. The June 2010 elections saw the PVV make significant gains, nearly tripling its seats from the previous election.

Executive Constraints: Executive Parity or Subordination (7)

The parliamentary structure of governance found in the Netherlands places significant constraints on the autonomy of the chief executive. The prime minister is elected by, and is directly accountable to, the legislature. The coalition-based nature of governance in the Netherlands further limits the independence of executive action. The judiciary is independent from executive influence.

Political Participation: Institutionalized Open Electoral Competition (10)

The Netherlands is a competitive multiparty democracy that has traditionally been dominated by four subcultures (Catholic, Protestant, socialist, and liberal) and two parties (the center-right Christian Democrats and the center-left Labor Party). Historically, both of these parties have been dependent on coalition partners to govern. Freedom of speech and assembly are constitutionally protected and the civil rights of citizens are generally respected.

¹ The research described in this report was sponsored by the Political Instability Task Force (PITF). The PITF is funded by the Central Intelligence Agency. The views expressed herein are the authors' alone and do not represent the views of the US Government.