What is the place of a victim of war in Dutch society?

Who were and who are the victims of World War Two precisely?

How were their psychological problems being cared for?
• The total number of Dutch people who died in 1940 - 1945 as a result of war, occupation and persecution is between 225,000 and 250,000.

• 107,000 of the 140,000 Dutch Jews were deported. Some 101,800 were murdered or died by forced labor in the concentration camps.

• 350,000 Dutch people went into hiding (a record in occupied Europe), including 25,000 Jews.

• NL had a total of 45,000 resistance members. 2,000 were executed.

• 30,000 Dutch forced laborers died as a result of exhaustion, disease, aerial bombardments.

• 20,000 Dutch people in the Dutch East Indies died, as a result of the Japanese occupation and internment.

• During the Indonesian Revolution 5,500 Indo-Europeans and Dutch died at the hands of Indonesian revolutionaries.
Jacques Tas (1892 – 1978)

- Psychiatrist
- Survivor of Bergen Belsen
- 1946 - Life in the camps:
  - long-term exhaustion,
  - continuous fear
  - No possibility to express aggression and fears.
- Netherlands did little for returnees
40s: Convalescent homes for resistance
Moral degeneration of society
50s & 60 discussion

• Is psychotrauma caused by an external evil or is such an experience harmful because it connects to existing internal personal problems?

• Dr. Bastiaans
  • War stress seemed to reactivate early childhood traumatization

• Discussion dominated by former resistance
• Jews, forced workers, returnees East Indies were out of sight
Late 60s & 70s change

- Eddy de Wind
- Ed Hoornik
- Possible release German war criminals

- Do you now understand why I cry?
  - LSD-therapy dr. Bastiaans
70s

- Expansion of state institutions and facilities
- War pensions for psychosocial consequences of war
- 1.5 millions victims of war

80s

- Posttraumatic stress disorder vs Konzentrationslager (KZ) syndrome
- Second generation
Trauma culture (Withuis)

- Emancipation movements fight and over recognition
- Trauma victimization as identity, urge to get rid of that suffering decreased
- War victim national model of victimhood
- Second generation?
Europe

• East – West division
  • Communist regimes dictated who were heroes, victims and who were nothing
  • Similar pattern: Rwanda after 1994 genocide

• Denmark and France: resistance lobby & trauma culture

• Catholicism, secularization, individualism
Third generation?

Natascha van Weezel:

‘Then it dawned on me: I must become better for them. That was the second insight that triggered my healing. At first the motivation did not come intrinsically from within myself.’
Partners:
Foundation Centrum '45
PDC
Equator Foundation
IVP
Arq Center of Excellence on War, Persecution and Violence
War Trauma Foundation
Impact
Foundation 1940-1945
Foundation Pelita

Cooperation within Arq:
Arq Academy
Arq Research