

Netherlands Abandons Multiculturalism

By Thomas Lifson, AMERICAN THINKER



Famously progressive and permissive Holland has tried multiculturalism and decided that it just doesn't work. In a historic reversal, the Dutch are abandoning government policies in support of multiculturalism and demanding integration and acceptance of Dutch values from immigrants, mostly Muslims, who now constitute 6 percent of their population.

The *Gatestone Institute* reports:

A new integration bill (covering letter and 15-page action plan), which Dutch Interior Minister Piet Hein Donner presented to parliament on June 16, reads: "The government shares the

social dissatisfaction over the multicultural society model and plans to shift priority to the values of the Dutch people. In the new integration system, the values of the Dutch society play a central role. With this change, the government steps away from the model of a multicultural society."

The letter continues: "A more obligatory integration is justified because the government also demands that from its own citizens. It is necessary because otherwise the society gradually grows apart and eventually no one feels at home anymore in the Netherlands. The integration will not be tailored to different groups."



Immigrants will be required to learn the Dutch language and no exceptions to obedience to Dutch law will be allowed for followers of sharia. In addition, the government will stop subsidizing Muslims and making special criteria for their employment...and will ban the burqa:

The government will also stop offering special subsidies for Muslim immigrants because, according to Donner, "it is not the government's job to integrate immigrants." The government will introduce new legislation that outlaws forced marriages and will also impose tougher measures against Muslim immigrants who lower their chances of employment by the way they dress. More specifically, the government will impose a ban on face-covering Islamic burqas as of January 1, 2013.

If necessary, the government will introduce extra measures to allow the removal of residence permits from immigrants who fail their integration course.

The Dutch have tasted the fruits of importing Islamic culture and have decided they don't want any more. Western Europeans are experiencing similar second thoughts in many countries, including France, Sweden, and Denmark, but so far they have not elected governments willing to take this sort of action. But it is likely that once Holland acts, others will follow.

Now if only the United States gets the guts to insist that those who come here adapt to our ways, instead of vice versa.