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Oeroeg

Overview

1. Introduction
2. The Dutch East Indies
3. Postcolonial theory
4. Oeroeg – the novella
5. Oeroeg – the film

Oeroeg

75.^e

**BOKEN
DEKEN**

WEEK

10½ 20 M&ART 2010



Oeroeg

Oeroeg

- boekenweek (book week)
- boekenweekgeschenk (book week gift)
- 1948





Hella S. Haasse

- °1918, Batavia = Jakarta
- The Dutch East Indies
- *Oeroeg* (1948): debut
- Historical novels
- “the Grand Old Lady of Dutch literature”



1001 BOOKS

YOU MUST READ BEFORE YOU DIE

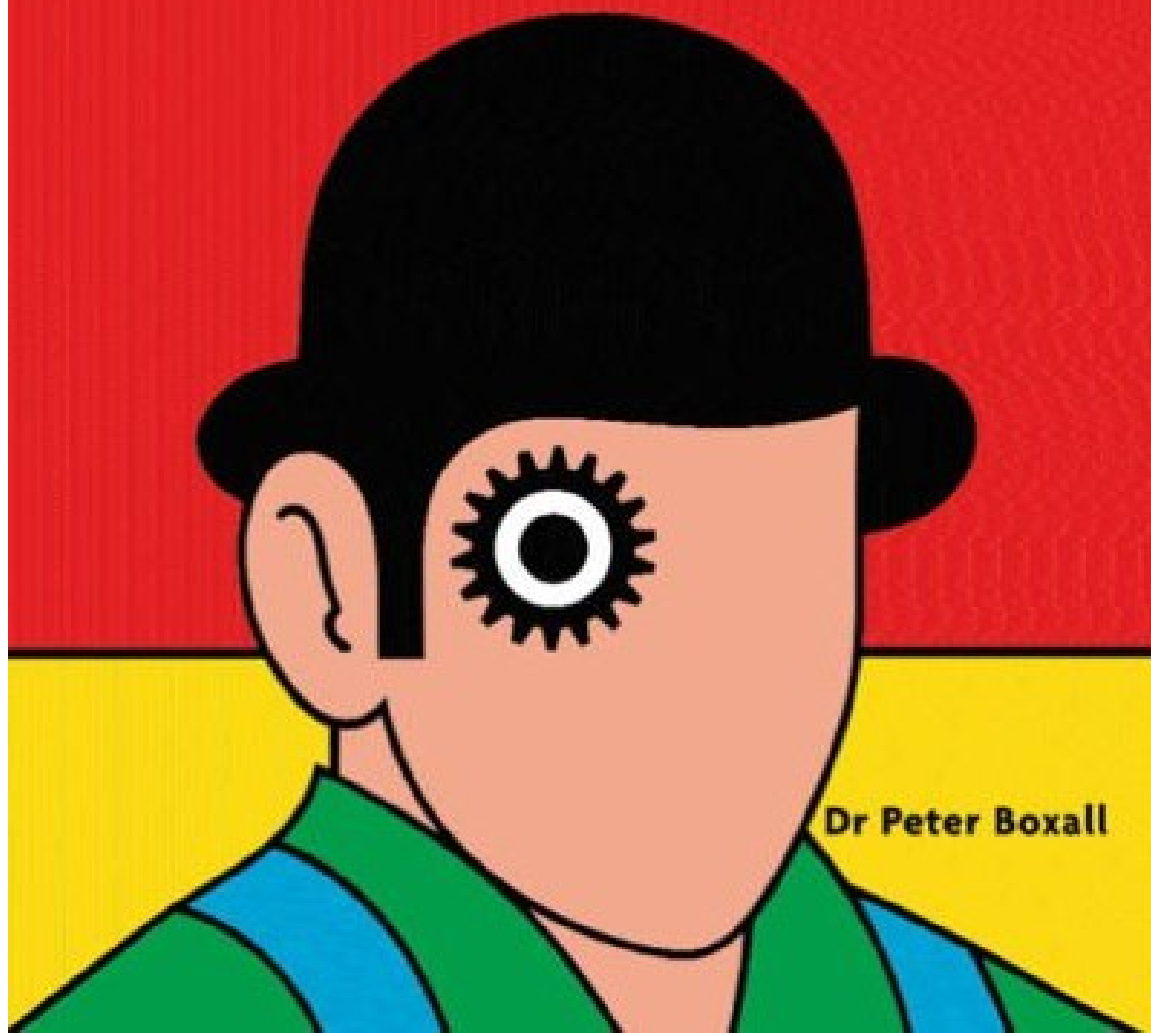
Translations

- **Welsh:** *Fy Ffrind oedd Wrwg* (1968)
- **Hungarian:** *Urug* (1987)
- **French:** *Le lac noir* (1991, 1994)
- **Italian:** *Il lago degli spiriti* (1992)
- **German:** *Der schwarze See* (1994)
- **Serbo-Croatian:** *Crno Jezero* (1994)
- **English:** *Forever a stranger and Other Stories* (1996)
- **Polish:** *Urug* (1997)
- **Romanian:** *Strain pentru totdeauna* (2000)
- **Indonesian:** *Oeroeg* (2009)

Dr Peter Boxall

1001 BOOKS

YOU MUST READ BEFORE YOU DIE



Dr Peter Boxall

NEDER

LAND



LEEST

OEROEG

Cadeautje van uw openbare bibliotheek

HELLAS.

HAASSE

NEDERLAND LEEST OEROEG



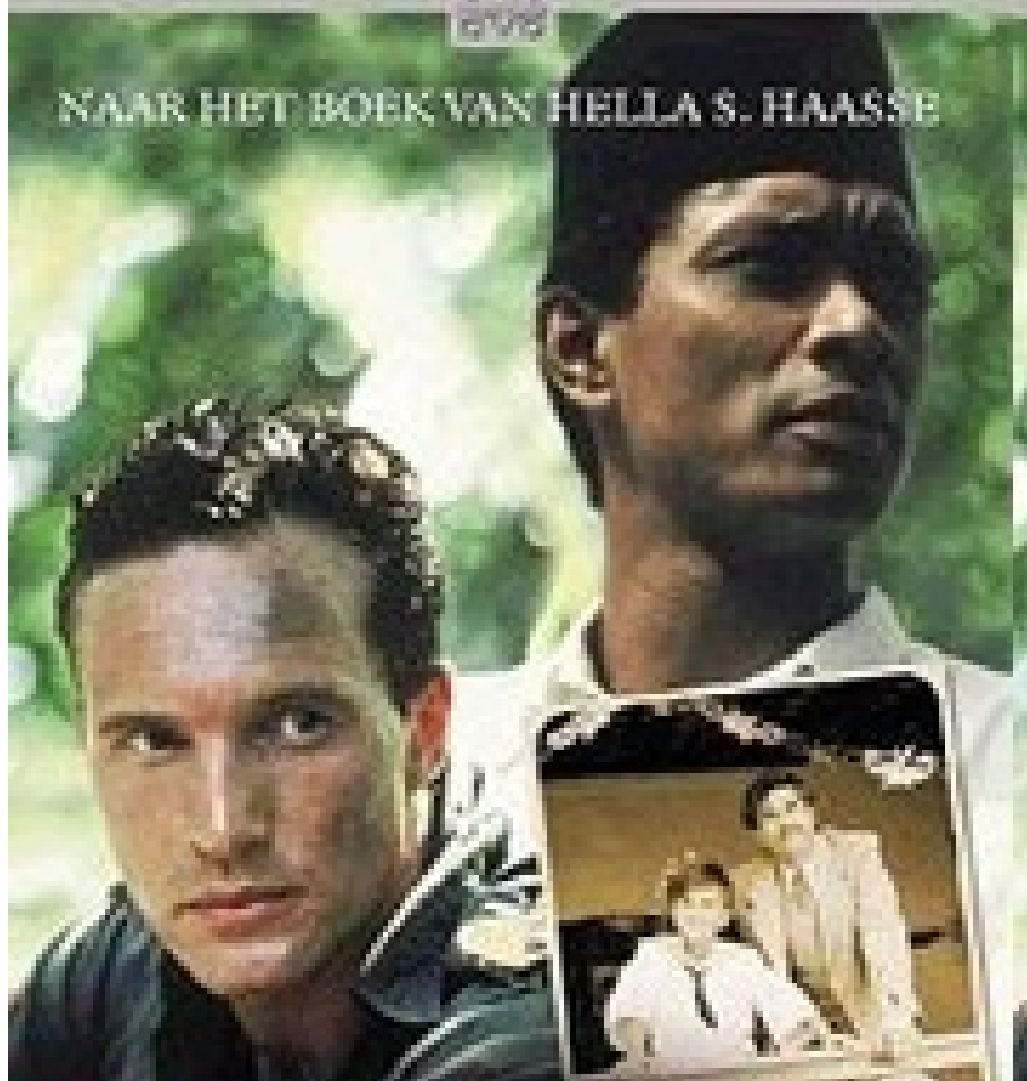
HAAL DIT BOEK GRATIS IN UW BIBLIOTHEEK. 23 OKTOBER T/M 20 NOVEMBER 2009



PARAMOUNT COLLECTION

DVD

NAAR HET BOEK VAN HELLA S. HAASSE



Paul Verhoeven presentiert

OEROEG

Een film van Hans Holten - Scenario: Jeroen Krabbé

Rik Lissensqach - Martin Schanz - Jeroen Krabbé - Peter Faber

12

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Oeroeg

JAVAANSE JONGENS



LEKKERE PITTIGE
SHAG

een kwaliteit
als de beste
en toch.....

95^{ct}



INDONESIA







The Dutch East India Company

Dutch colonization

- 1602: VOC
- VOC = Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie = Dutch East India Company
- Indië = the Indies
- 1800: bankruptcy VOC
- Nederlands Oost-Indië = the Dutch East Indies

The Dutch East India Company



Cultuurstelsel

A faded historical photograph of a plantation field. In the foreground, there are rows of large-leafed plants, likely rubber trees. In the middle ground, several workers wearing hats are visible, some standing and some working. In the background, there is a building with a gabled roof and more workers. The overall scene depicts a busy plantation environment.

- 1830 – 1870
- The Cultivation System
- Tanam Paksa = Compulsory Planting

L.J. VEEN KLASSIEK • GEÏLLUSTREERDE EDITIE

MULTATULI

Mase Havelaar





Boedi Oetomo



(De)colonization

- Ethische politiek = ethical policy
- Second World War: Indonesia conquered by Japan; “Jappenkampen”
- 1947 and 1948-1949: politionele acties = police actions = war
- 1949: the Netherlands recognizes Indonesian independence





055911

Merdeka

merdeka adalah hak



© Charles Breijer / nfa, coll. Nederlands fotomuseum



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Oeroeg

saying, the final resistance we have against the inhuman practices

and injustices that disfigure human history

Humanism is the only, and I would go so far as

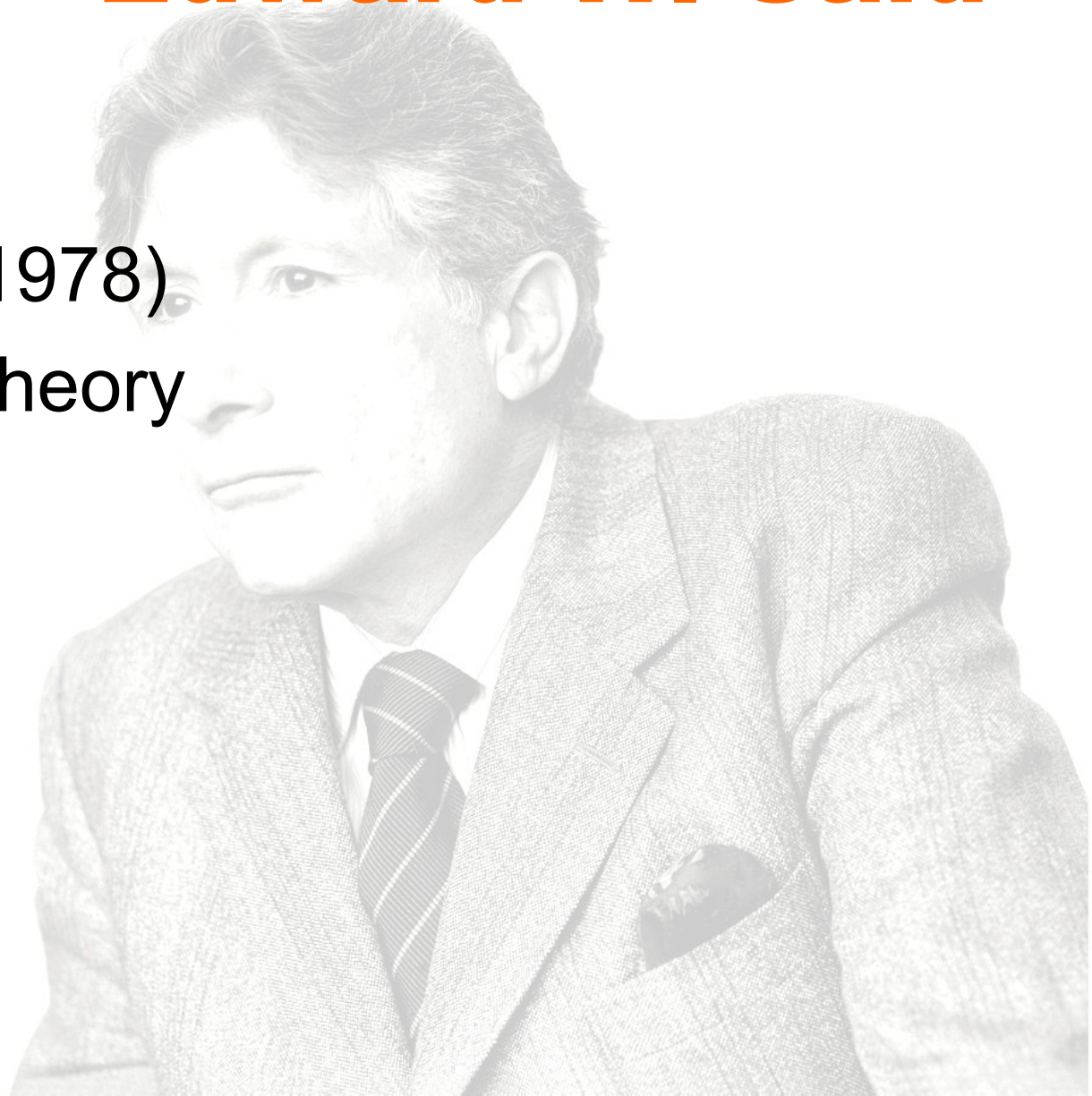


C. Fayed Davis & Susan Greene

Humanism is the only, and I would go so far as saying, the final resistance we have against the inhuman practices and injustices that disfigure human history

Edward W. Said

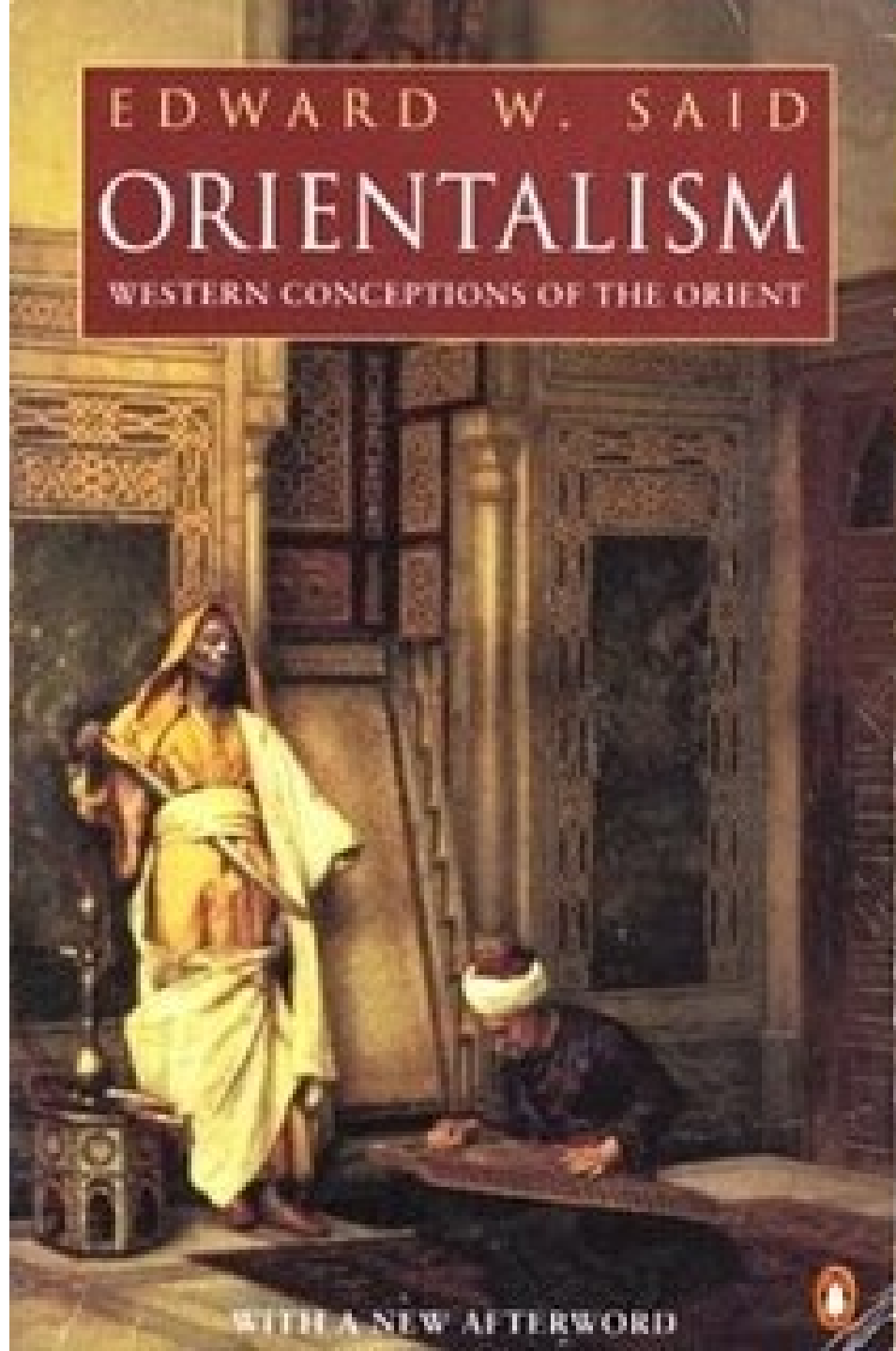
- 1935 – 2003
- *Orientalism* (1978)
- Postcolonial theory



EDWARD W. SAID

ORIENTALISM

WESTERN CONCEPTIONS OF THE ORIENT



WITH A NEW AFTERWORD





Culture ~ society

- “Too often literature and culture are presumed to be politically, even historically innocent; it has regularly seemed otherwise to me, and certainly my study of **Orientalism** has convinced me [...] that **society and literary culture can only be understood and studied together.**” (Said 2003:27; orig. ed. 1978)

The background of the slide is a faded image of the book cover for 'Orientalism' by Edward W. Said. The cover features the title 'ORIENTALISM' in large, bold, white letters, with the subtitle 'WESTERN CONCEPTIONS OF THE ORIENT' below it. The author's name 'EDWARD W. SAID' is at the top. The cover art depicts a scene with a person in a white turban and a dark jacket, possibly a scholar or a traveler, in a setting that suggests an Eastern or Middle Eastern environment. The overall tone is academic and historical.

EDWARD W. SAID
ORIENTALISM
WESTERN CONCEPTIONS OF THE ORIENT

Orientalism

- “**Orientalism** is the generic term that I have been employing to describe **the Western approach to the Orient**;
- Orientalism is **the discipline** by which the Orient was (and is) approached systematically, as a topic of learning, discovery, and practice.
- But in addition I have been using the word to designate that **collection of dreams, images, and vocabularies available to anyone who has tried to talk about what lies east of the dividing line.**”
(Said 2003:73)

EDWARD W. SAID

ORIENTALISM

WESTERN CONCEPTIONS OF THE ORIENT



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwCOSkXR_Cw

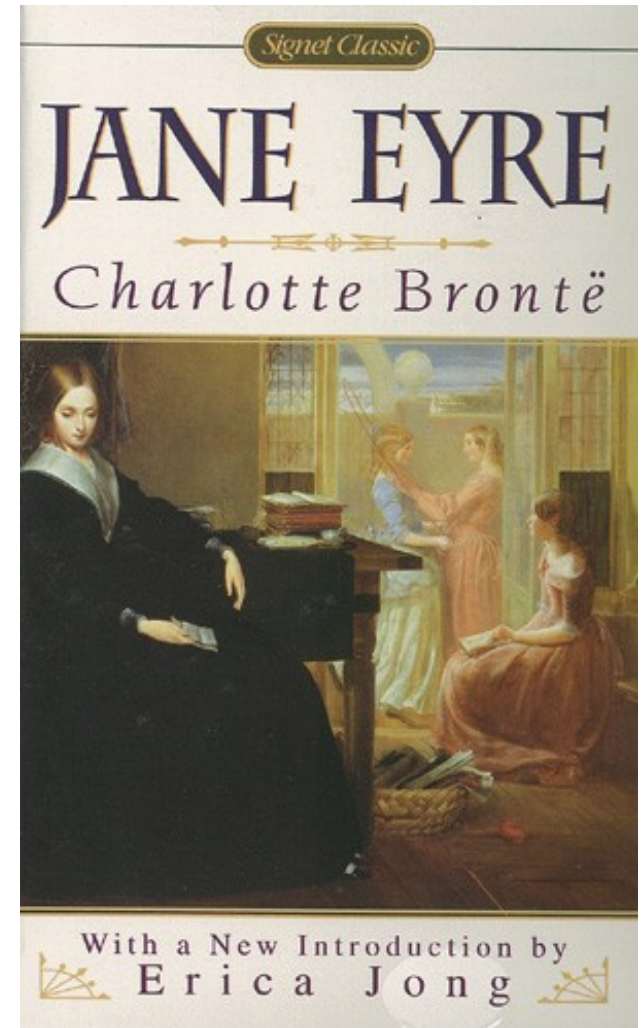
WITH A NEW AFTERWORD

(Post)colonialism

- Imperialism
- Colonialism
- Postcolonialism

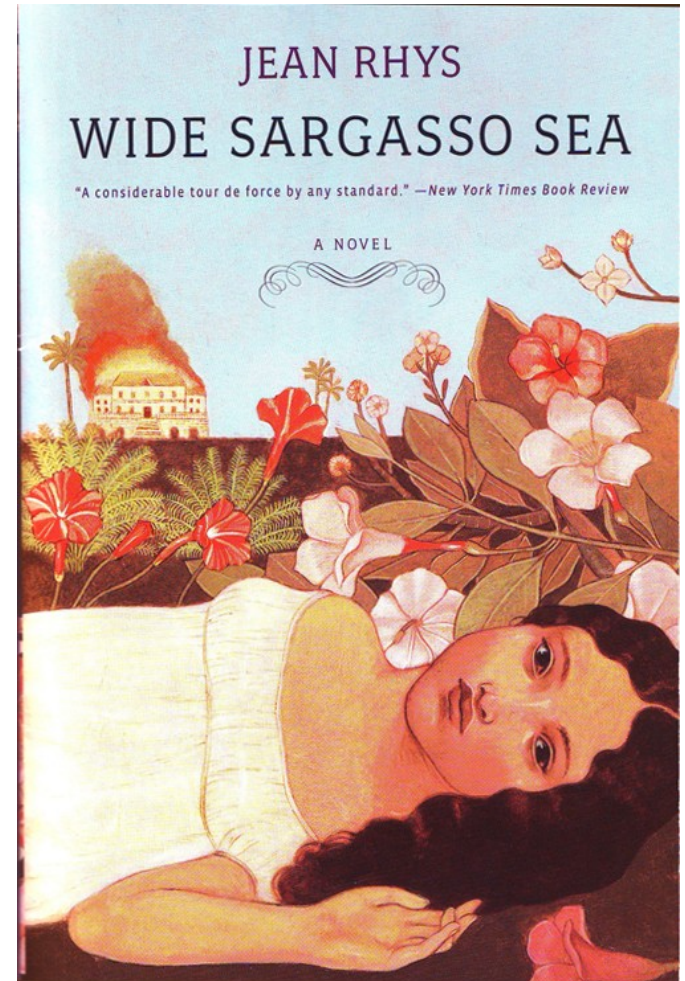
Jane Eyre

- Charlotte Brontë
- 1847



Wide Sargasso Sea

- Jean Rhys
- 1966



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Intertextuality

- “Indische teksten zijn doordrenkt van intertekstualiteit en dialogisme.”
(Pattynama 2007:6)
- Prof. dr. Pamela Pattynama
(extraordinary professor of Colonial and Postcolonial literature and cultural studies at the University of Amsterdam)

Oeroeg



Oeroeg

- “Oeroeg was mijn vriend. Als ik terugdenk aan mijn kindertijd en mijn jongensjaren, verschijnt zonder uitzondering het beeld van Oeroeg in mij [...]” (Haasse 1964⁷:5)



Oeroeg

The image shows the cover of a book titled 'Oeroeg' by J.G. Haase. The cover is dark with a light-colored, abstract, wavy shape in the center. The title 'Oeroeg' is printed in a light color at the bottom. The word 'Oeroeg' is also written in a large, bold, orange font in the top right corner of the slide.

Oeroeg

- “Was het werkelijk Oeroeg? Ik weet het niet en zal het ook nooit weten. Ik heb zelfs het vermogen verloren hem te herkennen.” (Haase 1964⁷:127)

Oeroeg

- “Het is overbodig toe te geven, dat ik hem niet begreep. Ik kende hem, zoals ik Telaga Hideung kende - een spiegellende oppervlakte. De diepte peilde ik nooit. Is het te laat? Ben ik voorgoed een vreemde in het land van mijn geboorte, op de grond, vanwaar ik niet verplant wil zijn? De tijd zal het leren.” (Haasse 1964⁷:128)

Colonial Oeroeg

- Narrative mode and focalization: the I-narrator as subject, Oeroeg as object
- Oeroeg as the Other
 - “Wat afstand vormde, was het ondefinieerbare ‘anders’-zijn van Oeroeg, het subtiele verschil in gedrag en geaardheid, in fluidum, zou ik willen zeggen, als deze dingen onder woorden te brengen waren.” (Haasse 1964⁷:100)
- “East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet”. (Kipling)
- Goena-goena & the timeless Orient
- Etc.

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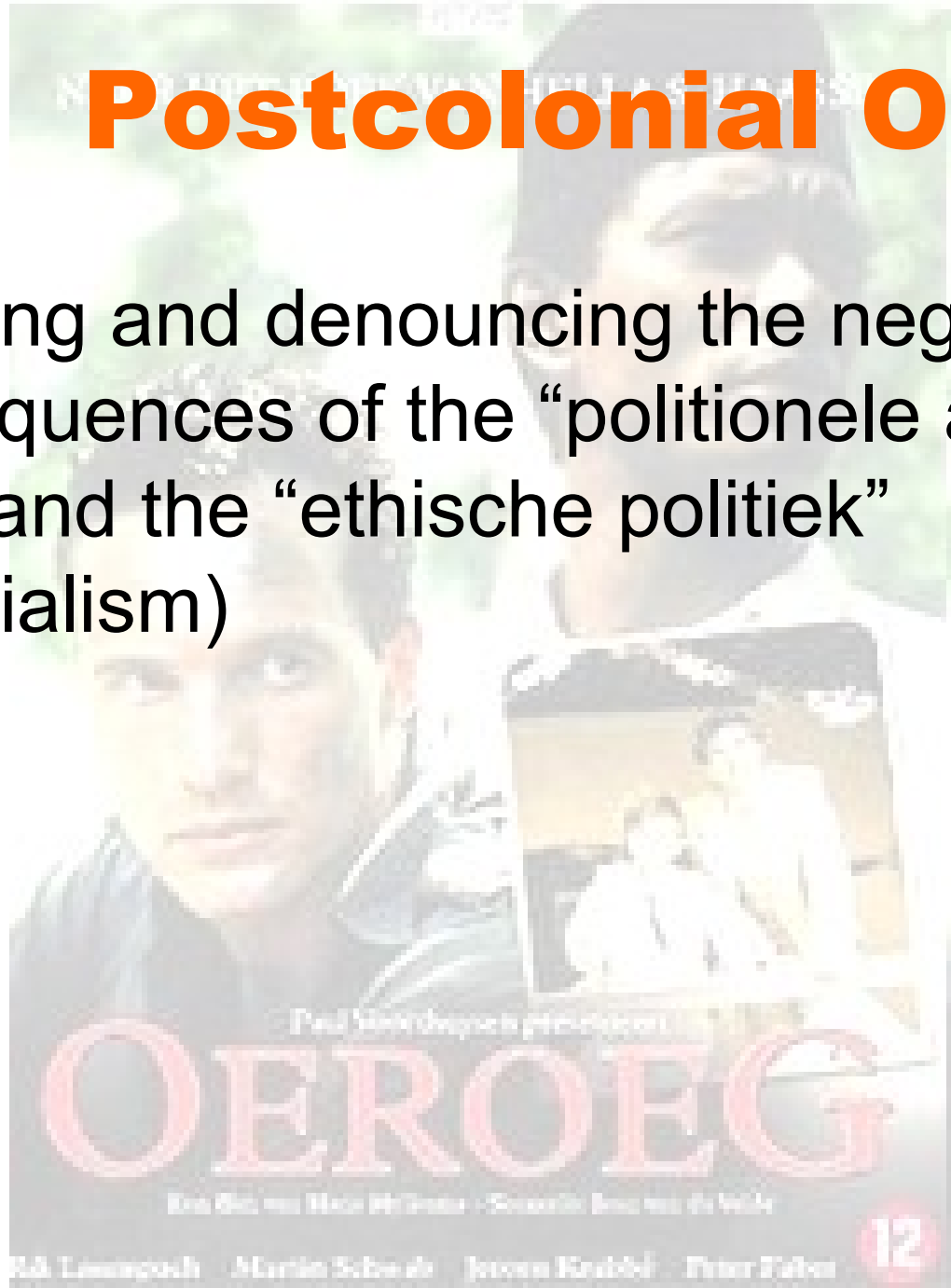
Oeroeg, the film

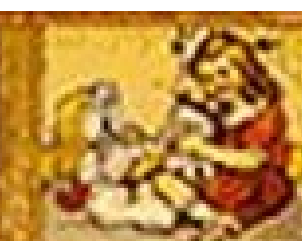
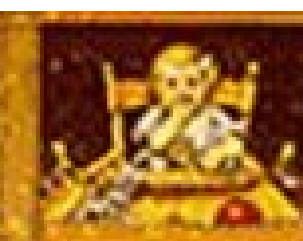
- 1993
- International title: *Going home*
- Director: Hans Hylkema
- Script: Jean van de Velde, Hans Hylkema
- Rik Launspach (Johan ten Berghe), Martin Schwab (Oeroeg), Jeroen Krabbé (Hendrik ten Berghe, Johans vader), Joris Putman (kleine Johan), Ramelan Bekkema (kleine Oeroeg),...



Postcolonial Oeroeg

- Showing and denouncing the negative consequences of the “politieele acties” (war) and the “ethische politiek” (colonialism)





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**in een film van
HANS HYLKEMA**

A man in a grey suit, white shirt, and patterned tie is wearing a light-colored fedora with a dark band. He is holding a lit cigarette in his mouth. The background is a dimly lit room with other people blurred in the distance.

...that there were odd exceptions.

-No, no sir.

Colonial Oeroeg

- Oeroeg as the Other (different relation to nature, to sexuality, etc.)
- Dichotomies persist (cf. Pattynama)
- Focalization on Johan & the Dutch: subject versus object relation maintained
- Etc.

