



Oeroeg



**Sofie Royeaerd**

Sekce nederlandistiky

Ústav germanistiky, nordistiky a nederlandistiky

[sofie.royeaerd@gmail.com](mailto:sofie.royeaerd@gmail.com)

<http://sites.google.com/site/brnonederlandistika/>

# Oeroeg

# Overview

A faded background image of a woman in a white uniform standing in front of a building. The woman is smiling and looking towards the camera. The building behind her has a tiled roof and some windows. The overall image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible.

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

# Oeroeg

**75<sup>e</sup>**

**BOKEN  
DEKEN**

**WEEK**

**10½ 20 MÄART 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

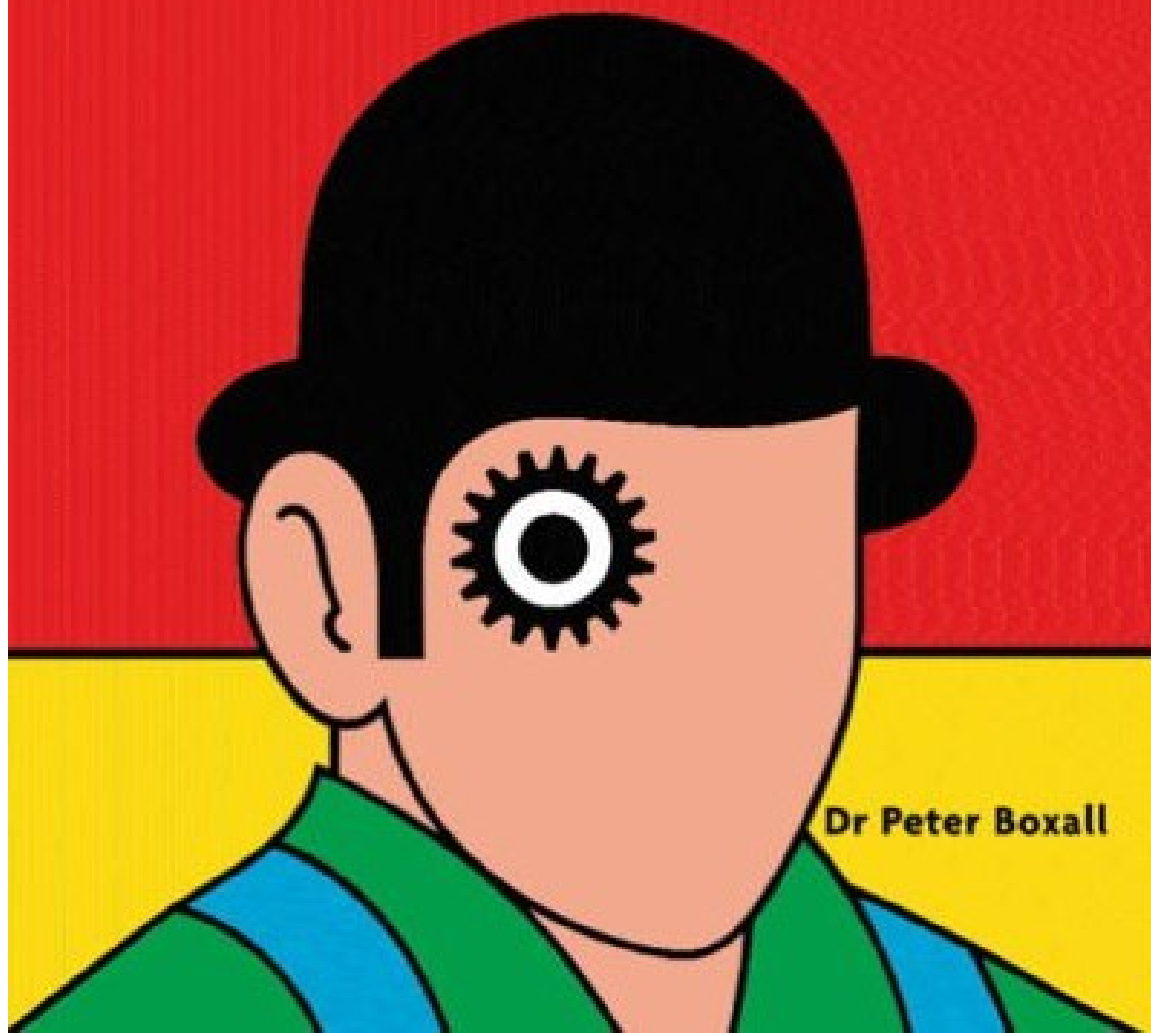
## Translations

- **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

FLA

PARAMOUNT COLLECTION

DVD

NAAR HET BOEK VAN HELLA S. HAASSE



Paul Verhoeven presentieert

# OEROEG

Een film van Hans Holten - Scenario: Jeroen Krabbé

Rik Lissens - 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<sup>ct</sup>



# 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 large, broad-leafed plants, likely tobacco. In the middle ground, several workers wearing hats are visible, some standing and some sitting. In the background, there is a large pile of harvested goods, possibly tobacco leaves, and a building with a gabled roof. 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

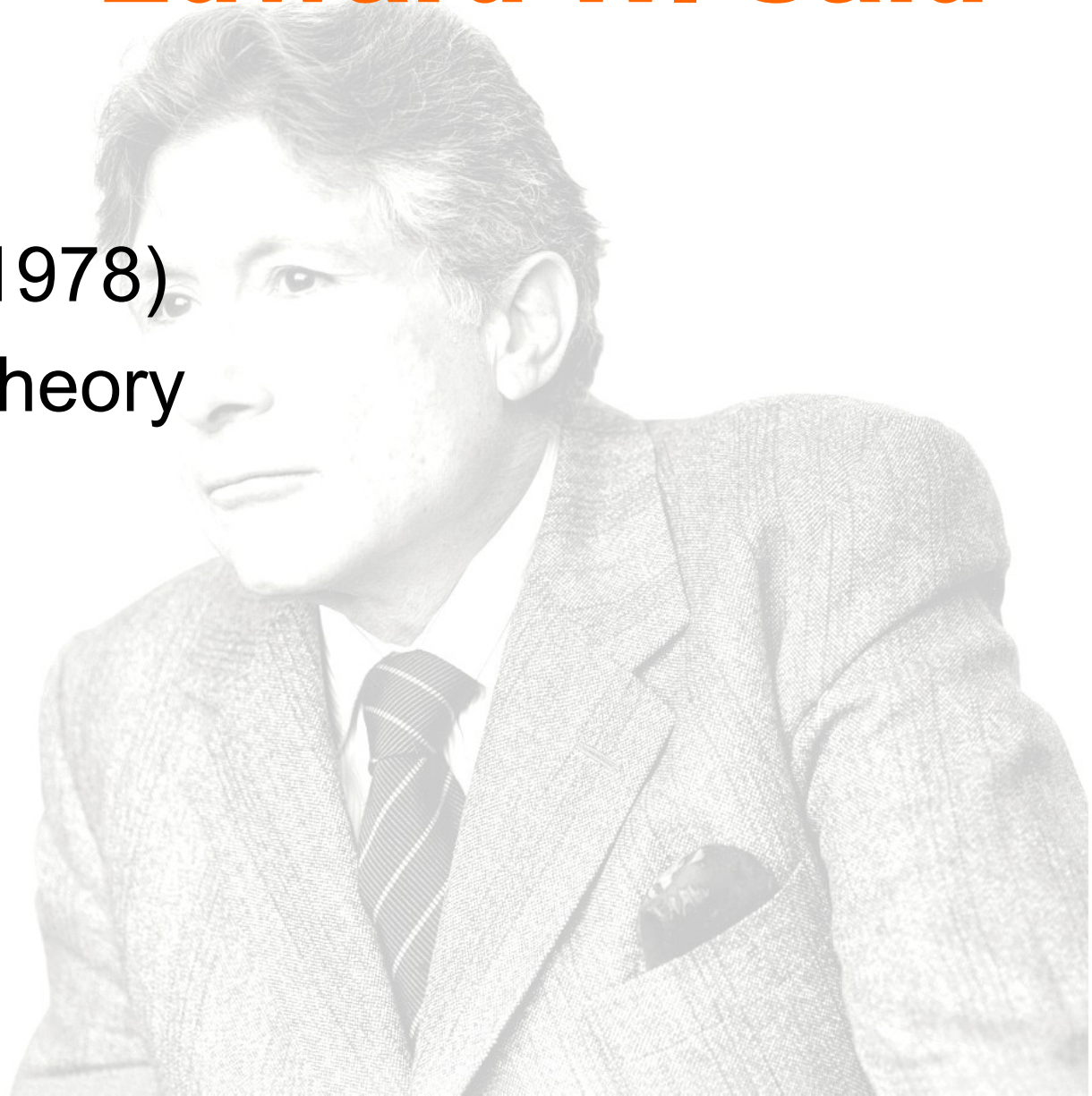


C. Fayed Davis & Susan Greene

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 in a historical or colonial setting.

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

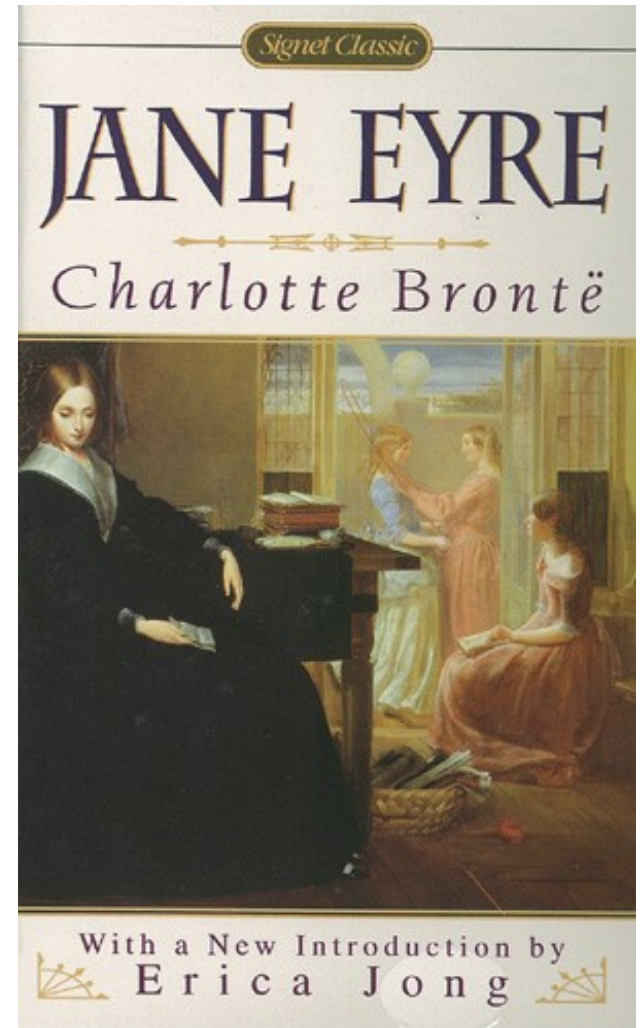
WITH A NEW AFTERWORD

# **(Post)colonialism**

- Imperialism
- Colonialism
- Postcolonialism

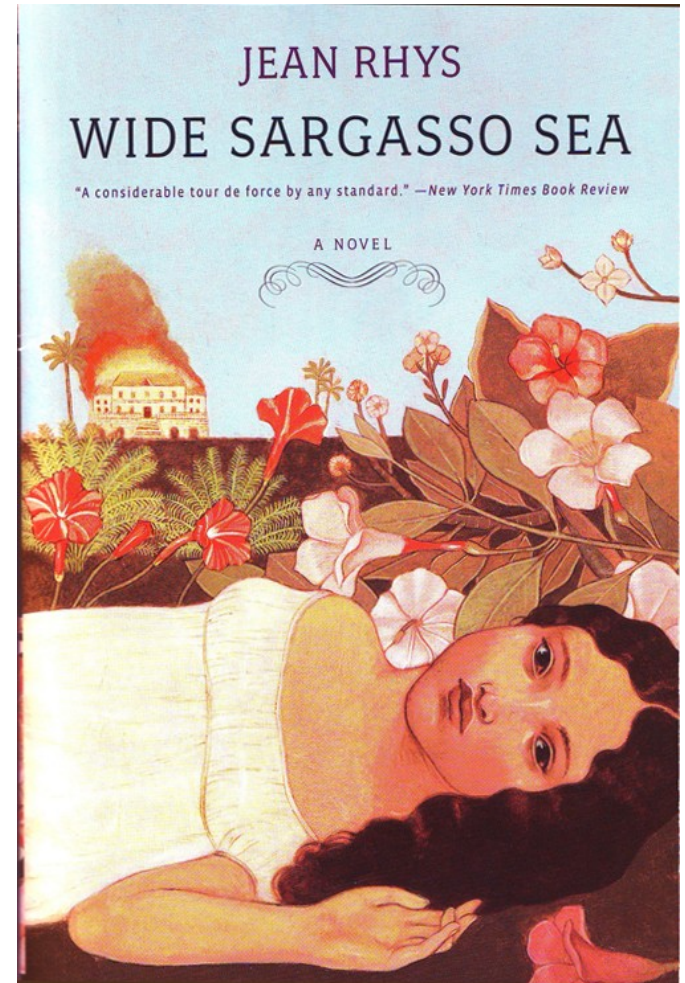
# *Jane Eyre*

- Charlotte Brontë
- 1847



# *Wide Sargasso Sea*

- Jean Rhys
- 1966



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# Oeroeg

# Intertextuality

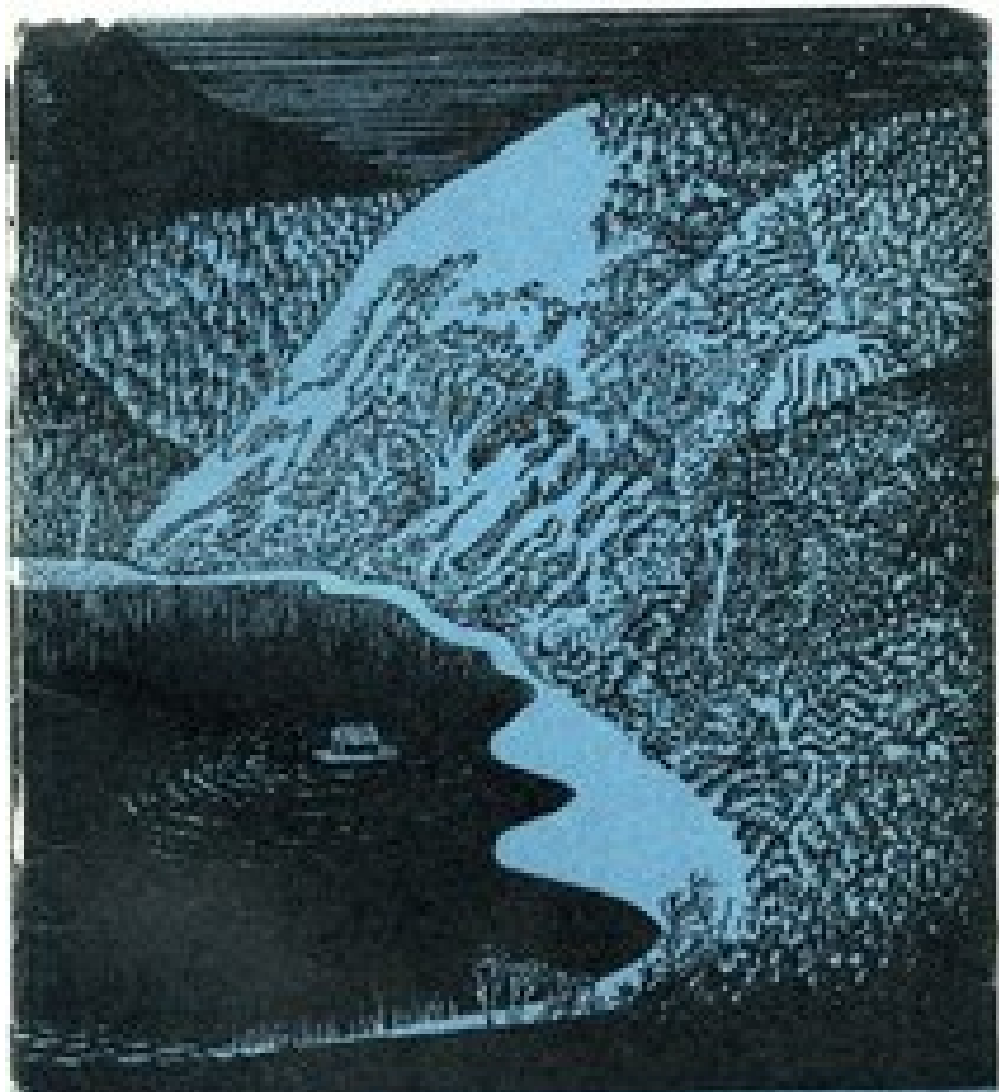
- “Indische teksten zijn doordrenkt van intertekstualiteit en dialogisme.”  
(Pattynama 2007:6)
- Prof. dr. Pamela Pattynama  
(extraordinary professor of Colonial and Postcolonial literature and cultural studies at the University of Amsterdam )

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 1964<sup>7</sup>: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 large, bold, orange letters 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 1964<sup>7</sup>: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 1964<sup>7</sup>: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 1964<sup>7</sup>:100)
- “East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet”. (Kipling)
- Goena-goena & the timeless Orient
- Etc.

Oeroeg

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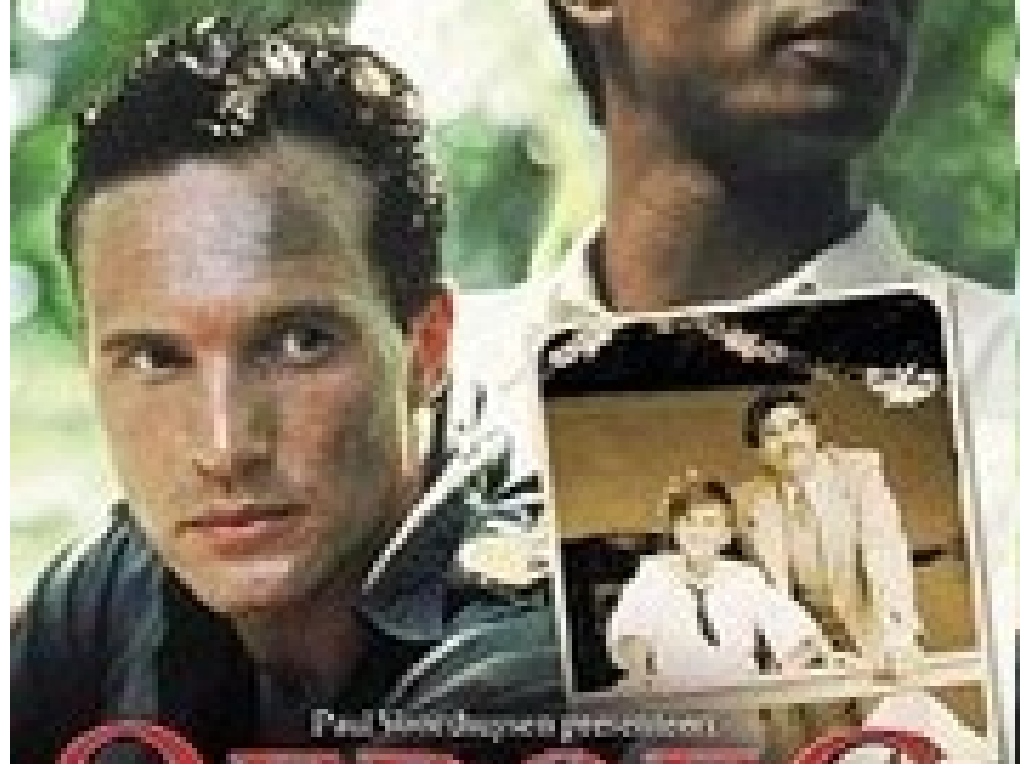




PARAMOUNT COLLECTION

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Paul Hasekamp presentieert

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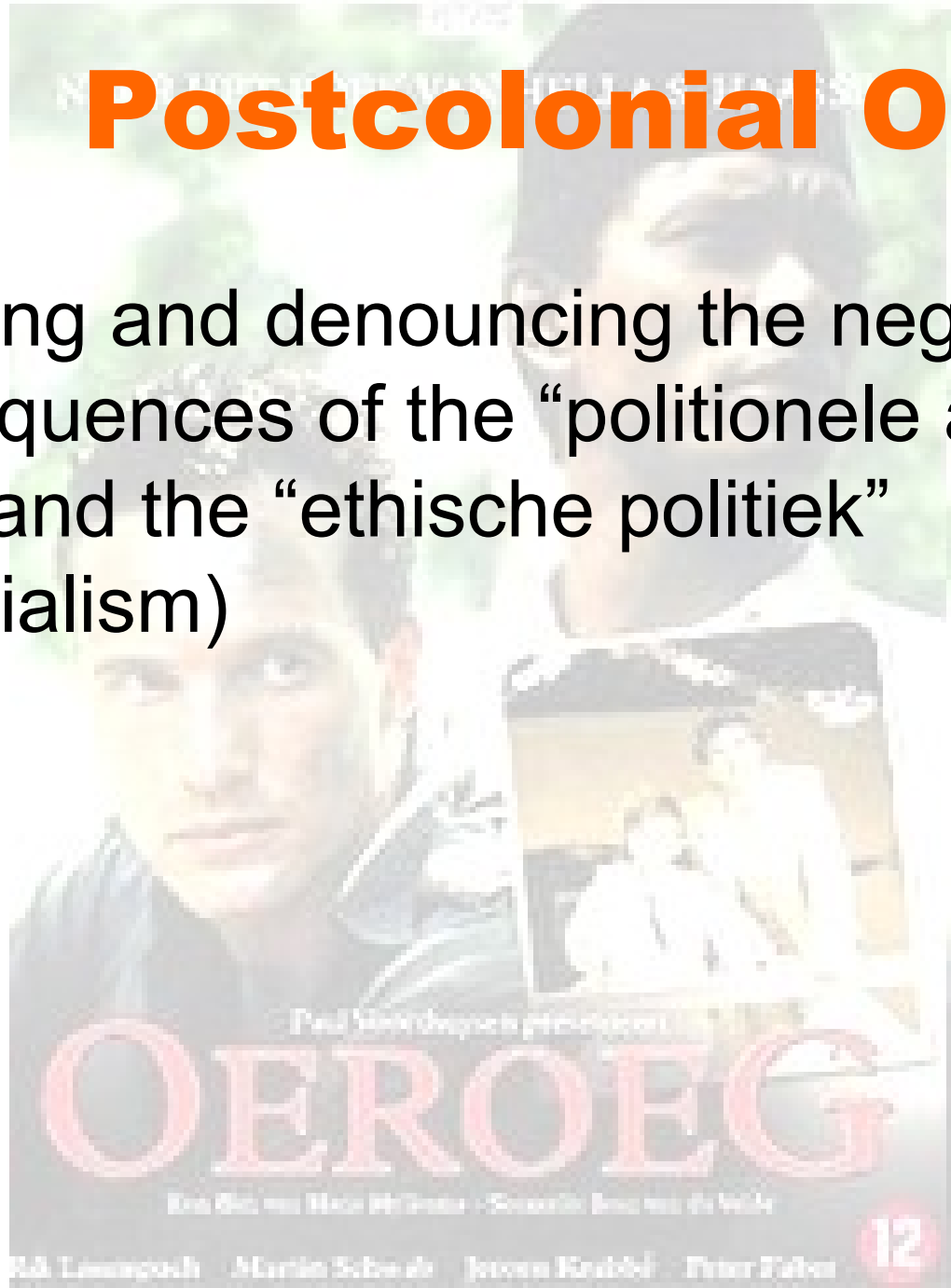
# Oeroeg, the film

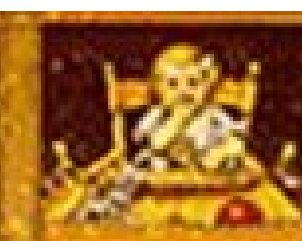
- 1993
- International title: *Going home*
- Director: Hans Hylkema
- Script: Jean van de Velde, Hans Hylkema
- Rik Launspach (Johan ten Berghe), Martin Schwab (Oeroeg), Jeroen Krabbé (Hendrik ten Berghe, Johans vader), Joris Putman (kleine Johan), Ramelan Bekkema (kleine Oeroeg),...



# Postcolonial Oeroeg

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





aa p

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t eu n

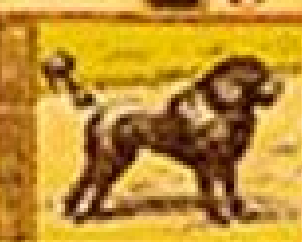
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**in een film van  
HANS HYLKEMA**

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 right hand. 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.

