In this article, Allison Blakely discussed the historical contacts of the Dutch with the Caribbean and adjacent region of South America, which resulted in a cultural exchange and the generation of some literature and art that bear Dutch influences.

Blakely then points out that the African slave trade is the most important among all its trades, for it supplemented the labor forces in the Americas after the slaughter of natives by the Europeans. Regarding the objects of the Dutch slave trade, Blakely listed the other ethnic people used as slaves by the Dutch such as Indonesians and Japanese to claim that the Dutch did not aimed at black people initially until the West India Company realized the huge profit which could be generated from the African slave trade.

He further mentioned that the Dutch colonies were primarily trading colonies, which can be demonstrated fully in the example of the Dutch West Africa, Caribbean and Brazilian colonies.

In tracing back the history of Dutch colony in Suriname, Blakely used the native language developed there, which combined West African elements with English, incorporating elements of Portuguese, French and Dutch to demonstrate its cultural diversity. He then pointed out that though man-made separation by the colonizers existed, in fact the mingling of different ethnic, cultural and social groups happened all the time.

He then put forward evidence demonstrating the strong link of Suriname with the Dutch culture: though much of the Dutch population left at the end of the 18th century, Suriname remained oriented toward Dutch culture with regards to the official language, administrative structure and preeminence of European values.

In the second part of the article, Blakely discussed the importance of Netherland Antilles in the Dutch empire, among which Curacao, which served as the main supply point for the ships coming from the Netherlands to Dutch Brazil and New Netherlands was the most prominent among the six islands, though it first developed because of its salt deposits.

The merging of culture is fully displayed in the language spoken in these islands: whereas Dutch was the official language of all six islands, in some islands Dutch Antilles English was the main spoken language.

In the third part of the article, Blakely delved into the mixture of different ethnic and cultural groups in the present-day Netherlands. Population flow included for example the immigration of “guestworkers” from the Mediterranean lands in the 1970s. Blakely proposed that the most distinctive was the immigrants of black African descent among the Surinamers and Antileans.

However, Blakely then indicated that the integration of different populations is no easy task, for the immigrants, according to a number of studies, are suffering from growing prejudice and discrimination by the majority population. He speculated that the high living standard and comprehensive social welfare system in the Netherlands may have contributed to the immigration, which however places burden on the resources and increases the perception that the new residents are a burden.