

Jan Jaap de Ruiter - The Dutch Party for Freedom. An Analysis of Geert Wilders' Thinking of Islam.



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The Dutch Party for Freedom. An Analysis of Geert Wilders' Thinking of Islam. (Previously published as *The Speck In Your Brother's Eye*) - Rozenberg Publishers, 2012/2023, ISBN 978 90 361 0338 1

In *The Dutch Party for Freedom. An Analysis of Geert Wilders' Thinking on Islam*, Jan Jaap de Ruiter analyses *Marked for Death. Islam's War Against The West and Me* written by Geert Wilders, leader of the Dutch Freedom Party.

The solution Wilders presents involves a high risk of invoking violence, even if he states repeatedly that his program should be realized by the word and the pen. Who will give me the assurance that this would indeed be the case? Who can guarantee us that there will not be people who, like so many Christians, Muslims and French revolutionaries, will take up the sword and 'help' to realize their goals that way? Wilders' book brings us nothing new. Not only that, it is also completely counter-productive. Wilders' message is not like that of religions and ideologies, which not only have a negative but also a positive side. It is exclusively negative. He focuses on the shortcomings of the other, accuses the other of being violent by nature, and uses words that can easily be interpreted as allowing violence to fight the enemy. He acts in exactly the same way as he perceives his opponent does.

He sees the speck in his brother's eye but fails to see the log in his own.

It may very well be the case that Geert Wilders will in due time give up his position as leader of the Freedom Party and leave the Dutch political arena. He might indeed, as was suggested, join an American think tank or travel the world spreading the message of the danger of Islam. Irrespective of where his career leads him, this will not mean that the anti Islam discourse will die out. On the contrary, it is supported by numerous others and in particular on the Internet it is very strong. Therefore countering this ideology by arguments, by pamphlets like this, remains necessary.

'Am I showing myself to be a reprehensible cultural relativist here?', asks De Ruiter in one of the chapters. 'Undoubtedly', is his answer.'

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