

6 major sections and these six volumes fall into the two most important subdivisions. The unifying theme of the first three volumes is the threat of the rise of Nazi Germany to the independence of the Netherlands and the unexpectedly rapid collapse of the Dutch armed forces in May 1940. In an introductory volume almost entirely concerned with the history of the Netherlands in the inter-war period the author points out how both psychologically and militarily the Dutch nation was utterly unprepared for the approaching catastrophe. This view is further developed in Volume 2, covering the eight-month period during which the Netherlands still entertained the illusion that it would be able to maintain a position of neutrality. The third Volume presents a truly masterful account of all the confused events, military and otherwise, which took place during the German invasion of May 1940.

The three most recently published Volumes are even more closely tied together by a unifying theme, each of them treating successive phases of the German policies of Nazification and exploitation during the first three years of the Occupation and the varied reactions of the Dutch population, ranging from wholehearted support to armed resistance. It will not be until after the publication of the seventh Volume (dealing with the last year during which the Germans remained in firm control of the entire country) that this major section of Dr. de Jong's work can be properly evaluated, but it is already evident that he has been eminently successful in enriching and clarifying our understanding of the profound and frequently tragic impact which the German occupation made upon almost every section of the Dutch nation. Other major subjects to be treated will be the experiences of the Dutch concentration camp inmates, hostages, prisoners of war and other persons who were deprived of freedom of movement (Volume 8), the activities of the Dutch government-in-exile during the period 1940-44 (Volume 9), the dramatic and complex events of the final year of the war in Europe (Volume 10), and the history of the Netherlands East Indies during the war (Volume 11). Dr. de Jong hopes to cover the immediate aftermath of the war in a concluding volume to be published in 1985.

One of the most impressive features of the Volumes now available is the richness and accuracy of their documentation. For much of his detailed information the author is heavily indebted to the staff of his institute and to a number of important monographs by distinguished scholars. But Dr. de Jong has supplemented the research of others by his own investigation of many primary sources, some of which are still classified and inaccessible to other historians. Additional evidence to be uncovered in future years will undoubtedly result in a partial revision of some of his conclusions, but it seems highly unlikely that any later historian of the war years will ever equal his knowledge of all developments concerned.

Nor can it be questioned that Dr. de Jong has shown great skill in presenting the many complex developments of the war in a highly readable