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Leiden  
The Netherlands

## Summaries in English

N.A.

### Citation

Summaries in English. (1987). Summaries in English. *Acta Politica*, 22: 1987(2), 254-254.  
Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3449611>

Version: Publisher's Version  
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**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

## Summary

### Pillarization, issues, candidates and ideology in the 1986 elections

by G. A. Irwin, C. van der Eijk, J. M. van Holsteyn and B. Niemöller

This article analyses the result of the 1986 Dutch Parliamentary Elections, and puts different perspectives on voter behavior to a test. These include 'pillarization', i.e. choice determined by voters' position in terms of religion and class; issues, particularly with respect to abortion, income distribution, nuclear arms and nuclear energy; satisfaction with government performance and policy respecting the economy, and candidate orientations.

Religion and class have lost quite a bit of the impact they had in the 1950's. Not only do religious voters support secular parties in large numbers, 1986 showed for the first time a substantial number of secular voters voting for the christian democrats. The religious cleavage in particular remains of importance, be it less dominating than in previous decades.

Issues and satisfaction with government policy on economic affairs are strongly related to party choice, particularly when socioeconomic and 'ethical' issues are combined. Candidate orientations did play a role in voters' choice, but not as strongly as has been suggested by the high sympathy ratings of particularly the CDA's first man: prime minister Lubbers. Other parties could draw on great popularity of their own politicians, including those who did not occupy the first position on the party lists.

Multivariate analysis shows that each of these perspectives contributes significantly to an explanation of voter choice. A combination of all of them yields two (discriminant) functions which summarize almost all their explanatory power. The first is correlated primarily with left-right, and slightly weaker with sympathy for various politicians, and a number of issues. The second reflects mostly frequency of attending religious services and opinions on abortion. In combination, the scores on these two composite variables enable a correct classification of 52% of the voters as to party voted for.

## Medewerkers aan dit nummer

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