

This bachelor degree thesis „Collaborating journalists in the Netherlands during and after World War II” deals with Dutch journalists and press from the beginning of the occupation in 1940 until the end of the process of press cleansing in 1950.

The Dutch press was prepared to collaborate with the German occupation authorities at the beginning of the war. Journalists who decided for active cooperation were given high positions in war press organizations. A certain degree of collaboration was forced onto the majority of the journalists through mandatory membership in the Association of Dutch journalists in summer 1940, and later in the autumn of 1941 also in the Press guild of the Dutch cultural chamber. Collaboration was also encouraged by the newly founded Department of public enlightenment and arts which was striving to enforce ideas of national socialism. Almost all journalists continued to practice their profession for reasons of existence

Already in 1943 the Dutch government in London exile started preparing the postwar process of society cleansing from collaborators. Southern parts of the country were liberated in autumn 1944, the remaining parts had to wait until may 1945. The cleansing process started officially after the founding of the Commission for the press cleansing in 1945 and it continued until 1950. Starting in autumn 1944, three temporary press laws were ratified and in 1951 the final press law was passed, which ended the cleansing proces of the Dutch war press. The only journalist executed after the war was M. Blokzijl.