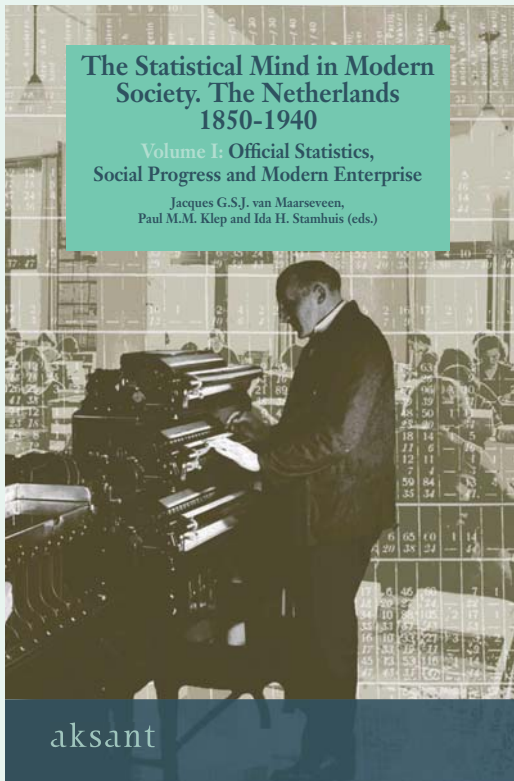


The Statistical Mind in Modern Society

The Netherlands 1850-1940

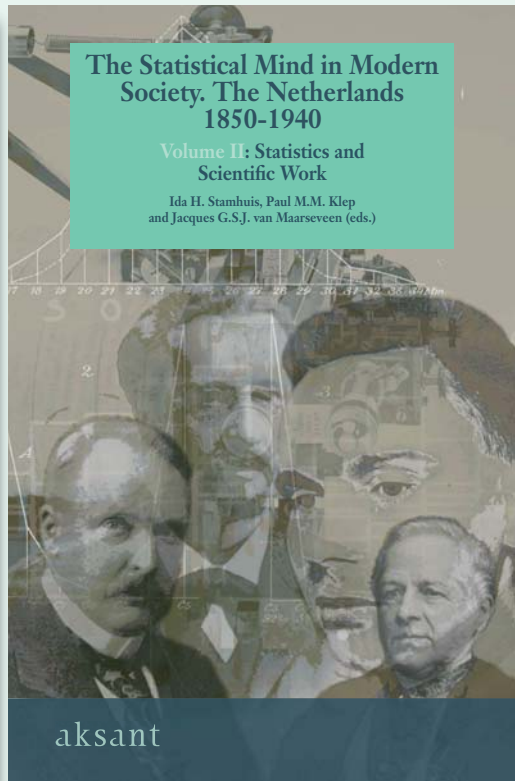


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The Statistical Mind in Modern Society

The Netherlands 1850-1940

In the period 1850-1940 statistics developed as a new combination of theory and practice. A wide range of phenomena were looked at in a novel way and this statistical mindset had a pervasive influence in contemporary society. This development of statistics is closely inter-linked with the process of modernisation of society at the time, and with the rapid progress in the sciences. This was not always a smooth process. The increasing influence of the statistical approach sometimes evoked strong opposition on the part of government, business and science, and gave rise to lively debates.

The 27 contributions in this publication, produced by experts from various disciplines, cover a great diversity of topics. In addition to

the institutionalisation and internationalisation of official governmental statistics, attention is paid to statistics supporting policies for modernising society, such as social legislation. The application of statistics in trade and industry (such as banking and insurance, and the railways) and in the sciences (demography, geography, genetics, historiography, agricultural and medical sciences) is also discussed, as well as the general emergence of thinking in terms of probabilities and the influence of mechanisation in statistics.

This publication is a follow-up to *The statistical mind in a pre-statistical era: The Netherlands 1750-1850* (Paul M.M. Klep and Ida H. Stamhuis, eds), published in 2002.

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