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The first international reform movement and its failure in the Netherlands.

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Summary: In the early years of the 20th century an international reform movement on mathematics education originated in Germany and France, which influenced math teaching in many European countries. One of the countries in which this movement had relatively little impact was the Netherlands. Although several attempts were made to incorporate calculus into the (exam) program of the gymnasia and the HBS (the Dutch Realschule), these attempts were not very successful. It was not until 1958, that calculus was included in the exam program of these schools. Concerning geometry, attempts for reform were even less successful. The only major reform was the introduction of analytical geometry in the program of the gymnasia in 1918. The geometry program for the HBS remained unchanged until 1958, when descriptive geometry was replaced by analytical geometry. It was not before 1968, when also a major reform of Dutch secondary education as a whole was established, that under the influence of the new math movement mathematics teaching underwent a drastic reform. In this paper we will discuss the failed attempts for reform and the underlying reasons for this failure.

Classification: A30 D30

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