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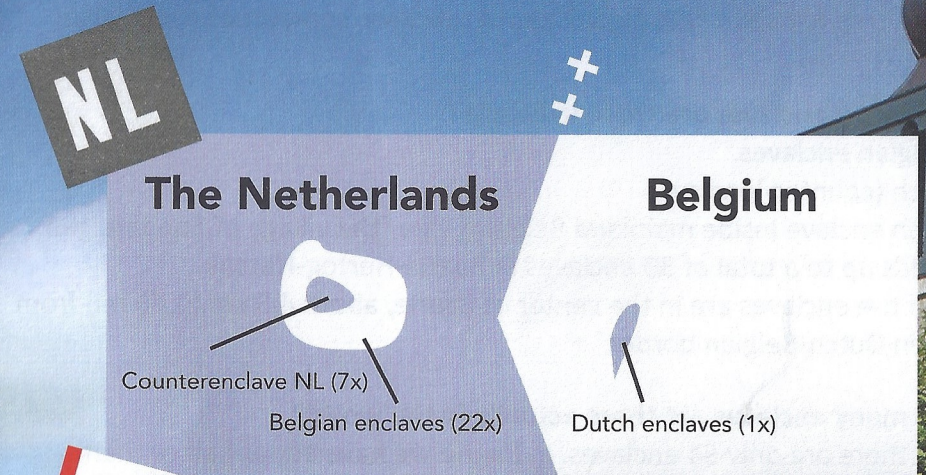
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FACTS ABOUT THE ENCLAVE SITUATION

10 Most important facts about the enclave situation of Baarle-Hertog-Nassau.



ABOUT BAARLE



1. Enclaves? What's that actually?

An enclave is a piece of land of one nation state which is completely surrounded by another nation state.

- a piece of Belgian territory inside The Netherlands is a Belgian enclave.
- a piece of The Netherlands inside Belgium is a Dutch enclave.
- a piece of The Netherlands inside a Belgian enclave - an enclave inside an enclave so to speak - is called a counterenclave, sometimes even called exclave.

2. How many enclaves are there in Baarle?

- 22 Belgian enclaves.
 - 7 Dutch (counter-)enclaves.
 - 1 Dutch enclave inside mainland Belgium, near the village of Zondereigen.
- That adds up to a total of 30 enclaves in Baarle-Hertog-Nassau. Most of the enclaves are in the center of Baarle, about 4.5 km (2,75 mi) from the main Dutch-Belgian border.

3. How many enclaves are there actually in the world?

In total there are only 64 enclaves. In Baarle we have about half of them. Baarle is world champion!
One could safely say that Baarle is the world capital of enclaves.

World Capital of Enclaves

4. Why are there enclaves in Baarle?

At the end of the 12th century, Belgium and The Netherlands didn't exist yet, the land belonged to overlords and vassals. The vassals were striving to control as large a piece of land as they could, so they would have a lot of income from taxes on eg. the harvest of their subjects.

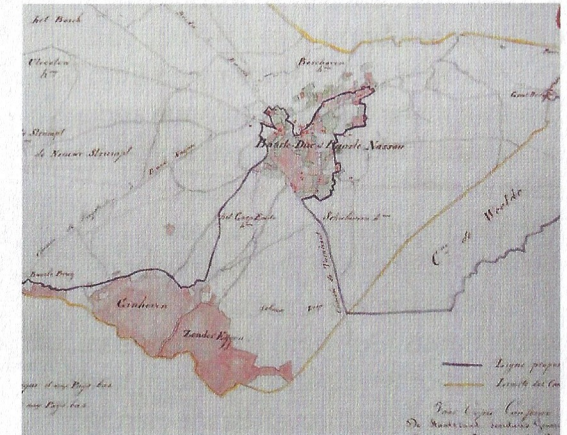
1198 THE most important year in our story!

The Lord of Breda, Godfried II of Schoten, feels threatened and asks Duke Hendrik I of Brabant for protection. Godfried donates part of his property to the Duke of Brabant and becomes the biggest -uncultivated- part back as a fief. The parts that were already cultivated (and thus paying taxes) the Duke kept to himself. These lands were in and around Baarle and therefore the basis of our enclaves.

As we said before, Netherlands and Belgium didn't exist yet, so at this time one couldn't consider them enclaves yet.

Somewhat later a real administrative division between the municipalities was put through and people started to talk about Baarle-onder-Breda (Baarle under Breda) and Baarle-onder-den-Hertog (Baarle under the Duke).

Even later, in **1360**, Baarle-Hertog joins the Land of Turnhout. From then on the border between the regions Breda and Turnhout goes through the village of Baarle. Still no enclaves, Belgium and The Netherlands still don't exist as nations.



Map of enclaves Baarle 1360

5. How the name Baarle-Nassau came to be.

In **1403** Lord Engelbrecht of Nassau marries the then eleven-year-old Johanna of Polanen and becomes the new Lord of Breda. Baarle-under-Breda becomes Baarle-under-Nassau, in short; Baarle-Nassau



Mausoleum Engelbrecht I van Nassau and Johanna van Polanen. This is located in the 'Grote kerk' of Breda.



6. 1648 The Peace of Münster; the enclaves are born!

The Peace of Münster treaty ending the Dutch war of independence and recognises the independent Dutch Republic.

The border between the Seven United Provinces of The Netherlands (The Netherlands) and the Southern Netherlands (Belgium) runs between the lands of Breda and Turnhout, and therefore straight through Baarle-Hertog en Baarle-Nassau. In Baarle a rather obscure enclave situation starts. In the cause of history at least 15 times it is tried to untangle the relatively vague border situation, but all in vain.

7. 1830 - or was it 1839- Belgium gains independancy.

In 1810 the southern and northern Netherlands unite and the border -and therefore the enclaves as well- seize to exist. Belgium gains independence from The Netherlands by means of a revolution that starts in 1830. The Treaty of London officially recognises Belgian so the threat of London seals Belgian sovereignty in 1839. From that point on Baarle again has internationally recognised borders.

8. Determining the borders.

In 1843 the location of the border between The Netherlands and Belgium was determined. The whole border.... except in Baarle! It was deemed too difficult by the border commission. "We'll get back to that later", the prevailing thought was.



Ratification Peace of Munster

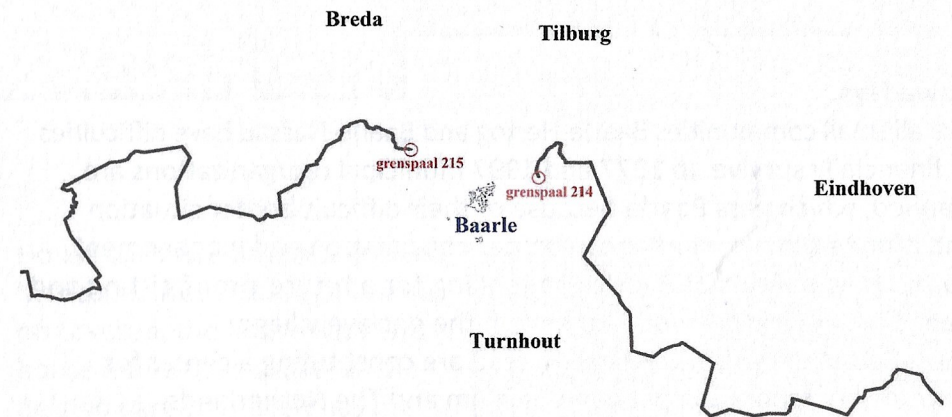


Belgian rebellion in Brussel

The last point where they could agree on the border received marker no. 214. After Baarle, about 52 km further, they started again with border marker no 215. There, the exact location of the border was clear again. Of course, the border commission forgot to get back to the area between marker no. 214 and 215. That's how a hole in the border of about 54 km came to be.

9. Closing the hole in the border.

In 1974 the border between border marker no. 214 and 215 was determined and thus the hole in the border closed.



10. Determining the borders of the enclaves.

After 15 years of measuring by the cadastres (land registration offices) of both Belgium and The Netherlands, the borders of the Dutch and Belgium enclaves are finally determined in 1995. A last undetermined piece of territory, called "No man's land" locally, is determined to be Belgian soil and becomes the last enclave. The grand total of enclaves in Baarle is 30: 22 Belgian enclaves inside The Netherlands and 8 Dutch enclaves in Belgium - of which 7 are located inside a Belgian enclave.

In the past enclaves weren't uncommon. This situation occurred everywhere, as a consequence of feudalism and fiefdoms. Nowadays most of these have disappeared and only 64 are left in the world. This means that only 34 of them are located elsewhere. Nowhere else are more than 5 situated together, Baarle is truly unique with it's 30 enclaves!



1995.

A plaquette on the occasion of the enclave borders was made.

This plaquette can be found in the centre of Baarle.



Nowadays.

Like all small communities Baarle-Hertog and Baarle-Nassau have difficulties to financially survive. In 1977 and 1997 municipal reorganizations are planned, which pass Baarle because of their difficult border situation and it's need for constant cross-border consultation and management. Both municipalities of Baarle are looking for a future-proof, fitting and trans-border juridical model to govern the enclave village.

Thus, Baarle-Hertog and Baarle-Nassau are constituting a center for innovative cooperation between Belgium and The Netherlands.

Gemeenschappelijk Orgaan Baarle (GOB).

In 1998 the Gemeenschappelijk Orgaan (Common Organ) Baarle is founded. This is a body to make legally binding decisions concerning the municipal policy considering joint topics in the enclave area, like road construction and maintenance, decisions considering the joint municipal center and library, and so on. Both city councils meet together three times a year in the GOB composition.



Installation Common Organ Baarle

More info:

Bezoekerscentrum Baarle
Singel 1, Baarle-Nassau.



House with two house numbers.

In the smallest enclave of Baarle, on Loveren, the house with two house numbers is situated. The Belgian part on the left has no. 2. The Dutch part has no. 19. The border runs right through the front door here!



How can you see in which country you are?

In the center of Baarle-Hertog-Nassau the house numbers are decorated with the colours of the flags of the respective country. The small crosses on the sidewalk and the iron tacks in the road surface show the borders of the enclaves. This way you always know in which country you are.

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