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(2015) Cold War Science and the Transatlantic Circulation
of Knowledge**

Smit, J.P.

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Dorsmans paradigmatische voorbeelden van de blik van binnenuit – studentenleven en benoemingspolitiek – heeft Cohen echter opvallend genoeg niet altijd even veel te vertellen. Deels komt dit door Dorsmans eigen redactionele ingrijpen. In het originele typoscript van zijn memoires citeert Cohen veelvuldig uit eigen brieven en publicaties. Broeyer en Dorsman besloten dergelijke passages weg te laten om de leesbaarheid van het boek te bevorderen. Gevolg is dat Cohens verslag van zijn groentijd, een lang citaat uit een enquête van dagblad *Het Vaderland*, niet in de *Levensherinneringen* is opgenomen. Daarnaast is Cohen zelf van mening dat een uitweiding over het studentenleven te veel plaats zou innemen. Om die reden vermeldt hij er, op het genoemde citaat na, weinig over.

De echte waarde van Cohens memoires als bron voor de universiteitsgeschiedenis liggen dan ook ergens anders. Via dit werk kunnen wetenschapshistorici prachtig in kaart brengen hoe belangrijk (in) formele netwerken en contacten tussen wetenschappers waren, hoe die contacten tot stand kwamen, en hoe de opgebouwde netwerken in stand gehouden werden (via kerstkaarten!). Na het lezen van de *Levensherinneringen* ben ik ervan overtuigd dat dergelijke netwerken en contacten voor een groot deel het succes van Cohens carrière als wetenschapper verklaren. Ze hielpen hem aanvankelijk ook tijdens de oorlog toen het bestuur van de Nederlandsche Chemische Vereeniging de Duitsers bewoog om Cohen uit Vught vrij te laten. De waanzinnige daadkracht van de bezetters, en Cohens eigen koppigheid om niet te willen onderduiken, werden hem later alsnog fataal.

Hans Schouwenburg (Universiteit Maastricht)

J. van Dongen, F. Hoeneveld and A. Streefland (eds.), *Cold War Science and*

the Transatlantic Circulation of Knowledge (Leiden: Brill 2015) 293 pp., ISBN 978 90 04 26421 2. €115.

Like water incrementally descending a cascade, the Soviet-American affair of the Cold War trickled down deep into the cracks of Western European science. This subtle reformulation of John Krige's 'American consensual hegemony' is one of the merits of *Cold War Science and the Transatlantic Circulation of Knowledge*. The volume is the outcome of a workshop on 'Cold War Science' organized at the Lorentz Center in Leiden in 2013. It consists of twelve contributions arranged under four headings: 'Science and Secrecy', 'Dutch Perspectives', "'Cold War" Science?' and 'Scientific Hubris'. The first two parts address the theme of circulation of knowledge, the third part has a historiographical focus and the last part highlights imaginative or disquieting examples of science during the Cold War.

The volume responds to historiographical developments in studies of Cold War science. Krige, who both was present at the workshop and contributed to the volume, laid the foundation in his *American Hegemony and the Postwar Reconstruction of Science in Europe* (2006). Hunter Heyck & David Kaiser (2010) and Naomi Oreskes & Krige (2014) since then called for more transnational approaches to the topic. Kapil Raj (2013) recently plead to make studies of the 'circulation' of knowledge more 'global', while paying attention to the transformation of knowledge in the process. The editors of this volume adhere to these developments in their claim that the tension between the local and the global is central to their volume.

The volume's main focus is on the relation between science and national governments, both on a local and a global level. The state, Krige concludes his contribution, was a 'regulator of knowledge flows in the core

of the global system'. He demonstrates that 'even' nuclear weapon knowledge circulated around the globe, albeit in non-linear forms and dependent on local circumstances. The United States, for example, received 'positive guidance' for their weapon research from the United Kingdom and gave 'negative guidance' to French research. In many situations scientists actually preferred closer ties to (and control by) the state, as this would indirectly result in a distancing from the military. In their contribution, Friso Hoeneveld and Jeroen van Dongen analyze the fundamental research executed by the Dutch National Defense Organization (RVO), which was deliberately placed within the civilian organization for applied scientific research (TNO). They explicate the 'quid pro quo' situation in international defense research, in which small nations could negotiate circulation of, especially, US nuclear knowledge by offering other expert knowledge in exchange.

The other side of the coin was science turning into a 'diplomatic tool'. For small nations like Denmark and the Netherlands original scientific knowledge could increase their international political standing and could break secrecy proclamations. Simone Turchetti shows that states, in the NATO Science Committee, used secrecy of science as 'key policy device', 'constructively evading' political sensitivities by transforming it into scientific affairs. Matthias Heymann *et al.* report on the fascinating events that took place on Greenland during the early Cold War: from the politics of weather stations to a nuclear disaster that shook up Danish-American diplomatic relations.

Scientists or small nations were by no means mere victims of the Cold War geopolitical situation. Abel Streefland, for example, shows that Jacob Kistemaker found ingenious ways to turn the seemingly obstructive American demands for classification of his gas centrifuge research to his

own good. The Dutch politicians were also suspicious of the American motives and tailored the classification request to their own economic needs. Giles Scott-Smith tells the story of scientists using the Fulbright scholarships – a US foreign policy instrument – to catalyze their own careers. In another mind-boggling case study – in which the American hegemon, incidentally, is largely absent – Herman Roozenbeek analyzes the chemical warfare research executed by Dutch, Belgian and French scientists at North-African test sites.

The two historiographical contributions, by David Baneke and Jessica Wang, question the borders of 'Cold War science'. Baneke argues that besides Cold War politics, intra-continental relations and the process of decolonization were at least as important in shaping science policy in Europe. Wang, furthermore, pleads for calling into question existing disciplinary, chronological and institutional boundaries. In her study on the connection between state power and social knowledge she focuses on the continuity of a colonial discourse before and after 1945, as well as the importance of the many international (non)governmental organizations.

As a minor critical comment, the volume all in all leaves the Western frame in studies of science during the Cold War largely intact, in spite of its attempts to break dominant national perspectives. Also, it is a shame that this volume, while only containing a very limited number of images, is somewhat expensive. However, the fact remains that this volume contains several fascinating case studies and provides interesting historiographical nuances, especially by paying serious attention to 'small' European nations.

Jorrit Smit (Universiteit Leiden)

David Baneke, *De ontdekkers van de hemel. De Nederlandse sterrenkunde in de twintigste*