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Title: Principled pragmatism: VOC Interaction with Makassar 1637-68, and the nature of

company diplomacy

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Stellingen

- 1. The Directors' views on the Company's diplomacy in the Charter area contained both explicit statements and implicit assumptions of cultural relativism.
- 2. The High Government's diplomacy towards Makassar was a dynamic process driven by decrease in trust as its motor.
- 3. There was a comparable and compatible pursuit of interests in Batavia and Makassar to make meaningful communication in the diplomatic negotiations between the two possible. The conflict between the two originated in conflicting interests more than incompatible world views.
- 4. The states system in Southeast Asia formed the closest parallel to the Western European states system in the early modern world.
- 5. The contribution of the periphery to European dynamism in the early modern period dynamism may well have been the process of investigation of and reflection on things foreign that it led to.
- 6. For all continuities that may be pointed to between early modern and late nineteenth and twentieth century colonialism, when it comes to the colonisers' view of themselves compared to their ideas of their non-western contacts, it seems reasonable to regard the former period as more open than the latter.
- 7. Structural explanations are of little value unless checked against empirical cases where the role of agency is integrated.

- 8. In global history, even in studies of interaction, there should always be an element of comparison included. Such comparisons should be based on non-Eurocentric models.
- 9. Radical Post modernism is an untenable proposition. Thrown out by the door, the quest for "reality" will sneak in again by the window.
- 10. Only in the eyes of outsiders could Norway be considered an attraction of "exotic cool".
- 11. Of soccer and Ice-hockey the latter is the truer to life: Players enter, are sent off and re-enters into the arena the whole match through.