



Universiteit  
Leiden

The Netherlands

## The imperative of success: United Nations Peacekeeping in Cambodia (1991-1993)

Stam, W.

### Citation

Stam, W. (2023, October 18). *The imperative of success: United Nations Peacekeeping in Cambodia (1991-1993)*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3645875>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3645875>

**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

# Acknowledgements

Writing a dissertation, especially in the field of history, requires much patience and independence. The most difficult part is perhaps the solitude and isolation in which a research is conducted and a manuscript is written. Yet, this thesis would not have been there without the people who have guided and supported me throughout this journey.

First and foremost, I am very grateful to Ben Schoenmaker and Thijs Brocades Zaalberg. They both sparked my interest in UNTAC during a fascinating research seminar on UN peacekeeping in the 1990s when I was a Research Master student at Leiden University. I would like to thank Ben for his confidence in me, his sagacity and his humanity. I thank Thijs for our valuable sparring sessions, sometimes even at emblematic UN locations as the gardens of the Peace Palace in The Hague and UN Headquarters in New York. I would like to sincerely thank Arthur ten Cate, Isabelle Duyvesteyn, Andrew Gawthorpe, André Gerrits, Bob de Graaff, Pierre Grosser and Alanna O'Malley for their willingness to take part in the reading- and opposition committees.

This research would not have been possible without the generous financial support from the Netherlands Veterans Institute (VI) and the Netherlands Institute for Military History (NIMH). I am particularly grateful to Martin Elands, head of the Knowledge and Research Centre of the VI for his trust, support and patience. I also would like to express my gratitude to former NIMH-director Piet Kamphuis and to all my colleagues at the NIMH who have supported me, in a myriad of ways. Erik van Oosten did a brilliant job on the maps and formatting work, and I thank Mike Sanders for proofreading the manuscript. I am grateful to my paranymp Dion Landstra for his camaraderie throughout the past years and for being a delightful travel companion during our research trips to New York.

The Institute for History of Leiden University has been of invaluable support, and especially its former director of research Peter Meel. I would like to thank all my colleagues from the Huizinga building, with special gratitude to Rebecca Wensma, Inge Ligtvoet and Stefan Penders. I am particularly indebted to Patrick Dassen, Eric Storm, Louis Sicking, Karène Sanchez-Summerer and Henk te Velde for being instrumental in my development as a historian. I would also like to express my great gratitude to the History department of Columbia University in New York, and especially to Lien-Hang Nguyen, for inviting me as a guest scholar for a semester. Simon and Cristina Carr have made my stay in New York unforgettable by adopting me as a member of their heartwarming family.

The Research School for Political History provided an inspiring PhD training programme, and I would like to express my gratitude to Margit van der Steen. At various international conferences I benefited from helpful comments on my work by Richard Vinen, Isabelle Davion and Anne-Isabelle Richard. I also thank Magnus Petersson, Kersti Larsdotter and Janne Haaland-Matlary for a very inspiring PhD course in Oslo, and Thomas Vaisset, Frédéric Dessberg and Beatrice de Graaf for a wonderful conference about "Soldiers in Peacemaking" in Vincennes.

I am grateful to all the archivists of the archives I visited. At the UN archives in New York, Stephen Haufek, Anne Fraser, Monika Tkacova and Kathryn Lee were extremely helpful. I

would also like to mention Herman van Bruggen, Rokus van den Bout, Harold Zee and Philippe Tournon. I owe a special debt to the people who agreed to be interviewed or correspond via e-mail, and oftentimes share their personal archives with me. I would also like to thank Andrew Barros, Richard Betts, Kosal Path, François Trucy and Erik Blommestijn for stimulating conversations. My friends, who I have seen too little in the past years, have given me critical support. Special thanks go to Clarisse & Matthew, Geerten, Guido, Mike & Irina, Nick and Stefan.

My final and most important acknowledgements are to my family. My parents, Els and Edwin, I can never thank enough for their unwavering support. I thank my brother Jip for always being there for me, and standing by my side on the day of my PhD defence as paranymph. I thank Hans and Mies for being caring and uplifting grandparents, and I wish that Henk and Greet could have witnessed this project's completion. I am also very grateful to my in-laws: Monique, Antoine, Mickaël and Louise.

The person to whom I am most indebted is Gala, who appeared in my life not long after I started this adventure. She truly lived the entire project and incessantly gave me courage, happiness and inspiration, for which I am forever grateful. This thesis has required a lot of her patience, but I cannot imagine to have completed it without her boundless love and support. It is therefore dedicated to her.

# Curriculum vitae

Wietse Stam (1991, The Hague) studied History at Leiden University (2009–2016), the University of Strasbourg (2012–2013) and Sciences Po Paris (2014–2015), after which he worked as a trainee at the political department of the Netherlands embassy in Paris. He wrote his PhD dissertation at the Institute for History of Leiden University and was a visiting scholar at Columbia University while doing his research at the United Nations archives in New York. At Leiden University, Wietse taught courses in the BA and MA programmes of Contemporary History and International Relations. He currently works as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Military History where he is involved in the research project *The Netherlands and Afghanistan 2001–2021*. As a reserve officer in the Dutch military, he works as an operational diarist, in which capacity he covered the war in Ukraine and the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic.