



Universiteit  
Leiden  
The Netherlands

## Constructing colonial legitimacy in the Moluccas, 1750-1870

Post, P.G.

### Citation

Post, P. G. (2025, October 23). *Constructing colonial legitimacy in the Moluccas, 1750-1870*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4279515>

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/1887/4279515>

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

## Acknowledgements

This dissertation marks the culmination of many years of research, writing, and shared conversations. I could not have completed it without the support, encouragement, and generosity of many people.

First and foremost, my thanks go out to Alicia Schrikker, whose intellectual creativity, thoughtful guidance, and steady support shaped this dissertation from beginning to end. I am also indebted to Jos Gommans, whose wide-ranging historical vision and constructive advice added direction throughout the project, and to Sanne Ravensbergen, the project's postdoctoral researcher, for her feedback.

I was particularly lucky to share this journey with Alexander van der Meer—from first exploring colonial history together to undertaking archival trips and language training in Indonesia. Defending our dissertations on the same day feels like the perfect ending to this shared adventure.

At Leiden University, I was surrounded by generous and inspiring colleagues. I am thankful to Diederik Smit, Lennart Bes, Jeroen Duindam, Ligia Giay, Pouwel van Schooten, Lauren Lauret, Bart Verheijen, Quinten Somsen, Guanmian Xu, Marlisa den Hartog, Wouter Linmans, Dirk Alkemade, Bente de Leede, Sander Tetteroo, Maarten Manse, Luc Bulten, Tristan Mostert, Karwan Fatah-Black, Alessandra de Mulder, Shohei Okubo, and Ody Dwicahyo for the stimulating conversations, hallway chats, and encouragement. I was also lucky to share an office with Pieter Houten, Shanshan Wen, Tom Duurland, Jonathan Bos, Neilabh Sinha, and Roosje Peeters, whose warmth and humour brightened each day. I would also like to thank the colleagues from the Leiden secretariat, particularly Inge Ligtvoet, for always having the answer to practical questions.

The Posthumus Institute provided a stimulating academic environment, and I especially appreciate the feedback from Michael Auwers and Takahiro Yamamoto, which helped refine key elements of my argument.

Time abroad added depth and colour to this project. In Jakarta, I owe much to the staff at the Indonesian National Archives—especially Nugrahita Rizky—and to Bondan Kanumoyoso at Universitas Indonesia. I am grateful to Margreet van Til, her husband Roel, and their children, as well as Marrik Bellen, for their hospitality. In Yogyakarta, I thank the dedicated teachers at Alam Bahasa—especially Ruth, Mila, Agnes, and Thomas—and the staff and

scholars at UGM, particularly Sri Margana and Abdul Wahid. In London, the staff at the British Library provided invaluable assistance that greatly facilitated my research.

For help in locating and interpreting archival material, I thank the staff at the National Archives in The Hague, Lennart Visser, Henk Niemeijer, and Yuanita Wahyu Pratiwi. Structural funding came from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), with additional research trips supported by the Leiden University Fund (LUF), the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, and the Posthumus Institute COVID Fund. I am grateful to Bresser-Chapple for language editing and careful preparation of the manuscript.

Many scholars shared their ideas and time, including Arthur Weststeijn, Hans Hägerdal, Anne-Isabelle Richards, Leonard Blussé, Wim Manuhutu, Bambang Purwanto, Rick Honings, Peter van Zonneveld, Chris F. van Fraassen, Gerrit Knaap, Hans Straver, Damien Tricoire, Siep Stuurman, Remco Raben, Dries Lyna, and Iksaka Banu. I also thank the members of the defence committee for their valuable feedback on the manuscript.

From my time in Maastricht, I acknowledge the early encouragement of Nico Randeraad, Pablo del Hierro, Georgi Verbeeck, and Mirko Reithler. At Utrecht University, I thank Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk, Christiaan van Bochove, Anna-Luna Post, Bram Hilkens, John Tang, Renger de Bruin, and Ewout Hasken for their support.

To my friends—Avril, Daan, Florian, Hans, Isa, Jaap, Juul, Karlien, Lex, Malou, Milan, Rosalie, Ronald, Ruud, Serge, Stephanie, Sven, Vincent, and Wais—thank you for your enduring friendship and perspective beyond academia.

To my family: my mother Tiny, my father Peter, my sisters Laura and Chloé, my brother-in-law Romen, and my beloved nephews Nikai, Rheza, and Ilias—thank you for your love and interest throughout. I also thank Pierre and Paulette, Jos, Liane, Simone, Geert, and Christian, and am grateful to Bart and Marianne, Lisa, Mariano and Joella for their kindness.

Finally, above all, my deepest thanks go to Jodie, the love of my life. Your unwavering belief in me, your continued support, and your infinite patience have carried me through this process more than you know.

## Curriculum Vitae

Philip Post (Brunssum, 1989) obtained his BA in Arts and Culture from Maastricht University in 2011. He subsequently studied at Radboud University Nijmegen, where he completed a pre-master in Political Science (2012), an MA in Political Science (bene meritum, 2014), and an MA in Modern History (cum laude, 2015). For his master's thesis on Denis Diderot, he received the Thesis Award from the Dutch-Belgian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in 2014. Following his studies, he worked as a lecturer at Maastricht University (2015–2018), where he taught in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and obtained his University Teaching Qualification.

In 2018, he began doctoral research at the Institute for History at Leiden University under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Jos Gommans and Dr. Alicia Schrikker. During this period, he attended courses and masterclasses through the Political History Research School and the N.W. Posthumus Institute, and participated in several national and international conferences. He also taught in the undergraduate history programme. Since 2023, he has been working as a lecturer in socio-economic history at Utrecht University. His dissertation, *Constructing Colonial Legitimacy in the Moluccas, 1750–1870*, was approved in 2025.