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Round Table Discussion. Dutch Research on 1945-1949. January 2019, Amsterdam.

Questions by Hadi Purnama. Phd candidate International Law at VU , Amsterdam. Antwoorden door Peter Romijn (NIOD) en Jeffry Pondaag (!).



- 0.07 minuten. **Hadi Purnama**. "My name is Hadi Purnama. I'm working on my Phd at the VU in Amsterdam. I was part of the PPI in the Netherlands, together with Yance. And I was involved in the discussions since the beginning. When we had the first discussion about this issue with KITLV in Leiden. And the second one at the VU. It was kind of like a very interesting issue for me... Especially because I am working on the issue of human rights and international law."
- 0.46 minuten. **Purnama**. "Regarding this research, when I arrived here it was kind of interesting for me to see how we see the same facts with different view. Especially about the history between the Dutch and Indonesia. During 1945-1950. Because somehow the Dutch government still recognizes the Indonesian independence in 1949. But in Indonesia the independence is on 17 August 1945".
- 1.28. minuten. **Purnama**. "But from my perspective, especially from the international law perspective, is that.... About the history of of colonialism. And also how the United Nations , issues regarding self-determination. It only came about a bit late. And then it became a

mainstream idea. Together with human rights. It's only after the nineteen sixties. .Because at the beginning, I think, the United Nations also still recognized colonial territories and that's also very important."

- 2.09 minuten. **Purnama**. "Because it also recognized that the international law was also part of the colonial framework at that time. My question is: how do you perceive this because this research will have Legal consequences . Either from the national or international perspective because such as what have been worked by Jeffry (Pondaag) with K.U.K.B. on the issues of Rawagede for example. Because it was in The Hague Court , which means the existence of the Dutch government in Indonesia, especially in Rawagede, is still existing for that period of time. Because the Dutch government took responsibility by paying compensation".
- 3.08 minuten. **Purnama**. "And then this is also making clear that the effort at that time to reclaim colonial territory in Nederlands-Indië from Dutch perspective for Indonesia at that time already proclaimed its independence. It becomes a very quite confusing issue. Because the consequences when of all of this research .... If you say there is violence and that the Dutch are wrong it is going to have the consequence that the Dutch should pay compensations at least. Or to recognize that what the Dutch did between 45-50 it is something that was wrong under international law.
- 4.10 minuten. **Purnama**. "If the result is different, it will have different kind of legal consequences. Because all Indonesians who were under the Dutch can go to the court in this country and ask for any kind of compensation because of that. I don't know how it's going on but the impact will be very huge in both countries. I don't know how it will be defined in the research itself."
- 4.50 minuten. **Peter Romijn**. "I think it is a very fascinating problem and I would love to sit together with you discussing this because it's fascinating to think that the Dutch were operating under a changing international law system and an international system of United Nations and everything. A new international world order framework. **And they were participating in Neurenberg. They were participating in Tokyo. And at the same time they failed to recognize that this created a responsibility for them in the Dutch East Indies**. Off course they recognized it in practice. But they didn't recognize it formally.
- 5.31 minuten. **Peter Romijn**. "On all levels: civil administrators, military people, legal people recognized on the Dutch side **that things were going on in Indonesia like we had known here under the German occupation**. As well as the Indonesians under Japanese occupation. **So there was kind of a pushing away of guilt by making it small. I have written an article that is called "War crimes are the guilt of others". Because you cannot imagine yourself to be guilty of war crimes**.
- 6.08. minuten. **Peter Romijn**. "And this is the thing that has to be disentangled. So I love to sit with you and discuss the issue further because this is explicitly part of our research project."
- 6.18 minuten. **Jeffry Pondaag**. "How Waar haalt Nederland het recht vandaan, Peter? Waar haalt Nederland het recht vandaan een land dat 18.000 verder kilometer verderop ligt te bezetten? Je kan het niet goed praten joh, kom op!"
- 6.27 minuten. **Peter Romijn**. "I don't think I am whitewashing in this case!"
- 6.36 minuten. **?**: "Nobody in the Netherlands think they had the right for colonialism. "
- 6.42 minuten. **Jeffry Pondaag**. "Nou, ik zou zeggen, zet dat dan met grote letters op jullie website! Zeg het dan! Maak het duidelijk! "