

Dr. Nikolaos (Koos) van Dam*

Curriculum Vitae

Born April 1st, 1945 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Married to Marinka van Dam-Bogaerts. Father of a daughter and three sons.

Studied Political & Social Sciences at the University of Amsterdam, including International Relations and History of the Modern Middle East, as well as the Arabic Language and Islam, graduating *cum laude* in 1973 with the degree of Doctorandus (Drs) of Political & Social Sciences.

Was awarded the degree of Doctor of Literature at the University of Amsterdam in 1977, after successfully defending his thesis on *The Role of Sectarianism, Regionalism and Tribalism in the Struggle for Political Power in Syria*.

1970-1975	Taught Modern Middle Eastern History at the University of Amsterdam.
1974-1975	Interpreter of Arabic.
1975-1980	Staff Member of the Middle East Section of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
1980-1983	First Secretary at the Netherlands Embassy in Beirut, covering Lebanon, Jordan, Palestinian occupied territories and Cyprus.
1983-1985	Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Netherlands in Tripoli, Libya.
1985-1988	Deputy Director for African and Middle Eastern Affairs at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
1988-1991	Ambassador of the Netherlands in Baghdad, Iraq (accreditation until 2004).
1991-1996	Ambassador of the Netherlands in Cairo, covering Egypt and Palestinian occupied territories.
1996-1999	Ambassador of the Netherlands in Ankara, covering Turkey and Azerbaijan.
1999-2005	Ambassador of the Netherlands in Bonn & Berlin, Germany.
2005-2010	Ambassador of the Netherlands in Jakarta, covering Indonesia and Timor-Leste. Ambassador of the Netherlands to ASEAN (2010). Retired August 1 st , 2010.

- Member of the Dutch Advisory Council for Foreign Affairs, Commission for Peace and Security (2011-).
- Member of the Board of the Foundation The Oriental Institute, Leiden (2011 -).
- Member of the Advisory Board for Education and Research of the Clingendael Netherlands Institute of International Relations (2011 -).

Decorations

- Knight in the Order of Orange Nassau – The Netherlands (1983), in recognition for his role as Chargé d’Affaires a.i. in Lebanon during the Israeli invasion of 1982.
- Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau – The Netherlands (1991), in recognition for his role as Ambassador in Iraq during the Gulf War in 1990.
- Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (2003), in recognition for his role as representative of the Luxembourg European Presidency in Turkey in 1997.
- Knight Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (2005), after serving for almost seven years as Ambassador in Germany.

Languages

Arabic, Dutch, English, French, German and Indonesian.

Publications

Books

1. *The Struggle for Power in Syria: Politics and Society under Asad and the Ba'th Party*, Fourth Edition, London & New York (I.B. Tauris), 1979, 1980, 1996, 2011.
2. *Al-Sira' 'ala al-Sultah fi Suriyah: al-Ta'ifiyah wa al-Iqlimiyah wa al-'Asha'iriyah fi al-Siyasah*, First Authorised Electronic Edition, Jakarta, 2007. Published in two earlier editions in Cairo (Maktabat Madbuli), 1995.
3. *Suriye'de İktidar Mücadelesi*, Istanbul (İlitişim Yayınları), 2000.
4. *De Vrede die niet kwam. Twintig jaar diplomaat in het Midden-Oosten*, Amsterdam (Bulaaq), 1998 (& Jan Keulen). Also as *audiobook* and in *braille*, Nijmegen (Stichting Bibliotheek Le Sage ten Broek), 1998.

5. *Hulanda wa al-'Alam al-'Arabi: Mundhu al-Qurun al-Wusta hatta al-Qarn al-'Ishrin* (ed.), Lochem (De Tijdstroom), 1987.
6. *Nederland en de Arabische Wereld: van Middeleeuwen tot Twintigste Eeuw* (ed.), Lochem (De Tijdstroom), 1987.
7. *De Rol van Sektarisme, Regionalisme en Tribalisme bij de Strijd om de Politieke Macht in Syrië (1961-1976)*, PhD thesis, University of Amsterdam, 1977.

Articles

1. Bahasa! 'Mukjizat Bahasa Indonesia dan Bahasa Arab', *Majalah Tempo*, 26 December 2011 – 1 January 2012.
2. 'The (ir)relevance of academic research to foreign policy making' in: *Delicate Debates on Islam*, Edited by Jan Michiel Otto and Hannah Mason, Leiden, 2011.
3. 'The Banda Islands will never be the same', in: *Des Alwi. Dari Banda Naira menjadi Indonesia*, Jakarta 2011.
4. 'De bloedige 'Arabische lente'', *Internationale Spectator*, December 2011.
5. 'Syrian future scenarios', *Syria Comment*, 27 November 2011.
6. 'The miracle of Bahasa Indonesia and Arabic', *The Jakarta Post*, 12 October 2011.
7. 'Bashar al-Asad is not going to sign his own death warrant', *The Montréal Review*, October 2011.
8. 'The Syrian regime is rapidly running out of options', *The Independent*, 10 August 2011.
9. 'Nikolaos van Dam: Tragically, a bloodbath may now be inevitable', *The Independent*, Saturday, 11 June 2011.
10. 'Nikolaos van Dam: Tragically, a bloodbath may now be inevitable', *The Independent*, Saturday, 11 June 2011.
11. 'Syria: the Dangerous Trap of Sectarianism', *Syria Comment*, 14 April 2011.
12. 'Indonesië: goede relatie niet vanzelfsprekend', *Radio Nederland Wereldomroep*, 10 January 2011.
13. 'Indonesia Adalah Puncak Karier Saya', *Radio Nederland Wereldomroep*, 28 December 2010.
14. 'Des Alwi: The uncrowned king of Banda', *The Jakarta Post*, 16 November 2010.
15. 'Arabic loanwords in Indonesian revisited', *Bijdragen tot de Taal- Land- en Volkenkunde* (Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences of Southeast Asia and Oceania), 166-2/3 (2010), pp. 218-243.

16. 'Bahasa Arab di Indonesia Kontemporer', in: *Membaca Takdir: Pemikiran dan Jejak STA*, Jakarta: Dian Rakyat, 2010, pp. 209-215.
17. 'Perihal Barat terhadap Islam', *Suara Pembaruan*, 7 December 2009. Also in *Pikiran Rakyat*, 4 December 2009.
18. 'Islam from the Perspective of Western Views', *The Jakarta Post*, 30-31 October 2009.
19. 'Islam dalam Pandangan Barat', *Republika*, 29 October 2009.
20. 'Islam, Demokrasi dan Tata Kelola Pemerintahan', *Republika*, 15 October 2009.
21. 'Islam, Democracy and Good Governance in Indonesia', *The Jakarta Post*, 12 October 2009.
22. 'Kata serapan bahasa Arab kolokial dalam Bahasa Indonesia', *Republika*, 2 July 2009.
23. Bahasa! 'Kata serapan Arab: Apakah Ejaan Mengikuti Pelafalan?', *Majalah Tempo*, 15-21 June 2009.
24. 'Arabic loanwords in Indonesian revisited', Conference Paper Workshop 'Kata serapan, dalam bahasa Indonesia', Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, 20 May 2009.
25. 'Ma huwa Islam, wa ma huwa laysa Islaman' ('What is and isn't Islam?'), *Common Ground News Service*, 28 May- 3 June 2009 (in Arabic, English, French, Indonesian and Urdu). Also in *Kulluna Shuraka' fi al-Watan/ALL4SYRIA*, 30 May 2009.
26. 'Arabic loanwords in Indonesian revisited', *The Jakarta Post*, 28 May 2009.
27. 'Syrian Ba'thist Memoirs, An Extended Book Review Essay', *Kulluna Shuraka' fi al-Watan/ALL4SYRIA*, 9-11 May 2009.
28. 'Book Review Essay: Syrian Ba'thist Memoirs', *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter*, Vol. 14 No. 2 (2009), pp. 22-25.
29. 'Understanding Islam: What is Islamic and what not?', *The Jakarta Post*, 1 May 2009.
30. 'Tanggung Jawab Akademisi Islam dan non-Islam', *Republika*, 29 April 2009.
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32. Bahasa! 'Kamus Besar yang Agak Terlalu Sempurna', *Majalah Tempo*, 30 March-5 April 2009.
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 36. 'A personal journey to Aleppo, Bilad al-Sham and the Syrian Arab Republic (in English)', *ALLASYRIA / Kulluna Shuraka' fi al-Watan*, 8 November 2007.
 37. 'In memoriam Frans Steenbrink', *BZ-blad*, November 2007.
 38. 'Bahasa Arab di Indonesia Kontemporer', *Kompas*, 15 October 2007.
 39. 'Arabic language in contemporary Indonesian (1-2)', *The Jakarta Post*, 5-6 October 2007.
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61. 'De opkomst van de Arabisch Socialistische Ba'thpartij in Syrië (1940-1958)', *Internationale Spectator*, XXIII-20, 22 November 1969, pp. 1785-1804.

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2. Muqaddimah li Hussein El-Mudarris wa Olivier Salmon, *al-'Ilaqat ma bayna Hulanda wa Suriyah al-'Uthmaniyah*, Aleppo, 2008.
3. Introduction to Hussein I. El-Mudarris & Olivier Salmon, *Les relations entre les Pays Bas et la Syrie ottomane au XVIIe siècle. Les 400 ans du Consulat des Pays-Bas à Alep(1607-2007)*, Aleppo, 2007, p.1.
4. Foreword to *Perundingan Linggajati – Buku Bergambar untuk Anak-anak / The Linggajati Conference – Picture Book for Children*, Jakarta: Department for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2006, with a Foreword by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda.
5. Introduction to *Duitsland in Beweging*, Nijmegen (Centrum voor Duitsland-Studies), 2001, pp. 10-13. Also in German as *Deutschland im Wandel*, pp. 14-17.
6. Introduction to G.J. van Gelder and E. de Moor (ed.), *The Middle East & Europe: Encounters & Exchanges*, in: *Orientations*, Amsterdam, 1992, pp. 7-9.
7. Preface to P. de Rooy en C. van der Linde, *Op zoek naar stabiliteit in de Oriënt*, SDU uitgeverij, 's-Gravenhage/Universiteit van Amsterdam,

Amsterdam, 1989, pp. ix-x.

Book Reviews

1. 'A tremendous wealth of information', *Sunday Post (The Jakarta Post Sunday Edition)*, 5 April 2009. Review of Russell Jones (gen.ed.) Grijns and de Vries (eds), *Loan-words in Indonesian and Malay* (Indonesian edition).
2. Review of *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia Pusat Bahasa*, Edisi Keempat, Jakarta, 2008, *Sunday Post (The Jakarta Post Sunday Edition)*, 15 February 2009.
3. Review of Russell Jones (gen.ed.) Grijns and de Vries (eds), *Loan-words in Indonesian and Malay*, *Bijdragen tot de Taal- Land- en Volkenkunde* 164, p. 305-308, 2-3 (2008).
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5. Review of Eyal Zisser, *Commanding Syria: Bashar al-Asad and the first years in power* (London: I.B Tauris, 2007), *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, No.3/4, 2007, pp. 478-481 (also in *ALL4SYRIA / Kulluna Shuraka' fi al-Watan*, 17 November 2007).
6. Review of Carsten Wieland, *Syrien nach dem Irak-Krieg. Bastion gegen Islamisten oder Staat vor dem Kollaps?* (Islamkundliche Untersuchungen, 263) (Belin: Klaus Schwarz Verlag, 2004), *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, No. 1/2, 2007, pp. 229-231.
7. Review of Ferdinand Smit, *The Battle for South Lebanon, The Radicalisation of Lebanon's Shi'ites 1982-1985*: 'Postume promotie van Ferdinand Smit', *BZ-blad*, 28 July 2000, p. 8.
8. Review of Annabelle Böttcher, *Syrische Religionspolitik unter Asad*. (Freiburger Beiträge zur Entwicklung und Politik, 25). Arnold Bergstraesser Institut, Freiburg i. Br., 1998, in: *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, No. 3/4, May-August 1999, pp. 505-507.
9. Review of Eberhard Kienle, *Ba'th v Ba'th: The conflict between Syria and Iraq 1968-1989*, London (I.B. Tauris), 1990, in: *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, LII, No. 1/2, January-March 1995, pp. 218-222.
10. Review of Gregor Voss, 'Alawiya oder Nusairiya?' - *Schiitische Machtelite*

- und sunnitische Opposition in der Syrischen Arabischen Republik*, Disseration, Hamburg, 1987, in: *Die Welt des Islams*, XXIX (1989), pp. 207-209.
11. Review of David Roberts, *The Ba'th and the Creation of Modern Syria*, New York, 1987, in: *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 42, No. 1, 1988, pp. 113-114.
 12. Review of Philip S. Khoury, *Urban Notables and Arab Nationalism. The Politics of Damascus 1860-1920*, Cambridge (Cambridge University Press), 1983, in: *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, XLV, No. 5/6, September-November 1988, pp. 721-722.
 13. Review of Dr. Umar F. Abd-Allah, *The Islamic Struggle in Syria*, Berkely, 1983, in: *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, Vol. 18, No. 1, 1984, pp. 57-59.
 14. Review of Fuad I. Khuri (ed.), *Leadership and Development in Arab Society*, Beirut (American University of Beirut), 1981, in *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 1, Winter 1983, pp. 109-110.
 15. Review of Robert Olson, *The Ba'th and Syria: From the French Mandate to the Era of Hafiz al-Asad*, Princeton, N.J., 1982, in: *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 4, 1983, p. 691.
 16. Review of Hanna Batatu, *The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq. A Study of Iraq's Old Landed and Commercial Classes and of its Communists, Ba'thists, and Free Officers*, Princeton, N.J., 1978, in: *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, XXXVIII, No. 3/4, May-July 1981, pp. 478-480.
 17. Review of Johannes Reissner, *Ideologie und Politik der Muslimbrüder Syriens. Von den Wahlen 1947 bis zum Verbot unter Adib ash-Shishakli 1952*, Freiburg, Klaus Schwarz Verlag, 1980, in: *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, XXXVIII, No. 3/4, May July 1981, pp. 475-478.
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 19. Review of Tareq Y. Ismael, *The Arab Left*, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1976, in: *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis*, 1978/2, pp. 341-342.
 20. Review of Harry van Mierlo en Krikor Guvlekjian, *De Palestijnen*, Bussum (De Haan), 1972, in: *Internationale Spectator*, XXVII-1, 8 January 1973, pp. 31-32.
 21. Review of L.C. Biegel, *Minderheden in het Midden-Oosten, hun betekenis als politieke factor in de Arabische wereld*, in: *Internationale Spectator*, XXVI-12, pp. 1178-1183.
 22. Review of L.C. Biegel, *Minderheden in het Midden-Oosten, hun betekenis als politieke factor in de Arabische wereld*, in: *Acta Politica*, 1973, pp. 505-507.
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Interviews

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