

Transcription in English of Anne-Lot Hoek's book presentation, November 24, 2021, Amsterdam.

Full video (only in Dutch) see: <https://youtu.be/PdW-GL2DgVU>

[6:08 – 6:40 min.]

Harm Botje: “Anne-Lot focused on that bloody Indonesian decolonization. So that has been going on for ten years now, Anne-Lot has been working on this subject for ten years. You have worked your way up, we could say, to become one of the experts, who can be seen regularly on television, you were asked to join the committee that carries out the investigation on behalf of the government, to really dig into all that went wrong between 1945 and 1949 and in anticipation of that, you have now made this book that we are going to talk about extensively.”

[8:14 – 8:24 min.]

Harm Botje: “Today, the whole day, you gave media interviews, Anne-Lot. Tonight the big news will be shared via RTL and other media about torture camps on Bali, we will discuss this further here too.”

[11:07 – 12:53 min.]

Anne-Lot Hoek: “Immediately, I felt that there was more behind it, that the story was bigger. In the Netherlands we have... Well... that is how the discussion has evolved. We focus on single incidents of violence, but...”

Harm Botje: “Namely, South-Sulawesi...”

Anne-Lot Hoek: “Yes! This was Bali, of course it was new. But for me, it raised a lot of questions... About the bigger colonial story behind it. And why did this violence take place? And the question why intrigued me enormously. I want to know why we were there and what happened and how. I know very little about the colonial history before that [1945].”

Harm Botje: “So you wanted to go further than Rawagede... and you ended up on Bali, what did you find there? The first time you went there?”

Anne-Lot Hoek: “Uhm... can I just... Because I want to point this out briefly.”

Harm Botje: “You just mentioned Rawagede...”

Anne-Lot Hoek: “Indeed, it is the court case from 2011 after which the Dutch State had to pay damages and apologize to the widows of Rawagede. The court case that was initiated by Jeffry Pondaag that was for me a big eyeopener. I saw the news coverage immediately after I returned from Bali. That was for me how I started to connect the dots. The questions that popped up in my head when I was on Bali and this court case. I was sitting there flabbergasted behind the television. That is why Jeffry Pondaag is a very important person to me. He really woke me up on that regard. That is how it continued...”

[30:10 – 30:46]

Anne-Lot Hoek: “I think I tried to write it from the perspective of the underdog, the people in the field. I'm not just talking about Indonesians... But also Dutch military, that's my opinion too, they have their story as well. I found it very important to highlight these voices because that really gives another idea than the materials from the Dutch colonial archives. From what we could call perpetrator-material to look at such period. It is very important to change the narrative. To really look at it with a critical view.”

[31:31 – 32:35 min.]

Harm Botje: “And then in February the publication of the big research by historians in which you took part as well. At least you contributed to that too. What do you expect from that report?”

Anne-Lot Hoek:

Oh dear... we didn't discuss this question up front Harm! [laughing nervously.]

Harm Botje: “I'm just trying to broaden the... [perspective!]”

Anne-Lot Hoek: “Uhm... I find it very difficult to say. I didn't read the conclusion, the final book. I really focused on my own story. Yes, of course I hope it will bring a lot. That it will lead to a new direction.”

Harm Botje: “Well done! But what you write in this book is essentially part of this project?”

Anne-Lot Hoek: “Well... these are really two separate products, so to say. But I did use an important conclusion, at least an important aspect (about the federal policy and how the violence resonated in that region) that part I submitted [to the research project].”