

Acknowledgements

This is a book written by a secular Japanese living in the early twenty-first century, who happily came across early modern Dutch religious history. My general interest in the Dutch Republic was first stirred by lectures on world history in high school in Japan. I confess that it was the modernization narratives (such as Immanuel Wallerstein's world-systems theory, whose influence could be felt in our textbook) and the peculiar position which the Republic held in those stories of world history, including that of Japan, that caught my heart as a high school student. At the same time, I was – and still am – interested in coexistence, toleration and the survival of minorities in this globalizing, post-modern, and post-colonial world. After becoming a university student, I developed a fascination for early modern Dutch religious history. It seemed the best research theme for combining my historical interest in the Dutch Republic with my politico-philosophical concerns for toleration, while gradually developing critical perspectives on the triumphant narratives of Western modernization. After beginning to study early modern Dutch religious history on my own initiative while still in Japan, I came to be attracted to Dutch Catholics. Given that our – or, at least, my – textbook images of early modern Dutch religious history were characterized by either Reformed Protestantism or religious toleration, the history of the survival of Dutch Catholics, who now constitute the largest religious group in the contemporary, secular Netherlands, seemed a research theme worth delving into. How did Catholics manage to survive in the Dutch Republic? This question urged me to embark on an academic journey, stopping for some time to deliver the present monograph.

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Persecution and Toleration of Catholic Priests in Utrecht, 1620–1672'. *Church History and Religious Culture* 99, no. 2 (2019), pp. 183–227; '1592: Hollandse Zending en katholieke vernieuwing'. In *Nog meer wereldgeschiedenis van Nederland*, edited by Leo Lucassen, Lex Heerma van Voss, Marjolein 't Hart, Manon van der Heijden, and Nadia Bouras. Amsterdam, 2022, pp. 167–73; 'Transforming the Urban Space: Catholic Survival through Spatial Practices in Post-Reformation Utrecht'. *Past and Present* 255 (2022), pp. 39–86. For their helpful remarks on these and other parts of this monograph, I owe a special debt of gratitude to those scholars who read my manuscripts prior to publication, including especially Jo Spaans, Paul van Geest, Ben Kaplan, Renger de Bruin, Theo Clemens, and Joep van Gennip, as well as Llewellyn Bogaers, Marten Jan Bok, Jaap Geraerts, Albert Gootjes, Xiaolong Huang, Kentaro Inagaki, Satoshi Koyama, Peter Lake, Hannah Dongsun Lee, Carolina Lenarduzzi, Christine MacLeod, Sho Makino, Shinji Nohara, Tomoji Odori, Takuya Okada, Erik Sengers, Adam Takahashi, Takao Terui, Haruhisa Ueda, Hiroki Ueno, Shaun Yajima, Koji Yamamoto, and Hiroaki Yoshikawa. Needless to say, all the remaining mistakes and errors are solely my own.

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