Becoming a European Homegrown Jihadist

Schuurman, Bart

Published by Amsterdam University Press

Schuurman, Bart.
Amsterdam University Press, 2018.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/66586.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/66586

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2364305
Acknowledgments

My research into the Hofstadgroup began in late 2011, when I was fortunate enough to come into contact with the Dutch police files on this group through a research project that my employer Leiden University had been asked to conduct. Had anyone told me at the time that this first encounter would lead to a PhD thesis and ultimately this book, I would have raised my eyebrows in considerable skepticism. These pages speak to the ability to find academic interest and challenge in unexpected places. While this book marks the end of my study of the Hofstadgroup, I hope to be able to continue exploring what drives people to become and remain involved in extremism and terrorism.

The findings presented in this book, and any errors they might contain, are mine alone. Yet I received a great deal of help, inspiration and encouragement during the years of research and writing that led to this point. Above all, I would like to thank my colleagues and supervisors Edwin Bakker and Quirine Eijkman for their feedback over the years and for believing that completing a PhD thesis in part-time was realistic to begin with. I am also grateful for the support provided by John Horgan. It was an honor to be able to learn from you at UMass Lowell during the fall of 2014. Thank you to the Fulbright Committee and the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds for making that research stay possible. I would also like to acknowledge the very insightful feedback provided on my PhD work by the reading committee; Beatrice de Graaf, Isabelle Duyvesteyn, John Horgan, Alex Schmid, Bernard Steunenberg and Kutsal Yesilkagit. That gratitude extends to Marc Sageman, who was kind enough to offer detailed feedback on the present manuscript which I did my best to incorporate. I am honored to have your endorsement on the cover.

While working on this manuscript, I became indebted to numerous colleagues, journalists and Dutch government employees who were kind enough to share their insights into the Hofstadgroup with me. Thanks in particular to Paul Abels, Joop Bijen, Beatrice de Graaf, Martijn de Koning, Christianne de Poot, Isabelle Duyvesteyn, Arjan Erkel, Janny Groen, Ahmet Olgun, Ruud Peters, Alex Schmid, Marije Veerman, and Anton Weenink. Particular thanks are due to the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice, the Dutch Public Prosecution Service and the Dutch National Police for making it possible to utilize the police files on the Hofstadgroup. To all the interviewees who assisted me; your help was crucial to the success of this
project and I am grateful that you trusted me with information that was always sensitive and at times deeply personal.

To friends, family, and colleagues both in the Netherlands and abroad: thank you for enduring years of Hofstadgroup anecdotes. Special mention goes to Maarten, Joost, Sander, and Jasper for a friendship that borders on family and for which I am profoundly grateful. I would also like to specifically thank Nora, Mary, and Charles, Wouter, Joris, Erik, Liesbeth, Sergei, Wietse, Constant, Isabelle, Alastair, Carl, and Lisa; here is to the future. To my family; you have been a tremendous source of support throughout this process. Thank you for your encouragement, patience, and for always allowing me to find my own way. This book is dedicated to you.

Finally, if it weren’t for the encouragement and help of Paul Abels and Michael Kowalski at the Dutch National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV), as well as the support of professor Edwin Bakker, this book would never have materialized. I gratefully acknowledge your help.

Bart Schuurman
Utrecht, March 2018