

This thesis analyses intellectual debates among scholars of Indology in the Netherlands during the Interbellum. Academic debates reflected the unrest and increased tensions that characterised the last phase of Dutch colonial presence in Indonesia. Leiden University and the University of Utrecht represented two main trends in debates concerning Indonesian education, nationalism, and autonomy. While Leiden's centre of Indology represented progressive attitudes because of its close association with the *ethische politiek*, Utrecht's centre of Indology represented conservative attitudes as it defended Dutch entrepreneurial interests. In this thesis, the suggested opposition of progressive and conservative attitudes is put into question. Ultimately, it argues that both were two sides of the same coin.