

# Biographies of the Exemplary & Outstanding Global Leaders: His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands 1<sup>st</sup> Edition



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**Author: Rudolph. Patrick .Tawanda. Muteswa**

**ISBN: 978-1-77934-136-5**

**EAN: 9781779341365**

# **Biographies of the Exemplary & Outstanding Global Leaders: His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands 1<sup>st</sup> Edition**

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**ISBN: 978-1-77934-136-5**

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## **PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION**

The historical success story of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is generally accredited to the globally renowned Royal House of The Netherlands under the leadership of His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander, Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima, the Royal Family of The Netherlands and the Government of The Netherlands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands due to their global foreign diplomacy excellence, exemplary leaders, good democracy principles and global societal development initiatives they have started to enjoy unquestionable powerful nation brand statuses. Today it has become very important (*for Monarchy Rulers, presidents, vice presidents, prime ministers, chancellors, government ministers, senators, politicians, congressmen, congresswomen, members of parliament, governors, councilors, foreign government diplomats, academics, journalists, teachers, students, tourists, executive board of directors, managers, entrepreneurs, civil society professionals, pilots, trade unionists, medical professionals, engineers and many other professionals*) to be well educated about the: history, laws, demographics-political-economic and tourism information of various countries located in different parts of the world (*including the Kingdom of the Netherlands*). The modern day world we are now living is now strongly shaped by the international stature, the conservation of the natural environment, tourism, technological innovations, respect for human rights, democracy, peace, education levels of countries and so on. Some of the many countries in the world that are currently leading by example in some of the above mentioned areas include: Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kingdom of Belgium, United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Portugal, Namibia, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Latvia, Switzerland, Brazil, Singapore, Republic of Austria, Liberia, Tanzania, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Principality of Monaco, France, Australia, Kingdom of Spain, Republic of Ghana, Italy, New Zealand, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Estonia, Finland, Republic of Cyprus, Costa Rica, Senegal, Argentina, Chile and various European Union Member States. The main aim of this textbook is to educate readers about the exceptional exemplary leadership role of His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander, Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima and the Royal Family of The Netherlands in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and across the world. One of the other main aims of this textbook is to educate readers about the history, education, accomplishments, humanitarian work, good foreign relations and societal development goals of



His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This book also specifically targeted people located in the following regions: Africa, North America, Latin America, Europe, Oceania, Middle East, the Caribbean, and Asia in order to provide them with basic knowledge and various magnificent portraits of His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

# Chapter 1: Biography of the Exemplary & Outstanding King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander & Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima & the Royal Family of The Netherlands

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- Define the following two terms ‘principle’ and ‘support’.
- Discuss the history of the Netherlands.
- Describe the basic information of the Royal Family of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- Discuss the profile information of His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima in greater detail. Describe the historical good foreign relations and cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with the United States of America, Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of Spain & the Republic of South Africa.

## 1.1 Introduction

<sup>1</sup>“**Kingdom of the Netherlands.** The Kingdom of the Netherlands is known for having the friendliest, values centered, high work ethic, health-conscious, travel explorative, culinary explorative, happiest and open people in the world. In general The Netherlands has strict environment protection laws and today it is known as one of the cleanest nations in the world with very limited pollution levels if it is compared to other nations around the world” (Rudolph Muteswa, 2024:76 cited from his Famous Book Title: ‘*The Uniqueness of the ‘European Union’, Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands & United States of America: Guide for Prime Ministers, Presidents, Royal Monarchs’, Ministers, Senators, Tourists, Foreign Diplomats,*

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<sup>1</sup> Rudolph Muteswa (2024) *The Uniqueness of the ‘European Union’, Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands & United States of America: Guide for Prime Ministers, Presidents, Royal Monarchs’, Ministers, Senators, Tourists, Foreign Diplomats, Students, Academics & Other Professionals 1<sup>st</sup> Edition*, Self-Published Educational Ebook, ISBN: 978-1-77934-025-2 EAN: 9781779340252 and it is available as a free download on the online library – <https://rudolphmuteswa.com>

*Students, Academics & Other Professionals 1<sup>st</sup> Edition*'.<sup>23</sup>“The Dutch people are friendly. One of the best things to experience when you’re in an unfamiliar environment is friendly people. Fortunately, the Dutch people are open, welcoming and don’t hesitate to engage when they pass you on the street. The Netherlands offers good organization and infrastructure. Organization is extremely important when it comes to any type of setting, but it makes a living in a particular country with a balanced and well-thought-out infrastructure so much simpler and enjoyable. There are several regulations in place that allows everyone and everything to be in compliance. For example, there are very strict rules regarding waste. Trash must be placed in a specific spot at a set time, or the resident could face fines, especially if it is actually in or too close to the street. The Dutch public transportation system is well-structured and offers fast, reliable ways to get from one end of the city to the other. You’ll learn to love Dutch weather. The nice thing about the weather in the Netherlands is that the Dutch people usually experience all four seasons. This means ice skating on frozen lakes, enjoying the tulips in the spring, boating along the canals during the long days of summer and enjoying the changing colors of the leaves during the fall” (Federica, 2021, <https://housinganywhere.com/Netherlands/living-in-the-netherlands> cited in Rudolph Muteswa, 2022:46 cited from his famous book title ‘*28 Amazingly Beautiful Countries in the World & Our World Heroes Towards Humanity*’).<sup>4567</sup>“The Netherlands is a constituent

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<sup>2</sup> Federica (2021) *Living in the Netherlands: 11 Reasons why it's Perfect for Internationals*. Available from: <https://housinganywhere.com/Netherlands/living-in-the-netherlands> [Accessed November 14, 2021] HousingAnywhere © 2009 - 2021

<sup>3</sup> Rudolph Muteswa (2022) *28 Amazingly Beautiful Countries in the World & Our World Heroes Towards Humanity (Gathered Articles): A Training Guide for Business Executives, Foreign Diplomats, International Students & Travelers 1<sup>st</sup> Edition*. Self-Published Educational Ebook. ISBN: 978-1-77924-684-4 EAN: 9781779246844 and it is available as a free download on the online library – <https://rudolphmuteswa.com>

<sup>4</sup> *The World Factbook 2021*. Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 2021. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>

<sup>5</sup> Michigan State University (2021) *Netherlands*. Available from: <https://globaledge.msu.edu/countries/netherlands> © 1994 - 2021 [Michigan State University](https://www.msu.edu/). All rights reserved.

<sup>6</sup> World Electric Guide (2021) *Electric*. Available from: [http://www.exportbureau.com/telephone\\_codes/electric2.html](http://www.exportbureau.com/telephone_codes/electric2.html) [Accessed November 13]

<sup>7</sup> *The World Factbook 2021*. Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 2021. <https://www.cia.gov/stories/>

country located in Western Europe and with territories in the Caribbean. It is bordered by Belgium and Germany. The Netherlands is mostly low-lying, located at the mouths of three major European rivers (Rhine, Meuse, and Schelde). The government system is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy; the chief of state is the king, and the head of government is the prime minister. The Netherlands has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Netherlands is a member of the European Union (EU)” (Michigan State University, 2021, <https://globaledge.msu.edu/countries/netherlands> cited in Rudolph Muteswa, 2022:46 cited from his famous book title ‘28 Amazingly Beautiful Countries in the World & Our World Heroes Towards Humanity’).<sup>8</sup>““The Netherlands is a geographically small (approximately the size of Connecticut and Massachusetts combined), densely populated (17 million people) country occupying a highly strategic commercial location. Over 170 million consumers (more than one-third of the population of the European Union) reside within a 300-mile radius of the Netherlands. The country is a key center within the global business network, with advanced infrastructure geared towards the transportation of goods, people, and data. Its core distribution points include Rotterdam, Europe’s largest port, and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, the fourth largest airport in Europe for cargo. The country has capitalized on its location and advanced economy to become one of the top trading nations in the world. The United States and the Netherlands have a strong bilateral relationship, based on close historical, cultural, and commercial ties. The relationship dates back to the American Revolution and is one of the United States’ oldest, continuous bilateral relationships. The United States is the largest foreign investor in the Netherlands, and has its second largest trade surplus”” (\$17.9 billion in 2020) with the Netherlands” (The International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2021, <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/netherlands-market-overview> cited in Rudolph Muteswa, 2022:46 cited from his famous book title ‘28 Amazingly Beautiful Countries in the World & Our World Heroes Towards Humanity’). **The great nation of The Netherlands historically enjoys good foreign relations with various countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa regions. A typical good example of a developing**

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<sup>8</sup> The International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (2021) *Netherlands - Country Commercial Guide*.

Available from: <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/netherlands-market-overview> [Accessed November 13, 2021]

©2021 The International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

country that has strong good relations with the Kingdom of the Netherlands and many other European Union Member States is the beautiful great nation of the Republic of Zambia. <sup>9</sup>“Furthermore, according to The International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (2021) Zambia is a politically stable, multi-party democracy, rich in natural resources, with an estimated population of 17.8 million, 42 percent of which live in urban areas. While the country experienced two decades of positive economic growth and a corresponding expansion of the middle class,.... The economy is expected to grow by only 0.6 percent in 2021” (The International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2021 cited in Rudolph Muteswa, 2022:34 cited in his famous book title ‘*28 Amazingly Beautiful Countries in the World & Our World Heroes Towards Humanity*’). <sup>10</sup>The beautiful great nation of Zambia (*similar to Kenya, Namibia, Malawi, Mauritius and South Africa*) is considered to be one of the most cleanest and eco-friendly country in Africa that continues to set plausible climate change standards. The modern day world we are now living is now strongly shaped by the international stature, the conservation of the natural environment, tourism, technological innovations, respect for human rights, democracy, peace, education levels of countries and so on. Some of the many countries in the world that are currently leading by example in some of the above mentioned areas include: Kingdom of the Netherlands, Zambia, Malawi, Kingdom of Belgium, United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Kenya, Portugal, Namibia, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Latvia, Switzerland, Brazil, Singapore, Republic of Austria, Liberia, Tanzania, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Principality of Monaco, France, Australia, Kingdom of Spain, Republic of Ghana, Italy, New Zealand, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Estonia, Finland, Republic of Cyprus, Costa Rica, Senegal, Argentina, Chile and various European Union Member States. The next section will cover information about the definition of terms.

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<sup>9</sup> Rudolph Muteswa (2022) *28 Amazingly Beautiful Countries in the World & Our World Heroes Towards Humanity (Gathered Articles): A Training Guide for Business Executives, Foreign Diplomats, International Students & Travelers 1st Edition*. Self Published Educational Ebook, ISBN: 978-1-77924-684-4 EAN: 9781779246844 available for as a free download on the online library - <https://rudolphmuteswa.com>

<sup>10</sup> Rudolph Muteswa (2024) *Global Destinations to Visit & Popular Airports, Cruise Ships, Airlines & Trains: Travel Guide for Tourists, Diplomats, Entrepreneurs, Executive Directors, Academics, Students & Other Professionals 1st Edition*, Self-Published Educational Ebook, ISBN: 978-1-77933-712-2 EAN: 9781779337122 and it can be easily downloaded on the free online library – <https://rudolphmuteswa.com>

## 1.2 Definition of terms

<sup>11</sup> It is critical for words or terms to be defined in educational books as this helps learners and or readers to have basic or in-depth understanding of the meaning of the terms or words being discussed. <sup>12</sup>“A *principle* refers to a rule, norm, a habitual belief that shapes behavior in a manner that upholds what an individual, society or organization strongly values” (Rudolph Muteswa, 2021:27). <sup>13</sup>According to Rudolph Muteswa (2021:96) the term *‘support’* for the context of this book refers to the assisting, helping, facilitating and working together of an individual or organization to achieve a uniform goal (Rudolph Muteswa, 2021:96). The next section will cover information about the history of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## 1.3 ““History of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

### 1.3.1 History of the monarchy

<sup>14</sup>The first Kingdom – the Kingdom of Holland, with Napoleon’s brother Louis as its King – lasted only four years (1806-1810). Three years later, in 1813, the Netherlands regained its independence, and Prince Willem Frederik, son of the last stadholder Willem V, returned from exile and was proclaimed sovereign prince. The first constitution of the Netherlands as a monarchy dates from 1814.

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<sup>11</sup> Rudolph Muteswa (2020) *Leadership (Gathered Articles): A North America, Europe, Africa, Oceania & Asia 21st Century Perspective 1st Edition*. Self-Published Education Ebook, ISBN 978-1-77921-414-0, Self-Published Ebook available as a free download on the online library - <https://rudolphmuteswa.com>

<sup>12</sup> Rudolph Muteswa (2021) *Climate Change & the Global Business Community’s Viewpoint (Gathered Articles): A North America, Asia, Africa, Oceania & Europe a 21st Century Perspective*. Self-Published Ebook, ISBN 978-1-77921-416-4 & it is available as a free download on the online library – <https://rudolphmuteswa.com>

<sup>13</sup> Rudolph Muteswa (2021) *The Magnificence of Respecting Human Rights, Democracy & Freedoms in a Country & Organizations: (Gathered Articles): A North America, Asia, Africa, Oceania & Europe a 21st Century Perspective*. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, ISBN 978-1-77921-415-7, Self-Published Ebook & it is available as a free download on the online library – <https://rudolphmuteswa.com>

<sup>14</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *History of the Monarchy*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/history-of-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands/history-of-the-monarchy> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

### **1.3.2 King Willem I**

In 1815 the Congress of Vienna decided that the northern and southern provinces should be united. Willem Frederik proclaimed himself King Willem I of the new Kingdom of the Netherlands. The southern provinces seceded in 1830, and with the signing of the Treaty of London in 1839 the Netherlands recognised the new, independent, Kingdom of Belgium.

### **1.3.3 King Willem III**

Until 1839 Luxembourg too formed part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In that year it became a Grand Duchy, with the King of the Netherlands as its Grand Duke. This personal union came to an end in 1890. When King Willem III died that year, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg passed to the head of the other branch of the House of Nassau, since his daughter Wilhelmina, as a female, had no right of succession.

### **1.3.4 Decolonisation**

<sup>15</sup>Until after the Second World War, the Kingdom of the Netherlands also comprised a significant number of overseas territories: the Dutch East Indies in Asia, Suriname in South America and the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean. A process of decolonisation followed in the post-war period. In 1949 Queen Juliana signed the treaty transferring sovereignty over the former Dutch East Indies to the Republic of Indonesia, thus recognising Indonesia as an independent state. New Guinea remained in Dutch hands until 1962; in 1963 it was transferred to Indonesia by the United Nations.

### **1.3.5 Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

On 15 December 1954, Queen Juliana signed the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, whereby Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles acquired the status of countries within the Kingdom, with autonomous powers over their own internal affairs. Since then 15 December has

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<sup>15</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *History of the Monarchy*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/history-of-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands/history-of-the-monarchy> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

been celebrated as Kingdom Day. In 1975 Suriname left the Kingdom, becoming an independent republic.

### **1.3.6 Caribbean part of the Kingdom**

In 1986 Aruba, one of the six islands of the Netherlands Antilles, acquired separate status as a country within the Kingdom. On 10 October 2010 Curaçao and St Maarten likewise became separate countries, while the remaining three islands – Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba – acquired the status of public bodies and now form part of the Dutch polity”<sup>16</sup> (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/history-of-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands/history-of-the-monarchy>). The next section will cover information about the Royal House and royal family of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## **1.4 ““Royal House and royal family**

The amazing high quality photographs of the globally renowned & celebrated Royal Family of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will be clearly depicted by Figure 1.1 below.

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<sup>16</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *History of the Monarchy*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/history-of-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands/history-of-the-monarchy> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.



**Figure 1.1 The amazing high quality photographs of the globally renowned & celebrated Royal Family of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**



**Photo 3**



**Photo 4**

Source: Royal House of The Netherlands Official Photographs: (**Photo 1** - the royal family from left to right: *The Princess of Orange, Countess Eloise, Princess Ariane, Count Claus-Casimir, King Willem-Alexander, Queen Máxima, Princess Alexia, Princess Laurentien, Princess Beatrix, Countess Leonore and Prince Constantijn* - Lech, 22 February 2016. Image: © ANP - Koen van Weel. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2016/photo-session-lech-2016---1?download> and **Photo 2** - Princess Beatrix and her grandchildren at Drakensteyn Castle, autumn 2017. Image: © RVD - Jeroen van der Meyde. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/prinses-beatrix/prinses-beatrix-and-grandchildren-1.jpg?download> and **Photo 3** - Princess Beatrix, Prince Claus and their children, 1978. Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/prinses-beatrix/prinses-beatrix-prince-claus-and-their-children-1978.jpg?download> and **Photo 4** - December 2022: King Willem-Alexander, the Princess of Orange and Princess Beatrix. Image: ©RVD - Gemmy Woud-Binnendijk. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/koning-willem-alexander/king-willem-alexander-prinses-beatrix-and-the-princess-of-orange.jpg?download>) “Used With Permission”.

<sup>17</sup>In the Netherlands a distinction is made between the Royal House and the royal family. The Membership of the Royal House Act determines who is a member of the Royal House.

#### **1.4.1 Membership of the Royal House**

The Membership of the Royal House Act determines who is a member of the Royal House, namely:

1. the monarch;
2. the former monarch;
3. legitimate descendants of King Willem I who are related to the monarch in the first or second degree of consanguinity and are eligible for succession to the throne;
4. the spouses of the above;
5. members of the royal family who are members of the Royal House on the basis of the transitional arrangement provided for by the Membership of the Royal House Act.

<sup>18</sup>Since 2002, the Membership of the Royal House Act has provided that the Royal House comprises the members of the royal family who are related to the monarch in the first or second degree of consanguinity and are eligible for succession to the throne. A monarch who has relinquished the throne is likewise a member of the Royal House, as are the spouses, widows and widowers of the members referred to above. Princess Margriet and her husband, Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven, retain their membership of the Royal House under the rules of the former Act (the third degree of consanguinity).

#### **1.4.2 Current members of the Royal House**

The Royal House currently has 10 members:

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<sup>17</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Royal House and Royal Family*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/royal-house/royal-house-and-royal-family> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

<sup>18</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Royal House and Royal Family*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/royal-house/royal-house-and-royal-family> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

- [King Willem-Alexander](#)
- [Queen Máxima](#)
- [Princess Beatrix](#)
- [The Princess of Orange](#)
- [Princess Alexia](#)
- [Princess Ariane](#)
- [Prince Constantijn](#)
- [Princess Laurentien](#)
- [Princess Margriet](#)
- [Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven](#)

<sup>19</sup>Since King Willem-Alexander ascended the throne, Prince Maurits, Prince Bernhard and their wives and the children of Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien are no longer members of the Royal House. The three children of Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien are however still in line of succession as long as King Willem-Alexander is on the throne.

Members of the Royal House cease to be members if they:

- lose their Dutch nationality;
- are deprived of membership by royal decree;
- marry without the consent of Parliament.

Princess Irene, Princess Christina (1947-2019), Prince Friso, Prince Pieter-Christiaan and Prince Floris married without Parliament's consent and hence lost their membership of the Royal House.

### **1.4.3 Members of the royal family**

The royal family consists of the members of the Royal House, plus: [Princess Mabel](#), the three children of Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien, [Prince Maurits](#), [Princess](#)

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<sup>19</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Royal House and Royal Family*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/royal-house/royal-house-and-royal-family> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

Marilène, Prince Bernhard, Princess Annette, Prince Pieter-Christiaan, Princess Anita, Prince Floris, Princess Aimée, Princess Irene and Princess Christina (1947-2019), their children, daughters- and sons-in-law, and grandchildren”<sup>20</sup> (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/royal-house/royal-house-and-royal-family>). The next section will cover information of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in-depth.

## 1.5 ““King Willem-Alexander (b. 1967)

<sup>21</sup>“Prince Willem-Alexander succeeded his mother, Queen Beatrix, in 2013. In 2002 he married Máxima Zorreguieta. They have three daughters: Catharina-Amalia, the Princess of Orange (b. 2003), Alexia (b. 2005) and Ariane (b. 2007). In 2003 the family moved to Eikenhorst on the De Horsten estate in Wassenaar. Like his mother, the King uses Noordeinde Palace in The Hague as his place of work. Before ascending the throne, King Willem-Alexander held a number of posts and was involved in a range of activities reflecting his commitment to Dutch society, including water management, infrastructure and ICT, sport and defence” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/kings-and-queens/king-willem-alexander-b.-1967>). The portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander & Her Royal Majesty Queen Maxima & the Royal Family will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.2 below.

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<sup>20</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Royal House and Royal Family*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/royal-house/royal-house-and-royal-family> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

<sup>21</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *King Willem-Alexander*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/topics/kings-and-queens/king-willem-alexander-b.-1967> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

## Figure 1.2 Portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander & Her Royal Majesty Queen Maxima & the Royal Family



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

Source: Royal House of The Netherlands Official Photographs: (Photo 1 - King Willem-Alexander, 2020. Image: © RVD - Martijn Beekman. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/koning-willem-alexander/king-willem-alexander-2020-01.jpg?download> and Photo 2 - King Willem-Alexander – 2018, Image: © RVD - Erwin Olaf. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/koning-willem-alexander/king-willem-alexander---2018---erwin-olaf---landscape.jpg?download> and Photo 3 - King Willem-Alexander and his family – Den Haag, 24 June 2022. Image: ©RVD – Patrick van Emst. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2022/zomer-photo-session-june-2022-king-willem-alexander-and-family-3.jpg?download> and Photo 4 - The Hague, 7 June 2024, Image: ©RVD - Patrick van Katwijk. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2024/zomer-2024/2024-royal-family-1.jpg?download> and Photo 5 - The Hague, 22 December 2023, Image: ©RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2023/winter-2023/king-willem-alexander-and-the-princess-of-orange-2023.jpeg?download> and Photo 6 - Den Haag, 24 June 2022. Image: © RVD - Patrick van Emst. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2022/zomer/photo-session-june-2022-king-willem-alexander-and-family-1.jpg?download>) “Used With Permission”.



The next section will cover information of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands role as head of state in-depth.

### 1.5.1 ““Position and role as head of state

<sup>22</sup>Under the Constitution, the King, together with the ministers, makes up the government. The King represents the Kingdom of the Netherlands at home and abroad. Besides his formal duties, King Willem-Alexander works in the interests of the inhabitants of the Netherlands. As head of state, it is the King's task to unify, represent and encourage the people. The ministers, and not the monarch, are responsible for the acts of the government, and the ministers are accountable to Parliament for what he says and does. The ministers, who together make up the cabinet, are responsible for decision-making. The King has weekly meetings with the prime minister, speaks regularly with ministers and state secretaries, signs all new Acts of Parliament and royal decrees and ratifies (as part of the government) international treaties. At the State Opening of Parliament on the third Tuesday in September, he delivers the Speech from the Throne, in which the government announces its plans for the coming parliamentary year. The Constitution requires that the monarch appoint, dismiss and swear in all government ministers and state secretaries. In view of this constitutional role, and at the request of the House, the King can be kept apprised of all developments in [the formation process](#). The monarch is officially the president of the Council of State, a historical role which is purely symbolic in nature. The Council of State provides the government and Parliament with independent advice on legislation and governance and is also the country's highest administrative court. In addition to the plenary meetings attended by the King, the Council of State also consists of an Administrative Jurisdiction Division and an Advisory Division, whose meetings the King does not attend. Accordingly, the King is not involved in practice in the Council's two main areas of activity. The vice president is in charge of the day-to-day management of the Council of State and presides over its meetings. The King represents the Kingdom of the Netherlands at home and abroad. Besides his formal duties, the King works in the interests of the inhabitants of the Kingdom. As head of state, it is the King's

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<sup>22</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Position and Role as Head of State*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/position-and-role-as-head-of-state> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

task to unify, represent and encourage the people”<sup>23</sup> (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/position-and-role-as-head-of-state>). The next section will cover information of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in-depth.

## **1.5.2 Youth**

The portrait of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.3 below.

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<sup>23</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Position and Role as Head of State*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/position-and-role-as-head-of-state> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

**Figure 1.3 Portrait of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander**



Source: Royal House of The Netherlands Official Photographs: (The Prince of Orange, 1974. Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/koning-willem-alexander/the-prince-of-orange-1974?download>)  
“Used With Permission”.

<sup>24</sup>“**Youth.** Willem-Alexander Claus George Ferdinand was born in the University Hospital, Utrecht, on 27 April 1967, the first child of Princess Beatrix and Prince Claus. At birth, King Willem-Alexander received the titles of Prince of the Netherlands and Prince of Orange-Nassau, Jonkheer van Amsberg. He was baptised in The Hague on 2 September 1967. His godparents were Prince Bernhard, Queen Margrethe of Denmark, Ferdinand von Bismarck, former Prime Minister Jelle Zijlstra and Ms Renée Smith-Roëll. King Willem-Alexander spent his early childhood at Drakensteyn Castle in Lage Vuursche. He has two brothers, Prince Friso (1968-2013), and Prince Constantijn (1969). In 1981 the family moved from Drakensteyn Castle to Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague”” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/youth>). The next

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<sup>24</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Youth*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/youth> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.



section will cover information of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in-depth.

### **1.5.3 Education**

The high quality portrait of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.4 below.

**Figure 1.4 The high quality portrait of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima**



Source: Royal House of The Netherlands Official Photographs: (Amsterdam, 4 November 2022, Image: ©RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2022/de-nieuwe-kerk/king-willem-alexander-and-queen-maxima.jpeg?download>) “Used With Permission”.

<sup>25</sup>“**Education.** King Willem-Alexander received his primary education at the Nieuwe Baarnse School in Baarn. He started his secondary education at the Baarns Lyceum and after moving to Huis Ten Bosch Palace in 1981 attended the Eerste Vrijzinnig Christelijk Lyceum in The Hague. He completed his secondary education at Atlantic College in Llantwit Major in Wales, where he gained an International Baccalaureate in 1985.

### **1.5.3.1 Military service**

The King performed his military service in the Royal Netherlands Navy from August 1985 to January 1987. He received training at the Royal Netherlands Naval College in Den Helder, after

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<sup>25</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Education*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/education> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

which he served on board the frigates HNLMS Tromp and HNLMS Abraham Crijnsen. In 1988 he received refresher training, serving as a duty officer on board the frigate HNLMS Van Kinsbergen.

### **1.5.3.2 Leiden University**

After completing his military service in 1987, the King enrolled as a history student in the Arts Faculty of Leiden University. His studies gave him a wide-ranging knowledge of a broad spectrum of subjects, including general and Dutch history, economic history, political science and constitutional law, EC law, international law, human rights and economics. He was awarded a degree in history in 1993. The King concluded his studies with a dissertation on the Dutch response to France's decision under President de Gaulle to leave NATO's integrated command structure. While he was at university, he was a member of the Minerva students' society.

### **1.5.3.3 Royal Netherlands Air Force**

After graduating in 1993, King Willem-Alexander gained his Military Pilot's Licence with 334 Transport Squadron of the Royal Netherlands Air Force. In 1994 the King spent several months at the Netherlands Defence College, studying aspects of the work of the Royal Netherlands Army and Air Force.

### **1.5.3.4 Preparing to be King**

After his studies and his military career, the King completed an intensive programme in which he became familiar with every facet of Dutch society.<sup>26</sup> He studied the constitutional and legal systems and learned how central government and other authorities function. He visited European institutions, Dutch ministries and the High Councils of State. He then went on to complete an extensive introductory programme with the Dutch business community and an Advanced Development Programme at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, USA”” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal->

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<sup>26</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Education*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/education> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

[house/king-willem-alexander/education](#)). The next section will cover information of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in-depth.

### **1.5.4 Marriage and family**

The unique and historical portrait of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.5 below.

**Figure 1.5 The unique and historical portrait of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima**



Source: Royal House of The Netherlands Official Photographs: (The Prince of Orange, Princess Máxima en their daughters the Princesses Catharina-Amalia, Alexia and Ariane, 26 June 2007. Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/koning-willem-alexander/the-prince-of-orange-princess-maxima-en-their-daughters-26-june-2007?download>) “Used With Permission”.

<sup>27</sup>“**Marriage and family.** The King is married to Queen Máxima. The royal couple have three daughters, Princess Catharina-Amalia, Princess Alexia and Princess Ariane. On 30 March 2001 Princess (then Queen) Beatrix and Prince Claus announced the engagement of the Prince of Orange and Máxima Zorreguieta. On 3 July 2001 the two houses of parliament passed a bill submitted by the government consenting to the marriage. The Mayor of Amsterdam, Job Cohen,

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<sup>27</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Marriage and family*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/marriage-and-family> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

conducted the civil marriage ceremony in the Beurs van Berlage on 2 February 2002. The church ceremony took place immediately afterwards at the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam. The Reverend Carel ter Linden and Father Rafael Braun officiated. The royal couple initially lived at Noordeinde 66, The Hague. In spring 2003, they moved to Eikenhorst on the De Horsten estate in Wassenaar. Since January 2019 King Willem-Alexander, Queen Máxima and their three daughters have lived at Huis ten Bosch Palace” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/marriage-and-family>).

The amazing portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.6 below.



**Figure 1.6 The amazing portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima**



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**

Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 - The Hague, 7 June 2024: King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima. Image: ©RVD - Patrick van Katwijk. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2024/zomer-2024/2024-king-willem-alexander-and-queen-maxima.jpg?download> and Photo 2 - The Prince of Orange and Princess Máxima, 2008. Image: © RVD - Robin Utrecht. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/koningin-maxima/the-prince-of-orange-and-princess-maxima-2008?download>) “Used With Permission”.

<sup>28</sup>“Their first child, Princess Catharina-Amalia, the current Princess of Orange, was born on 7 December 2003. Their second child, Princess Alexia, was born on 26 June 2005, and their third child, Princess Ariane, on 10 April 2007. All three were born at Bronovo Hospital in The Hague” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/marriage-and-family>). The next section will cover information of Her Royal Majesty The Queen of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in-depth.

## **1.6 Queen Máxima is married to King Willem-Alexander.**

The unique high quality portrait of Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.7 below.

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<sup>28</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Marriage and family*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/king-willem-alexander/marriage-and-family> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

**Figure 1.7 The unique high quality portrait of Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima**



Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Queen Máxima, 2020. Image: © RVD - Martijn Beekman. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/koningin-maxima/queen-maxima-2020-02.jpg?download>) “Used With Permission”.

<sup>29</sup>“**Queen Máxima is married to King Willem-Alexander.** The royal couple have three daughters, Princess Catharina-Amalia (the Princess of Orange), Princess Alexia and Princess Ariane” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/queen-maxima>)

<sup>29</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Queen Máxima*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/queen-maxima> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.



[house/queen-maxima](#)). The high quality and unique portrait of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.8 below.

**Figure 1.8 The high quality and unique portrait of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima**



Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Den Haag, 24 June 2022. Image: © RVD - Patrick van Emst. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2022/zomer/photo-session-june-2022-king-willem-alexander-and-family-2.jpg?download>) “Used with permission”.

“As King Willem-Alexander’s wife, Queen Máxima’s main role is to support the head of state in performing his formal duties and the other work he does in the interests of the inhabitants of the Kingdom, assisting him in his task of unifying, representing and encouraging the people” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/queen->

[maxima](#)). The magnificent and unique portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.9 below.

**Figure 1.9 The magnificent and unique portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima**



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**



**Photo 3**



**Photo 4**

Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 - Princess Máxima, 2011. Image: © Photography Erwin Olaf. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/konigin-maxima/princess-maxima-in-garden-2011?download> and Photo 2 - King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima, September 2023. Image: ©RVD - Anton Corbijn. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/konigin-maxima/king-willem-alexander-and-queen-maxima-2023.jpg?download> and Photo 3 - The Hague, 30 June 2023. Image: ©RVD - Robin Utrecht. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2023/zomer-2023/2023-royal-family-photo-session-at-the-beach.jpg?download> and Photo 4 - King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima, September 2023. Image: ©RVD - Anton Corbijn. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsfotos/official-photograph-king-willem-alexander-and-queen-maxima-2023.jpg?download> "Used With Permission".

“Queen Máxima holds numerous public posts. She also performs representative duties, such as representing the Royal House at official occasions of all kinds. Queen Máxima is a member of the Council of State. She occupies a number of other positions in the Netherlands and abroad” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/queen-maxima>). The next section will cover information of Her Royal Highness The Princess of Orange of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in-depth.

## **1.7 The Princess of Orange - Princess Catharina-Amalia Beatrix Carmen Victoria**

The magnificent and high quality portraits of Her Royal Highness The Princess of Orange - Princess Catharina-Amalia Beatrix Carmen Victoria will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.10 below.

**Figure 1.10 The magnificent and high quality portraits of Her Royal Highness The Princess of Orange - Princess Catharina-Amalia Beatrix Carmen Victoria and His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander**



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**



**Photo 3**



**Photo 4**

Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 – The Princess of Orange, The Hague, 22 December 2023. Image: ©RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2023/winter-2023/the-princess-of-orange-2023.jpeg?download> and Photo 2 - The Hague, 7 June 2024: King Willem-Alexander and the Princess of Orange. Image: ©RVD - Patrick van Katwijk. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2024/zomer-2024/2024-king-willem-alexander-and-the-princess-of-orange.jpg?download> and Photo 3 - The Prince of Orange, Princess Máxima en their daughters the Princesses Catharina-Amalia, Alexia and Ariane in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 22 December 2007. Image: © RVD/Royal Images - Frank van Beek. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/koning-willem-alexander/the-prince-of-orange-princess-maxima-en-their-daughters-argentina-2007?download> and Photo 4 - Amsterdam, 4 November 2022. Image: ©RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2022/de-nieuwe-kerk/princess-ariane-the-princess-of-orange-and-princess-alexia-2.jpeg?download> “Used With Permission”.



<sup>30</sup>“**The Princess of Orange.** Catharina-Amalia Beatrix Carmen Victoria, Princess of Orange, Princess of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, is first in line to the throne. She was born in The Hague on 7 December 2003, and is the eldest child of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima. Since the investiture of her father as King on 30 April 2013, Princess Catharina-Amalia has borne the title Princess of Orange. This title can only be held by the heir to the throne and is used without a first name. The Princess has also retained her two other titles, conferred upon her on her birth.

### **1.7.1 Youth**

The Princess was baptised on 12 June 2004 by Reverend Carel ter Linden in the Grote or St Jacobskerk in The Hague. Her godparents are Prince Constantijn, Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, Herman Tjeenk Willink, Samantha Deane, Martín Zorreguieta and Marc ter Haar. The Princess spent her formative years at Villa Eikenhorst on the De Horsten estate in Wassenaar. In 2019 she moved to Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague together with her parents, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima, and her two sisters, Princess Alexia and Princess Ariane. Since September 2022 the Princess has been living and studying in Amsterdam. In her free time she enjoys horse riding, tennis and singing.

### **1.7.2 Education**

<sup>31</sup>Princess Catharina-Amalia attended Bloemcamp primary school in Wassenaar from 2007 to 2015. From 2015 the Princess attended the Christelijk Gymnasium Sorghvliet in The Hague. Her extracurricular activities included sitting on the student council, acting as a student mediator, and participating in the Model United Nations of the International School of The Hague (MUNISH) and The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) conferences. In 2021 the Princess of Orange passed her pre-university school-leaving examinations with distinction. She then took a gap year, part of which she spent undertaking an internship at the Orange Fund and

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<sup>30</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *The Princess of Orange*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/the-princess-of-orange> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

<sup>31</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *The Princess of Orange*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/the-princess-of-orange> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

volunteering for other organisations. In September 2022 the Princess enrolled in the Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics (PPLE) Bachelor's programme at the University of Amsterdam.

### **1.7.3 Activities**

The Princess of Orange is currently focusing on her university studies. When her academic commitments permit, the Princess will participate in Prinsjesdag and in visits and receptions in preparation for her future role as head of state. The same applies to her involvement in King's Day and photo sessions with the royal family.

### **1.7.4 Official duties**

On her 18th birthday the Princess of Orange automatically became a member of the Council of State and its Advisory Division<sup>32</sup> (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/the-princess-of-orange>). The next section will cover information of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexia of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in-depth.

## **1.8 Princess Alexia**

The unique high quality portraits of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexia will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.11 below.

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<sup>32</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *The Princess of Orange*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/the-princess-of-orange> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

**Figure 1.11 The unique high quality portraits of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexia**



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**



**Photo 3**



**Photo 4**

Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 – Princess Alexia, The Hague, 22 December 2023. Image: ©RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2023/winter-2023/princess-alexia-2023.jpeg?download> and Photo 2 - The Hague, 7 June 2024. Image: ©RVD - Patrick van Katwijk. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2024/zomer-2024/2024-royal-family.jpg?download> and Photo 3 - Princess Alexia, May 2023. Image: ©RVD - Frank Ruiters. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/prinses-alexia/2023-princess-alexia-03.jpg?download> and Photo 4 - Princess Alexia, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima, May 2023. Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/prinses-alexia/princess-alexia-2023.jpeg?download>) “Used with permission”.

““**Princess Alexia.** Alexia Juliana Marcela Laurentien, Princess of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, is the second daughter of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima. Princess

Alexia is second in line of succession to the throne. <sup>33</sup>Princess Alexia was baptised on 19 November 2005 by Reverend Deodaa van der Boon in the Dorpskerk in Wassenaar. Her godparents are Prince Friso, Juan Zorreguieta, Queen Mathilde of Belgium, Jonkheer Frans Ferdinand de Beaufort and Jonkvrouw Alexandra Jankovich de Jeszenice. The Princess completed four years of secondary school at the Christelijk Gymnasium Sorghvliet in The Hague. In the summer of 2021 she continued her studies at the United World College of the Atlantic (UWC Atlantic) in Llantwit Major in Wales, where she received her International Baccalaureate in the summer of 2023.

### **1.8.1 Hobbies**

Hockey, horse riding, singing and playing the piano”” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/princess-alexia>). The next section will cover information of Her Royal Highness Princess Ariane of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in-depth.

## **1.9 Princess Ariane**

The amazing high quality portraits of Her Royal Highness Princess Ariane will be clearly highlighted by Figure 1.12 below.

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<sup>33</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Princess Alexia*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/princess-alexia> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.



**Figure 1.12 The amazing high quality portraits of Her Royal Highness Princess Ariane**



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**



**Photo 3**



**Photo 4**

Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 – Princess Ariane, 2023. Image: © RVD / H.M. the King. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/prinses-ariane/2023-princess-ariane?download> and Photo 2 - Princess Ariane, 5 July 2010. Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/prinses-ariane/princess-ariane-5-july-2010?download> and Photo 3 - The Hague, 22 December 2023. Image: ©RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2023/winter-2023/princess-ariane-2023.jpeg?download> and Photo 4 – The Hague, 22 December 2023. Image: ©RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/portretfoto-s/photo-sessions/2023/winter-2023/royal-family-at-the-winter-photo-session-3.jpeg?download>). “Used with permission”.

<sup>34</sup>“**Princess Ariane.** Ariane Wilhelmina Máxima Ines, Princess of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, is the youngest daughter of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima. Ariane Wilhelmina Máxima Ines of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, was born in The Hague on 10 April 2007. Princess Ariane is third in line of succession to the throne. Princess Ariane was baptised on 20 October 2007 by Reverend Deodaat van der Boon in the Kloosterkerk in The Hague. Her godparents are hereditary Grand Duke Guillaume of Luxembourg, Baron Tijo Collot d'Escury, Antoine Frilling, Valerie Delger and Inés Zorreguieta. Princess Ariane lives with her parents and sisters the Princess of Orange and Princess Alexia at [Huis ten Bosch Palace](#) in The Hague. She attends the Christelijk Gymnasium Sorghvliet in The Hague.

### **1.9.1 Hobbies**

Horse riding, hockey, drawing and playing the piano” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/princess-ariane>). The next section will cover information about the good foreign relations and cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with the United States of America, Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of Spain & the Republic of South Africa in-depth.

## **1.10 The good foreign relations and cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with the United States of America (USA), Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of South Africa**

In general the Kingdom of the Netherlands has been a fountain of excellent diplomatic relations and international trade with many countries around the world. Some of the many countries that have good foreign relations and cooperation with the Kingdom of the Netherlands will be discussed as follows:

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<sup>34</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *Princess Ariane*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/members-royal-house/princess-ariane> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service's copyright.

## 1.10.1 United States of America (USA)

The amazing high quality portraits of the working visit to the United States in the State of Georgia and the State of New York by His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima will be clearly depicted below by Figure 1.13.

**Figure 1.13** The amazing high quality portraits of the working visit to the United States of America in the State of Georgia and the State of New York by His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 - Atlanta, 10 June 2024, working visit to United States: Georgia and New York, Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/news/2024/06/10/king-willem-alexander-and-queen-maxima-working-visit-united-states-18.jpeg> and Photo 2 - Savannah, 11 June 2024, working visit to United States: Georgia and New York, Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/news/2024/06/11/king-willem-alexander-and-queen-maxima-working-visit-united-states-28> and Photo 3 - Savannah, 11 June 2024, working visit to United States: Georgia and New York, Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/news/2024/06/11/king-willem-alexander-and-queen-maxima-working-visit-united-states-29> and Photo 4 - New York, 13 June 2024, working visit to United States: Georgia and New York, Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/news/2024/06/13/king-willem-alexander-and-queen-maxima-working-visit-united-states-58>) "Used with permission".

<sup>35</sup>“**King and Queen of the Netherlands to pay working visit to United States: Georgia and New York – program.** His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Máxima are to travel to the United States for a working visit to the states of Georgia and New York. The visit will take place from Monday, June 10 to Thursday, June 13 2024. In Georgia the King and Queen will visit Atlanta and Savannah, and in New York they will visit Albany and New York City. The working visit will highlight the strong bilateral ties between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United States, and its economic relations with Georgia and New York State. The US is the Netherlands’ biggest non-EU partner in regard to economic and security cooperation. These close transatlantic ties are essential in safeguarding the Netherlands’ prosperity. This partnership is based on a shared history that goes back four hundred years. With more than five million Americans tracing their roots to the Netherlands, there are close personal and cultural links between our countries. Georgia is currently the Netherlands’ 10th-largest US trade partner, a ranking that is rising fast. State capital Atlanta is a key logistics hub, both for the European and for the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. Atlanta has long been a key logistics hub, and its airport is one of the world’s largest, as well as being among the most efficient and busiest in terms of the passenger numbers it processes. On the Georgia coast lies the Port of Savannah, the fourth-largest and fastest-growing port in North America. For the Netherlands, New York State is a key trade and investment partner, alongside California and Texas. The state is home to leading knowledge institutions that are driving innovation on global challenges such as the climate and energy transition and the digital transformation”<sup>36</sup> (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/latest/news/2024/05/23/king-and-queen-of-the-netherlands-to-pay-working-visit-to-united-states-georgia-and-new-york---program>). The following section will cover information about the Kingdom of Belgium in-depth.

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<sup>35</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *King and Queen of the Netherlands to pay working visit to United States: Georgia and New York – program*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/latest/news/2024/05/23/king-and-queen-of-the-netherlands-to-pay-working-visit-to-united-states-georgia-and-new-york---program> [Accessed July 27, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

<sup>36</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *King and Queen of the Netherlands to pay working visit to United States: Georgia and New York – program*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/latest/news/2024/05/23/king-and-queen-of-the-netherlands-to-pay-working-visit-to-united-states-georgia-and-new-york---program> [Accessed July 27, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

### **1.10.2 Kingdom of Belgium**

The excellent foreign relations and cooperation of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have existed for many years. In addition the good foreign relations between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands will continuously be cemented and empowered by the two countries' common goals towards: economic development, democracy, peace, climate change, tourism, education, human rights protection and many other goals. The magnificent and historical high quality portraits of the outstanding and exemplary leader His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima and the outstanding and exemplary leader His Royal Majesty King Philippe of the Kingdom of Belgium and Queen Mathilde will be clearly depicted by Figure 1.14 below.



**Figure 1.14 The magnificent and historical high quality portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima and His Royal Majesty King Philippe of the Kingdom of Belgium and Queen Mathilde**



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**



**Photo 3**



**Photo 4**

Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 - Amsterdam, 28 November 2016: King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima officially welcome King Philippe and Queen Mathilde at the Royal Palace on Dam Square in Amsterdam at the beginning of their three-day state visit. Image: © Robin Utrecht. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/photos/state-visits-incoming/belgium-2016> and Photo 2 - Amsterdam, 28 November 2017: Official photo of King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima, King Philippe, Queen Mathilde, Princess Beatrix, Prince Constantijn, Princess Laurentien, Princess Margriet and Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven in the small reception room of the Royal Palace Amsterdam. Image: © Patrick van Katwijk. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/belgium-incoming-november-2016/state-banquet-belgique.jpg> and Photo 3 - Amsterdam, 29 November 2016: The King and Queen of the Belgians host a concert at the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, with performances by the National Orchestra of Belgium and Ozark Henry. Image: © Robin Utrecht. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/belgium-incoming-november-2016/concert.jpg> and Photo 4 - Amsterdam, 28 November 2016: King Willem-Alexander and King Philippe at the Royal Palace on Dam Square. Image: © Patrick van Katwijk. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/belgium-incoming-november-2016/state-visit-belgium-two-flags.jpg>. “Used with permission”.

<sup>37</sup>“**State visit by the King and Queen of the Belgians, November 2016.** At the invitation of King Willem-Alexander, King Philippe of the Belgians paid a state visit to the Netherlands from 28 to 30 November 2016. King Philippe was accompanied by Queen Mathilde” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/photos/state-visits-incoming/belgium-2016>). The following section will cover information about the Kingdom of Spain in-depth.

### **1.10.3 Kingdom of Spain**

The magnificent and historical high quality portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima and His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of Spain King Felipe & Her Royal Majesty Queen Letizia will be clearly depicted below by Figure 1.15.

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<sup>37</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *State visit by the King and Queen of the Belgians, November 2016*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/photos/state-visits-incoming/belgium-2016> [Accessed July 16, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.



**Figure 1.15 The magnificent and historical high quality portraits of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima and His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of Spain King Felipe & Her Royal Majesty Queen Letizia**



**Photo 1**



**Photo 2**



**Photo 3**



**Photo 4**

Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 - Amsterdam, 17 April 2024, state visit by the King and Queen of Spain to the Netherlands, Image: © Patrick van Katwijk. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/2024-04-spain/17/staatsbanket-tijdens-staatsbezoek-spanje-1.jpeg> and Photo 2 - Amsterdam, 17 April 2024, state visit by the King and Queen of Spain to the Netherlands, Image: © ANP. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/2024-04-spain/17/toost-tijdens-staatsbanket-spanje.jpeg> and Photo 3 - The Hague, 18 April 2024, state visit by the King and Queen of Spain to the Netherlands, Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/2024-04-spain/18/regeringslunch-staatsbezoek-van-spanje-2.jpeg> and Photo 4 - The Hague, 18 April 2024, state visit by the King and Queen of Spain to the Netherlands, Image: © Clingendael David van Dam. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/2024-04-spain/18/koning-willem-alexander-en-koning-felipe-clingendael-2.jpeg>). "Used with permission".

<sup>38</sup>“**State visit by the King and Queen of Spain – programme.** At the invitation of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander, His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain will pay a state visit to the Netherlands on Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 April. King Felipe will be accompanied by his wife, Her Majesty Queen Letizia. The Netherlands and Spain have a shared history and are bound by common values and interests. The two countries have maintained diplomatic relations since 1648, and historical links stretch back even further. The centuries-old ties connecting the Netherlands and Spain are political, economic, cultural and social in nature. Political cooperation with Spain has intensified over the past few years. The two countries work together closely in areas including open strategic autonomy and organised crime. Economic ties are also strong. Spain is the seventh largest market for Dutch exports, and the Netherlands imports a large proportion of its fruit and vegetables from Spain. There have also been sizeable investments in both directions in green hydrogen to safeguard the future availability and affordability of energy. Many Dutch people feel at home in Spain, sometimes choosing to settle there temporarily or permanently. Conversely, many Spanish people study and work in the Netherlands. There are regular exchanges in the field of art and culture, from the Old Masters to contemporary artists who connect their work to socially relevant themes such as equality and sustainability”” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2024, <https://www.royal-house.nl/latest/news/2024/04/04/state-visit-by-the-king-and-queen-of-spain-programme>). The following section will cover information about the Republic of South Africa in-depth.

#### **1.10.4 Republic of South Africa**

The magnificent high quality portraits of the working visit to the Republic of South Africa by His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima will be clearly depicted below by Figure 1.16.

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<sup>38</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2024) *State visit by the King and Queen of Spain – programme*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/latest/news/2024/04/04/state-visit-by-the-king-and-queen-of-spain-programme> [Accessed July 27, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

**Figure 1.16 The magnificent high quality portraits of the working visit to the Republic of South Africa by His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima**



Source: Royal House of the Netherlands: (Photo 1 - Cape Town, 20 October 2023, state visit to South Africa, Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/2023-10-south-africa/20/port-cape-town-state-visit-south-africa.jpeg> and Photo 2 - Pretoria, 18 October 2023, state visit to South Africa, Image: © RVD. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/binaries/large/content/gallery/royalhouse/content-afbeeldingen/staatsbezoeken/2023-10-south-africa/18/jacaranda-trees-state-visit-south-africa.jpeg>) “Used with permission”.

<sup>39</sup>“**State visit to South Africa – programme.** The state visit will focus on the excellent ties and equal partnership between the two countries. South Africa is one of the Netherlands’ most important African partners in the areas of economics, politics, culture, education and science. The two cooperate actively on solutions for a more just, inclusive and sustainable future. From the perspective of a shared history, they look forward today on an equal footing to a shared future. Key themes during the visit will be sustainable and inclusive growth, cultural cooperation, human rights and legal equality, and exchanges of knowledge and science”” (Royal House of the Netherlands, 2023, <https://www.royal-house.nl/latest/news/2023/09/29/state-visit->

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<sup>39</sup> Royal House of the Netherlands (2023) *State visit to South Africa – programme.*. Available from: <https://www.royal-house.nl/latest/news/2023/09/29/state-visit-to-south-africa-programme> [Accessed July 27, 2024] Government Information Service’s copyright.

[to-south-africa-programme](#)). The next section will cover the conclusion of this Chapter in greater detail.

## **1.11 Conclusion**

It can therefore be concluded that the Kingdom of the Netherlands is well known for its pro-democracy, happy, friendly and welcoming citizens. Today the Kingdom of the Netherlands is now one of the most recognized key player on the continent of Europe in terms of economics, international trade, tourism, security and so on. It can also be concluded that the Kingdom of the Netherlands is a globally ranked beautiful country in the world that enjoys a highly unique and attractive culture, lifestyle and weather. It can be concluded that the historical success story of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is mainly accredited to the globally renowned Royal House of the Netherlands under the leadership of His Royal Majesty The King of the Kingdom of the Netherlands King Willem-Alexander & Queen Maxima and the Government of the Netherlands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is indeed the hub of global human rights protection, democracy and diplomacy excellence and as a result this enables The Netherlands to enjoy a strong nation brand status. It can therefore be concluded that countries with leaders that embrace openness, effective leadership strategies and nation building end up achieving prosperity.

## **1.12 Review questions**

- 1) Define the following two terms ‘principle’ and ‘support’?
- 2) Discuss the history of The Netherlands?
- 3) Describe the basic information of the Royal Family of the Kingdom of the Netherlands?
- 4) Discuss the profile information of His Royal Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Royal Majesty Queen Máxima in greater detail? Describe the historical good foreign relations and cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with the United States of America (USA), Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of South Africa?

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