

Propaganda of the Dutch school system about our slavery and war past in South East Asia



I am writing from memory so I am probably wrong on many details

What I learned in school about our Dutch colonial time 1600-... still ongoing, we deny Aruba Bonaire & curacao independence

This is all a rough retelling from memory

I went to primary school from 1986 to 1994

We probably started getting history lessons at 8 years old in the 4th grade.

We were told we were a trading nation with few natural resources of our own but with ingenuity managed to compete with bigger countries like England and Spain.

We had a golden century of profitable trade in the 17th century,

this is when the east India company (VOC) started traveling to “de oost” the east for spice trade in Asia we made big profits trading low value items like glass trinkets for spices that were very valuable here. Because of the wars with Spain and England the dutch government sent troops there to protect the spice fleet from robbers. Often pirates were sanctioned by countries to attack other countries. Or independent vessels from countries that were sent out to capture enemy ships. Piet Heijn was a hero for capturing the silver fleet from Spain and Jan Pieterszoon Coen also for establishing trade routes. Slowly we took over the islands so we could harvest our own spices instead of having to buy them from the local population.

When profit became lower we started trading with the islands in central america(WIC). And started farming our own goods like cane sugar there. Because it was too hot we first used slaves from africa to work for us, in that time slavery was normal so we just did what the rest was also doing and later when slavery ended we brought people from india and indonesia there who had a work contract.

Our colonies

In the east we had indonesia, in africa we had a permanent harbour and refilling spot for the ships trading with Indonesia, in south africa, so there is still some dutch culture there but England took over so when the apartheid regime started we were not involved.

we had new amsterdam in north america, but traded it with the English for Suriname. New amsterdam was renamed new york. The islands north east of surinam were also Dutch Aruba curacao Bonaire and st. eustatius but those were smaller islands.

Suriname was given their independence in 1978 the islands are still part of the Dutch kingdom as special provinces, they can

vote for the government pay tax and receive funding. But they have their own currency.

This was before the European currency was developed, we switched in 2004 from gulden to euro

Indonesia had been part of the dutch Kingdom from the time of the VOC, but after the second world war they used the lower attention of the dutch government there to claim independence we tried to restore order but had to give up because we were rebuilding after the German invasion.

What I wrote above is mostly bullshit

This is the basic state propaganda all dutch people receive I hope I remember correct, I did some fact checks, suriname became a country within the kingdom in 1954 and became independent in 1975, and the names of the captains and what they did is also mostly correct I will give more details in the next part.

after the second world war many people from the colonies came to the netherlands to help rebuild the country, they have been vocal about the rewriting of history by the dutch school system, I think it is better now, but still not honest.

The |”details” that were left out:

This is what I learned the last few years: In reality was the VOC a private company, that sold shares so people and governments could invest. It had its own army, that could also call on the state for support.

They transported people from Africa to the West indies because the enslaved indiginous would escepe. And be able to communicate with the people that were still free. Slavery ended for slaves in the Netherlands in 1865, but they had to work 10 years extra to earn their own freedom.

The VOC went to south east Asia and made trading deals by

force. Jan Pieterszoon Coen, who is still regarded as a folk hero is in other countries known as the butcher of Banda, killing 2800 and enslaving 1700 people to “make a trade deal”. There are many protests against his statue in Hoorn, the province capital of North Holland and the base of the VOC. The Netherlands were around that time called Holland because the government was in a village called The Hague in South Holland

People could invest in shares of a ship, the profits were big because it was pure theft, trade under pressure of the military. When the Dutch ruled over Indonesia, we used the local leaders who had a feudal serfs system to stay in control. On top of that we took the caste system the English had used in India to create different groups within Indonesian society, so they would try to please the dutch to get themselves or their children into a higher caste.

There were no Dutch women brought to Indonesia so all dutch leaders took local women, their direct children were probably high caste and allowed to go to school.

The Indonesian caste system:

highest

Dutch(white): go to school learn how to read and write in dutch get leading jobs in the government

Indo (child of white and Indonesian) was allowed to learn some dutch so they could work as servants to the dutch.

Depending on the colour of their skin, or the part that was dutch they were allowed to stay longer in school, the lightest would get servant jobs, darker skinned administrative jobs in the government

so that is how we introduced colourism and racism in Indonesia

We did some very nasty stuff to Indonesian people, probably worst is how we treated the Maluku, first we enlisted them into our army the royal Dutch Indian army (Koninklijk Nederlands Indië Leger (KNIL)) where we made them fight other Indonesian islands, when the Japanese liberated Indonesia they fought with us against the Japanese, and later when Indonesia claimed independence they fought with us against the Indonesians as part of our “politie” policing action we had promised them an independent state within the kingdom if they would fight for us.

20th century

In the Netherlands we say after WW2 ‘nooit meer’, never again... But we still went to Indonesia to start a new war against the Indonesian people that wanted to keep their independence. After a couple of years it became clear we could not win but we kept trying with more horrible methods until the NATO or USA forced us to sign a peace treaty where we made the Indonesians buy their own country from us and missed income in the future. 6,5 miljard gulden (100billion euro (1.671.000.000.000.000

1600quadrillionRupia? The numbers are a bit confusing but it is too big to imagine

while the Marshall help from USA was 3,5miljard, we still claim the country was rebuild with the loan from America. And the welfare state was payed for with money from the gas fields in the north of the country. This is not true it was with money Indonesia was forced to give us to get full freedom. Indonesia stopped paying for some years it was resumed in 1966 and finished in 2003

We lost the war so the Maluku people were stuck in a country where they fought against and did not get the sovereign state that was promised to them, as a token of appreciation we

offered them a home in the Netherlands, March 1951 a boat with 900 Maluku KNIL military and their family arrive later that year another 12.500 Ambonese arrive.

They do not get the welcome they expected, it is cold in the Netherlands and there are no houses available, at first they are put in the empty camps the Germans had used to round up the Jewish people, later different “ camps” were build so the Maluku could live separate from Dutch society, because it will only be temporary until it is safe to return or the Maluku got their own state within Indonesia.

In the 70's there are multiple actions by the Maluku who want the dutch government to act on their promise, the biggest in 1977 they hijack a school and a train, and keep the train for 20 days until they are all murdered by the dutch police.



this is why I feel very uncomfortable by the idea of visiting the Maluku Islands, and also a bit uncomfortable when meeting Maluku-Dutch people PS. I do not want to identify as Hollander because I do not live in Holland and most of the country dislikes them for being smug. In the rural provinces Hollander is an insult that means something like lazy person who sits on his arse while ordering other people around. The government is in south Holland and the 3 biggest cities are in the west of the country where north and south Holland are situated

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<https://fakkelplemp.nl/zine/Indonesia/imperial-netherlands.pdf>

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Netherlands
42.201 km²