



NAME

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TITLE OF PRESENTATION

The organisation of global trade: the monopoly companies, 1600-1800

ABSTRACT OF PRESENTATION

In the early modern period (1500-1800) shipping and trade within European waters was mainly the domain of the individual merchants. In order to minimize the risks merchants developed several financial and commercial institutions such as the trading companies. These organisations played an important role in facilitating inter-continental trade.

In this contribution the similarities and differences between the English East India Company and the Dutch East India Company will be discussed. In addition, several other long-distance trade companies will be analysed as well as their effects on the financial and commercial structures in Europe and in the non-European world

At the end of this contribution, the demise of the intercontinental trading companies will be reviewed. What were the reasons for the decline of the volume of trade, of the financial results and what were the effects of interlopers and pirates?

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Pieter C. Emmer studied History and Economics at the University of Leiden and obtained a Ph.D in Economics at the University of Amsterdam in 1974. Since that year he has been teaching at the History Department of the University of Leiden as professor in the History of the Expansion of Europe and related migration movements. He was a visiting fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, UK (1978-79), at the Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin (2000-2001) and at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (2002-2003), Wassenaar, The Netherlands. He is a member of the Academia Europaea (London) and served as visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin (1986-87) and at the University of Hamburg, Germany (1996-97). Publications: *The Dutch in the Atlantic Economy, 1580-1880* (Aldershot, 1998) and *De Nederlandse slavenhandel, 1500-1850* (Amsterdam, 2000), translated as *Les Pays-Bas et la traite des Noirs* (Paris: Karthala, 2004) and as *The Dutch Slave Trade, 1500-1850* (New York/Oxford: Berghahn, 2006). His latest book with Jos Gommans as co-author, *Rijk aan de rand van de wereld. De geschiedenis van Nederland overzee 1600-1800* (Amsterdam, 2012). Pieter Emmer is one of the editors of *Migration, Integration, Minorities, a European Encyclopaedia* published by Cambridge University Press in 2011.