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## **Courting conflict : managing Dutch East and West India Company disputes in the Dutch Republic**

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## Propositions

1. Both the VOC and the WIC were vulnerable to litigation in the Dutch Republic, indicating that the perception of the companies was not as untouchable giants.
2. The VOC and the WIC were not above the law but were subject to the decisions of the States General and rulings of the courts in the Dutch Republic.
3. Another aspect of the VOC's and the WIC's multifaceted corporate identities is that they too were litigants.
4. The States General played an important role in managing conflicts which involved the companies, before, during or after litigation in the High Court.
5. The States General connected company jurisdictions to the legal system in the Republic via the mechanisms of delegation and redress. Unlike the insulated VOC court system, cases from WIC courts could be appealed in the Republic via the States General's Court of Appeal.
6. A wide range of litigants pursued cases against the companies, encompassing individual and corporate litigants, subjects of the States General and foreigners, men and women.
7. Extradition cases are a window onto the clash of two sides of VOC corporate identity: the company was ruler and judge in its charter area but subject to the legal system in the Republic.
8. The VOC faced many more cases in the High Court than the WIC, which can be explained in part by differences in operationalising monopolies, structuring of trade, and the vibrancy of share markets in the Republic.
9. This dissertation demonstrates the potential and usefulness of High Court records, an otherwise unused source in VOC and WIC historiography, and by covering the breadth of cases against the companies, lays the foundation for future research.
10. Research at the interface of fields, in this instance economic history and legal history, presents significant archival, conceptual, and linguistic challenges which are best overcome collaboratively.
11. Communal gardening in a public space mirrors the task of researchers, the fruit of whose labour is a contribution to society at large.