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## **The Dutch and the Portuguese in West Africa : empire building and Atlantic system (1580-1674)**

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## STELLINGEN

1. The collapse of the Portuguese Atlantic in the 1630s should be attributed to the deficient military and naval protection offered by the Portuguese Crown to the trade, the persecution of the merchants in control of the Iberian inter-continental commerce; the Portuguese Restoration in 1640 and subsequent loss of the Spanish *asiento* and not to the arrival of the Dutch in the Southern Atlantic and their occupation of the Portuguese possessions in America and West Africa as Charles Boxer argued.  
C.R. Boxer, *Salvador Correia de Sá and the struggle for Brazil and Angola* (London, 1952).
2. The intra-continental and hinterland trade in West Africa and in the Americas played a major role in the formation of the Atlantic system. The access to and the control over these supply and consumption markets were as important for the success or the failure of the Europeans in the Atlantic economy as these markets in Europe.  
Horst Pietschmann (Hrsg.), *Atlantic History: History of the Atlantic System* (Göttingen, 2002).
3. The plantation complex only started to be the engine of the transatlantic slave trade after its transfer to the Caribbean Islands, the Guianas and North America. Until the 1630s, the development of the mining economy in the Spanish American colonies was the main stimulus for the growth of the transatlantic slave trade.  
Philip D. Curtin, *The rise and fall of the plantation complex* (Aldershot, Vt., 2001).
4. Private entrepreneurship in the Atlantic and West African trade was far more efficient than the State-sponsored monopolistic companies.  
David Eltis, *The rise of African Slavery in the Americas* (Cambridge, 2000), chapters 5 and 6.
5. The Inquisition was not only an institution to control deviant religious behaviour and a form of organized persecution against specific religious and ethnic groups. By expropriating private property, especially from entrepreneurs, businessmen and craftsmen, the Inquisitorial Courts also became a serious threat to the economies of the regions under their jurisdiction.
6. The Habsburg rule over Portugal and the Empire has been systematically regarded by the Portuguese historiography as the main cause of the decline of the Portuguese primacy overseas. Nevertheless, the Union of the Iberian Crowns was crucial for the success of the Portuguese in the Atlantic.
7. Since the cornerstones of Salazar's ideology were work, family, religion and the Nation (*Pátria*), the study of Portuguese Overseas Expansion became an important instrument of the dictatorship to justify the so-called 'Portuguese civilizing mission' in the World.
8. National historiographies tend to avoid studying subjects and chronological periods that reveal the failings of the countries in the course of history and that might offend national identities. The Portuguese historiography, for instance, has centred its attention in the Age of Discoveries and avoided the crisis of the Portuguese Empire in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
9. A hurried lifestyle reduces the clarity of individuals and prevents them from defining their lives' priorities in a thoughtful way.
10. Wisdom is a scarce commodity nowadays. Only some persons can afford it, especially those who have just finished a Ph.D. thesis.
11. Integrity is a luxury in modern westernized societies. Few people have the courage to fight for it.
12. Kindness can rarely be found among human beings of our times. Only enlightened souls still put their faith in it.