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Mastering the worst of trades : England's early Africa companies and their traders, 1618-1672

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Propositions/Stellingen

1. No story of the early modern expansion can be complete without acknowledging the role of the Africa trade and companies in their own right.
2. The relevant question is often not what members offered the company, but what the company offered its members.
3. In the case of the first Africa company, we should talk less of "entering" a company, and more about building a company structure around private practices, this begs us to question the origins and goals of institutions
4. The management of competition represented one of the biggest driving factors of expansion.
5. The interlinking of the West African coast with the Americas was, in the case of English official trade, no inevitability.
6. The great importance of the transatlantic slave trade, in the case of England, is not reflected by our knowledge of how the trade was first shaped.
7. Despite the great potential of statistical and quantitative data, they often obscure our view of the human experiences that lies at their base. People are not numbers.
8. The maintenance of the delicate balance between universities as profit-making institutions and as arenas of independent thinking and the free search for knowledge, demands our care and attention.
9. Without proper food and drink, people cannot think.
10. This thesis aims to show that the importance of the individual in history is undeniable, but this does not change the fact that progress is best done in unison and through collaboration.