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From Golden Rock to Historic Gem: a historical archaeological analysis of the maritime cultural landscape of St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean
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Propositions

Relating to the subject of the dissertation

1. In order to truly make sense of the complex interactions, events, and processes that shaped St. Eustatius' maritime world, land and sea need to be studied in relation to each other.
2. Slaves on St. Eustatius often asserted their own power in various ways, both implicitly and explicitly, to challenge colonial administrators and the elite white class they were subjected to.
3. Even though St. Eustatius seemed to be a well-defended stronghold in the eighteenth century, its works of defense could never have prevented a serious attempt at a hostile invasion.
4. The only way to gain a complete understanding of a historic anchorage area is through a multidisciplinary approach that combines archaeological analysis, documentary research, and the study of the natural environment.

Relating to the discipline of historical archaeology

5. The increased use of the term "enslaved African" in Caribbean and historical archaeology is problematic at best and promotes the ideas it is trying to curb at worst.
6. Slavery is a very diverse concept that can entail many different experiences. For some slaves, their status had a relatively minor impact on the quality of their lives, and may have even provided them with opportunities not enjoyed by free people.
7. Very often, the notion that shipwrecks are 'time capsules' - particular events frozen in time - is too simplistic.
8. In Caribbean archaeology, the maritime cultural landscape is a heavily understudied topic. This is strange, as on small islands nearly every aspect of past human behavior is linked to the maritime world in one way or another.

Miscellaneous

9. In archaeology you often have no clue what you're doing when you're doing it, and even less so when you're finished.
10. In order to survive economically and function properly, the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands can never become completely independent from the European Netherlands.