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Dutch entrepreneurship in the Spanish Americas, 1580-1700

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Propositions

1. Early modern merchants were guided not by national or imperial borders in their commercial activities, but by profit.
2. The rise of Amsterdam as a center of world trade was inextricably linked to the colonial expansion of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
3. The *Coymans Asiento* of 1685 demonstrates that individuals who had little personal contact due to differences in religion, background, or class were able to unite in business through a shared profit motive.
4. In the early modern period, individuals were able to adapt their identities flexibly depending on the audience or institution they were presenting themselves to, demonstrating that identity was not a fixed construct.
5. Studies on the profitability of the slave trade and colonialism in the early modern period are of limited relevance, as the economic benefits often lay elsewhere.
6. The colonial legacy that determines which archives have the resources for digitization and which archival collections are digitized remains insufficiently recognized.
7. In the History program, Paleography should be a mandatory course for student studying the early modern period.
8. Advances in AI technology increase the productivity of historians.
9. The quiet elimination of the “bitterballen bonus” (a financial allowance previously given to PhD candidates who completed their dissertations on time) exemplifies how decisions are made about PhD candidates

without their involvement, revealing the unequal power dynamics within the university.

- 10.** The insufficient information regarding the PhD trajectory and the associated costs exacerbates the inequality between first-generation student and second- or third-generation students.
- 11.** Despite the changes the university has undergone over the past century, it remains a patriarchal institution that makes it difficult for women to receive the same recognition as their male colleagues.
- 12.** Understanding history enhances one's comprehension of the world and fosters greater respect for others.