



Lesson Plan to accompany the story
“The Caliph’s Gift” from the collection
“The Illustrated Ulysses S. Grant in
China and Other Stories.”

THE DUTCH AGE OF SAIL

Among the European powers that staked their economic claims across the globe, a brief but influential one was the Dutch Republic. Now Belgium, this commercial powerhouse held claims on multiple continents, and could boast as being, for over two centuries, the only European power to trade with the isolated, nearly mythological island nation of Japan.

The high point of Dutch maritime success occurred in the 17th century. From the furthest corners of Asia to the New World, Dutch vessels sailed across the globe in search of profit. From opening trade relations to Japan, settled colonies in the North America, and the start of the Far East spice trade, Dutch vessels crisscrossed the oceans. Most of this commerce occurred under the flag of the Dutch East India Company. Eventually, competition from their French and British counterparts caused the Dutch trade to decline. The ports in North America and India were lost to the British. They maintained trade in Japan, however, until 1853, when a young republic known as the United States opened Japan to the world.

ASSIGNMENT

Please visit these sites and answer two questions:

<http://www.ageofsail.net/aosdgalh.asp>

<https://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-dutch-economy-in-the-golden-age-16th-17th-centuries/>

https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Journals/PacHR/11/1/Dutch_Maritime_power_and_the_Colonial_Status_Quo_1585_to_1641*.html

https://periclespress.net/Dutch_collapse.html

- 1) What led to the Dutch rise in maritime commercial power?
- 2) What led to their decline?

Length: your essay should be roughly 300 words

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