

university of groningen

The Netherlands and its relation with Japan, a historical perspective

2

PROF. JANNY DE JONG

- DIRECTOR CENTER FOR JAPAN STUDIES
- DIRECTOR OF STUDIES ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTER EUROCLTURE: SOCIETY, POLITICS AND CULTURE IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Hirado, July 2011

5-11-2018

Outline

- The Dutch as a major power in the Golden Age**
 - Art, science, world trade
 - Position of the Dutch as major power
 - Start trade relations with Japan, 1609
 - 1641 move of Dutch factory from Hirado to Dejima
- 19th century**
 - Demise of Dutch power in Europe
 - Perceived significance of being a colonial power
 - Change in bilateral relations with Japan
 - Importance of Japanese diplomatic visits to Europe and US
- 20th-21st century**
 - Decolonisation, European integration
 - New phase in bilateral relations with Japan
 - Special historic relationship remembered in Nagasaki and Hirado, Huis Ten Bosch

Janny de Jong 3 5-11-2018

university of groningen

4

The Dutch as a major power in the Golden Age (long¹⁷th century)

Jan (Johannes) Vermeer (1632-1675)
THE GEOGRAPHER
c.1668-1669

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018

university of groningen

the Dutch republic in the Golden AGE

5

- a key period in Dutch history:
 - Explosive economic growth since 1585
 - High economic, scientific and cultural development
 - Amsterdam became financial capital of the world
 - New political structure, dominant role for the 'burghers'
- Important scientists:
 - Hugo Grotius, international law (1583-1645)
 - Christian Huygens (1629-1695) physics, astronomy
 - Jan Leeghwater (1575-1650) hydraulic engineer
 - Anthoni van Leeuwenhoek 1632 -microbiology
 - Simon Stevin (1548/49 - 1620) mathematician and military engineer

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018

http://ghdnl.wikimedia.org/wiki/Bestaand:Vermeer_Jan_0001_01
Abel_m_Castalia_Oscar_ana_de_Dob_Dob_4
66384

5-11-2018



university of groningen

Dutch situation was special

- Dutch state drew power from federalism, where absolutist centralization was the norm
- Population had trebled between 1550 and 1650
- Cheap energy sources (windmills, invention of the saw mill)
- favourably positioned for trade: in the middle of east-west and north-south trade routes in Europe
- Dutch role in world trade
 - 1602 VOC East Indian Company. World's largest commercial enterprise, received a Dutch monopoly on Asian trade
 - 1621 WIC West Indian Company

Jenny de Jong 5-11-2018

university of groningen

VOC

- 1602-1798;
- largest commercial company of the world;
- extensive local and regional economic network;
- It was the VOC that traded with Japan.

Kobang, gold, 17 century

Apple is een krabbelaar vergeleken met de VOC

AMSTERDAM Klinkt goed: duurste bedrijf ooit. Sluist deze week kan een beurswaarde van 7,4 biljoen dollar, volgens sommigen, spreken maken op die tienduizenden dollars dvhv 14-2-2015

Maar mag die grens w eerste hebben bereikt, c niet dat het historisch meteen op één staat. Zo was reu China na zijn beursgang in Shanghai omgerekend al een biljoen dollar waard.

Apple neemt de vlag over van Microsoft, dat in 1999 een waarde van 616 miljard aantikte. Dat is weliswaar veel minder dan Apple nu, maar wordt dat bedrag omgerekend naar de huidige situatie, dan was Microsoft de grootste waarde van de wereld. Maar ook de Saudi's moeten het onderspit delven. Het allerduurste bedrijf ooit is oer-Hollands. De VOC was op haar top, tijdens de Tulpenmanie rond 1637, 78 miljoen gulden waard; omgerekend is dat ruim 74 biljoen dollar.

Nog twee bedrijven zijn zo beïnvloed geweest dan Apple. Amerikaanse bedrijven zetten de toon. De Mississippi Company, die rond 1720 alle scheepvaart op de Amerikaanse rivier domineerde, is met ruim 6 biljoen dollar nummer twee. De Britse slavenhandelaar South Sea Company, die rond 1720 voor 2 miljoen pond aan aandelen uitgifte, staat op de derde plaats.

WIC (Geoctroyeerde West-Indische Compagnie) (1621-1798)

settlements in the Atlantic Ocean (1640s/1650s)

12

university of groningen

This all resulted in

13

Huge confidence and self-esteem

also in perception of foreigners:
 ‘The trade of the Hollanders is so far extended that it may be said to have no other bounds than those which the Almighty set at creation’
 Charles Davenant (1656–1714), economist.

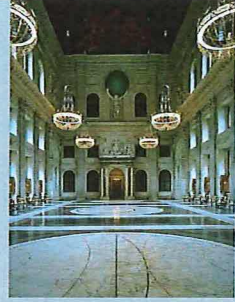

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018

university of groningen

City hall of Amsterdam (at present the Royal Palace)

14



- Built between 1648- 1665
- Designed by Jacob van Campen; Statues designed by Artus Quellinus
- At the time the largest administrative building in Europe

Janny de Jong

university of groningen


Trade pass, 1609

15

<http://www.city.hirado.nagasaki.jp/english/sights/dutchtradingpostrec.htm>

The Dutch Trading Post in Hirado - reconstruction of the 1639 warehouse -



The background and development of the reconstruction

The reconstruction of the warehouse was first proposed in the 1980s. Preservation and management plan of the site was put into the hands of historical research and excavation.

From 1993 onwards, research was mainly based on historical documents in Dutch. In the early 2000s, the archaeological excavations of the site were conducted and were consequently finished in 2005.

From 1993 to 1998 the Dutch architects de Wit & Co were asked to make a blueprint for reconstruction and it resulted based on the excavated historical Dutch historical documents.

Through the reconstruction of the site started in 1997 and 2001, the foundation of the site in the form of a site plan was found in relation to early maps and old blueprints which the exact layout and the basic measurements could be deduced.

In 1998 the Japanese Local Committee for Reconstruction of the Dutch Trading Post in Hirado was established. The committee consists of local officials and researchers from the University of Groningen, the University of Tokyo, and the University of Nagasaki.

In 2002, the Japanese Local Committee for Reconstruction of the Dutch Trading Post in Hirado was established. The committee consists of local officials and researchers from the University of Groningen, the University of Tokyo, and the University of Nagasaki.

In 2002 on 17 September 2011 the reconstruction research and the foundation of the building started the actual reconstruction. To take the level of accuracy of the existing documents to which the reconstruction plans were based Dutch specialists were also involved in the process.

16

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018

university of groningen

De Liefde

17



university of groningen



Hirado, reconstructed Dutch warehouse, opening 17 September 2011

18



university of groningen

Japanese-Dutch relations

19

university of groningen

Dejima, Japan



university of groningen



21

- Brass lantern with Tokugawa crest, very heavy and expensive gift to the shogun (1643), commissioned by the East Indian Company, made by Joost Gerritsz.

Nikko, Toshogu shrine

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018

university of groningen

22

19th century

- Demise of Dutch power in Europe
- Perceived significance of being a colonial power
- Change in bilateral relations with Japan

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018

university of groningen

Letter King William II to the shogun, 1844

23

- 'This, Allpowerful Emperor, is our friendly advice; ameliorate the laws against the foreigners, lest happy Japan be destroyed by war. We give Your Majesty this advice with honest intentions, free from political self-interest. We hope that wisdom will make the Japanese Government realize that peace can only be maintained through friendly relations, and that these are only created by commercial relations'

Journal of World History, Volume 21, Number 2, June 2010, pp. 240-260 (Article)

Published by University of Hawai'i Press

Monopolists to Middlemen:
Dutch Liberalism and American Imperialism in the Opening of Japan

MARTHA CHAZELIN
University of Pittsburgh

The First Expedition is widely regarded as a pivotal event in the history of Japan and the United States. It marks the first time that a Western power set foot on Japanese soil in over two centuries. In a sense, it was the first step in a long and complex process, the expansion and the negotiation of the world's largest empire, the first century of American global hegemony in the Pacific, and the beginning of the end of Japanese isolationism. As a result, scholars from these countries periodically return to re-examine the event. Some of the most recent of these studies are *Empire of the Rising Sun* by Andrew Nathan, *Empire from Japan: The Dutch in Edo Japan's "Isolation"* by Andrew Nathan, and *The Opening of Japan: A History* by Andrew Nathan. In this article, I will examine the role of the American diplomat and linguist Daniel Hild Chamberlain (1810-1893). He was the only Westerner to have lived in Japan for a long period, and he played a significant role in the opening of Japan.

Journal of World History, Vol. 21, No. 2, June 2010, pp. 240-260
© 2010 by University of Hawai'i Press

24

university of groningen

Japanese Missions to Europe and the United States, 1860-1873


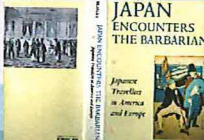
25

Tokugawa period:

- 1860, 1862, 1864, and 1866: primary concern: to negotiate problems connected with the Ansei commercial treaties of 1858
- 1865 and 1867 primary concern: obtaining technological knowledge

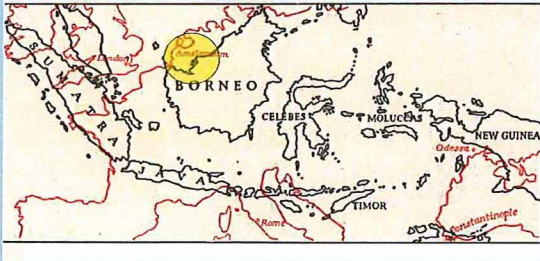
Meiji period:

- 1871-1873 Iwakura mission

university of groningen

The size of the Dutch colonial empire in Asia compared with the size of the Netherlands in Europe




Janmy de Jong 5-11-2018

university of groningen

Takenouchi mission, 1862

27

- negotiations about the delay of opening Hyogo (Kobe) and Niigata and Edo and Osaka for foreign trade
- Knowledge and information



university of groningen

Fukuzawa Yukichi

28

The Netherlands:
Most friendly welcome...
special relation.....
Second homeland



<http://www.humi.keio.ac.jp>

university of groningen

29

- 'our old friends had the opportunity to see for themselves that also in this respect, Holland is not backward, compared to the larger nations that had already been visited'

Janmy de Jong 5-11-2018

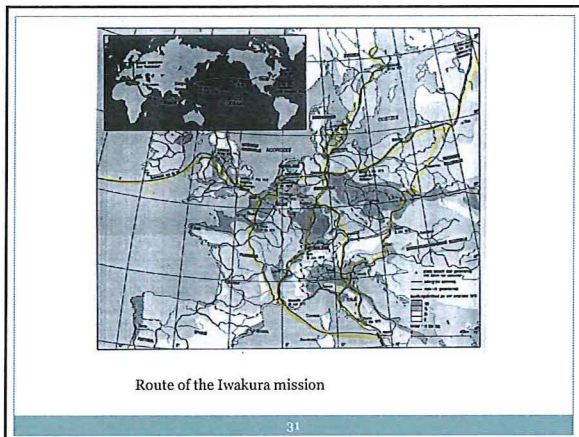
university of groningen

1871-1873: Iwakura mission

30

three aims:

- to visit the 15 countries with which Japan had entered diplomatic relations
- to start preliminary discussions for the reversal of the unequal treaties;
- to study constitutions and laws, education and finance, trade and industry of the West



- Kume Kunitake
Tokumei zenken taishi Beio kairan jikki
"A True Account of the Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary's Journey of Observation Through the United States of America and Europe." (1878)
- Translation: The Iwakura embassy

32

university of groningen

'a land wallowing in mud'

- 'impressed at how a country with the same number of people as the four Kyūshū provinces (...) has contrived to build a wealthy and populous state from a land wallowing in mud'.

33

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018

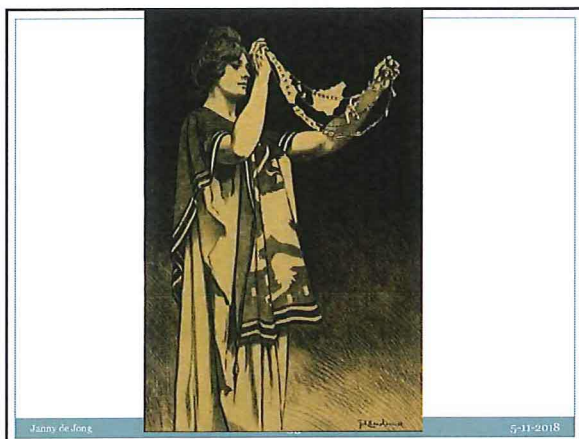
university of groningen

power

- 'In the finer details of relations between peoples of different lands, those from great powers inevitably take pride in their strength and look down on those from small countries'
- Kume Kunitake
- But that was not how the Dutch perceived themselves....

34

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018



36

Johan Braakensiek, 1858-1940

- (1916) "The most precious jewel of the Netherlands"
- The Dutch should be aware of the importance of the Indonesian Archipelago

Janny de Jong 5-11-2018

Albert Hahn (1877-1918)

Jenny de Jong 5-11-2018

Cornelis van Vollenhoven

- Professor of Indonesian common law (*adat*)
- Holland is 'Joan of Arc' in international relations
- It has a special destiny in colonial affairs

35

university of groningen

39

- Indies lost, tremendous costs..
- Yet that was precisely what happened after the Second World War.
- 1949

11/5/2018

university of groningen

1945-1949

40

- Two major military offensives:
 - 21 July until 5 August 1947
 - 19 December 1948 until January 1949
- 27 December 1949 Independence Indonesia signed in The Hague

university of groningen

41

20th century

- Decolonisation, European integration
- New phase in bilateral relations with Japan
- Special historic relationship remembered in Nagasaki and Hirado, Huis Ten Bosch
- Examples of close cooperation in education

Jenny de Jong 5-11-2018

<http://www.nrc.nl/redactie/foto/sumo/uma.swf>

Jenny de Jong 42 5-11-2018

