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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS IN THE XVI-XVIII CENTURIES**

### *Summary*

The article describes the main directions of economic development of the Netherlands in the XVI-XVIII centuries. The author draws attention to the peculiarities of the geographical location of the country (much of the territory was below sea level), which largely determined the nature of agricultural development. Talking about the level of manufacturing, the author notes that his most developed industries were the textile industry and shipbuilding. Shipbuilding cost the Dutch several times cheaper than residents of other European countries due to the use of modern technology.

At the same time, it is noted that agriculture and industry did not provide the main income to the people of the country. The Netherlands owed its economic power to an active trade policy. The local government strongly defended the principle of free trade. Trade relations with Western Europe played a significant role.

The Dutch are actively penetrating the territory of the Moscow Empire. In the XVI century. formed three districts in Russia, through which trade with the Netherlands. The dominant place was occupied by the Baltic region; the second place belonged to the Murmansk district and the third place - the mouth of the Northern Dvina, where the main role was played by the port city of Arkhangelsk.

The second part of the article covers the colonial policy of the Netherlands. The author notes that as a result of the conquest of new lands, the Dutch became trade intermediaries not only between China and Japan, but also between China, the Moluccas and the islands of Indonesia, on the one hand, and Persia, Arabia and East Africa, on the other. The whole East became their tribute.

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Colonial trade gave impetus to the development of powerful trade associations. An example of this is the Dutch East India Company, which became the first corporation in history to be financed by issuing shares.

As a result, the author emphasizes that trade, which was the main "breadwinner" of the Netherlands in the XVII century. became one of the reasons for the decline of local industry and the country's loss of economic leadership. Instead of investing in the development of domestic manufacturing, colossal capital was invested in trade and usury. All this, of course, had a negative impact on the development of the Dutch economy.

*Keywords:* economic history of the Netherlands, shipping, trade, colonial policy, shipbuilding, money, merchant.

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