

# **Spanish-Dutch Relations in the New World during the Existence of the *West Indische Compagnie***

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## **Abstract**

This dissertation is dedicated to the Spanish-Dutch relations in the New World during the existence of the first Dutch West India Company (1621-1674). On base of an imagological analysis, this thesis presents elements of mutual relations, reflected in hetero-images, together with self-representation of both analyzed parties (thus self-image) within the ongoing conflict of the Eighty Years' War. The imagological analysis is applied on archival material, chiefly the Dutch pamphlets and Spanish *Relaciones de sucesos* (which can be translated as "Treatises of Successes"). The result of this thesis is then an analysis of development and changes of mutual images, upon the historical events of the Spanish-Dutch war conflict: thus since the beginnings of the Dutch Revolt, passing through the Twelve Years' Truce, until the signature of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. A special emphasis is put to the final phase of the Eighty Years' War, in this thesis delimited by the years 1621-1648, which was marked by the official entrance of the West India Company into the Spanish waters of Greater Caribbean. An important watershed in mutual relations is afterwards represented by the Peace of Westphalia, which changed the original animosity into formal trading and later on also military alliance. However, a significant imagological change from a negative hetero-image to a positive (or at least a neutral) one, experienced after 1648 just Spain. Meanwhile, the United Provinces of the Netherlands kept on representing Spanish empire in negative tones, and a notable shift of this long-lasting hetero-image took place as late as at the very decline of the West India Company.

## **Key Words**

Spain, United Provinces, Netherlands, imagology, New World, America, colonies, Suriname, Antilles, Caribbean, West India Company, piracy, privateering, WIC