



0. STAINED GLASS in the NETHERLANDS - Story
Preface

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The stained-glass windows, in this image, are located at St. Catherine's Cathedral in Utrecht (a major city in The Netherlands). Photo by Frans Schmit, online via Flickr.

How was it that the Dutch, who live in a very small country, were able to dominate world trade during the seventeenth century? A quick look at the historical backdrop helps to answer that question.

When Dukes of Burgundy ruled the Low Countries (during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries), Bruges was part of the Burgundian Netherlands. Then a Burgundian (Mary of Burgundy) married a Habsburg (Maximilian), and the map changed (in 1477) as the Seventeen Provinces of the Low Countries were now ruled by the Habsburgs (of the Holy Roman Empire).

In 1547, the Spanish branch of the Habsburg Empire took control of the Seventeen Provinces. Bruges (as part of the Southern Netherlands) was still an important city while Amsterdam (which began as a small fishing village near the end of the twelfth century) did not yet have its semicircular ring of canals.

Growing increasingly tired of Spanish control and repression (including religious persecution through the Inquisition), the Dutch revolted. That led to eighty years of war and disruption, causing wealthy and educated people in Bruges (who were already in trouble because their town no longer had direct access to the North Sea) to flee north.

Those immigrants from Flanders (and elsewhere) helped Amsterdam, and the newly established Dutch Republic, to grow and prosper. Before long, the Netherlands (which today consists of Twelve Provinces) commenced its Golden Age.

How did the Dutch spend some of their money during the 1600s? Let's explore Amsterdam, a city of culture, bicycles, famous paintings, interesting homes (some are just a few meters wide), gabled architecture, numerous canals, rainy skies, stunning nighttime views and churches with stained-glass windows.

- The Oude Kerk ("old church"), dating back to the early thirteenth century, is Amsterdam's oldest church. Its present structure, built in the fourteenth century, boasts lovely wooden vaults and stunning stained-glass windows.

- The Nieuwe Kerk ("new church"), also built in the fourteenth century, became a Protestant place of worship in the sixteenth. It is at Dam Square, in the center of Amsterdam, and contains priceless windows.

One can also find modern colored glass in Amsterdam (and elsewhere). Let's look at some examples by Louis Comfort Tiffany, one of the world's most famous creators of modern stained glass.

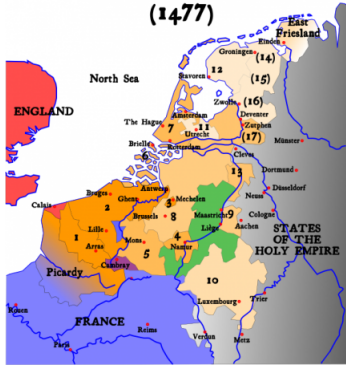
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LOW COUNTRIES (1477)



Seventeen Provinces of the Low Countries

Map, Low Countries in 1477, by Denis Jacquerye. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Habsburg (Hapsburg) Empire - European Territory, 1547

Map, from *Cambridge Modern History Atlas*, edited by Ward, et al., Cambridge University Press, London, 1912.

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Amsterdam - Map Painting, c. 1538

Painting - map of Amsterdam, by Cornelis Anthonisz, c. 1538. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Amsterdam - Aerial View of Canals

Photo, online courtesy Amsterdam's Municipal Department.

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The Netherlands (Nederland) - Map of 12 Provinces

Map, online courtesy Rabbel.nl.

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Amsterdam - Zuiderkerk at the Groenburgwal Canal

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Amsterdam - City of Gables and Bikes

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Amsterdam - Damrak Area of Unusual Homes

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Amsterdam - Narrow, Gabled Residences

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Amsterdam - Gabled Homes at Sunset

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Amsterdam - Prinsengracht Canal

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Amsterdam - Street Scene in Cold Weather

Photo by MorBCN, online courtesy Flickr.

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Amsterdam - Nighttime in the City

Photo by Massimo Catarinella, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Amsterdam - The Oude Kerk (Old Church)

Photo by Laura and Garrett, online courtesy Flickr.

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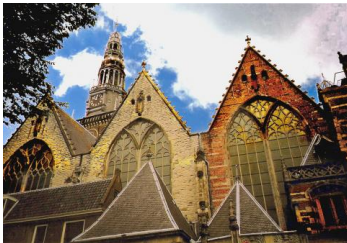


Amsterdam - Stained Glass at the Oude Kerk

Photo online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Amsterdam - Oude Kerk, Up Close

Photo by Jaume Meneses, online courtesy Flickr.

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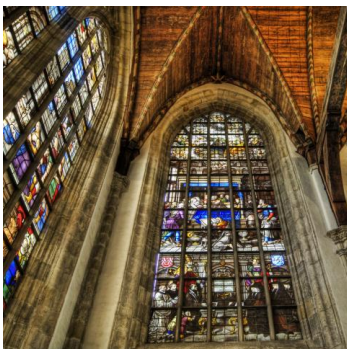
Amsterdam - View of the City, c. 1670

Image online, courtesy *OnzeTaal* ("Our Language"), a Dutch-language website.

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Amsterdam - Wooden Vaults and Stained Glass

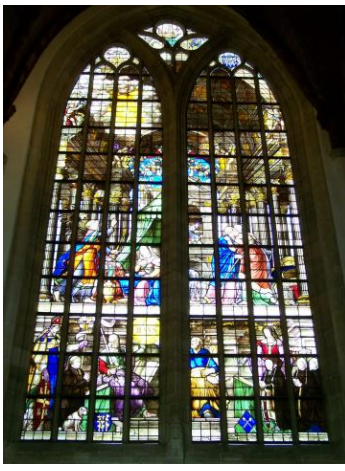
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Amsterdam - Stained-Glass, Close-up

Photo at David's Public Gallery, online courtesy Picasa Web.

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Amsterdam - Nieuwe Kerk (New Church)

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Amsterdam - Stained Glass at the Nieuwe Kerk

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Amsterdam - Stained Glass at Martin Luther Church

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STAINED GLASS in the NETHERLANDS

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