

Exercise walk-through

3.5

The Dutch Golden Age

AP European History

A commercial republic with concentrated power

Dutch Republic

Revolt against Habsburg rule produced a republic. Urban gentry and rural landholders dominated its institutions.

Oligarchy

An elite controls political power. Promoting trade and protecting traditional rights did not give equal influence to every resident.

Political form, commercial strength and social inclusion are separate questions.

Explain the connection, then qualify it

Worked reasoning

Merchant networks, shipping and finance supported Dutch commerce. A political system dominated by elites could protect commercial interests and traditional rights. Its commercial success therefore did not depend on royal absolutism.

Religious toleration could be comparatively broad while remaining limited. Avoid replacing “republic” with “universal democracy”.

Your turn: challenge a generalisation

Original practice — attempt before the check

A student writes: “Only absolute monarchies could become commercially powerful.” Use the Dutch Republic to challenge this claim, then state one limit on political participation in the Dutch case.

Check: a counterexample with a limit

Counterexample

The Dutch Republic developed a major commercial role through trade, shipping and finance without an absolute monarch.

Limit

Urban and landholding elites dominated government. Commercial success did not mean equal political participation.

A counterexample challenges an “only” claim; it does not prove that every republic became wealthy.

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 Name two sources of Dutch commercial advantage. [2]

2.2 Explain how toleration and commerce reinforced each other. [2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Name two sources of Dutch commercial advantage. [2]

2.1

- any two of: shipping efficiency and low freight costs; entrepôt trade; financial institutions; cheap capital
-

2.2 Explain how toleration and commerce reinforced each other. [2]

2.2

- toleration attracted skilled and capitalised refugees, and a place where people could transact without confessional test drew trade

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 The republic's ascendancy declines in the eighteenth century.

(a) State one reason.

[1]

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(a) State one reason.

[1]

(a)

- larger neighbours with greater fiscal-military capacity out-built and out-fought it

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 The republic's ascendancy declines in the eighteenth century.

(b) State one structural disadvantage.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 The republic's ascendancy declines in the eighteenth century.

(b) State one structural disadvantage.

[1]

(b)

- a small population and territory relative to its rivals

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A federal republic dominated by merchants tends to produce policy that

[1]

☐

- A ignores commerce
- B serves commerce directly
- C favours dynastic war
- D raises freight costs

3.2 Relative toleration benefited the Dutch economy mainly by

[1]

☐

- A reducing shipping costs
- B attracting skilled and capitalised refugees
- C creating a monarchy
- D closing markets

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A federal republic dominated by merchants tends to produce policy that [1]

- ☐ A ignores commerce
B serves commerce directly
C favours dynastic war
D raises freight costs

3.1 B

- the policymakers were the merchants

3.2 Relative toleration benefited the Dutch economy mainly by [1]

- ☐ A reducing shipping costs
B attracting skilled and capitalised refugees
C creating a monarchy
D closing markets

3.2 B

- skills and capital arrived with the refugees

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 Neighbouring states pass laws requiring goods to travel in their own ships.

(a) State the effect on Dutch carriage.

[1]

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[1]

(a)

- it is excluded from carrying those goods

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Neighbouring states pass laws requiring goods to travel in their own ships.

(b) Explain why this hurt the republic particularly.

[2]

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(b) Explain why this hurt the republic particularly. [2]

(b)

- carriage was the republic's central advantage, so legislation aimed at it struck the basis of the economy rather than one sector