

American Minute with Bill Federer

Spice Trade, Amsterdam Stock Exchange,
Indonesian Nutmeg Island exchanged for
Manhattan, Volcanos, Dutch Religious Tolerance

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Spain used gold from South America's **Inca Empire** to defend **Europe** against invasion from the **Islamic Ottoman Sultan**.

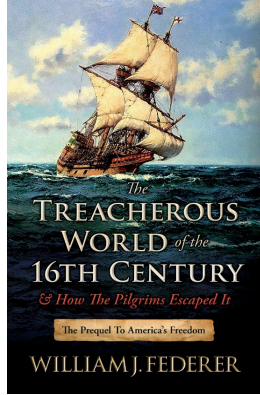


In 1535, **Spain's "Iron Duke,"** the Grand Duke of Alba, **defeated the Ottomans** and recaptured **Tunis, North Africa**.

Though this **Spanish** victory helped save the western Mediterranean, it backfired for eastern Europe, as it resulted in the **Sultan** making a permanent partnership with **France** in 1536 - **the Franco-Ottoman Alliance** -- which enabled the **Sultan** to invade **Hungary** ...
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Meanwhile, Spain's **Iron Duke** turned his attention to crush the **Protestant Reformation** in the **Netherlands**, massacring tens of thousands of Dutch Reformed in what is referred to as the "**Spanish Fury**," 1572-1576.



The **Iron Duke** decimated the **Dutch cities of:**

- **Mechelen,**
- **Diest,**
- **Roermond,**
- **Guelders,**
- **Zutphen,**
- **Naarden,** and
- **Haarlem.**



In 1585, **Spanish troops** finally conquered the Dutch city of **Antwerp**, considered at the time as **the most important port in the world**.

To be free of Spain, seven provinces of the **Netherlands** united and fought

an 80 year war of independence, led by **William of Orange**.



England's Queen **Elizabeth I** aided the **Netherlands** by sending English soldiers.



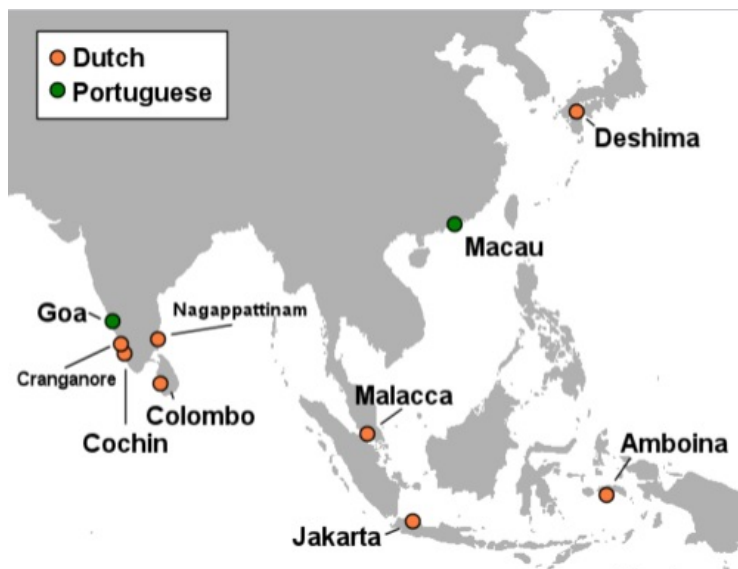
The **Dutch Republic of the Seven United Netherlands** grew to become the **foremost maritime and economic power** in the world.

The **Netherlands' War for Independence** from **Spain** coincided with the **Dutch-Portuguese War**, which lasted from 1601 to 1661.



The **Dutch** fought battles against the **Portuguese** in:

- **Atlantic Ocean;**
- **Brazil;**
- **West Africa;**
- **Southern Africa;**
- **Indian Ocean;**



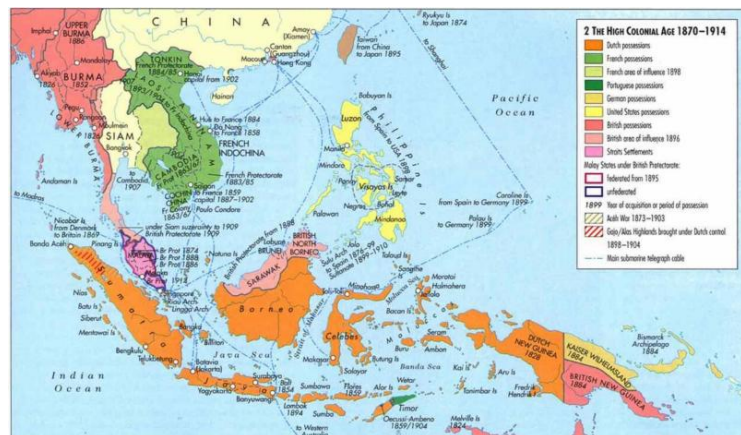
- East Africa;
- India;
- Burma;
- East Indies:
- Straits of Malacca; and
- Indochina.

The **Dutch** captured many **Portuguese** ports and colonies around the world, from: **Recife, South America to South Africa to New Zealand, Asia, Jakarta, and Java.**



The **Dutch** had a **monopoly on trade with Japan.**

The **Dutch** gained control over **Indonesia** while the **British** gained control of **India.**



Where the **English** had established the **Protestant Anglican faith** as its official state religion, the **Netherlands** adopted the **Calvinistic Protestant Dutch**



Reformed faith.

The **Seven United Provinces of the Netherlands** did not agree on all religious points, but were willing to **work together against Spain**.

This resulted in **the Netherlands** being **the most tolerant** area in all of Europe, extending freedom to:

- **Protestant Separatists,**
- **Anabaptists**
- **Catholics**
- **Remonstrants,**
- **Renaissance Humanists, and**
- **Jews.**

In search of religious tolerance, the **Pilgrims** fled Anglican England to the **Netherlands**, where they lived for 12 years before sailing to settle **Plymouth, Massachusetts**.



[Wild is the Wind -Adventures of Jean Paul DeBrosse](#)

During its prosperous **Dutch Golden Age**, the **Netherlands** attracted some of the brightest minds of the age:

- writer **Jan Amos Comenius**;
- astronomer **Christiaan Huygens**;
- scientist **Anton van Leeuwenhoek**;
- engineer **Jan Leeghwater**;
- playwright **Joost van den Vondel**;
- international lawyer **Hugo Grotius**;
- philosophers **René Descartes**, **Pierre Bayle**, **Spinoza**; **John Locke** (who had fled from Britain to the Netherlands in 1683); and
- artists **Johannes Vermeer**, **Jacob van Ruisdael**, **Frans Hals**, and **Rembrandt**. (Two centuries later, a Dutch Reformed minister turned painter was **Vincent van Gogh**.)



The **Dutch** invented a way of financing their endeavors -- the **Amsterdam Stock Exchange**.

It was the **first modern stock market**.

Common people could buy shares in companies, such as the **Dutch EAST India Company** (Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie) whose ships sailed to Indonesia or Japan.

For nearly 200 years, the **Dutch East India Company** was more profitable than all other countries' companies

combined.

British companies differed from Dutch companies in that they were primarily financed only by **royalty** and **wealthy investors**, namely:

- **East India Company** (1600–1858),
- **Virginia Company of London** (1606-1624);
- **Virginia Company of Plymouth** (1606-1624)
- **Hudson's Bay Company** (1670-present)
- **Royal African Company** (1672–1750).



When company ships returned filled with goods and spices, shareholders would be paid a profit or "dividend."

In case a ship sank or was

captured by pirates, the **Dutch invented "insurance" companies.**

The **Dutch** experienced the **first stock market crash** with the **Tulip Mania of 1636-1637.**

Tulips imported from **Turkey** became so popular that a **single tulip bulb's worth** exploded to **more than the average person's yearly salary.**

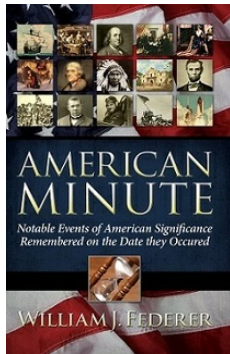
Then, suddenly, the **tulip mania stopped.** The price of a

tulip bulb dropped to one-hundredth of its value,
plunging the country into an economic depression.

Other infamous speculation schemes that crashed were the **Mississippi Bubble**, 1718-1720, and the **South Sea Bubble**, 1719-1722.

According to Joseph Spence and Lord Radnor:

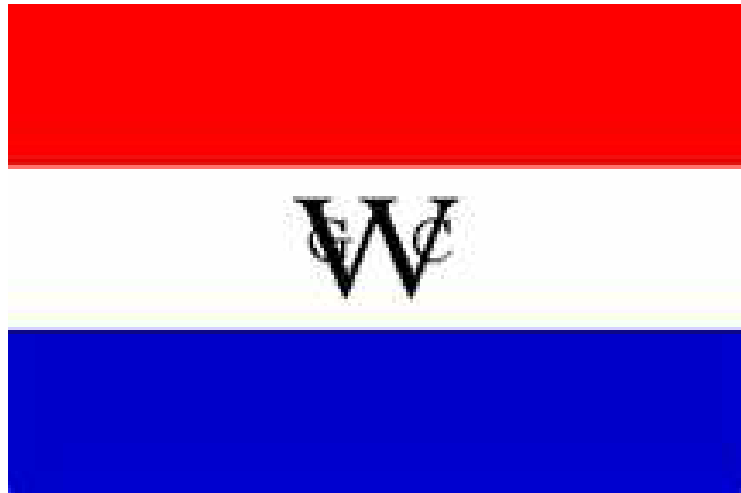
"When **Sir Isaac Newton** was asked about the continuance of the rising of **South Sea stock** ... He answered 'I can calculate the movement of the stars, but not the madness of men.'"



[American Minute-Notable Events of American Significance Remembered on the Date They Occurred](#)

In 1621, the **Dutch WEST India Company** was founded.

It sent **Henry Hudson** sailing west in hopes of finding a water route to **India** through **North America**.



Though unsuccessful, **Henry Hudson** claimed the land along the "**Hudson**" **River**, and founded the **New Netherlands Colony**, receiving its charter June 3,

1621.



In its new settlement, the Dutch began a **New Amsterdam Stock Exchange** which met on the **street** next to the **wall**.



In 1624, the **Chamber of Amsterdam** wrote articles for the **Dutch Colony**, establishing the **Dutch Reformed** denomination:

"They shall within their territory practice no other form of divine worship than that of **the Reformed religion** ...

and thus by their **Christian life and conduct** seek to draw the Indians and other blind people to the knowledge of **God and His word**, without, however, persecuting any on account of his faith, but leaving each one the use of his **conscience**."



The **New Amsterdam Charter of Freedoms**, June 7, 1629, gave land to wealthy "Patroons" who helped 50 families emigrate, stating:

"Colonists shall ... in the speediest manner ... find out ways and means whereby they may support a **Minister and Schoolmaster**, that thus the **service of God and zeal for religion may not grow cool.**"

One **Dutch** family that immigrated was the **Roosevelt** family, as **Franklin D. Roosevelt** told the **Detroit Jewish Chronicle**, March 7, 1935:



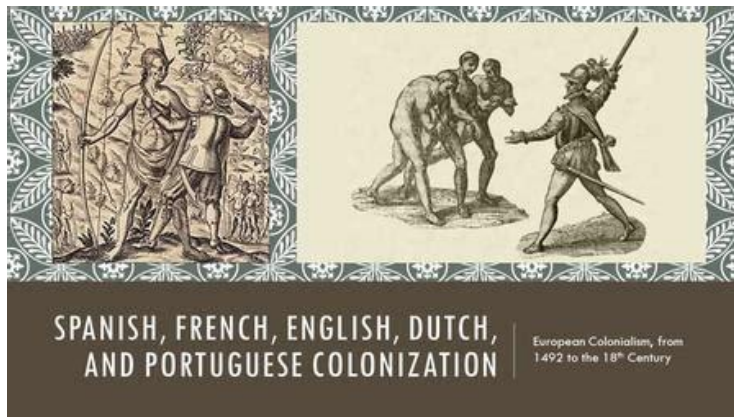
"All I know about the origin of the **Roosevelt family** in this country is that all branches bearing the name are apparently descended from **Claes Martenssen Van Roosevelt**, who came from **Holland** sometime before 1648."

Beginning in 1639, **Lutheran Germans, Swedes and Finns, as well as Anglicans from England**, began

immigrating, numbering 500 of the colony's 3,500 population in 1655.



Presbyterians erected their first meeting house on **Eastern Long Island** in 1640, and the first **Jews** arrived in the colony in 1654.



SPANISH, FRENCH, ENGLISH, DUTCH, AND PORTUGUESE COLONIZATION

European Colonialism, from 1492 to the 18th Century

Spanish, Portuguese, English and Dutch all wanted to bring spices directly from the far east spice islands to Europe, cutting out the

middleman - the Arabs and Asians who controlled the land routes and kept the location of the islands secret.

In 1599, the **Dutch** arrived first in **Indonesia**, forming the **Dutch East India Account**.

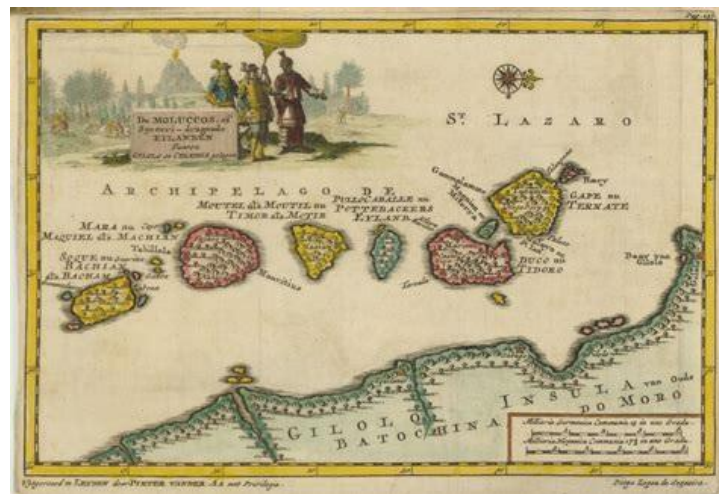
Amidst the 17,000 islands was the **Banda Sea**, the only place in the world where **nutmeg trees** grew, as the tree needed a very specific tropical climate.



Nutmeg was sought after not only to flavor food, but was thought to cure the bubonic plague and other diseases.

The **Dutch** set up **nutmeg tree plantations**, and tragically, slayed or enslaved many of the local **Bandanese** population in the labor intensive cultivating and hand-picking of the fruit.

In 1616, the **British** merchants gained control of one tiny **Banda Island** called "**Run.**" It was only a half mile wide and two miles long.



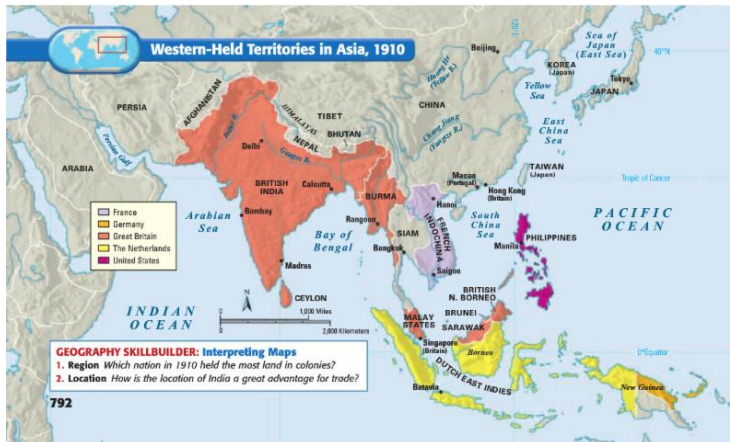
Forming the **British East India Company**, they quickly began to compete with the **Dutch**.

Four years later, the **Dutch** captured the island, though the **British** insisted on their claim to it.

Competition in the Far East was also over control of the

trade of other profitable exports, such as:

- coffee,
- tea,
- sugar,
- indigo (blue dye), and
- opium.



The **Amboyna massacre** occurred in 1623, between agents of the **Dutch East India Company** and agents of the **English East India Account**.

These tensions erupted into

- 1652-54, First Anglo-Dutch War;
- 1665-67, Second Anglo-Dutch War - a noted British naval officer of the First and Second Anglo-Dutch Wars was **Admiral Sir William Penn**, the father of Pennsylvania's founder;;
- 1672-74, Third Anglo-Dutch War;
- 1672-78, Franco-Dutch War;
- 1701-14, War of the Spanish Succession;
- 1780-84, Fourth Anglo-Dutch War.

In retaliation to losing their tiny **Banda island**, the **British**, in 1664, sailed into the

Dutch harbor of New Amsterdam.

The **Dutch** inhabitants on the tip of **Manhattan Island** did not have the military power to resist, so they surrendered.



The **Dutch** insisted on maintaining their claim to it.

In 1667, the **English** and the **Dutch** made the **Breda Treaty**.

The **British** were willing to give up their claim to the small **Banda island** in exchange for the **Dutch** giving up their claim to **Manhattan Island**.



At one point during the negotiations, **England** offered to return **New Amsterdam** to the **Dutch** if the **Dutch** returned some sugar factories in **Suriname** on the north coast of **South America**. The **Dutch** refused.

The **Dutch** eventually lost control of all of the **11 Bandese Islands** and **Dutch Suriname**.

The **British** took control of **New Amsterdam** in 1664, and changed the colony's name to **New York**, after the **Duke of York** - who became England's future **King James II** in 1685.

New York would grow to become one of the most prosperous cities in the world.

The **New Amsterdam Stock Exchange** became the **New York Stock Exchange**, referred to as **Wall Street**.

In **New York**, **British** continued the **Dutch** tradition of **tolerance**.



The **New York Charter of Liberties and Privileges**,

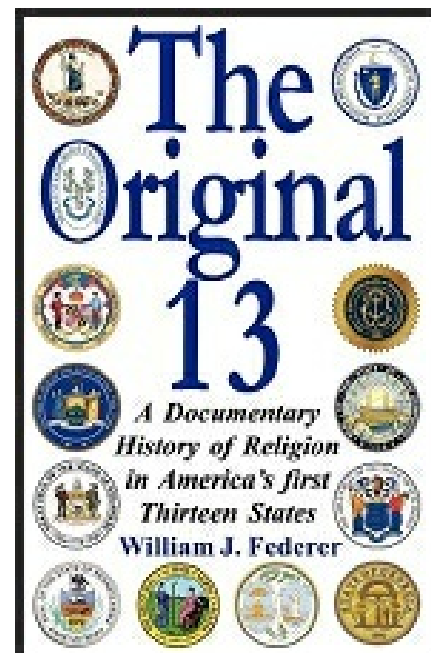
(paragraph 27), October 30, 1683, stated:

"That no person or persons which profess faith in **God** by **Jesus Christ** shall at any time be any ways molested ... But that ... every such person ... fully enjoy his or their ... **consciences in matters of religion ... not using this Liberty to Licentiousness.**"

"**Licentiousness**" is defined as contempt for restraints of law and morality; "promiscuous and unprincipled in sexual matters"; "**sexual immorality.**"

New York's Charter of Liberties and Privileges continued:

"The respective **Christian Churches** now in practice within the City of New York shall ... enjoy ... **freedoms of their Religion in Divine Worship and Church discipline.**"





In 1688, the **Dutch leader William III, Prince of Orange**, drove **King James II** (Duke of York) out of England in the **Glorious Revolution**.

He and his wife **Mary**, the daughter of James II, they ruled **England as co-regents, William and Mary**.

Though the **British** had "established" the **Anglican Church in New York**, other denominations were gradually allowed degrees of tolerance.



French Protestant Huguenots began arriving in in New York in 1680.

The first **Methodist** meeting in the American Colonies was in **New York City** in 1766.

In 1781, was the first mention of a public **Catholic** worship service in **New York**.

The **Dutch** sided with the **Americans** against **Britain** during the

Revolutionary War, lending over 30 million guilders, and **smuggling in much needed supplies** through its Caribbean territories.

Though America won independence, the **British** continued to fight the **Dutch** in the **Fourth Anglo-Dutch War**.

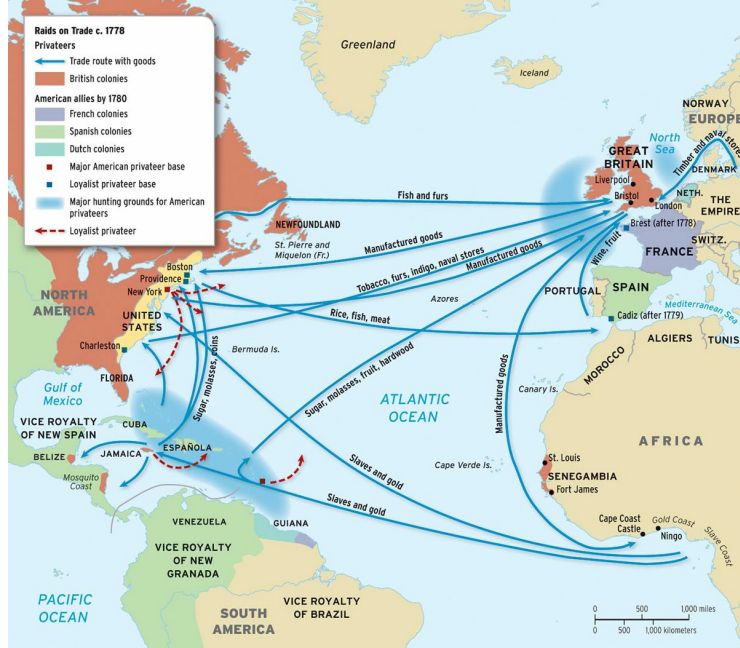
In 1784, the **British** forced the **Dutch** to give up all their possessions in **India**.

The Dutch still maintained power in Indonesia, but as early as 1804, **Muslim pilgrims** returning to **Indonesia** from **Mecca** combined hatred of foreign influences with **militant Wahhabi sharia teachings**.

They were called **"Padri,"** and their prominent leader was Tuanku Imam Bonjol.

As the **Padir** aggressively spread fundamental sharia Islam, many moderates fled to the **Dutch** for protection during the **Padri War**, which lasted from 1821 to 1838.

The **Dutch** tried to restore order by capturing terrorists



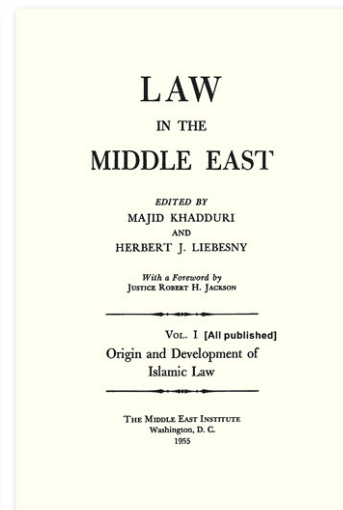
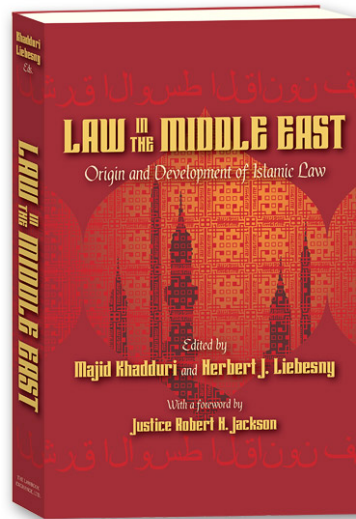
and even using water-boarding to get them to give information of planned attacks.

They finally realized the plans were originating with **radical imams** who **preached hate** combined with the **lustful rewards of paradise** and the inhumane practices of **Islamic sharia law**.

When the **imams** were arrested, the **incitement to commit violence ceased**.

Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson

wrote in the foreword of the book *Law in the Middle East* (1955):



"Islamic law

offers the

American lawyer a study in **dramatic contrasts**.

Even casual acquaintance and superficial knowledge ... reveal that its striking features relative to our law are not likenesses but **inconsistencies**, not similarities but **contrarities**.

In its source, its scope and its sanctions, the **law of the Middle East** is the **antithesis of Western law**."

In **New York's State Supreme Court's Chief Justice, Chancellor Kent**, stated in the 1811 case of *Peoples v Ruggles*:

"Christianity was parcel of the law ... that whatever

strikes at the root of **Christianity** tends manifestly to the dissolution of civil government ...

The people of this State, in common with **the people of this country,** profess the general doctrines of **Christianity** ...



We are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon **Christianity,** and not upon the doctrines or worship of **those impostors."**

Another aspect of **Dutch Far East trade** was the **danger of volcanic eruptions.**



Volcanos have devastated world civilizations many times, with some notable ones being:

- circa 1600 B.C., **Minoan Eruption of Santorini - Thera** - devastated Aegean civilizations of Akrotiri - possibly Atlantis - and Crete. Chinese Bamboo Annals of the early Shang Dynasty. 1766-1122 B.C., described yellow skies and summer frost. Egypt's Tempest Stele of the 18th Dynasty, 1550-1292 B.C., described what possibly could have been the plagues of the Israelite Exodus.

- 79 A.D., **Mount Vesuvius,** near Pompeii, Italy, killing an estimated 30,000.

- 535 A.D., **Ilopango Eruption in El Salvador** and an Indonesian volcano - possibly a Krakatoa eruption - caused a global cooling, famine, starvation, the Plague of Justinian, and the collapse of civilizations worldwide.

- 1815, **Eruption of Tambora on Sumbawa** is considered the largest explosion in recorded human history, being heard 1,200 miles away and killing 71,000 people. It interrupted trade from the Far East and affected global weather caused 1816 to be called "the year without summer."

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Far East trade was interrupted again in **1883** when the volcano **Krakatoa** erupted on **Java**. The blast was heard 3,000 miles away, being considered **the world's loudest sound**. Barometric instruments recorded the pressure wave circled the earth three and a half times.

As **Krakatoa** was near the sea, its eruption caused monstrous tsunami waves to reach over 150 feet high, killing 34,000. Ash devastated the world's climate for over a year. Los Angeles received so much rain, over 38 inches, that 1883 was called the "water year." A global cooling occurred with temperatures falling for five years.

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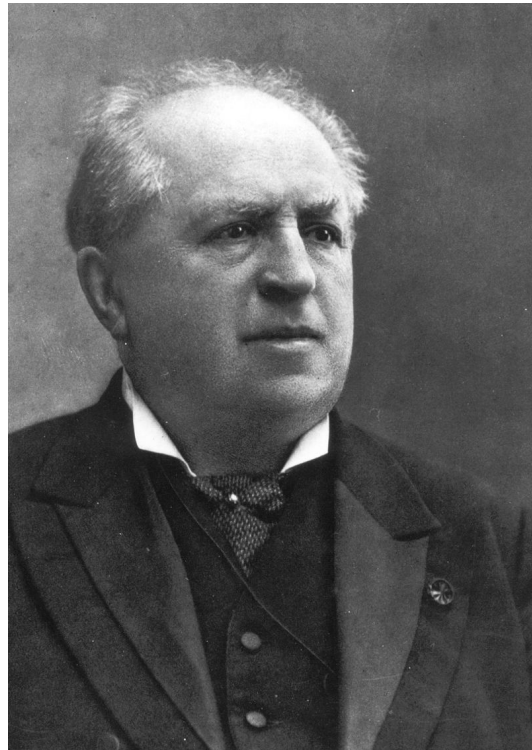


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Dutch leaders gradually took an increased ethical position, advocating to **improve the welfare of those in their colonies**.

One such leader was **Abraham Kuyper**, who founded the **Reformed Churches of the Netherlands** in 1892, and in 1901 he was elected **Prime Minister of the Netherlands**.



Kuyper wrote pamphlets promoting the **Dutch** take moral responsibility for **the people of Java**, who were suffering from a **famine**.

In 1838, the **New York State Legislature** wrote:

"No people on the face of the globe are without a **prevailing national religion** ...

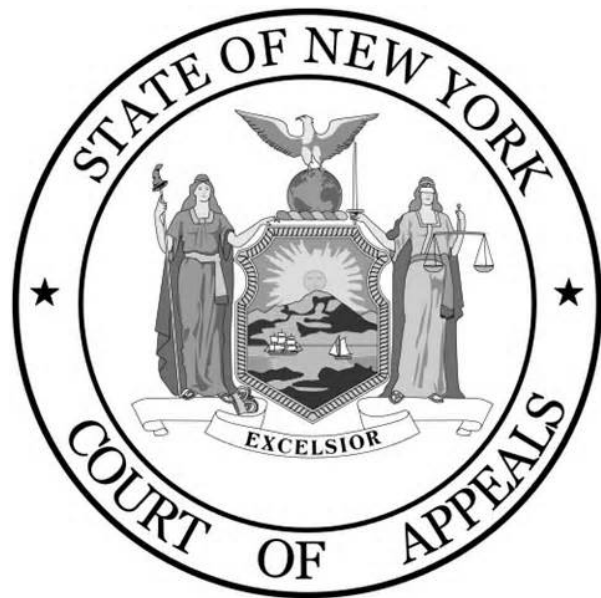
With us it is wisely ordered that no one religion shall be established by law, but that all persons shall be left free in their choice and in **their mode of worship**.

... Still, **this is a Christian nation**.
Ninety-nine hundredths, if not a larger proportion, of **our whole population**, believe in the **general doctrines of the Christian religion**.

Our Government depends for its being on the **virtue of the people**, - on that virtue that has its foundation in **the morality of the Christian religion**."

New York's State Constitution, 1846, 1894, and 1938, stated in its Preamble:

"We, the People of the State of New York, grateful to **Almighty God** for our freedom, in

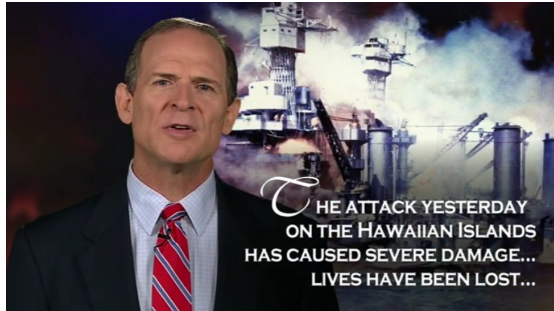


order to secure its blessings, do establish this Constitution."

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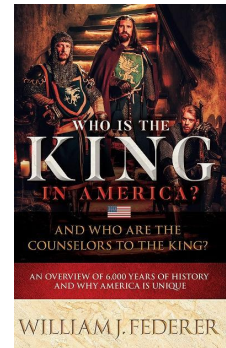


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