

**HISTORY**

# EMPIRE BUILDERS: THE DUTCH GOLDEN AGE

2 x 52' (ENG, GER)

**In the 17th century, the Dutch empire emerged, ending in the "Dutch Miracle".**

The Dutch Golden Age spanned roughly the 17th century, in which Dutch trade, science, military, and art were among the most acclaimed in the world. The first period is characterized by the Thirty Years' War, which ended in 1648. The Golden Age continued peacefully during the Dutch Republic until the end of the century. The transition by the Netherlands to the leading maritime and economic power in the world has been called the "Dutch Miracle".

Original Title:	Empire Builders: The Dutch Golden Age
Year:	2021
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Produced by:	Pilot Productions
Partners:	PBS, History UK



## **1. The Dutch Revolt, Eighty Years War, Independence**

In this episode, we chart the Protestant uprising in the Low Countries and the war with Spain that followed. We witness a Dutch Republic that emerged from this religious and cultural conflict which promoted liberal and mercantile values which changed the face of civil society increasingly at odds with an old Europe ruled by royal elites.

## **2. The Dutch Empire**

After successful trading missions to the Spice Islands (Indonesia) the Dutch established the East India Company (VOC) which was to grow into the world's largest multi-national corporation in the 17th century. The VOC developed a near monopoly of the Asian spice trade and its huge maritime fleet became the world's most powerful and profitable shipping company. Far from celebrating their so called "Golden Age", the Dutch today are actively debating their colonial legacy which involved the enslavement and exploitation of millions in both their former Asian and Caribbean colonies.