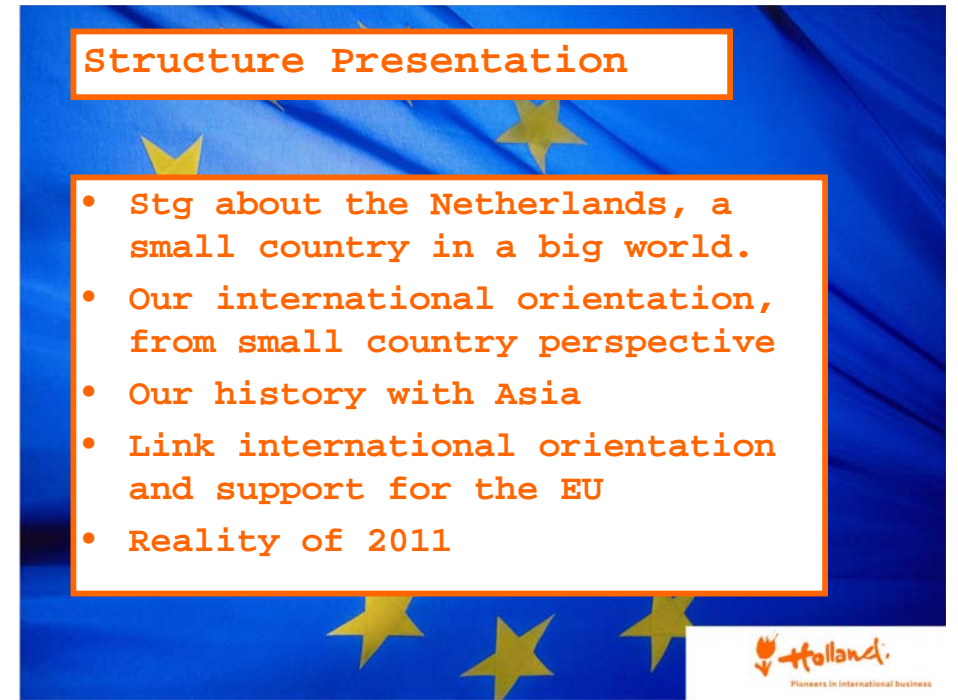




The international orientation of  
The Netherlands and the importance  
of the EU




Robert Schuddeboom  
Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Structure Presentation

- Stg about the Netherlands, a small country in a big world.
- Our international orientation, from small country perspective
- Our history with Asia
- Link international orientation and support for the EU
- Reality of 2011



The Netherlands





## The Netherlands...



## The Netherlands: Worldwide Rankings

- 1st Production and auctioning of cut flowers and flower bulbs
- 1st Number of broadband connections per 100 inhabitants
- 2nd Export of agricultural products
- 2nd Quality of Water Transportation
- 3rd Density of road network
- 4th Largest seaport
- 4th Logistics performance Index
- 4th Global democracy Index
- 5th Best country to do business 2006-2010
- 5th Export of goods
- 5th Dutch investments abroad
- 6th Foreign direct investment in the Netherlands
- 7th Import of goods
- 9th Overall world competitiveness
- 10th Export of commercial services
- 11th Import of commercial services
- 16th GDP
- 17th GDP per capita
- 61st Population
- 135th Land Area (sq km)



From our world famous national soccer team...

- World Cup Finalist South Africa 2010.
- The Netherlands lost 0-1.





**The Netherlands in history**

**Water Boards**

(13th century)



- Farmers work together to build dykes
- First democratic institution in NL

**International Orientation**





## DUTCH GOLDEN AGE

(17th century)

- World leaders in trade, sciences and art.
- Richest country for over 200 years.
- Twice as rich as the second country, an accomplishment no other has ever reached.



## Dutch East India Company

- Established in 1602;
- The First multinational corporation in the world; and
- The first company to issue stock.



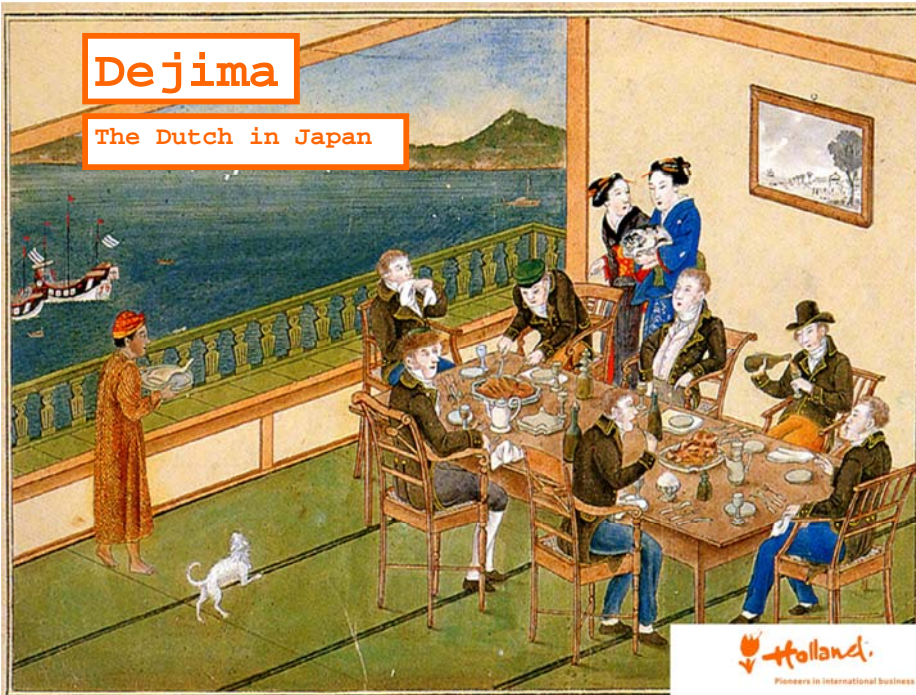
The Dutch explored Asia and the rest of the world.





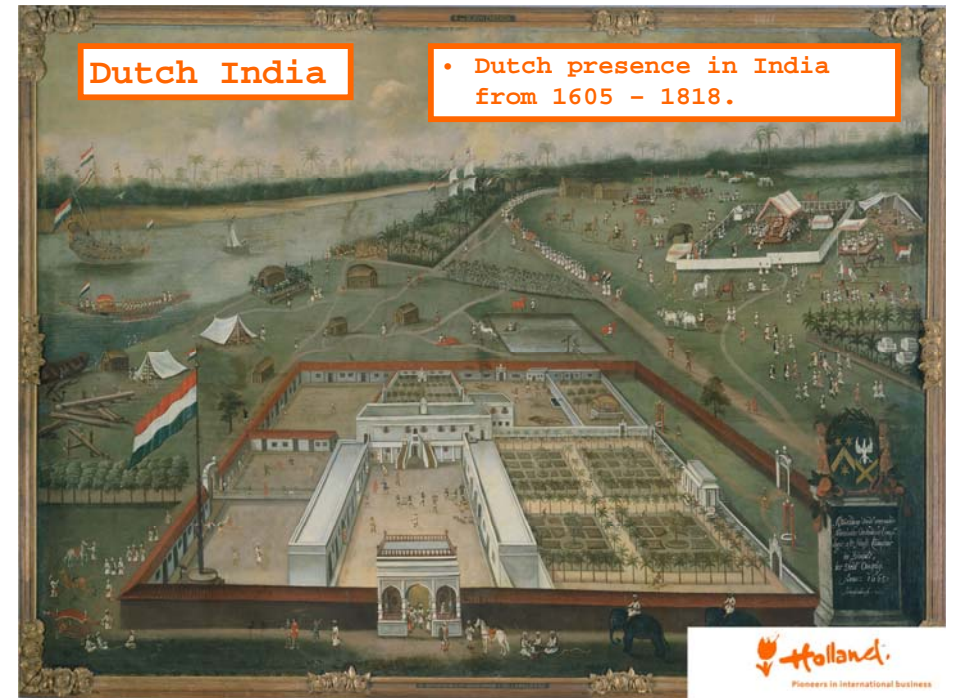
## Dejima

The Dutch in Japan



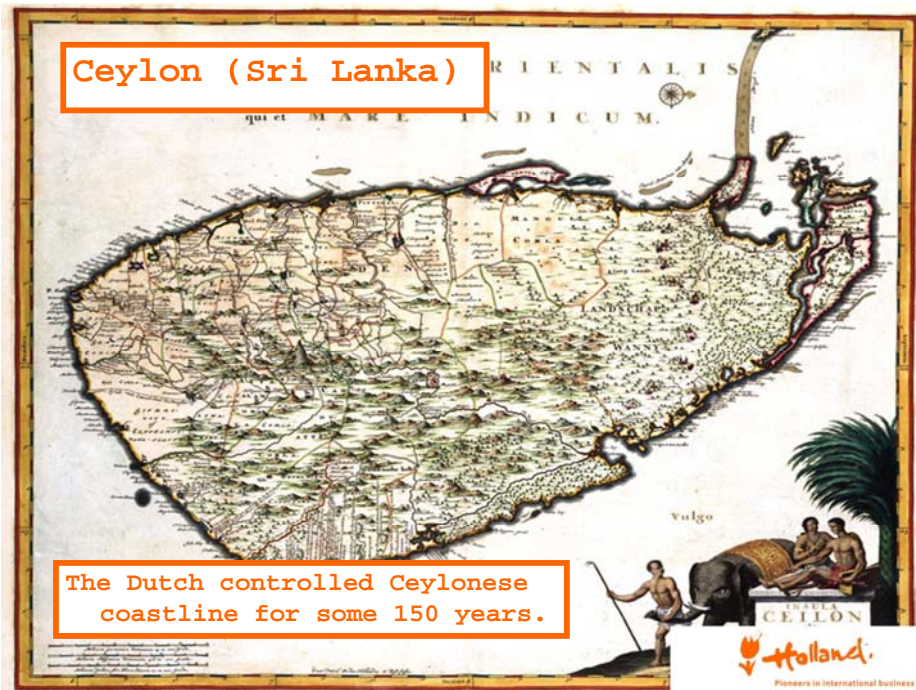
## Dutch India

- Dutch presence in India from 1605 - 1818.



## Ceylon (Sri Lanka)

The Dutch controlled Ceylonese coastline for some 150 years.



## Dutch Malacca (Malaysia)

- The Dutch ruled Malacca for almost 200 years.
- The Dutch controlled a very important strategic and economic region; the Malacca Strait.





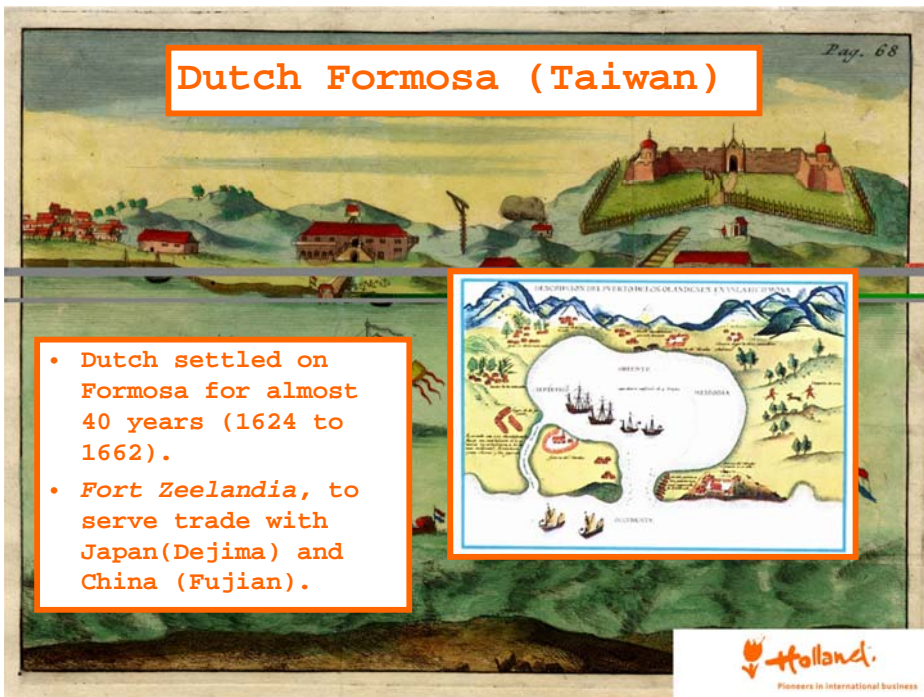


Up to this day, Dutch heritage is still present in Malacca's city centre. The Stadthuys of Malacca is the oldest standing Dutch structure in Asia.



## Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)

- A Dutch colony from 1600 - 1949.
- Jewel in the crown.
- Through the Dutch East Indies the Netherlands became a colonial power where the sun never set.



## Dutch Formosa (Taiwan)

- Dutch settled on Formosa for almost 40 years (1624 to 1662).
- Fort Zeelandia, to serve trade with Japan (Dejima) and China (Fujian).



- In 1636, the Dutch Governor Putmans allowed Chinese from Fujian to lease land on Formosa: start of Chinese settlement.



# China

17th century: one of the first European nations to seek trade relations with China through Macao and Canton

In Macao known as the 'red-haired barbarians with cat-like eyes'



# The Battle of Macau



June 25 1622: 'lucky' shot



Macau Protestant Morrison Chapel



Dutch part of Board of Trustees

Cemetery: graves of Dutch captains, sailors and other Dutch civilians



# Where does this all take us?

- Working together
- International orientation
- International law





## The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

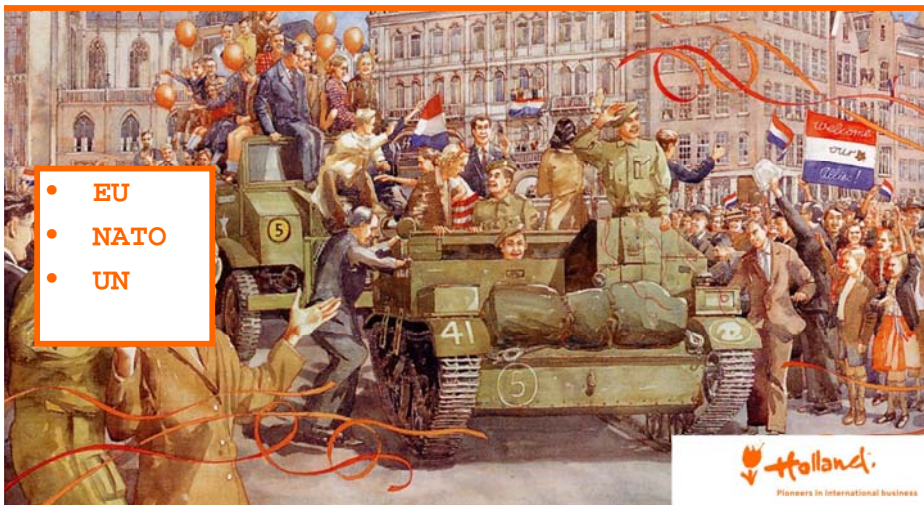


## Europe at War – WWI & II



## New structures to prevent war and to work on a new world order:

- EU
- NATO
- UN



## The Hague became the UN judicial capital of the world.

- Home to a list of international courts, including:
- the International Court of Justice (ICJ);
  - the International Criminal Court (ICC); and
  - the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).





## Formation of the BeNeLux

- Established in 1944
- Trade Union for The Netherlands
- Pre-decessor of the European Union



## The European Union

The Netherlands was one of the founding nations of European Union

Creating Political Union by means of Economic Cooperation



## European Union

- Biggest economy in the world
- Over 16 trillion US\$ GDP in 2010 (USA 14,6 trillion, China 5,7 trillion)



## Euroscepticism in The Netherlands



2005 Referendum  
54% vote against  
European Constitution



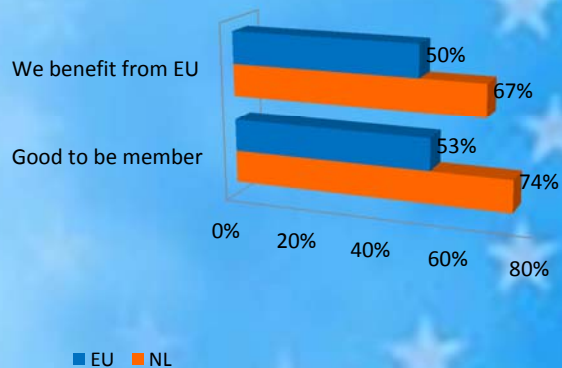
## Criticism

- The Netherlands pays more to the EU than it receives in subsidies
- Bureaucratic
- Loss of Sovereignty
- Lack of decision power



Are the Dutch citizens against the European Union?

Dutch are MORE positive than other EU members



Eurobarometer, Fall 2010

## Economic Benefits

Free trade in the EU has given NL:  
• a yearly benefit of €1800 per capita



## 2010 - Dutch are critical

- The EU is developing in the wrong direction (34%)
- Would prefer a smaller EU (60%)
- Dutch citizens worry the EU will cause economic crisis (56%)



## 2011 Euro Crisis

- The Netherlands is contributing to the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF)



## Looking to the Future

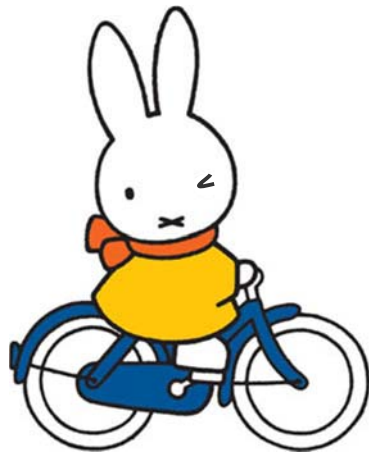
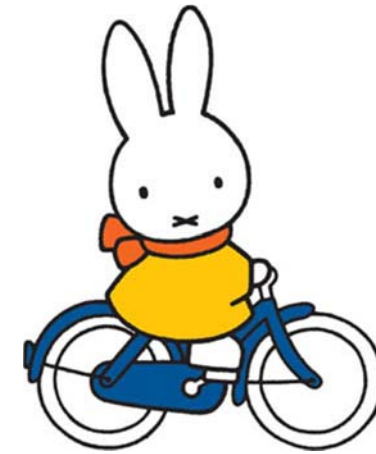
Not unconditional love,  
but a necessity for  
cooperation, own  
interest

Finding balance  
between  
collectivism and  
sovereignty



## Conclusion

- For smaller countries no alternative for international cooperation.
- EU crucial for future of the Netherlands
- Support still solid, but criticism among population requires new approaches by governments.



**Thank you!**