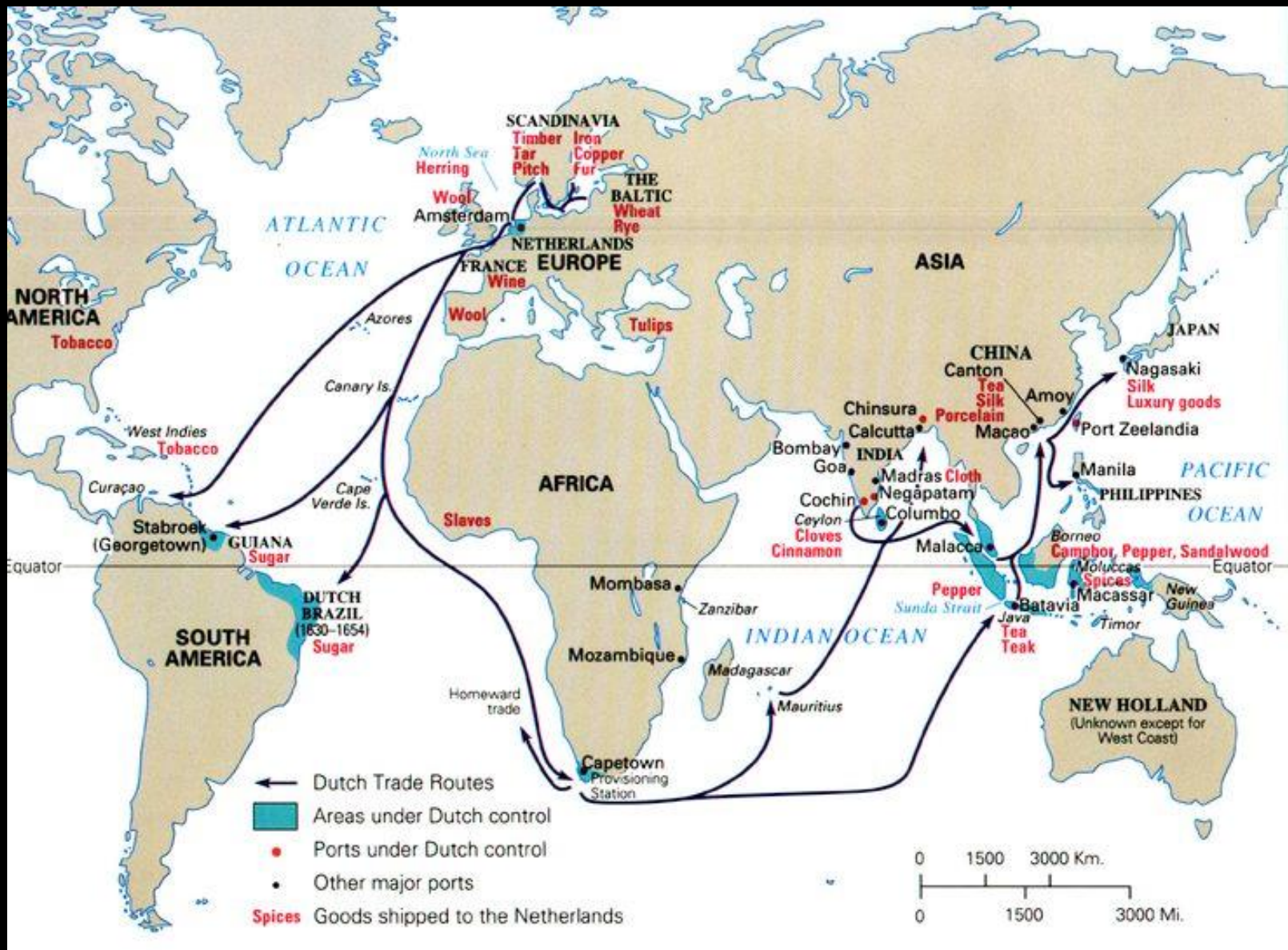


# Dutch Trade and Colonialism: Brazil

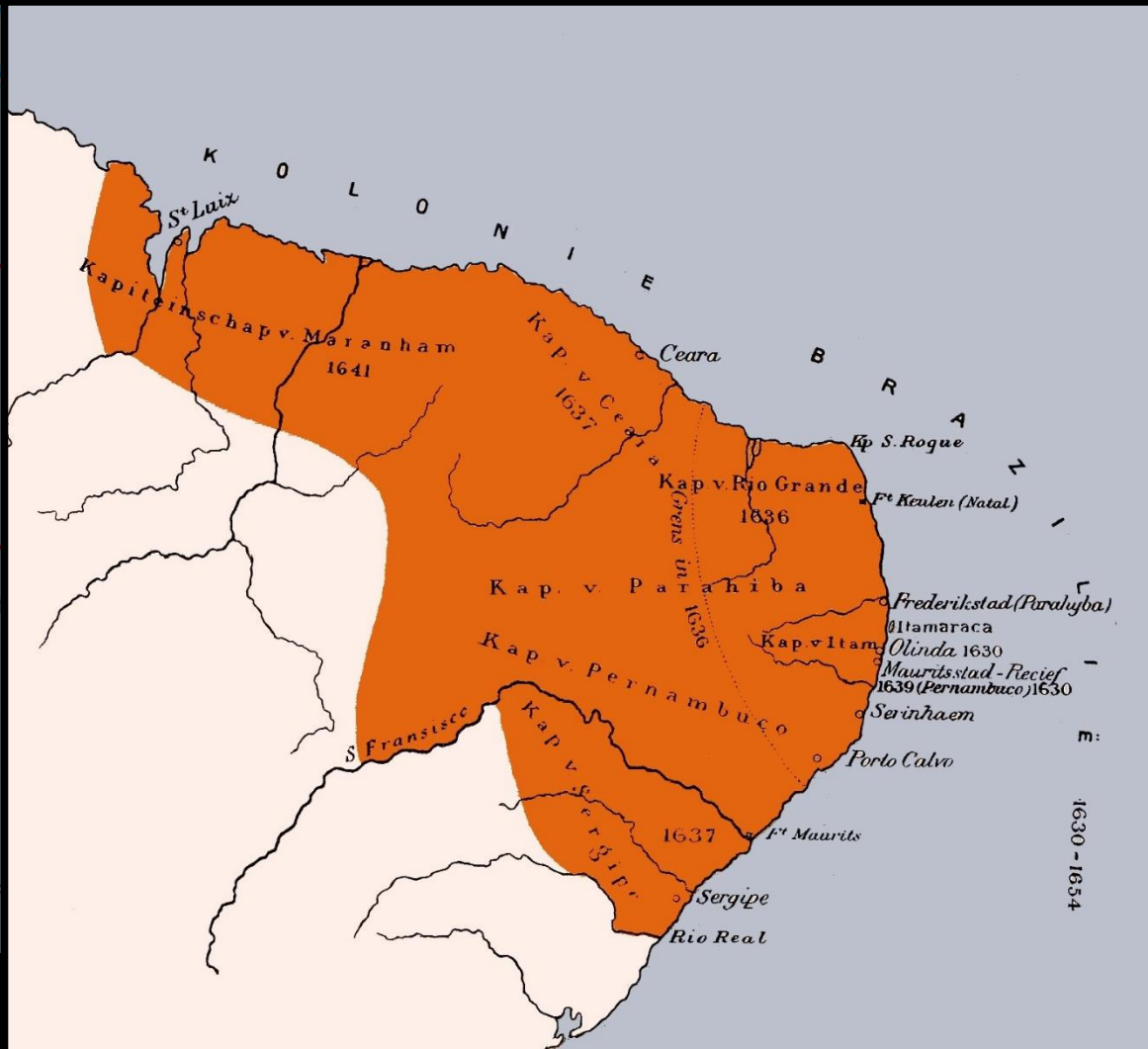


# Dutch trade routes, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century



## The WIC (Westindische Compagnie) Dutch West India Company

- A public joint-stock company chartered by States General in 1621
- Granted monopoly to operate in West Africa and the Americas, which included the Pacific Ocean and the eastern part of New Guinea
  - Other Dutch merchants were banned from trading in this region
  - Monopoly as a way to pool Dutch capital to compete with Spain and Portugal
- Authorized to maintain garrisons and warships, appoint governors, sign alliances with native populations





Albert Eckhout  
(c. 1607-1665/66)

- Dutch still life and portrait painter
- Traveled to Brazil in 1636 at the invitation of the Governor; lived there until 1644

Albert Eckhout, *Tapuia Man*, 1641



Albert Eckhout, *Tapuia Woman*, 1641



## Eckhout's life-size paintings representing peoples of Brazil

- Earliest life-size representations of inhabitants of Brazil by a professional European artist
- 4 male-female pairs
  - Tapuya
  - Tupinamba
  - Mulatto man and Mameluke woman—offspring of European fathers and African or Tupi mothers
  - African
- Commissioned by Maurits, governor of Dutch Brazil; later gifted to King of Denmark

Albert Eckhout, *Tapuia Man*, 1641



Albert Eckhout, *Tapuia Woman*, 1641



Albert Eckhout, *Tapuia Woman*, 1641 (detail)



Eckhout's paintings may look like objective records, but they conform to prevailing stereotypes of non-Europeans.

Theodor Galle after Stradanus, *Vespucci Discovering America*, engraving, c. 1580



AMERICA.

Theodor de Bry, *Grands Voyages* Part III, 1592.  
Cannibal feast, after Hans Staden's description.



Albert Eckhout, *Tapuia Woman*, 1641 (detail)



Eckhout's paintings may look like objective records, but they conform to prevailing stereotypes of non-Europeans.

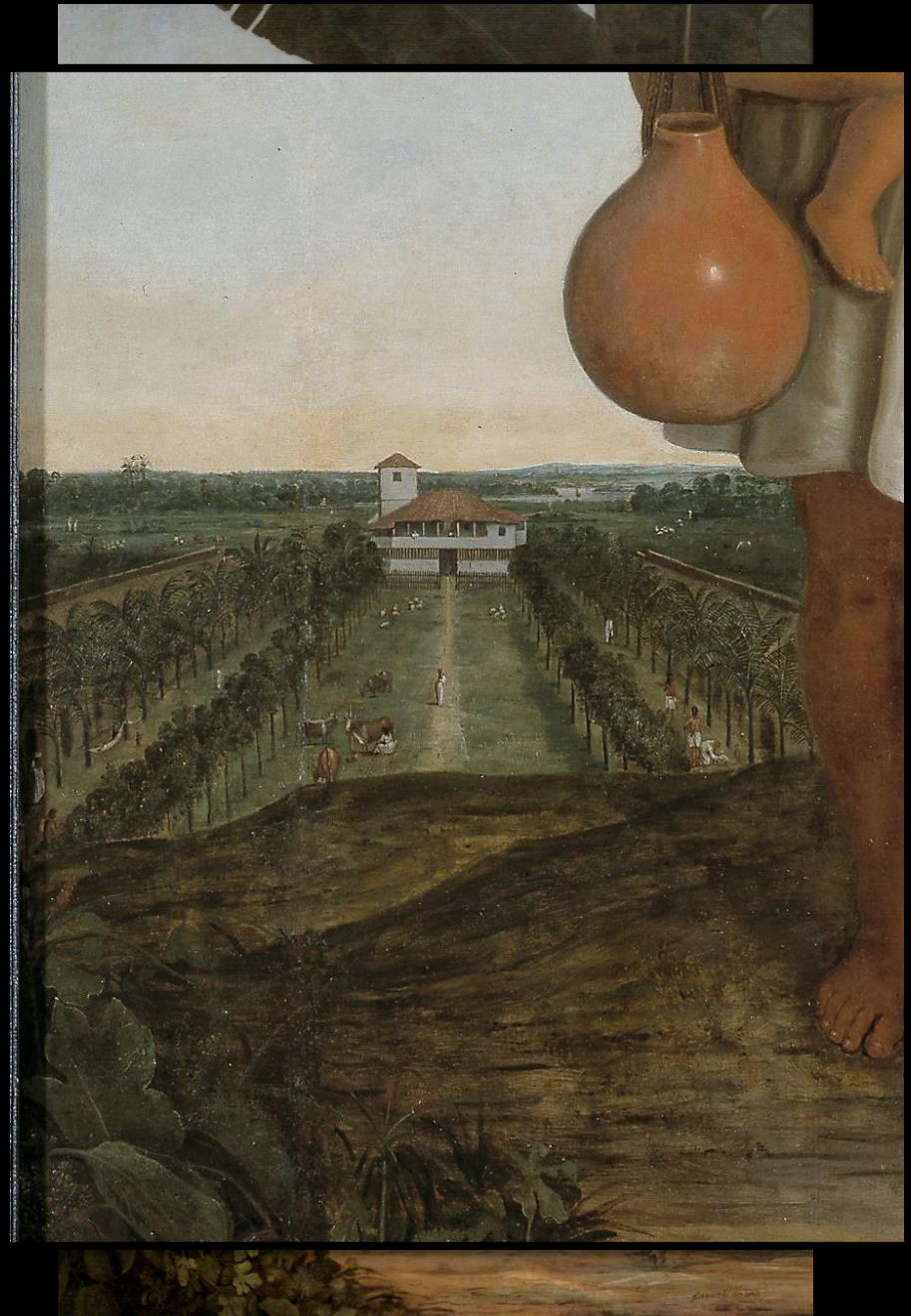
# Eckhout, Tupinamba Man and Woman



Eckhout, *Tapuya Woman*, 1641



Eckhout, *Tupinamba Woman*, 1641



Eckhout, *Mameluca*, 1641



Eckhout, *Mulatto Man*, 1641



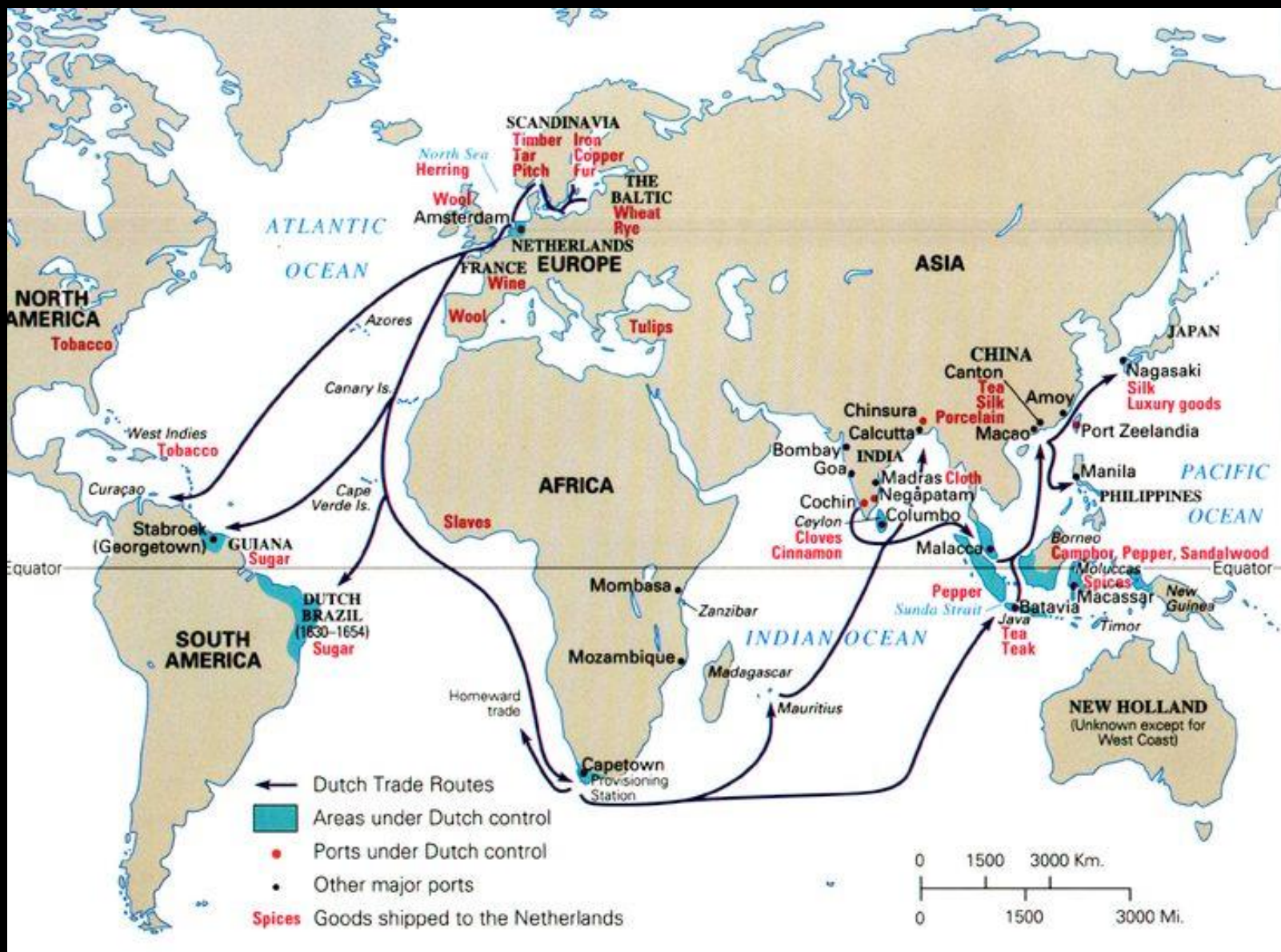
Eckhout, *African Man*, 1641



Eckhout, *African Woman*, 1641



# Dutch trade routes, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century



Frans Post was a Dutch landscape painter. He traveled to Brazil in 1636 at the invitation of Governor Johan Maurits. He lived in Brazil until 1644.

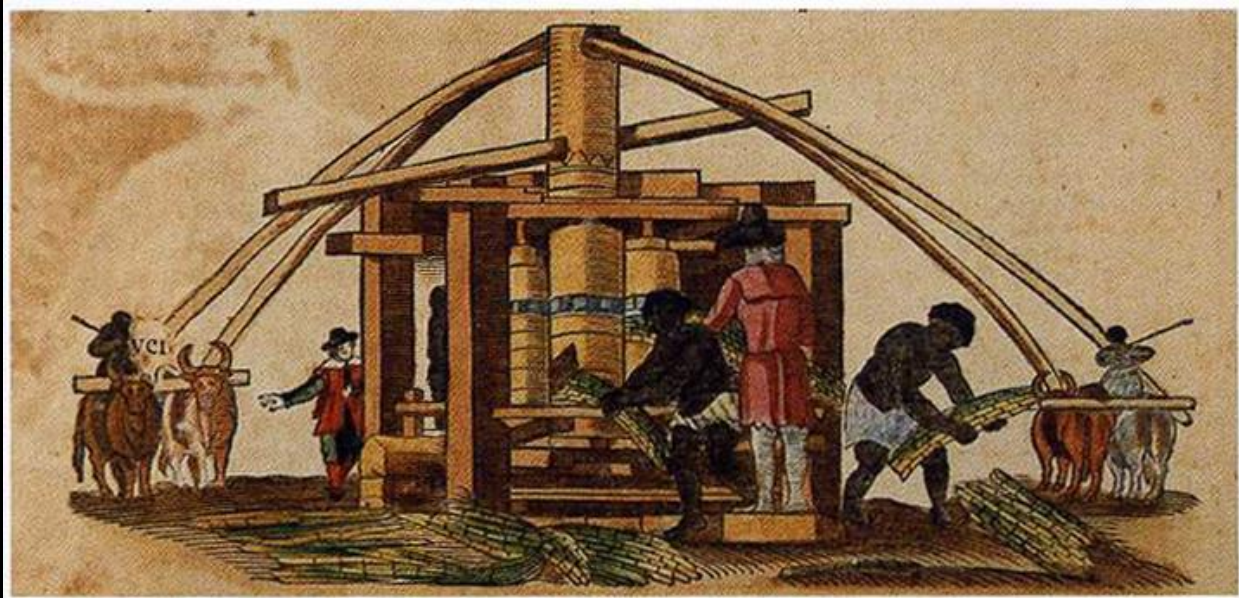
Frans Post, *Sugar Mill on a Small River*, c. 1650s



Frans Post, *Sugar Mill on a Small River*, c. 1650s (detail)



Slaves working at sugar mill. Illustrations from W. Piso and G. Markgraf  
*Historia Naturalis Brasiliae*, 1648



Frans Post, *Sugar Mill on a Small River*, c. 1650s (detail)





Eckhout, *African Man*, 1641



Eckhout, *African Woman*, 1641



## Dark Side of the Golden Age: Colonialism and the Slave Trade

- Formed the WIC (West India Company)—joint-stock company with quasi-governmental powers—to conduct trade in Africa and the Americas
- Fought Portugal and native populations to establish colony in Brazil
- Two professional painters employed by WIC to create images of Dutch Brazil
  - Eckhout drawing on racial stereotypes in rendering native inhabitants of Brazil
  - Post's depictions of life in the colony—how did art relate to reality?
- Dutch participation in the slave trade:
  - Slave labor in sugar plantations in Brazil; sold slaves to Spain
  - Slave trade absent from or glossed over in “high art”