

## THE DUTCH in the CARIBBEAN

©Dr John Freedman

6 Caribbean islands are historically Dutch - and still Dutch today:  
The 'ABC Islands' off the Venezuelan Coast & the 'S-S-S Islands' in the Lesser Antilles



### TIMELINE OF DUTCH/DUTCH CARIBBEAN HISTORY:

Romans conquer tribal societies of the northern lowlands region	1 <sup>st</sup> c. BC
Germanic barbarians invade the area	400s AD
Amsterdam founded	1275
King of Spain Charles V inherits the Netherlands – beginning 132 years of Spanish rule	1516
Ojeda, de La Cosa & Vespucci explore Aruba, Bonaire & Curaçao	1500
Protestantism supplants Catholicism in the Low Countries 'The Eighty Years War' (1568-1648) for Dutch independence begins	1568
The Union of Utrecht unites the Low Countries ('Nether Lands') - these 'United Provinces' declare independence from Spain	1581
Dutch East India Company founded	1602
Willem Janszoon discovers Australia	1606
Dutch West India Company founded	1621

(continued)

## TIMELINE OF DUTCH/DUTCH CARIBBEAN HISTORY, continued:

Peter Minuet buys Manhattan Island	1626
<b>Dutch secure strongholds in the Caribbean:</b> Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten	1630s
Dutch conquer and occupy northeastern Brazil	1630-54
Abel Tasman reaches Tasmania & New Zealand	1642-3
<b>Anglo-Dutch Wars - every Dutch Caribbean island occupied at least once</b>	1652-1784
Napoleon occupies the Netherlands	1795-1813
Kingdom of Netherlands restored under William I of Oranj-Nassau	1814
Belgium & Luxembourg granted independence	1839
Van Gogh born	1853
KLM launches world's first commercial air service	1919
Germany invades and occupies the Netherlands	1940
Benelux Union takes effect	1945
Indonesia granted independence	1949
<b>Charter of 1954 – all 6 islands brought under one administration as 'The Netherlands Antilles', a 'constituent country' of Kingdom of the Netherlands</b>	1954
Surinam granted independence	1975
Aruba Independence Referendum passes with 82% majority <b>Aruba secedes and is granted autonomy as a 'constituent country'</b>	1977 1986
World's first official same-sex marriage – in Amsterdam	2001
Euro replaces the guilder; euthanasia legalized	2002
<b>Dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles - Curaçao and St. Martin are granted autonomy as 'constituent countries' along with Aruba</b>	2010