AHST 6310-001 Art, Identity, and Biofuturisms
Thursday 1:00-3:45 pm
Fall 2019
Dr. Charissa N. Terranova
ATC 2.705 (EODIAH Seminar Room)

Thursday September 12
African Models, Black Face, and Racial Stereotypes

Seventeenth-Century Dutch Painting + Dutch Golden Age

Johannes Vermeer (1632 -1675), Girl with a
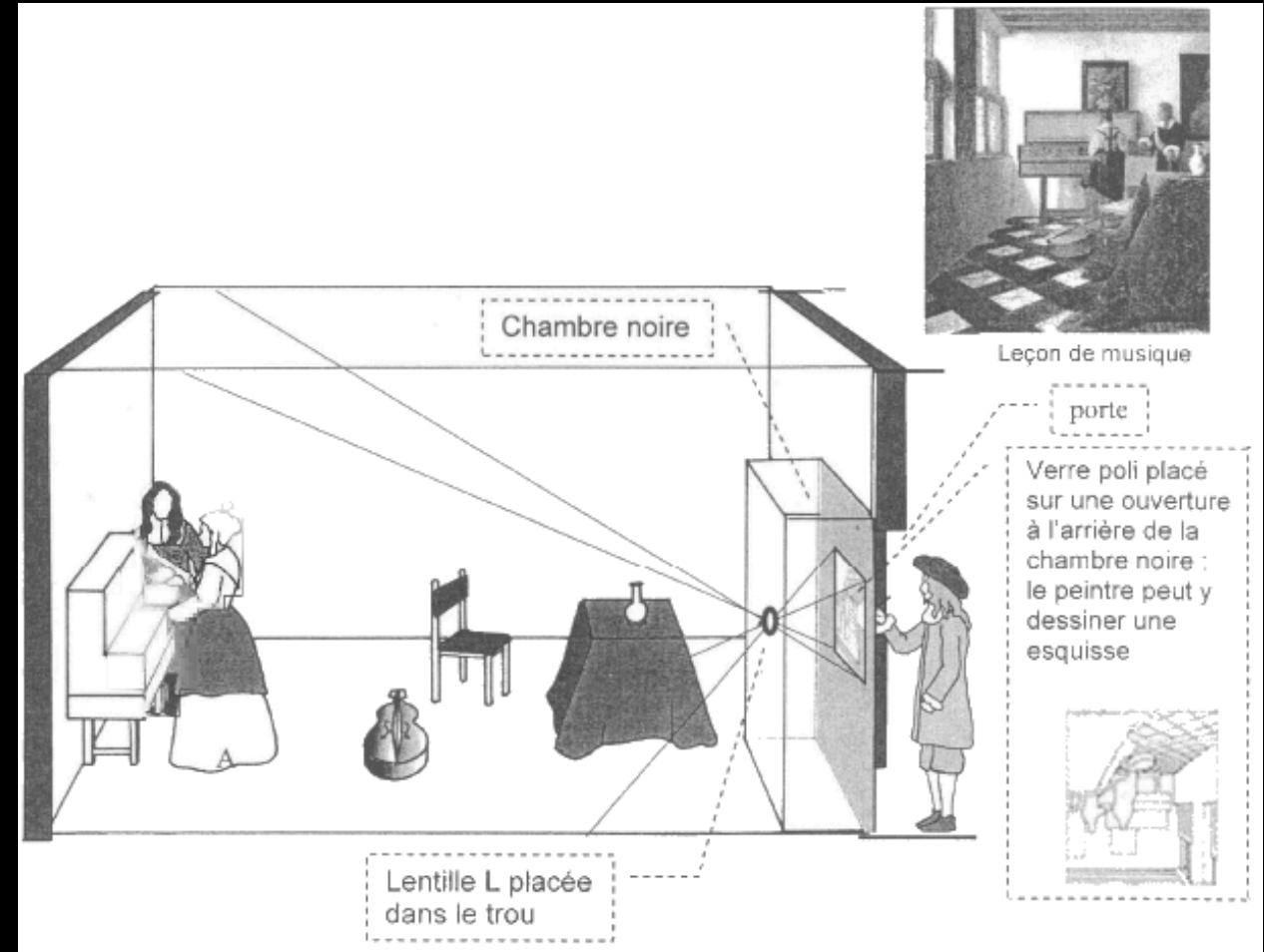Pearl Earring, c. 1665

How might've Johannes Vermeer used a *camera obscura* and/or a grid to make is sharp, realist paintings?

Johannes Vermeer, The Music Lesson or A Lady at the Virginals with a Gentleman, c. 1662–65

Chambre noire

Leçon de musique

porte

Verre poli placé sur une ouverture à l'arrière de la chambre noire : le peintre peut y dessiner une esquisse

Lentille L placée dans le trou

Johannes Vermeer [1632-1675]
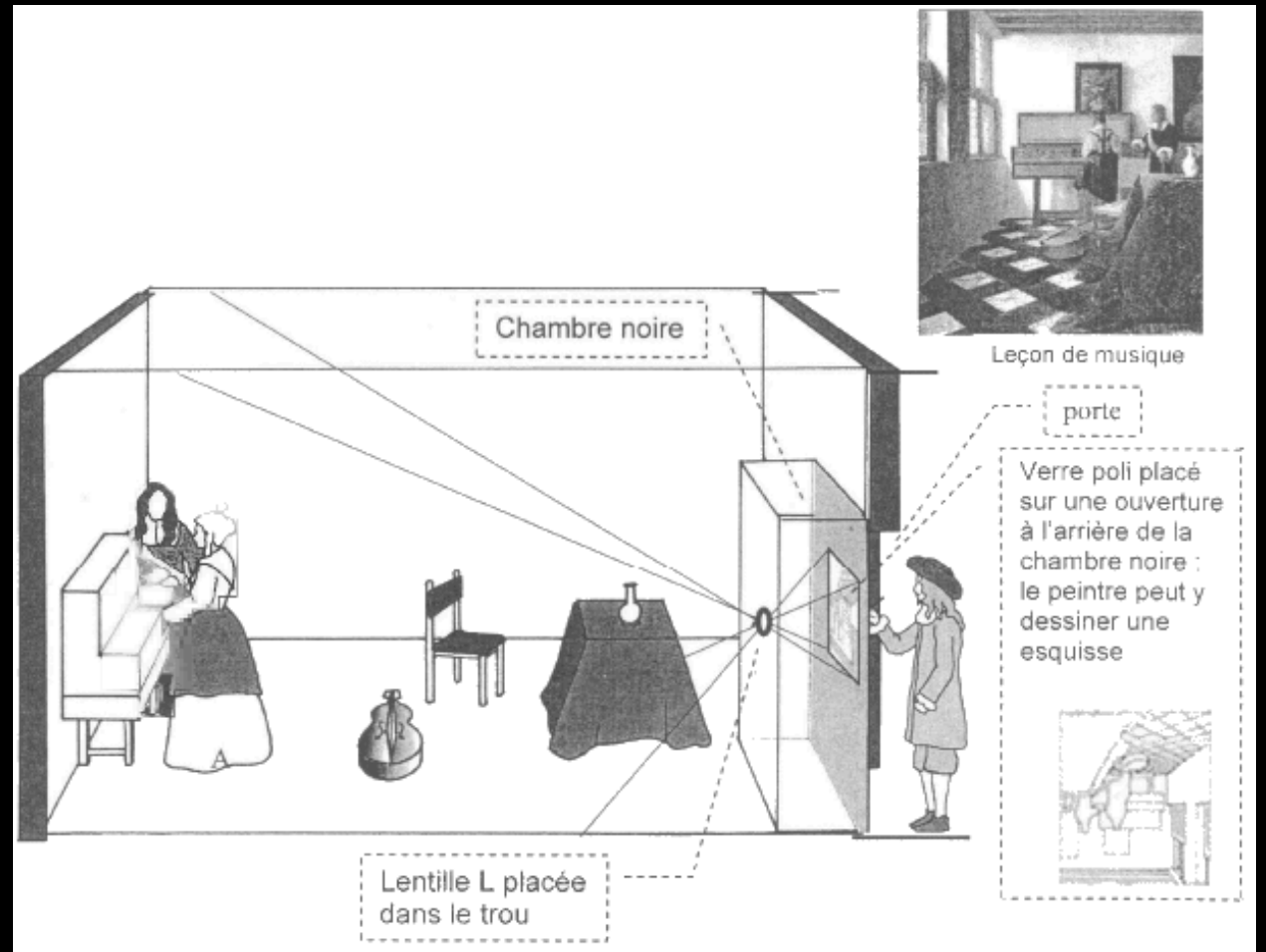
Johannes Vermeer, Officer and Laughing Girl, c.1657

Above: Johannes Vermeer, The Music Lesson or A Lady at the Virginals with a Gentleman, c. 1662–65
Right: Johannes Vermeer, The Girl with a Pearl Earring, c. 1665

Johannes Vermeer, The Music Lesson or A Lady at the Virginals with a Gentleman, c. 1662–65

Camera Obscura

Early Modernity

Scientific Revolution

Optics

Dutch Golden Age

Genre Painting/Paintings of Everyday Life

The Netherlands

Dutch Golden Age 17th Century

The Golden Age in the Netherlands was an era of trade development, economic growth and cultural diversity, flourishing science and high-quality art. Seventeenth-century Dutch society was a "laboratory of the world."
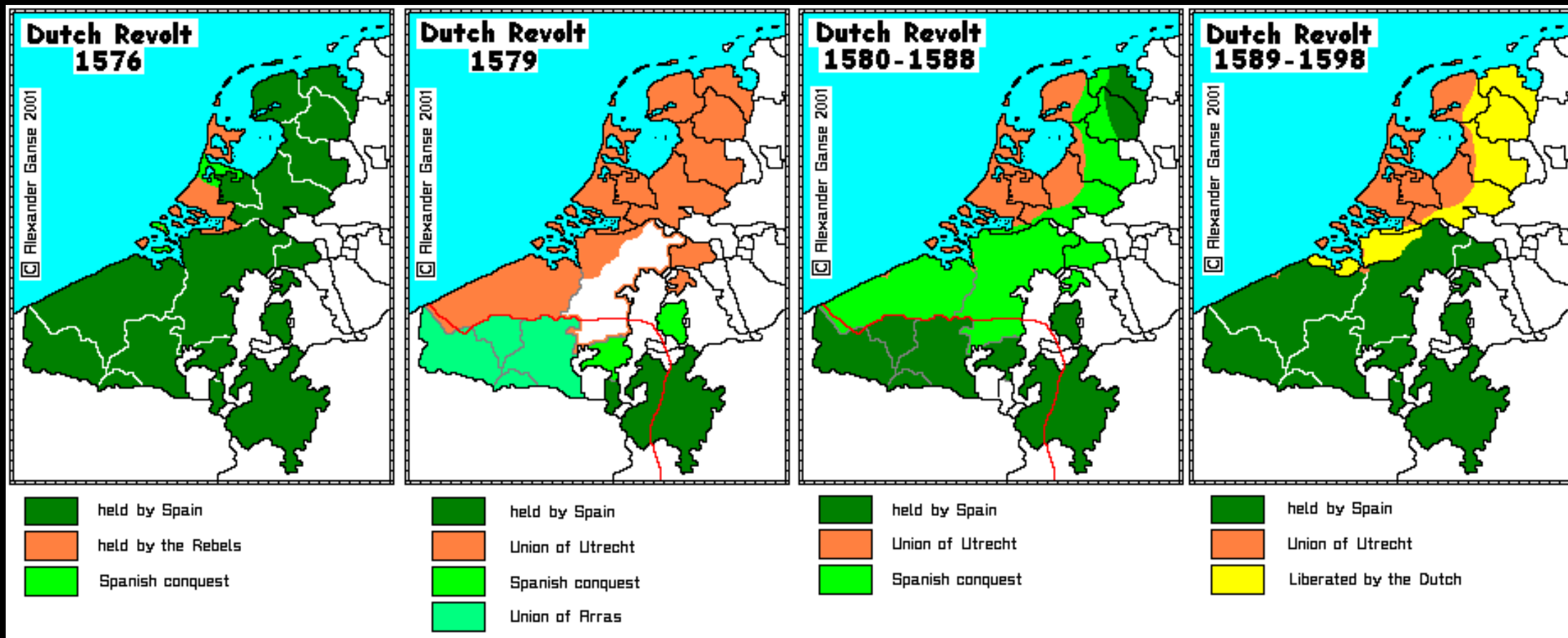
- Trade
- Science
- Military
- Art

Johannes Lingelbach: The Dam Square in Amsterdam with the New Town Hall under Construction, 1656
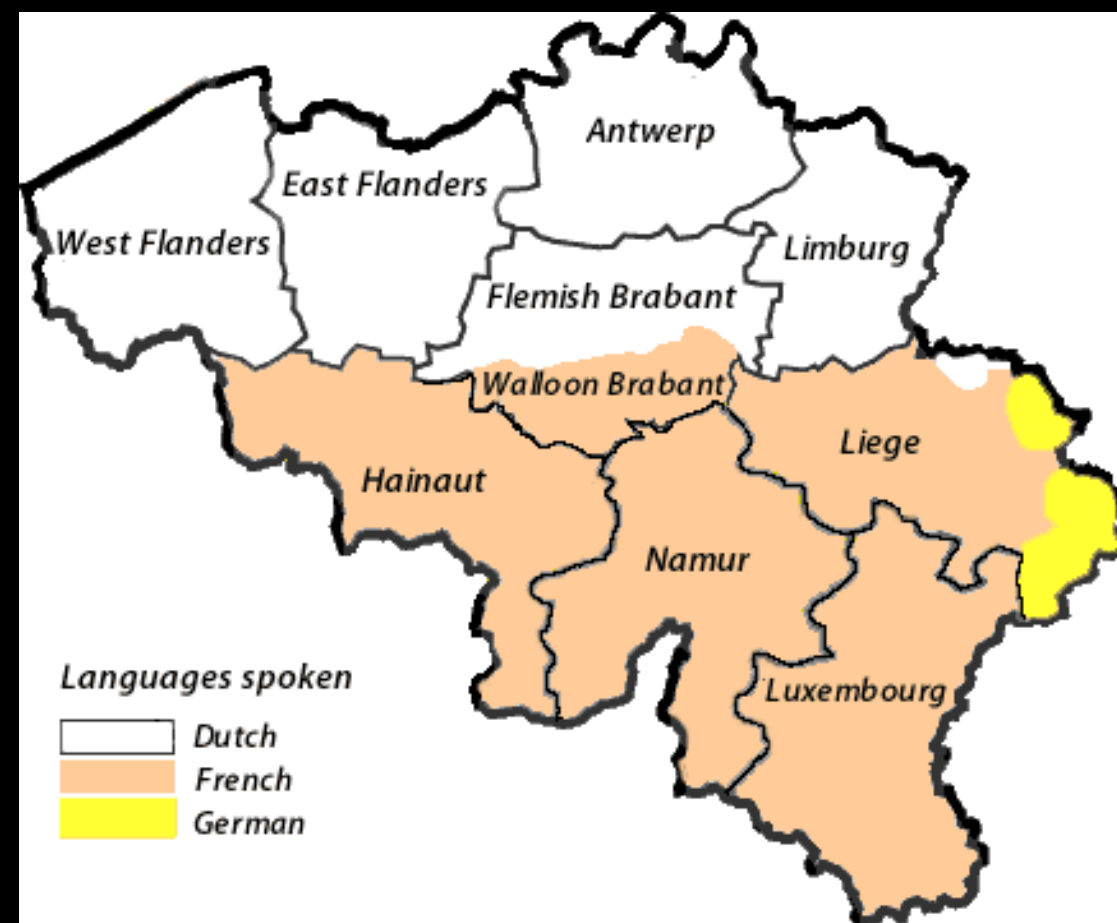
Dutch Revolt 1576

© Alexander Ganse 2001

- held by Spain
- held by the Rebels
- Spanish conquest

Dutch Revolt 1579

© Alexander Ganse 2001

- held by Spain
- Union of Utrecht
- Spanish conquest
- Union of Arras

Dutch Revolt 1580-1588

© Alexander Ganse 2001

- held by Spain
- Union of Utrecht
- Spanish conquest

Dutch Revolt 1589-1598

© Alexander Ganse 2001

- held by Spain
- Union of Utrecht
- Liberated by the Dutch
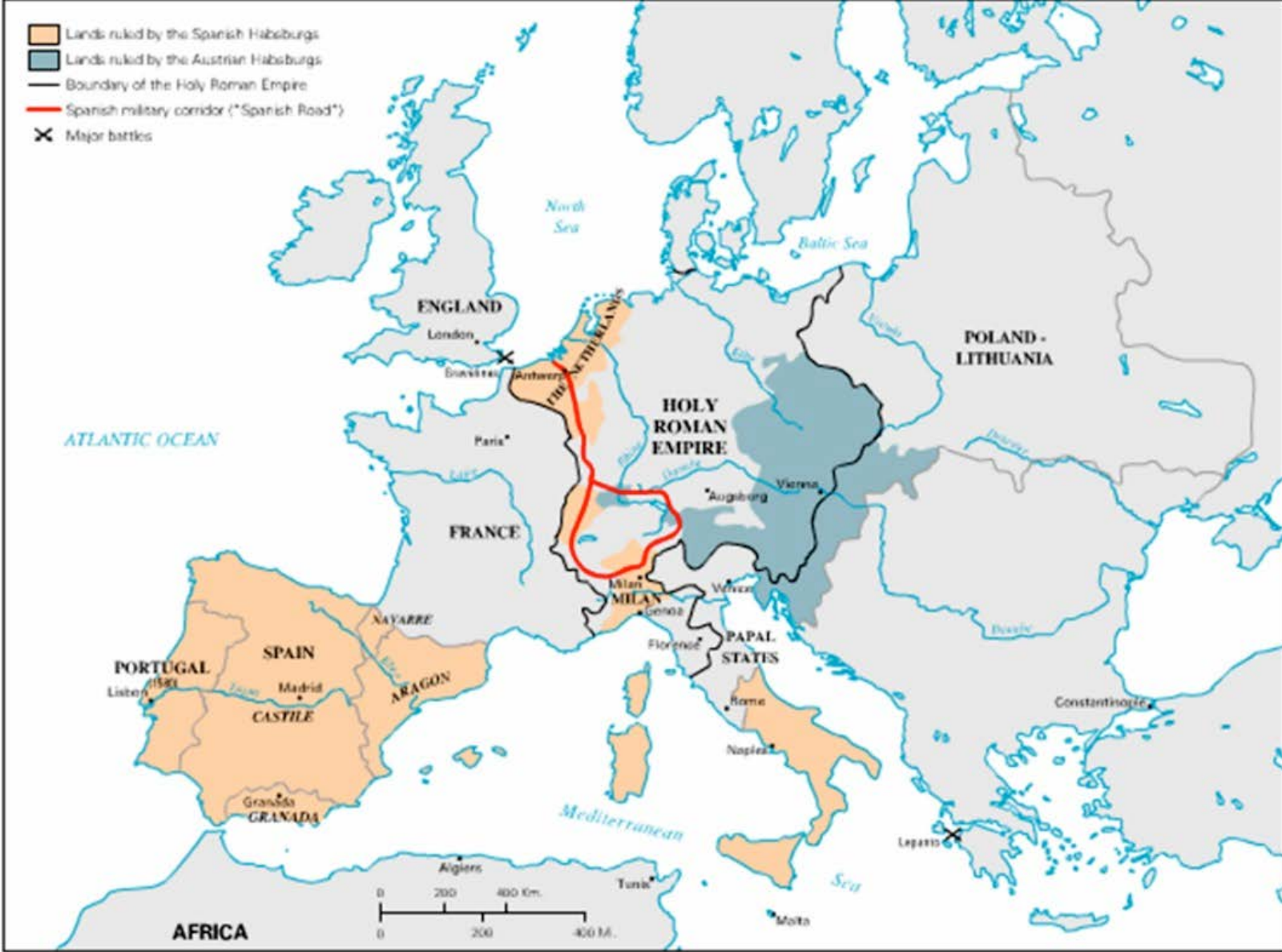
Languages spoken

- Dutch
- French
- German

Over the course of the seventeenth century, the Dutch nation became one of the wealthiest and most powerful in the world, employing its naval prowess to dominate international trade and create a vast colonial empire. But this period began in turmoil. The 1568 revolt of the Seventeen Provinces (modern-day Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and sections of northern France and western Germany) against Philip II of Spain, the sovereign of the Habsburg Netherlands, led to the Eighty Years' War, or Dutch War of Independence. Under William of Orange, the northern provinces overthrew the Habsburg armies and established the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands, which in 1648 was recognized as an independent country. The Southern Netherlands remained under Catholic Spain's control, prompting countless Flemish craftsmen to flee north, where their innovative techniques and pioneering subjects were disseminated throughout the Republic.
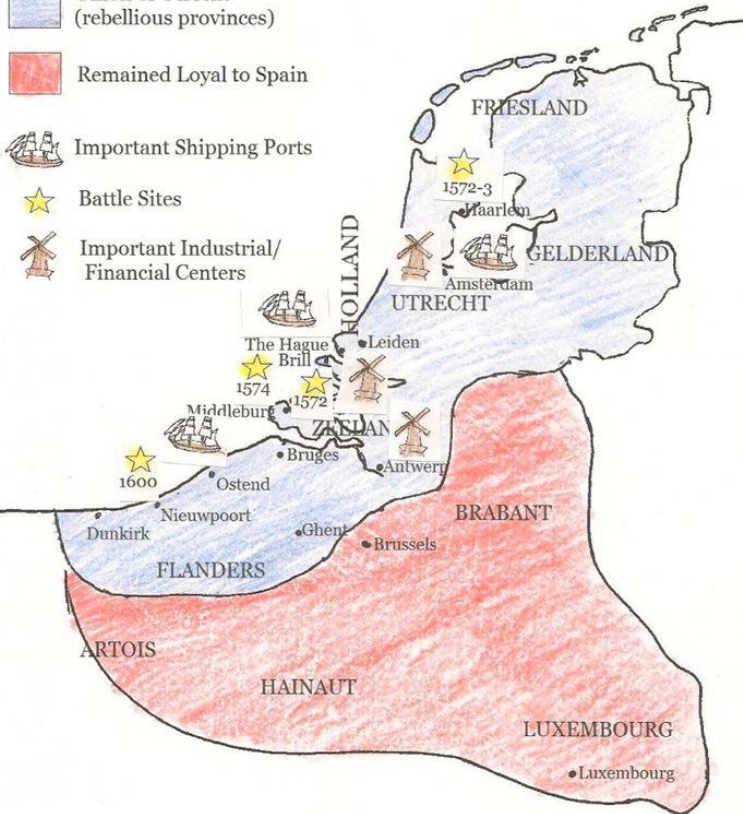
The Rebellion of the Netherlands

Dutch Global Commerce
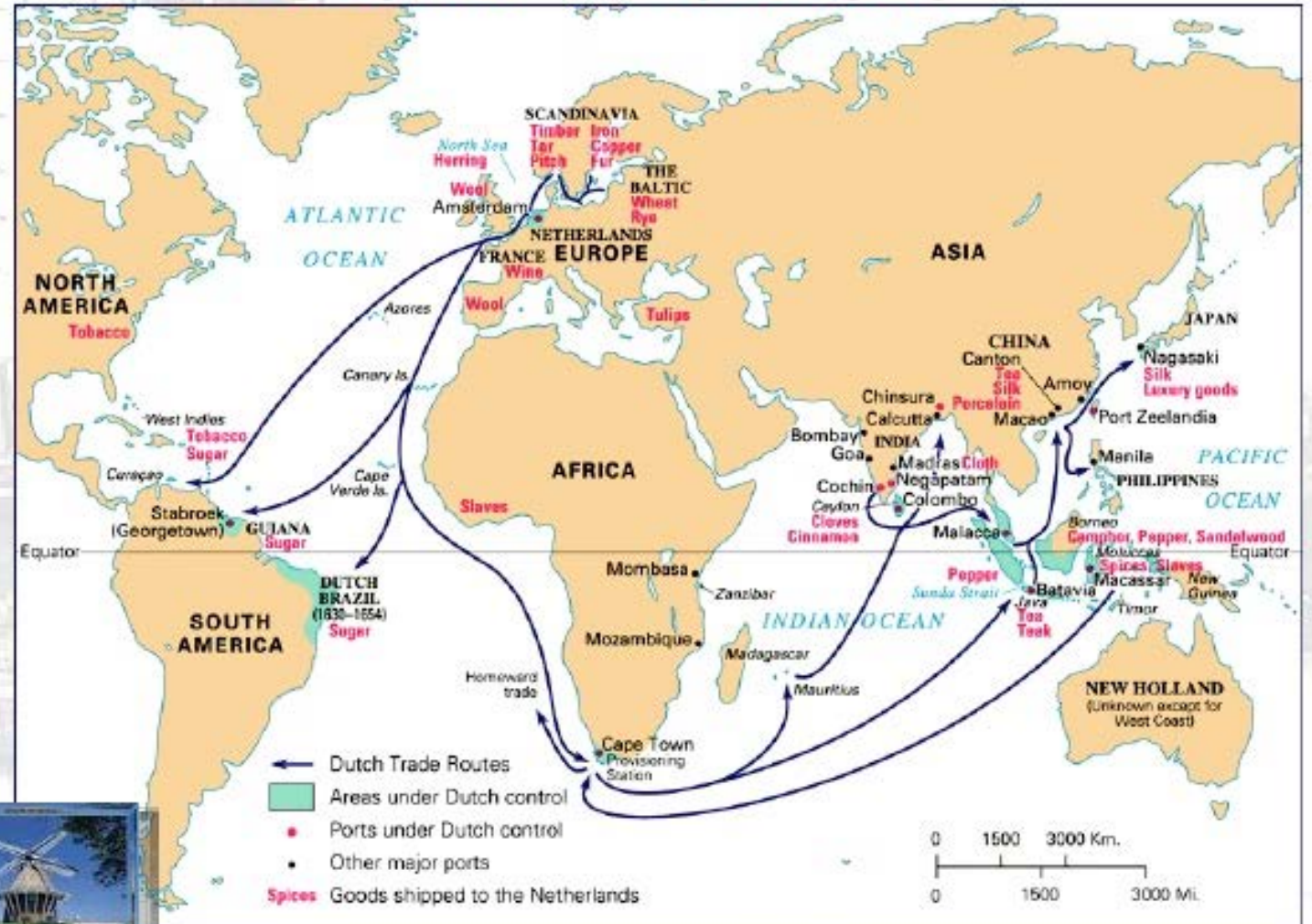
Dutch West India Company, offshoot of Dutch East India Company

Above: A senior merchant of the Dutch East India Company, presumably Jacob Mathieusen, and his wife; in the background the fleet in the roads of Batavia [capital city of the Dutch East Indies, today Jakarta] by Aelbert Cuyp, c. 1640-1660

Right: Board of Dutch East India Company

Top Left: Dutch West Indies

Bottom Left: Map of the main West India Company settlements in the Atlantic Ocean (1640s.1650s.)

Dutch East Indies

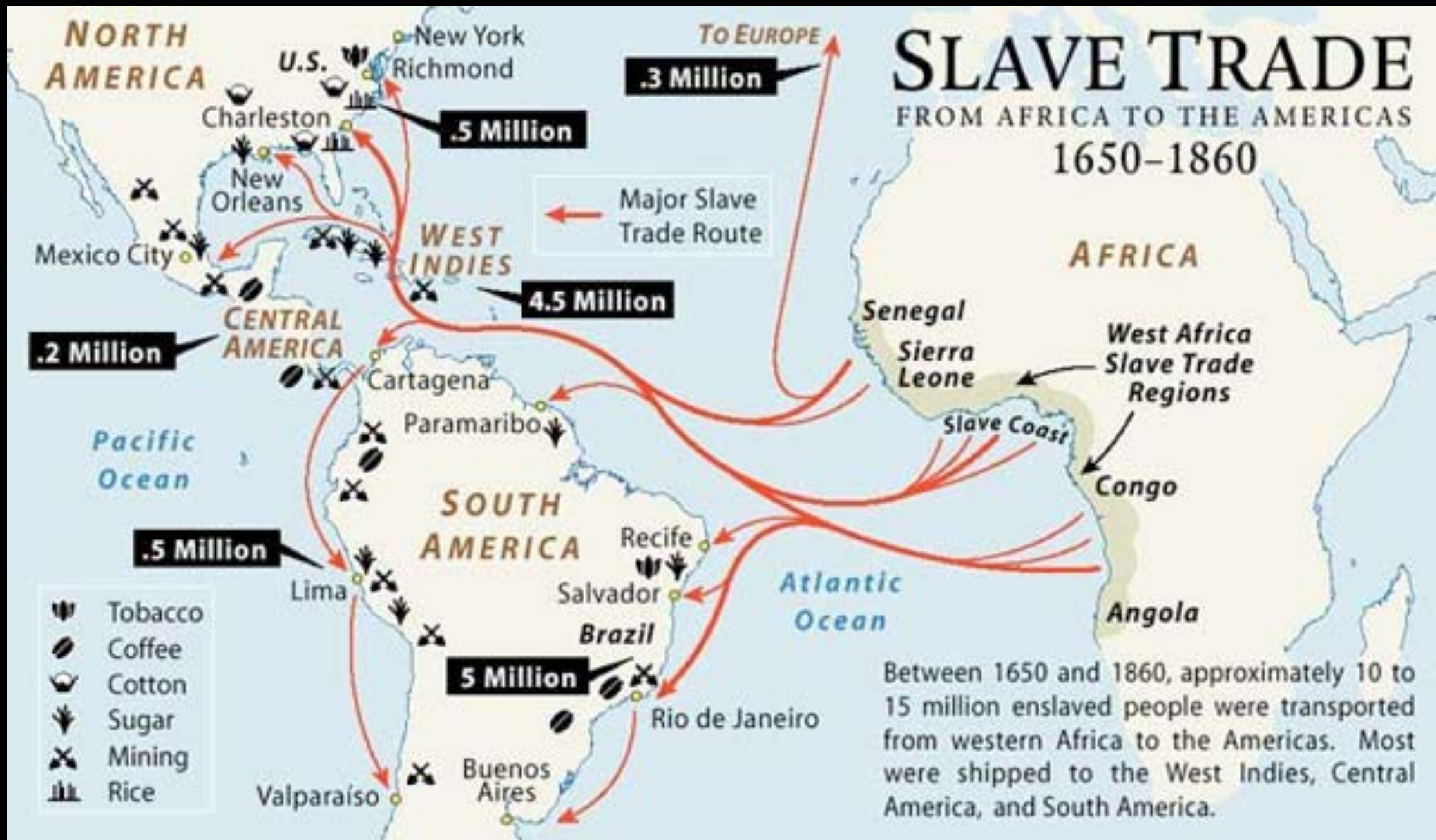# Golden Carriage (1898) carrying Dutch Royals

SLAVE TRADE
FROM AFRICA TO THE AMERICAS
1650–1860

Between 1650 and 1860, approximately 10 to 15 million enslaved people were transported from western Africa to the Americas. Most were shipped to the West Indies, Central America, and South America.

The Dutch West India Company, a chartered company of Dutch merchants, was established in 1621 as a monopoly over the African slave trade to Brazil, the Caribbean and North America.

The WIC had offices in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Hoorn, Middelburg and Groningen, but one-fourth of Africans transported across the Atlantic by the company were moved in slave ships from Amsterdam. Almost all of the money that financed slave plantations in Suriname and the Antilles came from bankers in Amsterdam, just as many of the ships used to transport slaves were built there.

Many of the raw materials that were turned into finished goods in Amsterdam, such as sugar and coffee, were grown in the colonies using slave labor and then refined in factories in the Jordaan neighborhood.

Revenue from the goods produced with slave labor funded much of The Netherlands' golden age in the 17th century, a period renowned for its artistic, literary, scientific, and philosophical achievements.

Slave labor created vast sources of wealth for the Dutch in the form of precious metals, sugar, tobacco, cocoa, coffee and cotton and other goods, and helped to fund the creation of Amsterdam's beautiful and famous canals and city center.


DESCRIPTION OF A SLAVE SHIP.
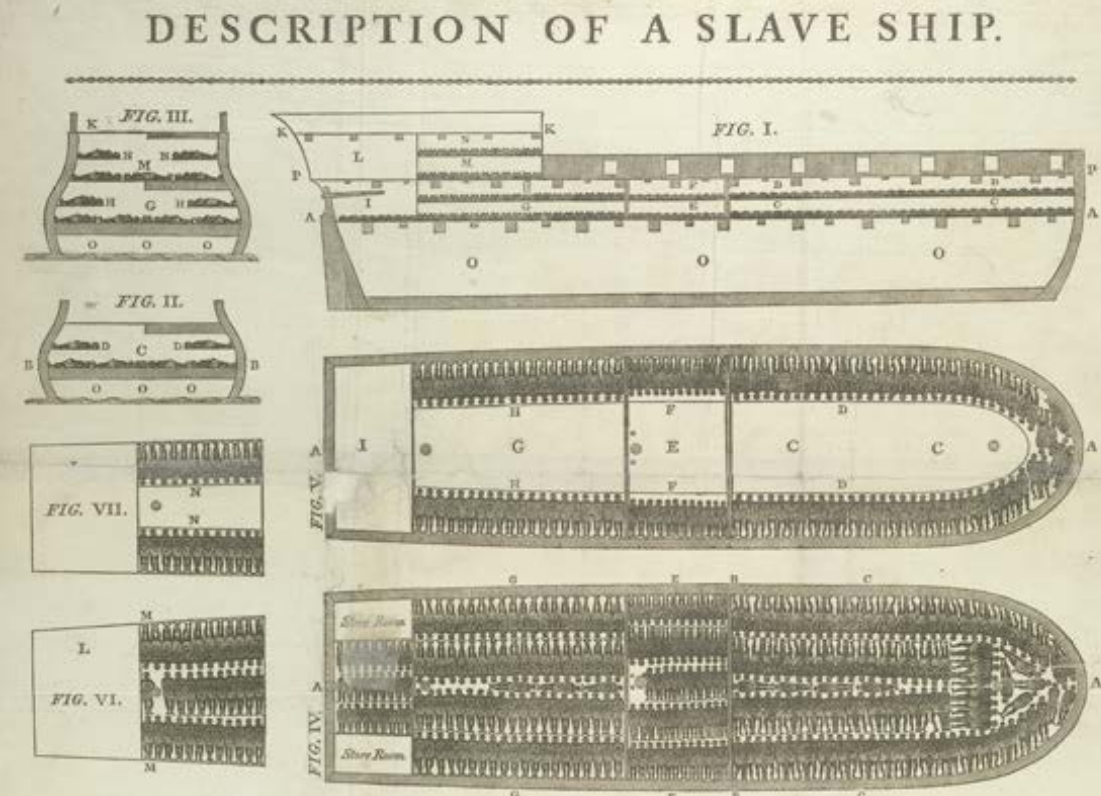
On August 15, 1664, the slave ship *Gideon* arrived in the New Amsterdam harbor with 290 slaves—153 men and 137 women. The entry of so many slaves at once was quite unusual for the colony, and it caused the colony's enslaved population to increase drastically. Although the arrival of a large slave ship was rare for the colonial port town, the slave trade itself had been an integral part of colonial society.

Most of New Netherland's enslaved people were brought to the colony either through the inter-colonial or transatlantic slave trade. The first enslaved laborers arrived in New Netherland as early as 1625 or 1626, soon after European families began to settle in the colony. Most often slaves were imported in small groups. Many of them were brought to the colony by Dutch or French privateers who had taken these enslaved men, women, and children from the Portuguese or Spanish ships that they had captured in the Western hemisphere.

I, Sijmen Cornelissen Gilde, skipper, next to God, of my ship named Den Gidion, presently lying before Curaçao, ready to sail with the first favorable wind (which God may grant) to the Manhatans in New Netherland [   ] acknowledge to have received [   ] in the hold of my aforesaid ship [   ] 300 [   ] slaves, consisting of 160 men and 140 women [   ] merchantable; which slaves I promise to deliver (if God grants me a safe voyage) with my aforesaid ship to the honorable lord director-general Petrus Stuyvesant at the Manhatans or to whomever his honor shall specify.
—Curaçao Papers, Bill of Lading, 21 July 1664
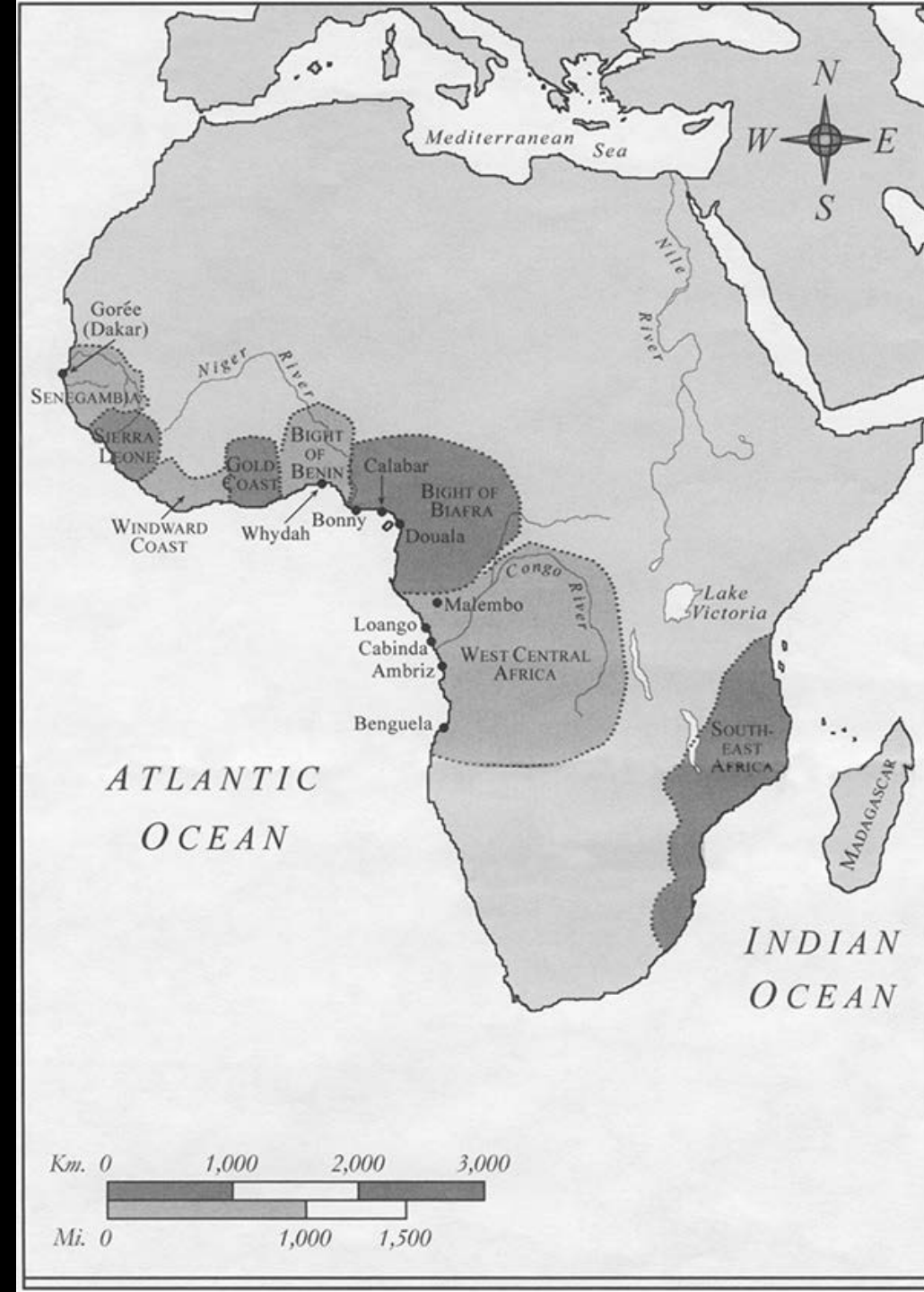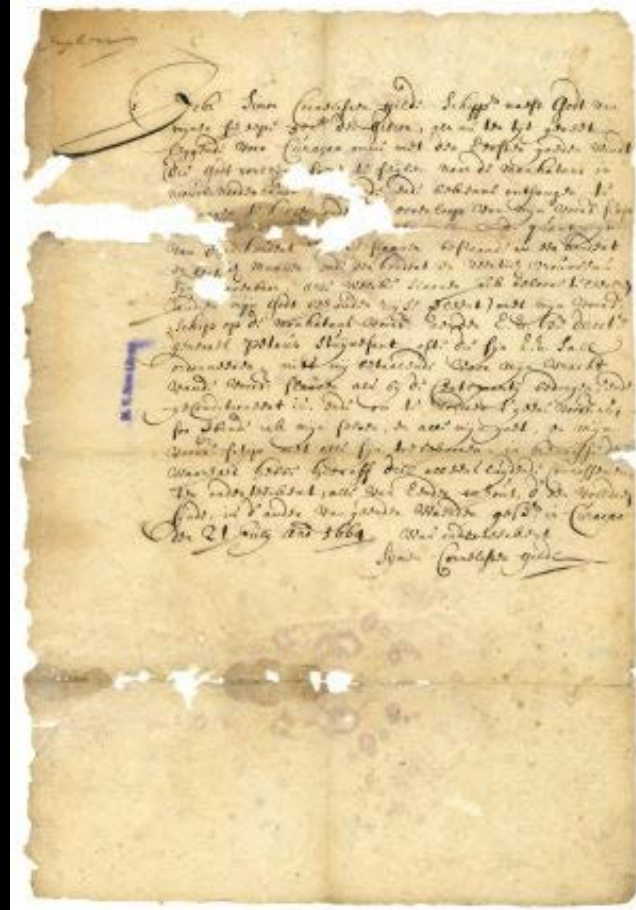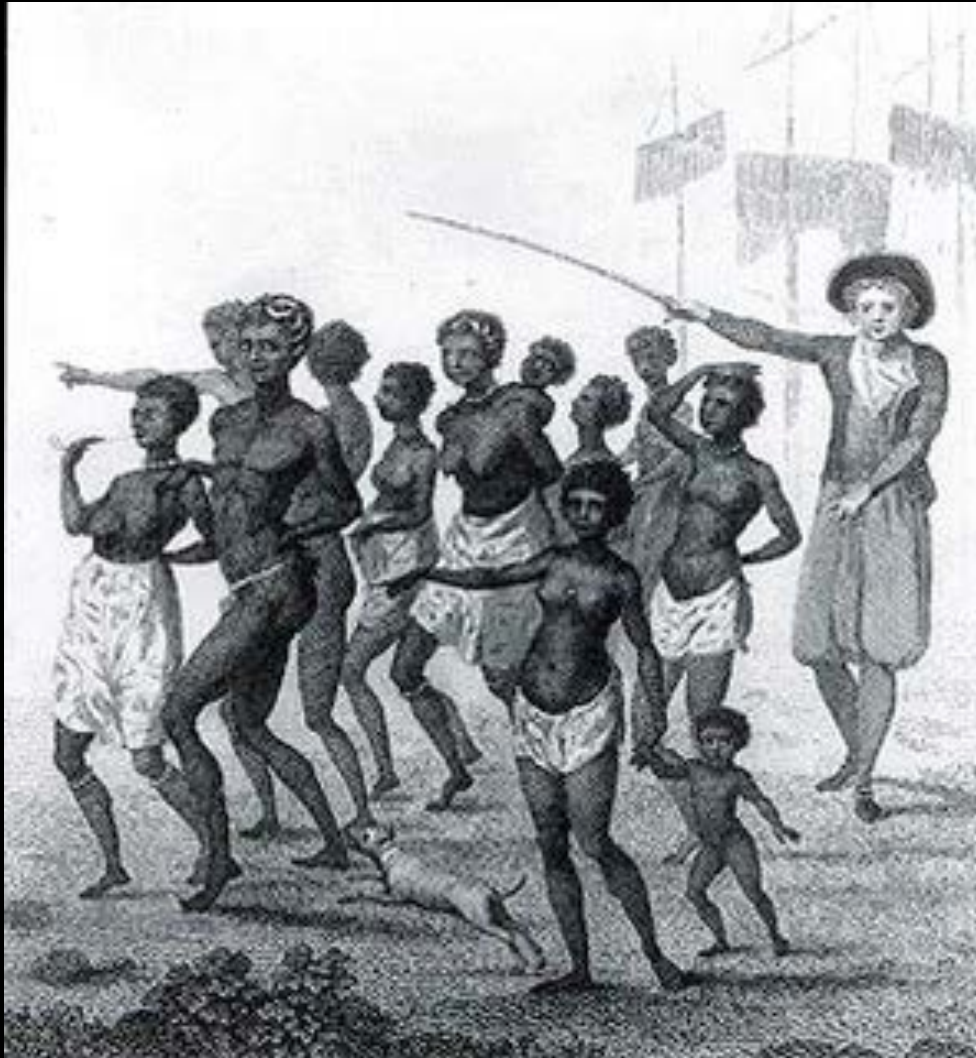
Left: Depiction of the importation of eleven black slaves to New Netherland/New Amsterdam (now NEW YORK) by the Dutch West India Company in 1625. Many of them were put to work for the construction of a wall to protect "settlers " from the indigenous population on the very site of the famed Wall Street, Manhattan.

Above: Selling humans. After the territory fell to the English by 1664 an inhumane chattel law was used as the measure and thus even children of slaves were born Slaves. By 1790 the population of slaves grew to 21,324 making new York the leading state dealing in this "gentleman's trade".

Africans in paintings before the Dutch Golden Age

Veronese, Wedding Feast at Cana, 1563

Golden Age Portraiture

Jan Verkolje, Johan de la Faille, 1674

Johan de la Faille was a member of the city council of Delft, here painted with a black steward

Tronie painting

Typological Paintings

"face" or "head" painting

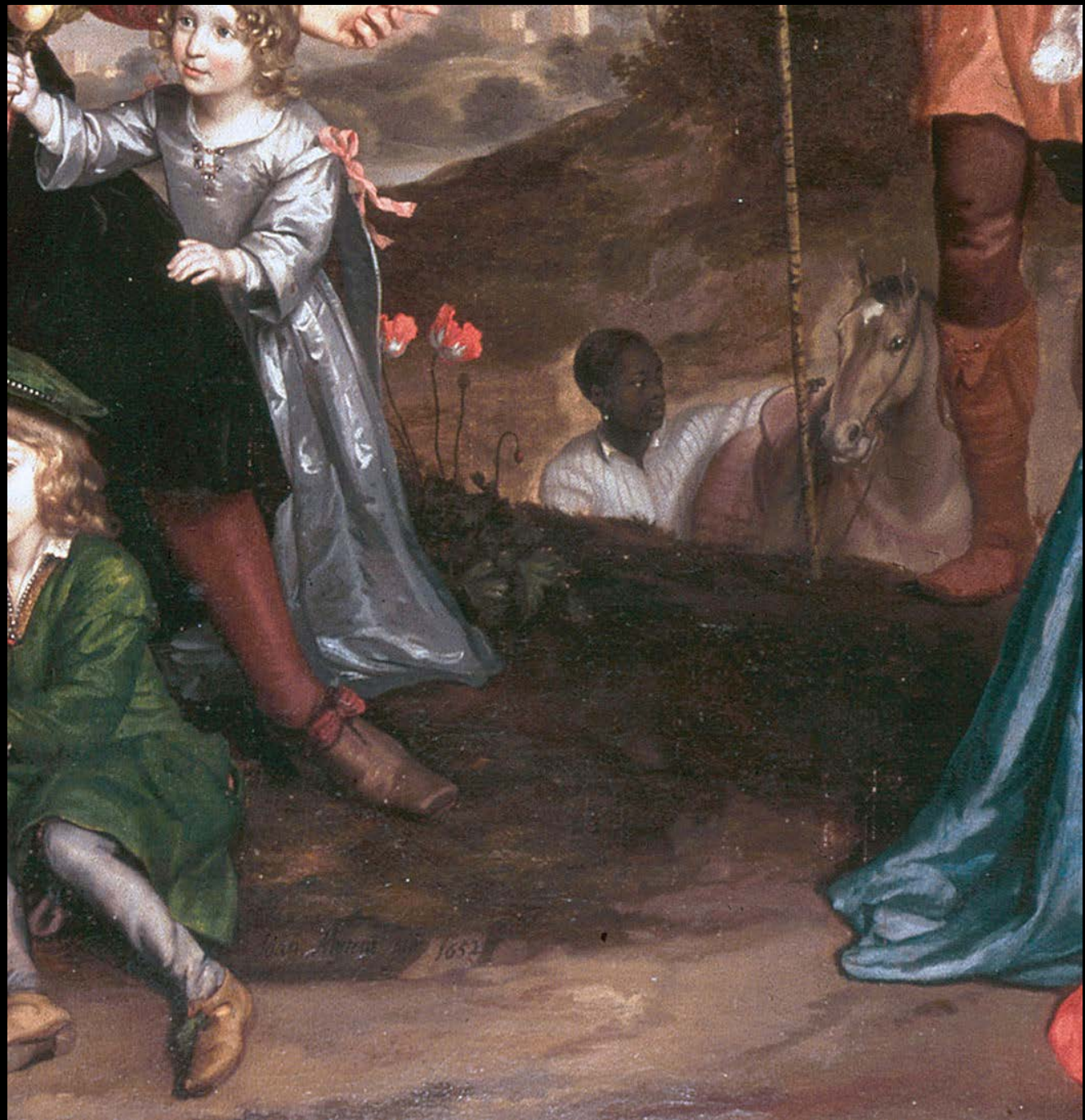Left: Govert Flinck ,Portrait of African Male, c. 1645

Right: Govert Flinck, A Young Archer, 1639-40

Jan Mijtens, Willem van den Kerckhoven and His Family, 1652-55

Jan Steen, Dutch, Fantasy Interior with Jan Steen and the Family of Gerrit Schouten, ca. 1659-1660

Portrait d'une Négresse, 1800 by
Marie-Guillemine Benoist

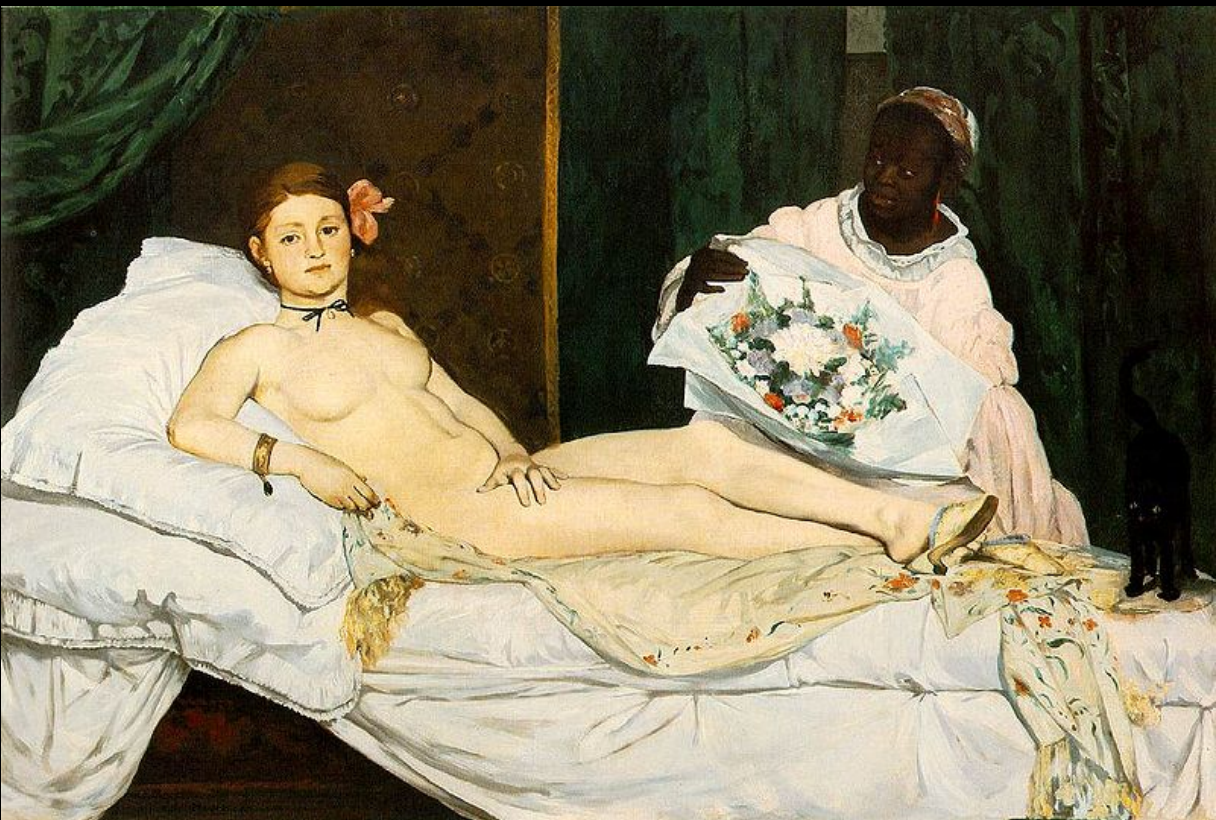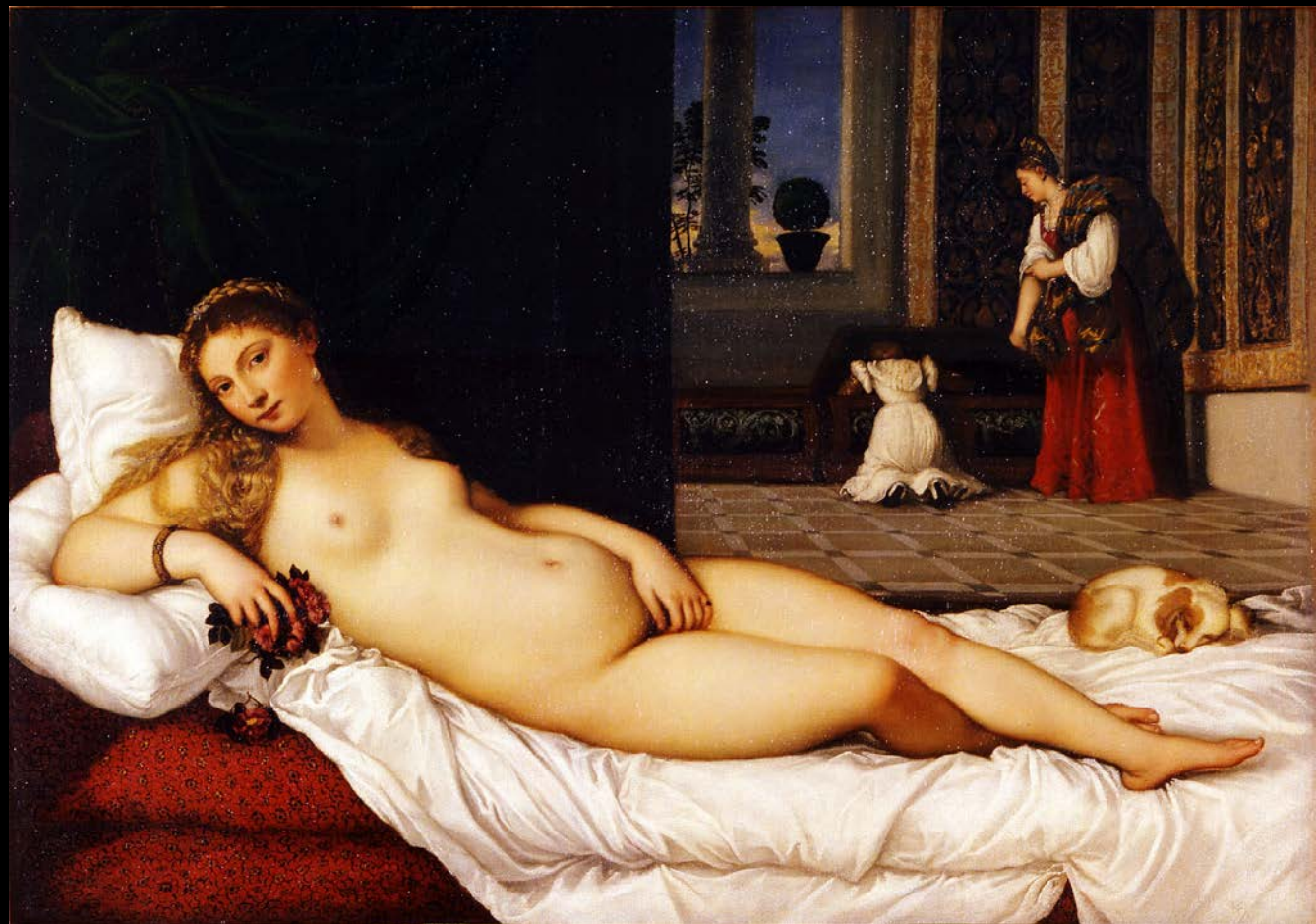Jacques-Eugène Feyen, Le Baiser Enfantin/Baby's Kiss, 1865
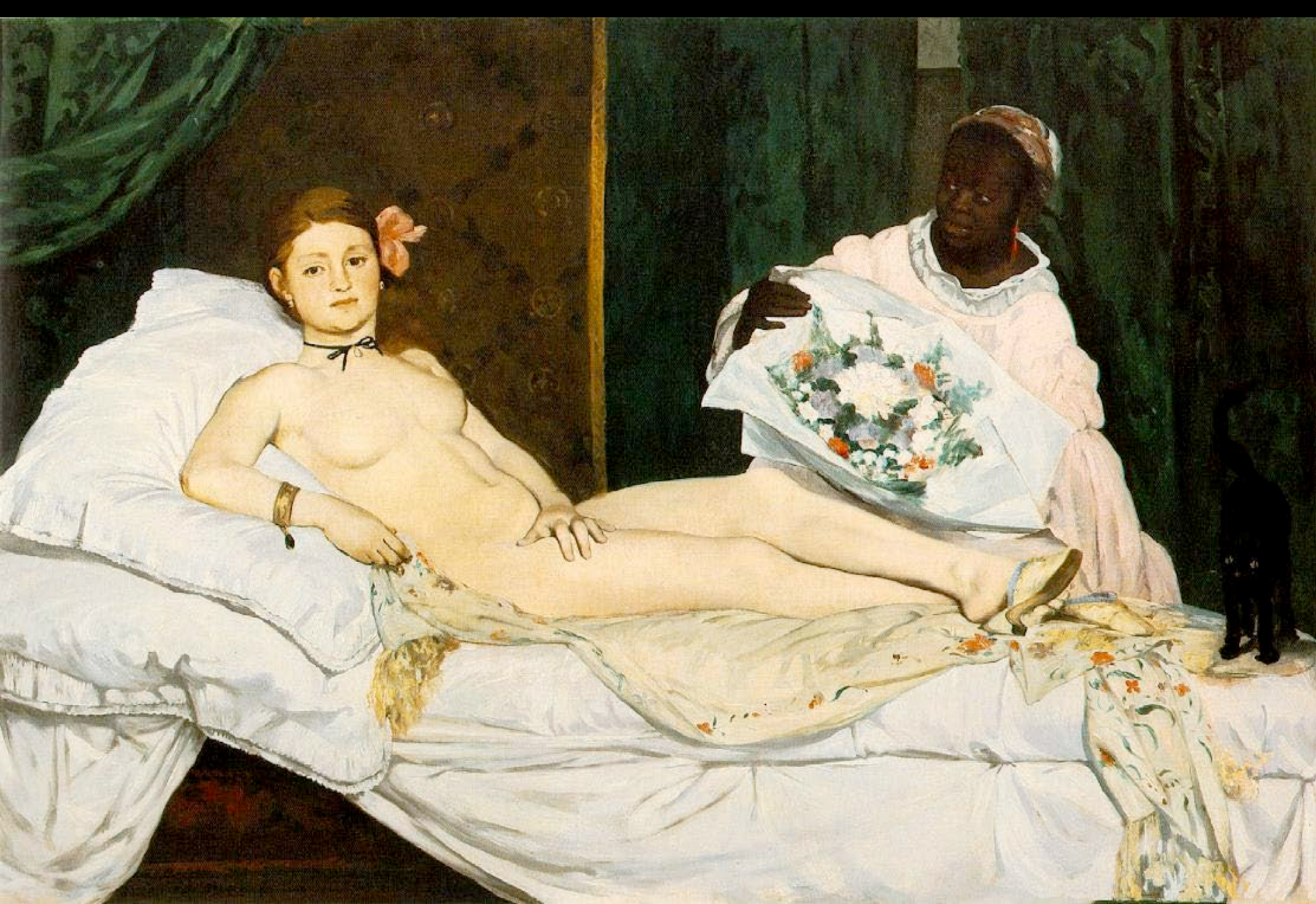
Manet, Olympia, 1863
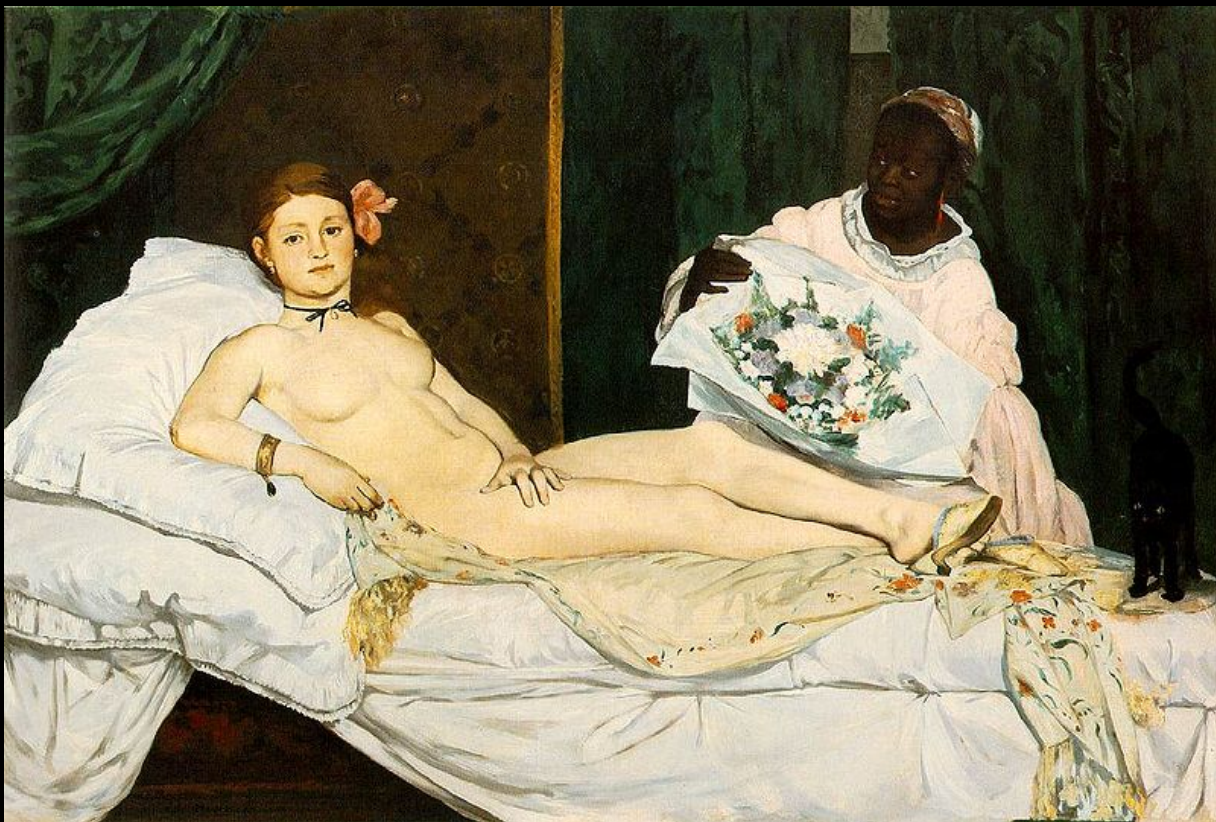
Manet, La négresse (Portrait of Laure), 1863

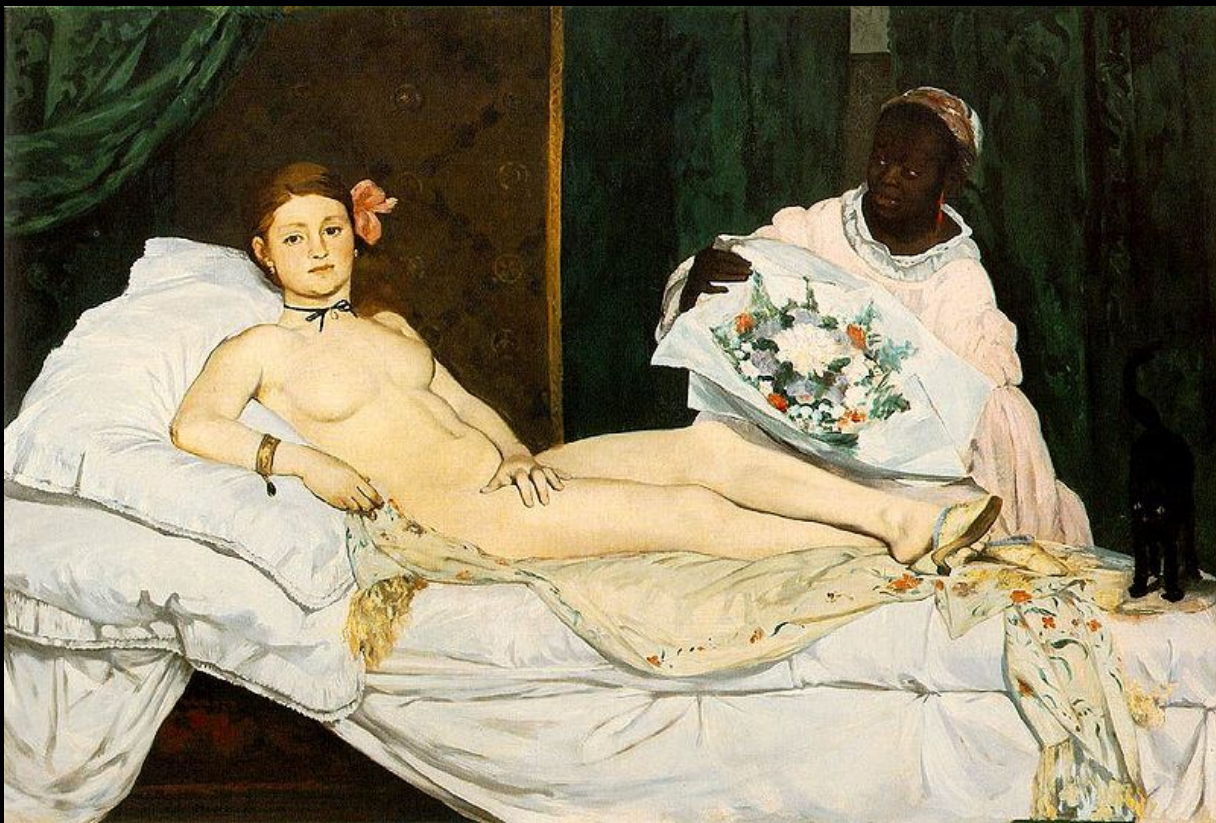Edouard Manet, Olympia, 1863

Titian, Venus of Urbino, 1534
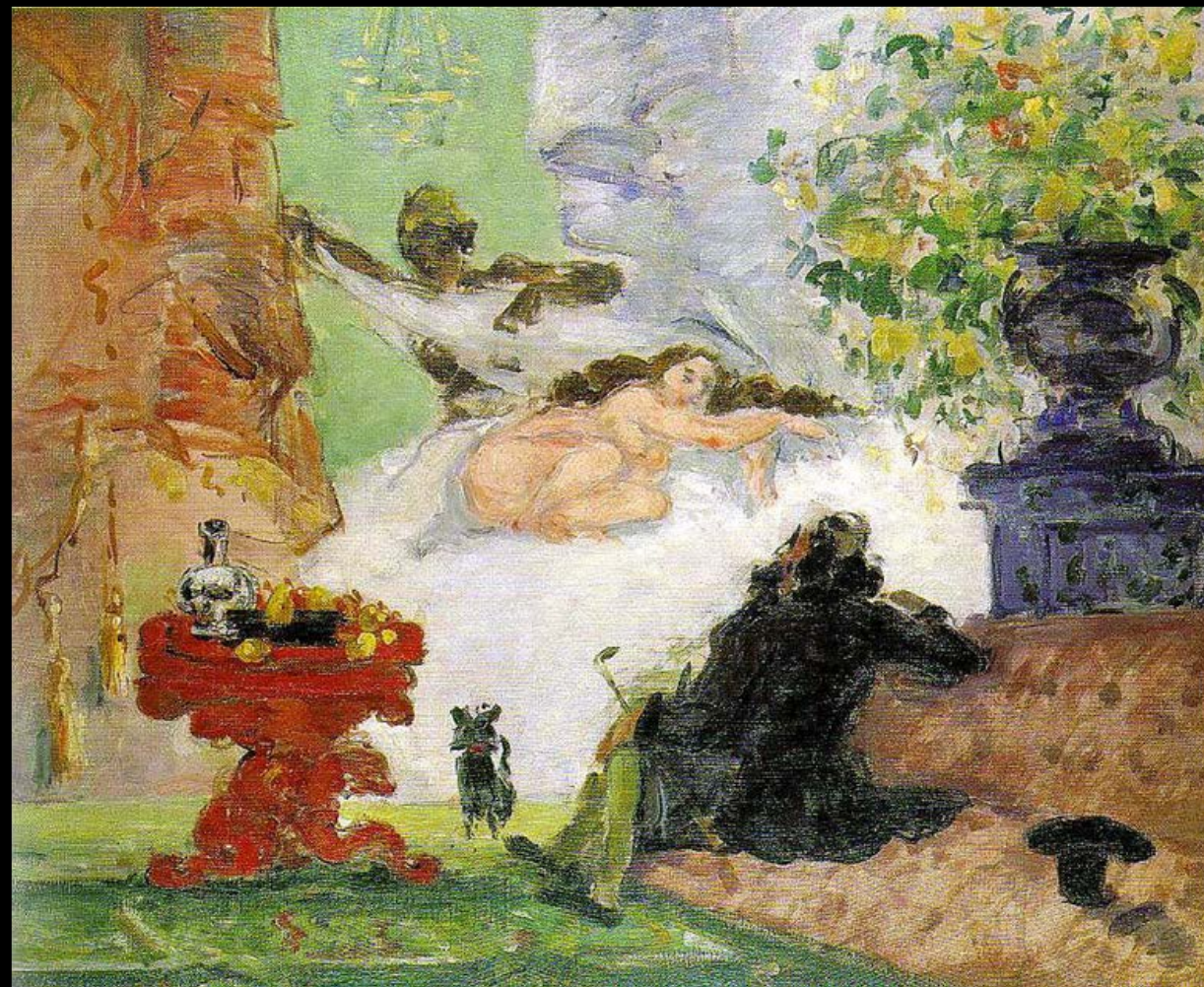
Edouard Manet, Olympia, 1863

Alexandre Cabanel, The Birth of Venus, 1863

Edouard Manet, Olympia, 1863

Paul Cezanne, A Modern Olympia, 1873-1874

Mel Ramos,
Manet's Olympia,
1973-74

Mel Ramos, Manet's Olympia, 1973-74

Manet, Olympia, 1863

Jean-Michel Basquiat, Maid from Olympia, 1982

Elizabeth Colomba, *Laure (Portrait of a Negresse)*, 2018,

Kara Walker, A Subtlety (2014)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRkP5rcXtys