

Navigation Acts (1651, 1660) ^[1]

Navigation Acts (1651, 1660)

by Carmen Miner Smith, 2006



Dutch ships masquerading as English vessels, Photograph, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online.

^[2]The Navigation Acts ^[3] (1651, 1660) were acts of Parliament ^[4]intended to promote the self-sufficiency of the British Empire by restricting colonial trade to England and decreasing dependence on foreign imported goods. The Navigation Act of 1651, aimed primarily at the Dutch, required all trade between England and the colonies to be carried in English or colonial vessels, resulting in the Anglo-Dutch War in 1652 ^[5]. The Navigation Act of 1660 continued the policies set forth in the 1651 act and enumerated certain articles-sugar, tobacco, cotton, wool, indigo, and ginger-that were to be shipped only to England or an English province. In effect, these acts created serious reductions in the trade of many North Carolina planters and merchants. To continue intercolonial trade, the colonies resorted to smuggling, particularly Albemarle County ^[6] in North Carolina, the chief producer and exporter of tobacco ^[7], which carried on a profitable trade with the Massachusetts and Rhode Island colonies. The violations of the Navigation Acts led to passage of the Plantation Duty Act of 1673 ^[8], one of the factors that led to Culpeper's Rebellion ^[9].

References:

Oscar T. Barck and Hugh T. Lefler, *Colonial America* (1965).

Lefler and William S. Powell, *Colonial North Carolina: A History* (1973).

Hugh F. Rankin, *Upheaval in Albemarle: The Story of Culpeper's Rebellion, 1675-1689*(1962).

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Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. ^[15]

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