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*Can food regulation lead to conflicts? A re-examination of the Holland-Deventer conflict (1463-1473) and of the role of butter regulation in it*

In 1463, a ten-years economic conflict broke out between Holland and Deventer, following Holland's decision to boycott Deventer's large interregional market. This trade interdiction was a direct response to Deventer's edict issued earlier that year and which notably prescribed tighter controls of the butter from Holland sold in Deventer and exported primarily to Cologne. Deventer's edict itself was meant to answer Cologne's multiple complaints over the last years about recurrent issues with the butter loads. Though the literature has identified different factors explaining the outbreak of the conflict (toll matters, urban rights, etc.), it is the butter regulation factor that has been the most underlined, with several publications even labelling the event as 'butter conflict'. Through a re-examination of the causes of the conflict, this paper aims to determine whether food regulation could really lead to this kind of altercation. Next to that, it will analyse a series of Cologne sources which have not yet been considered in relation to the case and which will bring new elements on Cologne's role during the conflict as well as on Deventer's actions and strategy to react against the economically harmful boycott of its fairs.

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