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*Violent conflicts between migrants and locals in early modern Leiden and Rotterdam*

Because of the Dutch Republic's reputation as open and relatively tolerant, the early mass migration to Dutch cities has seldom been studied from the perspective of conflict. Although the great variety of newcomers in the Dutch Republic did launch an era of economic prosperity, they were also the cause of social unrest. Cultural differences, combined with the increased residential density, were instigators for numerous difficulties in everyday urban life. However, little is known about the daily practices of local and migrant co-existence: to what extent were newcomers treated as outsiders and did daily interactions between migrants and the local population of these cities lead to more conflicts? Did certain prejudices against newcomers make them more vulnerable, as targets of violence or of suspicion by the authorities? Conflicts and how they were dealt with both by the people involved and by authorities in particular provide a privileged insight for studying everyday interactions and relations between established city dwellers and newcomers in a city or neighbourhood. This paper explores cases of violence in judicial sources that offer detailed information about tensions between locals in Leiden and Rotterdam and newcomers in these cities due to their geographic origin, race, religion or language.

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