CHAPTER THREE

DUTCH LABOR MIGRATION TO WEST AFRICA (C. 1590–1674)

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INTRODUCTION

Migration and labor migration are much discussed themes in the current historical literature. The most recent studies on the Dutch case focus mainly on the migratory movements of workers from the peripheral areas of Europe to the Netherlands, and more specifically on migration after the Second World War, the role of migrants in the economy and their integration in Dutch society. Studies on early modern Dutch labor migration have focused on the functioning of the Dutch labor market, labor recruitment for the Republic and its colonies, and the areas of origin of the workforce. Asia

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has been the preferred region for the analysis of intercontinental migration.\textsuperscript{5}

Labor migration in the Atlantic world has received some attention during the last decades, most publications dealing with free and coerced migration of Africans and Europeans to the Americas during the early modern period, with special emphasis on the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.\textsuperscript{6} Another area of prominent research has been the migration of indentured Asian labor to the Americas after the abolition
