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Bass Connections

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Migration and the Eighty Year’s War

**Introduction**

The Eight Year’s War (also known as the Dutch War of Independence 1568-1648) was a revolt of the Seventeen Provinces of the Netherlands again the Spanish Crown. With a decent-sized population of Protestants, mainly the branch of Calvinism, in Netherlands and the Iconoclasm, King Phillip II’s sent troops to violently suppress Protestants. In addition to centralized rule, different cultures, and competing trades, the Dutch began to revolt, which ultimately led to the span of the Eighty Year’s War and the eventual recognition of the Dutch Independence. The suppression of religion was undoubtedly the root cause for many artists to flee the Spanish-ruled territory, prompting migration to Protestant-ruled areas. However, forced migration wasn’t the only form of migration during the war’s span. Economic hardship was a huge incentive for migration and caused certain flourishing cities like Antwerp to fall behind as people emigrated and fewer people immigrated. Another blow to Antwerp was the Fall of Antwerp in August 17, 1985, in which it was forced to surrender to the Spanish troops. However, Amsterdam was always a favorable place for artists and a flourishing art market, and many artists migrated from Antwerp to Amsterdam.

Thus, for my research, I will be focusing on the impact of the Eighty Year’s War on migration in these two specific cities: Antwerp and Amsterdam. I will split my research into three time periods: Spanish conquest of Netherlands prior to the war (pre-war), Eighty Year’s War and the Golden Age (post-war). Then, I will web-scrape from ECARTICO’s database to collect any artists who in some point of time lived in either Antwerp or Amsterdam (birth, in-between, death). The goal is to determine when the migration occurred to or away from these two cities and which span of time they would fall into. Through this, I will able to ideally split the dataset into the three time periods and begin analyzing different trends based on certain identifying features (religion, age, skill, etc). I want to see how these identities would influence their cause and pattern of migration (economic hardships, religious persecution, short-term migration, etc). Finally, I hope to use statistical analysis on these datasets to create an artist migration model and visualize these trends.

**Research Question**

How does the background of an artist—nationality, religion, experience, age, gender and socio-economic class—influence their decision of migration? In addition, from these factors, how can we determine the lasting effects of this immigration on places they migrated to (comparing places with low migration rates such as unfamiliar countries with high migration rates countries)?

How does the artist migration model differ between Antwerp and Amsterdam? Specifically, 1556-1568 (When Spain conquered Netherlands, but before the Eight Year’s War, 1568-1648 (Eighty Year’s War), and 1648-1675 (Golden Age/Post-War).

**Methodology**

For my research, I hope to train a model using the RandomForestRegressor, a package found in Pandas library in Python. To achieve this, I hope to extract from the ECARTICO database using the API to get the basic overview of the artist (deathdate, birthdate, birthplace, etc). However, to extract the occupation, lineage, religion, occupational address, etc, I will web scrape from each individual URI using Beautiful Soup, a Python Library (although this may change to another method of web scrapping), to gather any data that includes Antwerp or Amsterdam. From here, I will split this large dataset into three datasets for the three time periods I will analyze. I will split each into a training and testing dataset to apply the model. Additionally, I want to apply some sort of linear regression model, but this may be the most accurate because of the lack of numeric data. Through these statistical analyses, I hope to create some sort of an artist migration model, which could predict a person’s migration based on certain identifying features. Finally, I want to create some sort of visualization of these migration patterns using Tableau.

Works Cited:

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