Culture System

The 'Culture (or Cultivation) System'

Read the following extract and use the information to fill in Box 4 of the “Overview” grid.

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| Using the indigenous nobility class as their administrators, the Dutch introduced the 'Culture (or Cultivation) System', (from approximately 1830 to 1870), under which the peasantry were forced to devote a significant percentage of their land to the growing of commercial crops such as sugar, coffee and indigo. These were the products from which the Dutch trading classes could make substantial profit. The peasants also had to make themselves available for labour on roads, bridges and public works.  The system was harsh, but it brought great profit to Holland -the revenue from the sale of the goods from the Dutch East Indies was used to pay off the national debt and finance the construction of the Dutch state railways. Ultimately, one-third of the total expenditure of the Netherlands’ government was met by income from the East Indies.  (Cowie Imperialism 67) |

From this, the “Rust en Orde” reading, and pp45 and 46 of your textbook discuss how the culture system operated and what effect it had on those involved. Write your answer up formally.