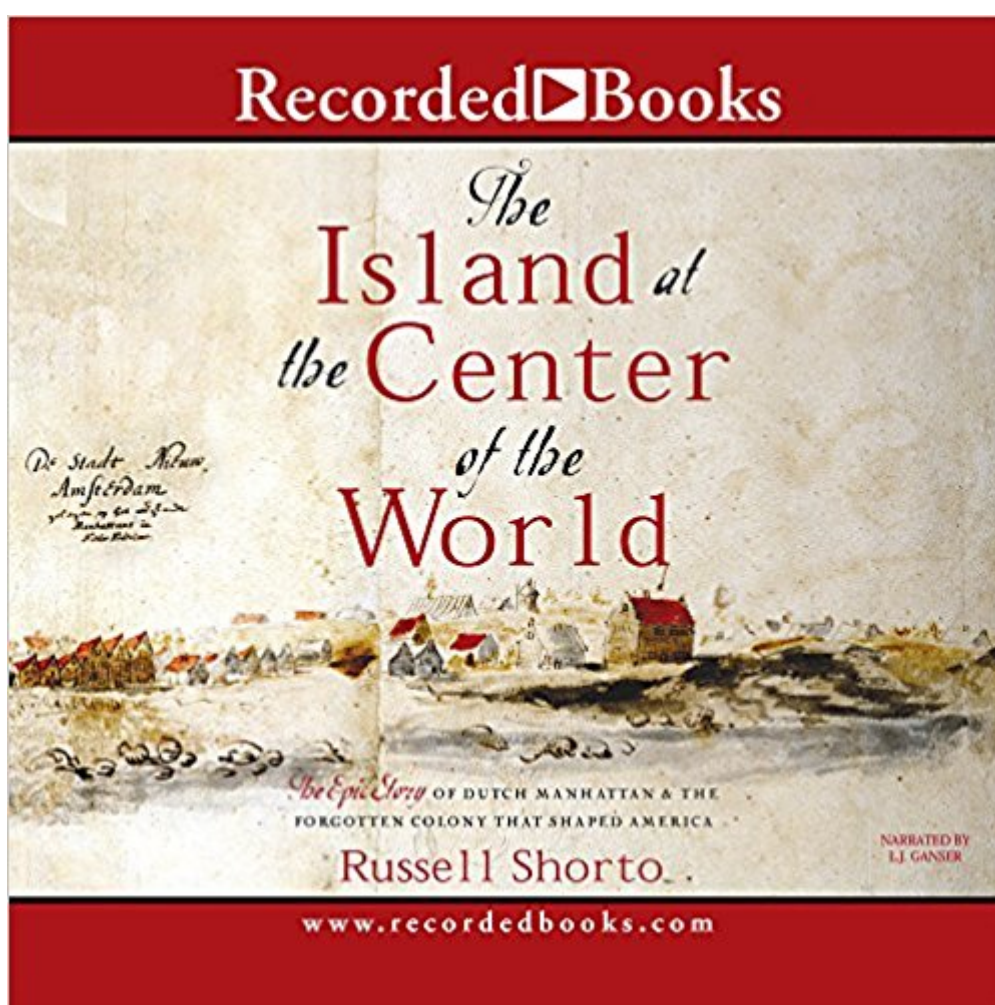


The book was found

Island In The Center Of The World: The Epic Story Of Dutch Manhattan, The Forgotten Colony That Shaped America



Synopsis

Nearly 40 years ago, a New York State Library archivist discovered 12,000 pages of extraordinary records from the original Dutch colony on Manhattan. After decades of painstaking translation, the documents became the primary source for this breathtaking history of early New York. With an extraordinary cast of real-life characters, *The Island at the Center of the World* is a riveting narrative and a landmark in the chronicles of American history.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Recorded Books; Unabridged edition (July 9, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 141930044X

ISBN-13: 978-1419300448

Product Dimensions: 2.2 x 5.2 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 461 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #324,798 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > Books on CD > History > United States](#) #379 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#) #566 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Colonial Period](#)

Customer Reviews

Mining a trove of recently translated 17th-century records of New Netherland, Shorto reconstructs, in fascinating detail, the little-told story behind the Dutch settlement and its capital, Manhattan. In it, listeners meet a wide cast of characters, from early governors Peter Minuit and Peter Stuyvesant to princes, explorers, smugglers, settlers, Indians, Puritans, prostitutes and slaves. It's hard to imagine any narrator's voice remaining fresh and compelling through 15 hours of sweeping historical narrative, but Ganser comes close. In a voice imbued with robustness, Ganser juggles the delivery not only of characters, but of cultures, eras, lexicons and the occasionally intrusive persona of the author. These various layers are rendered, for the most part, in authentic fashion. Shorto's prose, however, can be overwrought and, because the narrative is built on volumes of oft-arcane legal documents, he is partial to listing, which overwhelms the ear. In addition, with so dense a narrative terrain, many listeners will lament the audiobook's lack of maps and other illustrations. But these are mostly minor quibbles when measured against the grand scope of Shorto's fascinating history and Ganser's admirable performance. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed

Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

As the song goes, "Even Old New York was once New Amsterdam." Unfortunately, for many Americans, that is the limit of their knowledge about the Dutch colony that was seized by the English in 1664. Shorto, author of two previous books and articles published in the *New Yorker* and the *New York Times Magazine*, presents an outstanding and revealing chronicle of the Dutch presence on Manhattan Island. Much of his research is based on recently translated Dutch primary sources that have languished in archives in Albany. Written in elegant prose, this enthralling story provides original perspectives on several historical figures, including Henry Hudson, Peter Minuit, and Peter Stuyvesant. Shorto also highlights the contributions of Andriaen van der Donck, an energetic, charismatic man who played an integral part in creating a dynamic, diverse, and tolerant society that appears refreshing when compared to the neighboring Puritan-dominated colony in Massachusetts. This is an important work. Jay Freeman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Oh, wonderful. This book is so beautifully written. His description of Henry Hudson's family's participation in the investment house that funded his trips, the transition to describing London, the bridge, its environs, then this: "Beyond it stood the rounded wooden structure of the Globe Theater in its original incarnation." Wow. That was so cool. And so unexpected. I felt like I was watching some Hollywood film where you start your view from above the world and slowly you descend, London comes in view, here's where the rich people live, here's where the whores live, and oh yeah, that's where Shakespeare entertained them both. Besides the writing style, I really enjoy the structure of the book. I've read quite a lot about the Thirty Years War, the enlightenment, the English civil war, the early settling of our nation - but never in a way that allows me to integrate the effects these events visited, collectively, on the settlement and character development of this country. Shorto ties it all together in one neat little package. Admittedly, unless you have read about each of these events separately, it's truly hard, for example, to appreciate just how devastating the Thirty Years War was for Europe. One interesting insight Shorto offers, however, that struck a chord in me, is that Western European civilization viewed war, in and of itself, as the natural state of being; that is, before the treaty of Westphalia and the loss of 40-45% of its population during the Thirty Years War. What a horror. A loss even greater than during WWII as a percentage of the population. After that peace became the natural state. With war becoming the last act. Hence, Clausewitz: "War is the continuation of politics

by other means". Additionally, one can talk about the inspiration that enlightenment figures had on our founding fathers and our founding documents, but I, for one, would not have tied the Thirty Years War and the English civil war together, inextricably linked, to the birth of this nation through the Dutch or the English settlement, thereof, or for that matter the French settlement in the new world. And surprise, surprise. Who the heck would have known about the Swedes? Never had a clue. Shorto completely surprised me with their imperial foray into the new world. Because I read history as a sequence of events, a continuum in time and space, but not in chronological order, e.g., I read about ancient Rome then jump to the history of Manhattan, I end up rendering history as linear and sequential. I rarely have the benefit of seeing it as a survey of a given time

ÃfÃ ã ã like one experiences when in college, through discussion and careful planning on the part of a professor - I tend to lose sight of the fact that history is more like the collision of atoms in a fixed space, each crash and bang moving other objects, unpredictably, in new directions. Well, sorry for going off the deep end. I like this guy so much that IÃfÃ ã ã, ãm going to read his ÃfÃ ã ã "Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict between Faith and Reason"ÃfÃ ã ã.

Omgosh! This book is amazing (I'm 3/4 of the way through it)! If you are the least bit interested in colonial history, or the history of Manhattan or the history of Dutch dominance prior to the English taking over, this book will enthrall you as if you were reading fiction. Very well researched and a joy to read. I teach Advanced Placement US History and I will be incorporating into my class what I have learned from this book. Thank you Mr. Shorto for writing a book that you may have thought would be too esoteric for some, but is actually a book that any reader would find fascinating.

I loved this study so much that I went on to read Shorto's latest book, "Amsterdam". I also purchased a copy for my grandson, a bright HS history student, and both he and his parents, who also read the book, praised it highly. Shorto's research is deep, and he has thoroughly mastered the material and written, in the best historical narrative style, a fascinating study exploring the Dutch roots for the unique economic, social and culture aspects of New York, and subsequently, the US. It can be argued that the best in the American concepts of equality, individualism, capitalism, religious tolerance, self governance are Dutch, even more so than English. It's a must read.

Early warning: I'm very interested in the history of the Dutch in America, as I am currently an American expat living in the Netherlands. That said, this is still a fascinating book, full of cultural

insights that impacted the early settlement of Manhattan and the greater NY area, as well as the history that was recorded of that time (to the victor-- English-- goes historical interpretation). It's now clear why place names are what they are and why NYC is such a multi-cultural brewing pot. This is a dense but rich and compelling read for those interested in the topic.

A great follow-on read to Simon Schama's "The Embarrassment of Riches". And a genuine eye-opener re. the Dutch on Manhattan Island. Shorto has done his homework and the result is delightful. If readers believe the British were the motivating force behind New York City they are in for a drastic discovery. But if you like unexpected twists to your historical perspectives, Shorto delivers the goods with humor, authority and reams of newly discovered...and surprising...facts. And he has dig around to provide a variety of pictures, maps and illustrations to make for an easy, enlightened read...rather than provide a pompous treatise. I have passed this book around to a number of my friends and they all say the same thing: "What a great read"!

This is an excellent book. Mr. Shorto took a considerable amount of time researching his subject in the old Dutch documents that have recently been translated. I might debate him about Manhattan being the "center of the world", but he certainly has presented a cogent argument for considering it such. I was much interested in the information he had about Van Tienhoven, who happens to be related to a friend of mine and whom I included in my book, Heart of the Pines. About the only thing he failed to include was Van Tienhoven's mother-in-law urging him to kick the severed head of an Indian around the streets of New Amsterdam and his penchant for "running naked with the Indians." He also missed the Dutch commission sent over to examine Van Tienhoven right before he disappeared. Oh well.... In any case, this is the best work I've read of the early Dutch history of New Amsterdam. His writing makes for very easy reading, even for those who have absolutely no contact with New York colonial history.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Island in the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan, the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America
The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America
Dutch: My Daddy is the Best. Mijn papa is de beste: Children's Picture Book English-Dutch (Bilingual Edition) (Dutch Edition), Children's books in Dutch ... Dutch books for children) (Volume 7)
A Primary Source History of the Colony of Rhode Island (Primary Sources of the Thirteen Colonies and the Lost Colony)
Dutch Oven Cooking: More Easy Dutch Oven One-Pot Meal Recipes (Dutch Oven Cookbook Book 2) Dutch Oven Cookbook for

Meals and Desserts: A Dutch Oven Camping Cookbook Full with Delicious Dutch Oven Recipes
Dutch Oven Cookbook - Dutch Oven Recipes for Camping: Easy Dutch Oven Cooking for the
Outdoor Dutch Ships in Tropical Waters: The Development of the Dutch East India Company (VOC)
Shipping Network in Asia 1595-1660 (Amsterdam Studies in the Dutch Golden Age) The Dutch
Oven Cookbook: 25 Delicious Dutch Oven Recipes for your Dutch Oven Dutch Oven Cooking -
Over 25 Delicious Dutch Oven Recipes: The Only Dutch Oven Cookbook You Need Dutch Oven:
365 Days of Quick & Easy, One Pot, Dutch Oven Recipes (One Pot Meals, Dutch Oven Cooking)
Conversational Dutch Quick and Easy: The Most Innovative Technique to Learn the Dutch
Language, Learn Dutch, Travel to Amsterdam A Primary Source History of the Colony of South
Carolina (Primary Sources of the Thirteen Colonies and the Lost Colony) A Primary Source History
of the Colony of New Hampshire (Primary Sources of the Thirteen Colonies and the Lost Colony) A
Primary Source History of the Colony of Connecticut (Primary Sources of the Thirteen Colonies and
the Lost Colony) The Colony of Maryland (Primary Sources of the Thirteen Colonies and the Lost
Colony) A Primary Source History of the Colony of New York (Primary Sources of the Thirteen
Colonies and the Lost Colony) The Colony of North Carolina (Primary Sources of the Thirteen
Colonies and the Lost Colony) A Primary Source History of the Colony of New Jersey (Primary
Sources of the Thirteen Colonies and the Lost Colony) A Primary Source History of the Colony of
Delaware (Primary Sources of the Thirteen Colonies and the Lost Colony)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)