



The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America

Russell Shorto

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America

Russell Shorto

The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America Russell Shorto

In a landmark work of history, Russell Shorto presents astonishing information on the founding of our nation and reveals in riveting detail the crucial role of the Dutch in making America what it is today.

In the late 1960s, an archivist in the New York State Library made an astounding discovery: 12,000 pages of centuries-old correspondence, court cases, legal contracts, and reports from a forgotten society: the Dutch colony centered on Manhattan, which predated the thirteen “original” American colonies. For the past thirty years scholar Charles Gehring has been translating this trove, which was recently declared a national treasure. Now, Russell Shorto has made use of this vital material to construct a sweeping narrative of Manhattan’s founding that gives a startling, fresh perspective on how America began.

In an account that blends a novelist’s grasp of storytelling with cutting-edge scholarship, *The Island at the Center of the World* strips Manhattan of its asphalt, bringing us back to a wilderness island—a hunting ground for Indians, populated by wolves and bears—that became a prize in the global power struggle between the English and the Dutch. Indeed, Russell Shorto shows that America’s founding was not the work of English settlers alone but a result of the clashing of these two seventeenth century powers. In fact, it was Amsterdam—Europe’s most liberal city, with an unusual policy of tolerance and a polyglot society dedicated to free trade—that became the model for the city of New Amsterdam on Manhattan. While the Puritans of New England were founding a society based on intolerance, on Manhattan the Dutch created a free-trade, upwardly-mobile melting pot that would help shape not only New York, but America.

The story moves from the halls of power in London and The Hague to bloody naval encounters on the high seas. The characters in the saga—the men and women who played a part in Manhattan’s founding—range from the philosopher Rene Descartes to James, the Duke of York, to prostitutes and smugglers. At the heart of the story is a bitter power struggle between two men: Peter Stuyvesant, the autocratic director of the Dutch colony, and a forgotten American hero named Adriaen van der Donck, a maverick, liberal-minded lawyer whose brilliant political gamesmanship, commitment to individual freedom, and exuberant love of his new country would have a lasting impact on the history of this nation.

 [Download The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story o ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America Russell Shorto

Download and Read Free Online The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America Russell Shorto

From reader reviews:

Linda Wood:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book and so. There are a lot of reasons why people love it. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new info. When you read a e-book you will get new information due to the fact book is one of numerous ways to share the information or their idea. Second, looking at a book will make you more imaginative. When you reading a book especially hype book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, you could share your knowledge to other people. When you read this The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America, it is possible to tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours reserve. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a guide.

Laverne Dunbar:

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 as well as 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your limited time to read it because all this time you only find reserve that need more time to be go through. The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America can be your answer because it can be read by anyone who have those short time problems.

Scott Bush:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This specific book The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America was colorful and of course has pictures around. As we know that book The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading that.

Mark Garcia:

Reading a guide make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is prepared or printed or illustrated from each source in which filled update of news. On this modern era like at this point, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social similar to newspaper, magazines, science publication, encyclopedia, reference book, story and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Isn't it time to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just seeking the The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America when you required it?

**Download and Read Online The Island at the Center of the World:
The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that
Shaped America Russell Shorto #P8ZDT4BEYWM**

Read *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America* by Russell Shorto for online ebook

The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America by Russell Shorto Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America by Russell Shorto books to read online.

Online *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America* by Russell Shorto ebook PDF download

***The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America* by Russell Shorto Doc**

***The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America* by Russell Shorto Mobipocket**

***The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America* by Russell Shorto EPub**