

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787543003321
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Titolo	New Netherland and the Dutch origins of American religious liberty [[electronic resource] /] / Evan Haefeli
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2012
ISBN	0-8122-2378-0 0-8122-0895-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (376 p.)
Collana	Early American Studies
Disciplina	323.44/2097309032
Soggetti	Religious tolerance - United States - History - 17th century Dutch - United States - History - 17th century New Netherland Religion United States Religion 17th century United States Church history To 1775 Netherlands Religion 17th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p.[313]-342)and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Note on translations, transcriptions, and dates -- Introduction -- 1. Dutch Tolerance -- 2. Connivance -- 3. Toleration -- 4. Non-Christians -- 5. Babel -- 6. Liberty of Conscience -- 7. Public Church -- 8. Borders -- 9. Radicalism -- 10. Conquest -- Conclusion -- List of Abbreviations -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	The settlers of New Netherland were obligated to uphold religious toleration as a legal right by the Dutch Republic's founding document, the 1579 Union of Utrecht, which stated that "everyone shall remain free in religion and that no one may be persecuted or investigated because of religion." For early American historians this statement, unique in the world at its time, lies at the root of American pluralism. New Netherland and the Dutch Origins of American Religious Liberty offers a new reading of the way tolerance operated in colonial America. Using sources in several languages and looking at laws and ideas as well as their enforcement and resistance, Evan Haefeli shows that, although tolerance as a general principle was respected in the colony,

there was a pronounced struggle against it in practice. Crucial to the fate of New Netherland were the changing religious and political dynamics within the English empire. In the end, Haefeli argues, the most crucial factor in laying the groundwork for religious tolerance in colonial America was less what the Dutch did than their loss of the region to the English at a moment when the English were unusually open to religious tolerance. This legacy, often overlooked, turns out to be critical to the history of American religious diversity. By setting Dutch America within its broader imperial context, *New Netherland and the Dutch Origins of American Religious Liberty* offers a comprehensive and nuanced history of a conflict integral to the histories of the Dutch republic, early America, and religious tolerance.
