



The Dutch in the New World, Nieuw Nederland 1614–1667

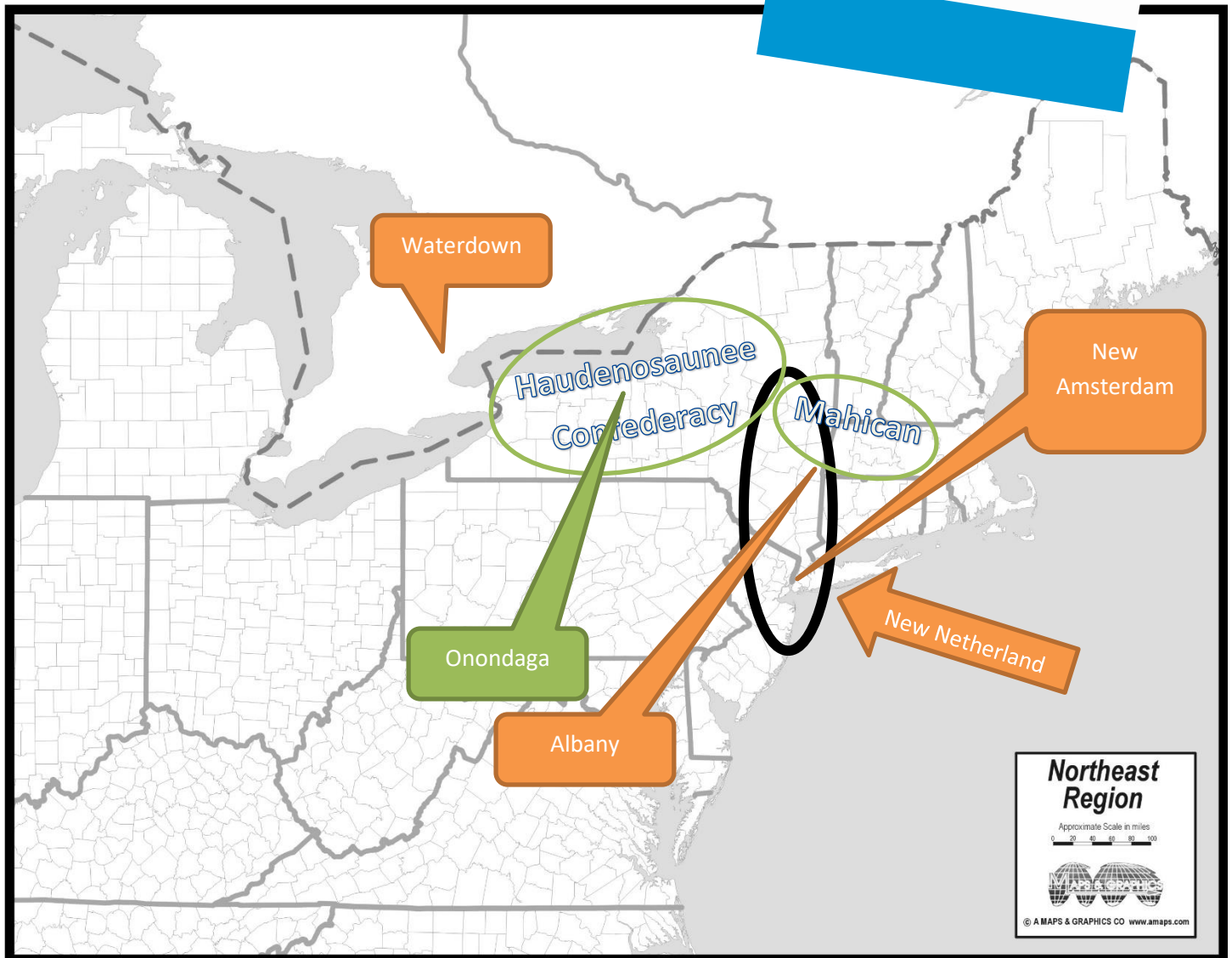
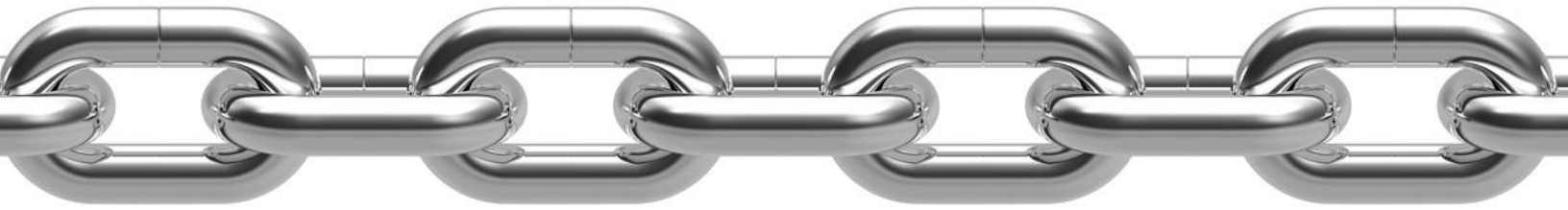


Figure 1. New Netherland located on a modern map of North America

- New Netherland was the first Dutch colony in North America. It extended from Albany, New York, in the north to Delaware in the south and encompassed parts of what are now the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, and Delaware.

- Colonists arrived in New Netherland from all over Europe. Many fled religious persecution, war, or natural disaster. Others were lured by the promise of fertile farmland, vast forests, and a lucrative trade in fur. Initially, beaver pelts purchased through trading relationships with the Mahican Nation and Haudenosaunee Confederacy were the colony's primary source of wealth. In Europe, these pelts were used to produce fashionable men's hats. Over time, the Dutch colony's economy broadened and diversified. It became a centre for Chesapeake tobacco and a hub of trade between New England and the Caribbean.



The Iron Chain – First developed around 1613

- This was a complex relationship, called a “Covenant Chain,” between the Dutch Traders and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Mahican Nation as well as other nations within the general area of New Netherland.
 - The two diplomatic centres were Onondaga (the nation in the middle of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy) and Albany.

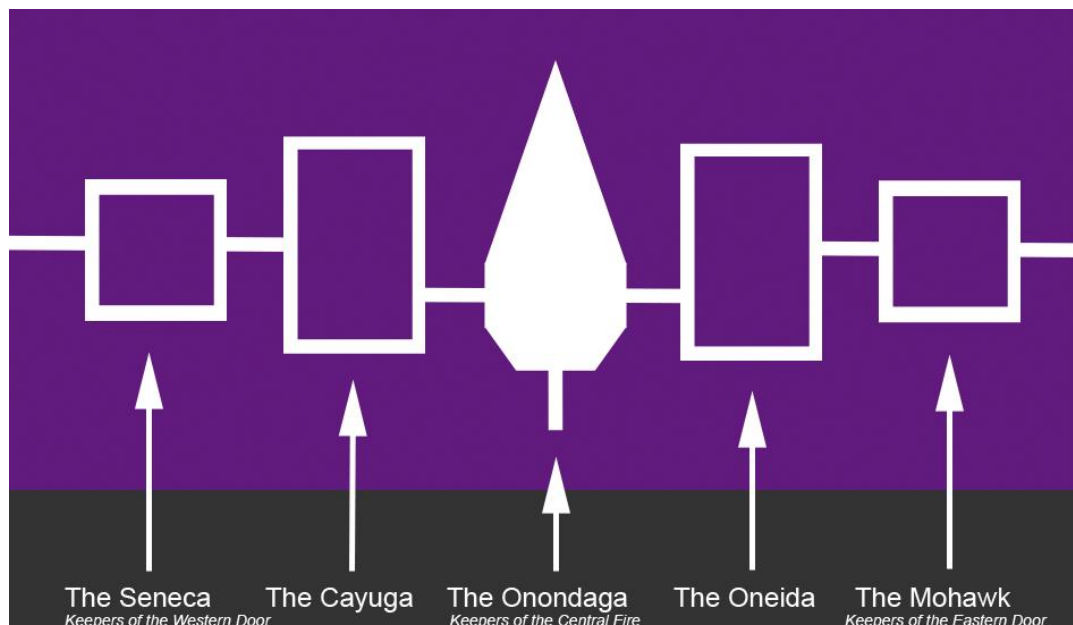


Figure 2. The Hiawatha Flag, based on the Hiawatha Wampum Belt, shows the geographic location of the member nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy

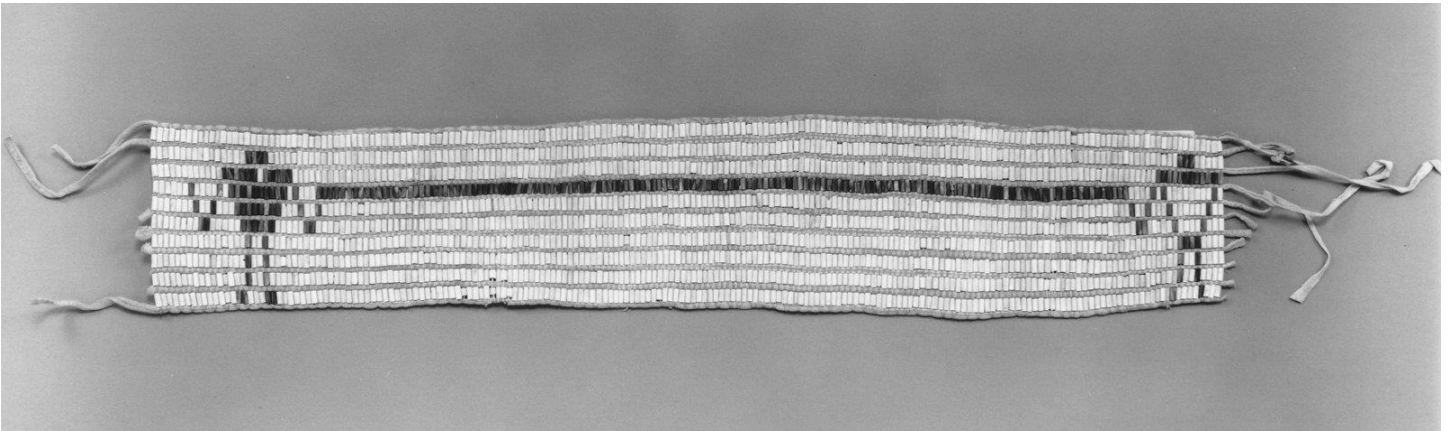


Figure 3. The Covenant Chain represented in wampum. Source: *Six Nations Legacy Consortium Collection*.

- The relationship between the Dutch and Aboriginal Nations was originally described as being bound in rope, before this was upgraded to an Iron Chain to emphasize its strength.
- The Iron Covenant Chain was a military, political and legal relationship that evolved from a loose association to an inter-dependent relationship.
- Great Councils were held between the different members of the Covenant Chain where wampum belts were exchanged (Aboriginal diplomacy involved gift-giving, and this was adopted by the Dutch and other Europeans in the area). The Haudenosaunee Confederacy often exchanged the Two Path Wampum during these councils:



Figure 4. The Two Path Wampum is dated to 1613, making it over 400 years old

Read the Two Path Wampum Belt:

- New Netherland developed into a culturally diverse and politically robust settlement. This diversity was fostered by Dutch respect for freedom of conscience. Furthermore, under Dutch rule, women enjoyed legal, civil, and economic rights denied their British counterparts in New England and Virginia. Towns within New Netherland were granted the protections and privileges of self-government. New Amsterdam, thus, became the first European-style chartered city in the thirteen original colonies that would comprise the United States.
- Dutch success produced many rivals, the English chief among them. Between 1652 and 1674, the two nations fought three wars. As a consequence of these wars, New Netherland came under British control in 1664. Despite this transfer of power, Dutch influence remained strong in the former New Netherland, throughout the seventeenth century and beyond; many parts of the colony remained culturally Dutch up to and beyond the American Revolution.
- New Netherland Research Center, New York State Library (2014)

Original Dutch names (with their modern spelling) that survive in North America:

- Albany
- New Amsterdam (now New York)
 - Broadway
 - Bronx
 - Brooklyn
 - Harlem
 - Coney Island
 - Long Island
 - Staten Island
 - Wall Street (original border of the settlement)
- Hoboken (New Jersey)
- Rotterdam (New York)



Figure 5. Flag of New York City uses the colours of the old Dutch Flag (Blue, White and Orange)

