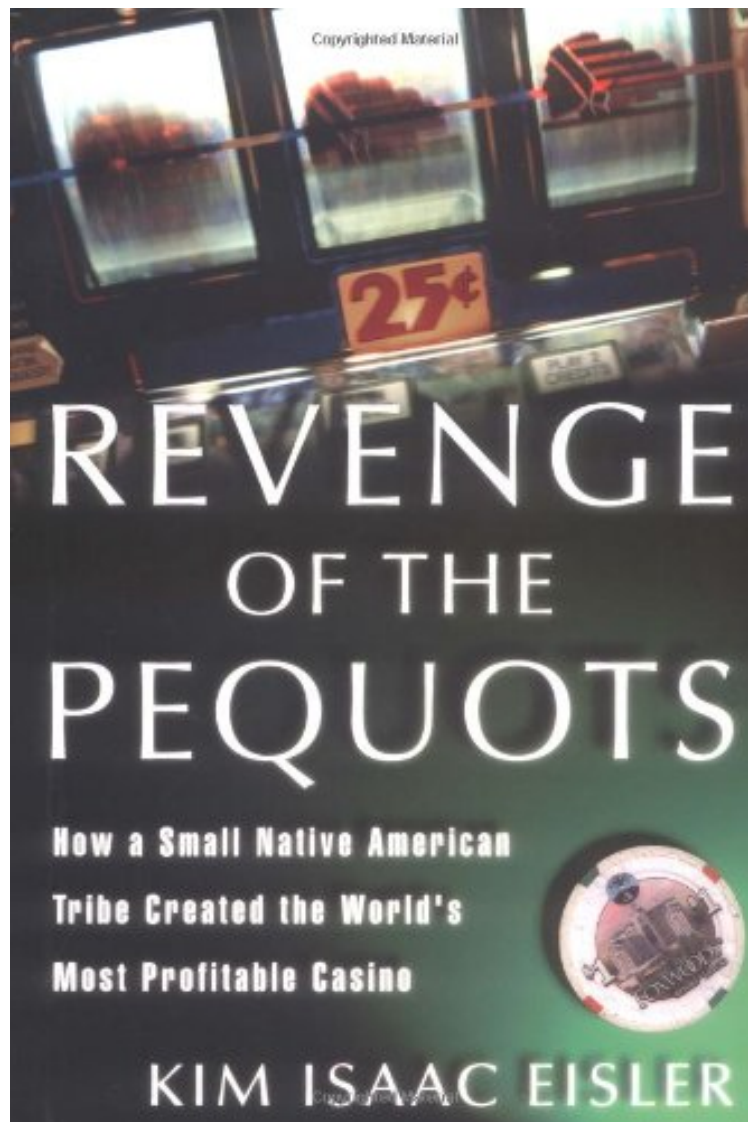


(Download free ebook) Revenge of the Pequots: How a Small Native American Tribe Created the World's Most Profitable Casino

## Revenge of the Pequots: How a Small Native American Tribe Created the World's Most Profitable Casino

*Kim Isaac Eisler*

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**Kim Isaac Eisler : Revenge of the Pequots: How a Small Native American Tribe Created the World's Most Profitable Casino** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revenge of the Pequots: How a Small Native American Tribe Created the World's Most Profitable Casino:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. How guilt and big political contributions turned one family into

Indian "royalty" and steamrolled the state of ConnecticutBy John-Manuel AndrioteKim Isaac Eisler tells the fascinating story of the Mashantucket Pequots, a tribe in eastern Connecticut that was obliterated by English colonists in 1637 but resurrected 350 years later by one man and his family. With big contributions to Democratic politicians, the reconstituted tribe secured federal recognition and state capitulation to their demand for a state casino monopoly. Eisler dismisses the lifelong local residents' upset at the Pequots' efforts to annex vast tracts of land that would require them to give up their own homes and farms. Although critical, it's never quite clear that Eisler isn't as dazzled by the hundreds of millions of dollars generated by Foxwoods as its Pequot owners--and just as willing to ignore the negative impact of the massive operation that transformed and harmed Southeastern Connecticut.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Toni M. WilliamsGreat book.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interest bookBy Kim M BenzThe history of the Pequots goes into a lot of history of the Indians of New England. I found this book especially interesting since I grew in Ledyard, CT right next to where Foxwoods Casino is located.

In the mid-1970s, the Mashantucket Pequot tribe had only one member -- an elderly woman who pleaded with her grandson to come live on the impoverished reservation and save it from falling into government hands upon her death. In *Revenge of the Pequots*, journalist Kim Isaac Eisler tells the remarkable story of how Richard "Skip" Hayward, then an unemployed ship-worker, granted his grandmother's dying wish, revived the moribund clan, and transformed the Pequots into the richest and most influential band of Native Americans in history. Established in 1992, Foxwoods Resort and Casino is the world's most profitable gambling establishment, grossing over \$1 billion a year at its sprawling complex in the backwoods of Ledyard, Connecticut. Making use of arcane laws and court decisions never intended to benefit Native Americans as they have, Hayward brilliantly laid the groundwork for this staggering economic empire. In a story rife with drama, he challenged a succession of Connecticut governors and such worthy adversaries as casino moguls Steve Wynn and Donald Trump, while forming alliances with Malaysian industrialist Lim Goh Tong, renegade Seminole chief James Billie, and President Bill Clinton. As a result of Hayward's strategizing, for one of the few times in history -- and in a truly ironic reversal -- the bizarre legal structure governing Native Americans actually worked to their advantage in a mainstream enterprise. But the Pequots' meteoric rise to fortune has left many wondering: Is this turnabout fair play? In this riveting rags-to-riches tale, Eisler deftly explores the wide-ranging issues that have framed the great Native American casino debate and the ramifications of the Native American casino boom in a nation still uneasy about its roots.

.com Kim Isaac Eisler begins *Revenge of the Pequots* with a fascinating anecdote: a 1994 phone call between President Clinton and Skip Hayward, the chief of Connecticut's Pequot tribe. Here was the most powerful man in the country thanking Hayward for political campaign contributions totaling half a million dollars--a dramatic reversal from the standard story of American Indians begging the federal government for financial assistance. Eisler calls the incredible Pequot story "one of the greatest about-faces in American history, [how] this obscure Indian tribe, which in 1994 had been federally recognized for only ten years and numbered fewer than 200 people, had nothing if not plenty of cash." They were (and are) the richest tribe in the United States, and they've done it all on gambling proceeds. The Foxwoods High Stakes Bingo and Casino complex, located in southeastern Connecticut, is "one of the most successful cash-producing enterprises in the world," says Eisler, and a destination for some 25,000 gamblers every day. The entrepreneurial Hayward is at the center of the book's plot, along with a talented lawyer named Tom Tureen, as they carefully go about winning federal recognition for the Pequots and then building Foxwoods. All of this was extremely controversial, with questions about the legitimacy of the Pequots' claims and the probity of their business. (Eisler is considerably more sympathetic to their story than another book on the same subject, Jeff Benedict's *Without Reservation*.) The remote descendants of the Pequots had exacted from the system more than a small dose of revenge. They had turned a government, which for four centuries had committed brutal acts of oppression and termination, into knots. Using the same legal processes that had been used against American Indians for so long, they had trumped the ruling class and implausibly become the wealthiest Indian tribe in the history of North America.... Skeptics could and would argue endlessly about whether the new Pequots were or were not authentic Indians, although no one had questioned their right to declare themselves Pequots when they were poor. Eisler is a veteran of magazine feature writing, and he describes this rags-to-riches accomplishment in great detail, all of it engrossing. --John J. MillerFrom *Publishers Weekly*In this well-paced legal and political saga, journalist Eisler (*A Shark Tank*; *A Justice for All*) recounts the deft maneuvering by Connecticut's tiny Pequot tribe in its fight to establish Foxwoods, now the most profitable high-stakes casino in the world. European accounts from the early 16th century describe the Pequots (meaning "destroyers") as "the most numerous, the most warlike, the fiercest and the bravest of all the aboriginal clans of Connecticut." After major defeats at the hands of the English and the Dutch, the tribe was declared dissolved in 1638, although some diehard Pequots retained their identity despite their declining numbers. By the 1970s, they had dwindled to some 55 souls, mostly living below the poverty line, when tribal chairman "Skip" Hayward lined up some legal-aid lawyers and, in effect, declared war with modern legal tools (including contributions of "soft money" to the Democratic National Party, which gained them the direct support of President Clinton). The cast of characters includes

Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, Newt Gingrich, John McCain and Donald Trump. Packaged with a flashy, attention-grabbing cover, this climactic revenge narrative--which turned southeastern Connecticut's economy upside down, with employees leaving local businesses in droves for the chance to work at Foxwoods while the Pequots donated cards and dice to the local school systems in the hopes of turning kids into future employees--reveals that, like it or not, the Native American is a "Casino-American," and that it's a brave new world. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. Moved by his grandmother's stories about their Pequot Indian forebears, Richard "Skip" Hayward resolved to revive the tribe's identity and fortunes--and succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. He contacted canny attorney Tom Tureen, who had helped two Maine tribes obtain federal government recognition, which New England tribes, having settled with colonial governments, had never enjoyed, and got the same for the Pequots. Casting about for a profitable enterprise for the tribe, Hayward eventually took another cue from the Maine tribes and, after heavy lobbying and legal maneuvering at federal and State of Connecticut levels, opened a big-payoff bingo parlor. It worked out so well that Hayward decided to try something Maine's laws prevented but Connecticut's didn't--running a casino. With financing from a Malaysian billionaire and shrewd politicking to frustrate competition from Vegas' Steve Wynn and Atlantic City's Donald Trump, the Pequots spearheaded the '90s Indian gaming phenomenon. And they got rich. Journalist Eisler tells the Pequot success story so briskly that there isn't one dull page in the book. Ray Olson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved