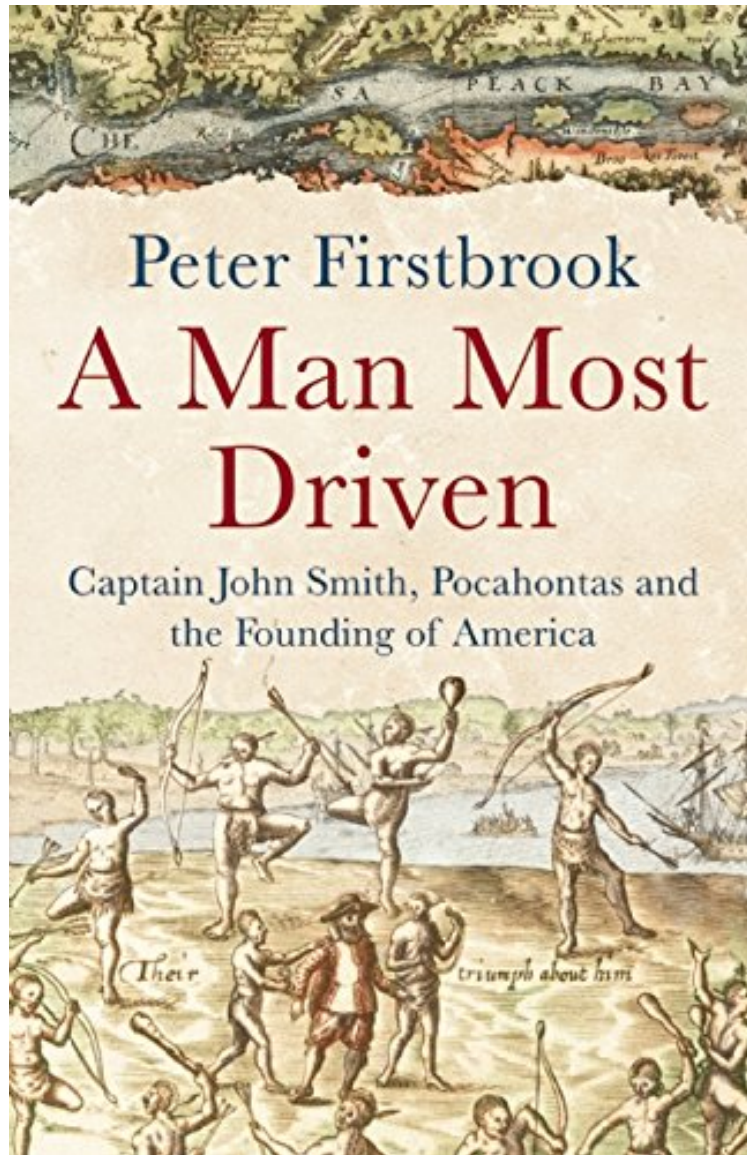


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A Man Most Driven: Captain John Smith, Pocahontas and the Founding of America

Peter Firstbrook

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Peter Firstbrook : A Man Most Driven: Captain John Smith, Pocahontas and the Founding of America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Man Most Driven: Captain John Smith, Pocahontas and the Founding of America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Definitely worth a look-inBy MargI was particularly interested in

this biography of Captain John Smith as he is one of my ancestors. However I recommend this account to anyone interested in life in the late 1500s, early 1600s. Smith led a swashbuckling life, following the tenets of Nicolo Machiavelli and many times came close to a horrible death, but his ability to bounce back was almost in the nature of a comic book character who is flattened but springs back to life again. This book is an insight into the very early attempts to establish a British civilisation in a new world without the class system that Smith despised and resented. As the writer notes, Smith was the first true believer in the American Dream. I thoroughly recommend this book to those who love a great adventure, are fascinated by history and take the side of those who have had to strive twice as hard for recognition as those who were born in to privilege. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing, entertaining, and valuable history By S.A. Cranfill This is a great and valuable read for anyone, but as an author, researcher, and historian myself, I absolutely loved it. And greatly appreciate all the hard, thoughtful, thorough, and fascinating work done by Firstbrook. Even though I had to wince through a few gruesome (but very real) events. Wow, should we value the sacrifices of those early settlers of America! As a documentary type of fellow, Firstbrook did his own out-of-the-way traveling to see just how much of the legendary and almost mythical John Smith's story he could verify. You may well be surprised. I now have a much, much clearer view of the deservedly famous Captain Smith, as well as a broader understanding of Europe, England, and America in the late 16th and early 17th Centuries. This is no dry history. This is an amazing and entertaining story, told well, and well documented. Though my own research leads me to believe the author fell down a notch on the Squanto kidnapping scenario (which is due to Sir Ferdinando Gorges' slightly faulty memory many years after the fact), I would require this book as reading in every high school. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good By Bev This was a gift. Reader said he liked it.

Named One of the Best Books of 2014 by The Providence Journal Everyone knows the story of Pocahontas and how she saved John Smith. And were it not for Smith's leadership, the Jamestown Colony would surely have failed. Yet Smith was a far more ambitious explorer and soldier of fortune than these tales suggest and a far more ambitious self-promoter, too, so reputed for his truculence that the pilgrims of the Mayflower snubbed him when he offered them his services, though his 1614 map of New England (which he named) made him the unrivaled expert on America. Now, in the first major biography of Smith in decades, award-winning BBC filmmaker and author Peter Firstbrook traces the adventurer's astonishing exploits across three continents, testing Smith's claimed biography against the historical and geographical reality on the ground. *A Man Most Driven* delivers an enlightening dissection of this mythology-making man and the founding of America.

Captain John Smith's iconic shadow still falls over Jamestown 400+ years after his 34-month sojourn in helping to found it. A new and readable biography helps to brighten that shadow and add human dimensions to that icon: *A Man Most Driven*, by Peter Firstbrook. This is a worthy addition to anyone's library collection on Jamestown. - First California Company, Jamestowne Society An assiduous researcher with a talent for cohesive narration, [Firstbrook] brushes aside the more common historians' plagues of suspect first-person accounts and competing narratives. Smith's autobiography, for instance, is the only record in many cases, but if a 10th of his bombastic tellings are true (and Firstbrook's sleuthing convincingly puts them at a much higher percentage), he still led an astonishingly adventurous life. - The Providence Journal, which named the book One of the Best Books of 2014 Peter Firstbrook has written a book that grabs the reader at the Prologue and dangerously interferes with his sleep and his spouse's good humor as he refuses to put it down! This book will reside in an easy to find area of my shelf, for I know I will come back to it when I want to read a real adventure story. - Journal of the Early Americas "A nuanced account of the English captain saved by Pocahontas reveals an astonishingly complicated personality. Exciting historical tales with romantic overtones." - Kirkus s "Historian and former BBC producer Firstbrook (The Obamas) delves deep into the early history of America with this thoroughly-researched biography of John Smith, who was instrumental in establishing Jamestown as a permanent English settlement in the early 17th century. With so much of Smith's life known only through his own contradictory writings, Firstbrook approaches the subject with healthy skepticism, examining just where Smith's claims might be exaggerated and where history backs them up. In the process, Firstbrook also takes a closer look at the legend of Pocahontas, at least partially debunking the motives behind her timely intervention in Smith's death sentence, suggesting that the entire episode might have been more performance on Smith's part than he originally made out. Firstbrook's narrative is dry but detail-rich, drawing heavily from Smith's writings to tell the story of a larger-than-life figure with an uncanny knack for survival." - Publishers Weekly "A lively and vivid new exploration of an extraordinary life." - Matthew Parker, author of *The Sugar Barons* "Peter Firstbrook's tenacious research for *A Man Most Driven* convinces me even more that Smith's life was just as incredibly swashbuckling as Smith himself so colorfully but truthfully describes." - William Kelso, Director of Research and Interpretation for the Preservation Virginia Jamestown Rediscovery project and author of *Jamestown: The Buried Truth* "A riveting account of the astonishing adventures of one of the true heroes of English and American history. This is a real page-turner and makes history truly come alive." - Robert Hutchinson, author of *Elizabeth's Spymaster* and *The Spanish Armada* "A MAN

MOST DRIVEN goes a long way to telling the whole story of Smith not only as an American pioneer, but also a global visionary. No one would believe his life and adventures - but this book shows they're true." - Bob Holman, poet, activist, and star of Captain Smith Goes to Ukraine