



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.  
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**USET Resolution No. 2010:040**

**DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY & THE TRIBES**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the true history of North America and the United States has never been taught in schools or institutions of higher education, as well the general population assumes this tainted history taught for generations within the school system(s) and on their networks is truthful, however corrupt; and
- WHEREAS,** the "Doctrine of Discovery" has been utilized for over five Centuries in North America and other Continents especially in those countries inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have been subjected to outrageous conditions as enslavement, torture, extermination and the total loss of rights, property and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** the "Doctrine of Discovery" affects all aspects of Life for American Indians, the basis of this Doctrine is as follows:
- The Doctrine of Discovery evolved from Pope Nicholas V's 1452 Papal Bull "Dum Diversas"; and, Pope Alexander VI Pronouncement of the "Inter Caetera" Papal Bull 41 years later divided the New World between Spain and Portugal; and
  - In 1496 England's King Henry VII granted a Charter to John Cabot and his sons, and
- WHEREAS,** this Doctrine of Discovery based on these "Papal Bulls and John Cabot Charter" allowed colonists throughout the World to do whatever was necessary to obtain possessions and property, including enslaving, plundering, extermination, etc.; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1537 Pope Paul III denounced the prior Papal Bulls in issuing the "Sublimus Deus Sic Dilexit," however the suppressive actions of the Doctrine of Discovery continued to be applied to all Indigenous Peoples including the Wabanaki Tribes of Maine, and, all Tribes of the United States and Canada and as well applied to all the World's Indigenous Peoples; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Governments of the United States including the United States Supreme Court have consistently made decisions based on this oppressive and racist "Doctrine of Discovery;" and,
- WHEREAS,** the foundation of U.S. Indian Law is based on United States Supreme Court Justice John Marshall in writing one of the most important U.S. Supreme Court cases ever decided, affecting U.S. Indian law and policy- cited the Christian Doctrine of Discovery as the basis for asserting, that the Indigenous Peoples of this land possessed only a right of occupancy and not title to this land; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends issued a Minute, analogous to a resolution, at its September 2009 Meeting, a Quaker group disavowed the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and voiced its support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Haudenosaunee people at the Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne, Australia, planned to persuade the meeting to pass a resolution repudiating the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, receiving help from Maine; and,

**WHEREAS,** the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia Histories are based on Colonialism and the Doctrine of Discovery, being the only three Countries of the United Nations to vote against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and,

**WHEREAS,** all Tribes and Tribal Organizations have not fully supported the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples or the Doctrine of Discovery in a manner that would remove the racist and suppressive laws and policies that dictate our very existence as a Government; and,

**WHEREAS,** it is now time for all Tribes and Organizations to take a unified collaborative and collective stand to eradicate all laws and policies detrimental to the Tribes of the United States, especially those evolving from the "Doctrine of Discovery."

**RESOLVED** that Pope Benedict XVI of the Catholic Church be asked to Immediately reissue the Sublimus Deus Sic Dilexit Papal Bull of 1537 throughout the World, and, to accept the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in denouncing the Doctrine of Discovery: and,

**RESOLVED** that all Religious Faiths and their respective National and International Organizations be asked to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and accept the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: and,

**RESOLVED** that all Tribes and World Indigenous Peoples be notified of the action being taken by the Tribes of the United South and Eastern Tribes and the Tribes of the United States on their behalf and for their support in their respective Countries for changes much needed for all peoples.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Mobile, AL on Thursday, June 17, 2010

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Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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Robert McGhee, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*