

This is James Freeman's version of the Treaty of Waitangi (it was only ever in English)

Preamble

Her Majesty Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland regarding with Her Royal Favor the Native Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand and anxious to protect their just Rights and Property and to secure to them the enjoyment of Peace and Good Order has deemed it necessary in consequence of the great number of Her Majesty's Subjects who have already settled in New Zealand and the rapid extension of Emigration both from Europe and Australia which is still in progress to constitute and appoint a functionary properly authorized to treat with the Aborigines of New Zealand for the recognition of Her Majesty's sovereign authority over the whole or any part of those islands – Her Majesty therefore being desirous to establish a settled form of Civil Government with a view to avert the evil consequences which must result from the absence of the necessary Laws and Institutions alike to the native population and to Her subjects has been graciously pleased to empower and to authorize me William Hobson a Captain in Her Majesty's Royal Navy Consul and Lieutenant Governor of such parts of New Zealand as may be or hereafter shall be ceded to Her Majesty to invite the confederated and independent Chiefs of New Zealand to concur in the following Articles and Conditions.

Article the first

The Chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand and the separate and independent Chiefs who have not become members of the Confederation cede to Her Majesty the Queen of England absolutely and without reservation all the rights and powers of Sovereignty which the said Confederation or Individual Chiefs respectively exercise, or possess, or may be supposed to exercise or to possess over their respective Territories as the sole sovereigns thereof.

Article the second

Her Majesty the Queen of England confirms and guarantees to the Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand and to the respective families and individuals thereof the full exclusive and undisturbed possession of their Lands and Estates Forests Fisheries and other properties which they may collectively or individually possess so long as it is their wish and desire to retain the same in their possession: but the Chiefs of the United Tribes and the individual Chiefs yield to Her Majesty the exclusive right of **Preemption** over such lands as the proprietors thereof may be disposed to **alienate** at such prices as may be agreed upon between the respective Proprietors and persons appointed by Her Majesty to treat with them in that behalf.

Article the third

In consideration thereof Her Majesty the Queen of England extends to the Natives of New Zealand Her royal protection and imparts to them all the Rights and Privileges of British Subjects. [signed] W. Hobson
Lieutenant Governor

Affirmation

Now therefore We the Chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand being assembled in Congress at Victoria in Waitangi and We the Separate and Independent Chiefs of New Zealand claiming authority over the Tribes and Territories which are specified after our respective names, having been made fully to understand the Provisions of the foregoing Treaty, accept and enter into the same in the full spirit and meaning thereof in witness of which we have attached our signatures or marks at the places and the dates respectively specified.

Done at Waitangi this Sixth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty.

Notes

After the treaty was signed, James Freeman took it upon himself to write his own version of the Treaty (by hand) in what they called "Royal Style" English. If you read his version of the Treaty you will see that he uses very flowery language, not the sort of language the Maori chiefs would understand. (also, he did not use any punctuation)

Freeman sent copies of his version of the Treaty to Governor Gipps in Australia and to the British Colonial Office in London.

A copy of Freeman's version also ended up at Port Waikato where it was signed by (39) Maori chiefs after being read the much shorter Maori text.

Comments

You will notice that this version adds words such as forests and fisheries to the second article. Freeman had no right do this, he sent this version to his superiors in England in the hope that his literary eloquence would impress them, and improve his status

As explained elsewhere Busby's English draft was temporarily lost and Freeman's version became the accepted English version

It has been widely misused and used as the basis of translations of the Maori text by lazy translators

And it has become the cause of much debate on the Treaty of Waitangi ever since, and the cause of Treaty claims amounting to billions of dollars.

From the website - www.onepeopleoneland.org