The Treaty of Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi, in English, this English text was signed at Waitangi on March 28, 1840. In this text, the Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi with the British Crown.

The Treaty of Waitangi in Māori, Māori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi on March 28, 1840, and therefore in the north and at Auckland. The Māori is reproduced as it was written.

The English translation of the Māori Treaty text, when compared with the English version, shows several crucial differences of meaning, especially in the first and second articles.


The Treaty of Waitangi

Her Majesty Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Her Excellency the Governor General of the New Zealand, in lieu of the Native Tribes and Chapters of New Zealand and those anxious to protect their just rights and property and to be secure to them the establishment of Peace and Order has deemed it necessary in consequence of the great number of Her Majesty's Subjects who have already settled in New 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 of establishing a settled form of Government with a view to avoid the evil consequences which must result from the absence of the necessary Laws and Institutions to the native population and to the subjects has been graciously pleased to empower and to authorise me, William Hobson, a Captain in Her Majesty's Royal Naval Reserve and Lieutenant Governor of such parts of New Zealand as may be hereafter shall be ceded to Her Majesty to make the confederated and independent Chiefs of New Zealand to conclude in the following Articles and Conditions.

Article the First

The Chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand and Independent Chiefs who have not become members of the Confederation or Her Majesty the Queen of England absolutely and without reservation, all rights and powers of Sovereignty which the said Confederation of Individual Chiefs respectively exercise or possess, or may be supposed to exercise or possess over their respective Territories as the sole sovereign 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 Parties and Individuals thereof the full and undisturbed possession of their Lands and Estates, Farmers, Fisheries and other properties which they may collectively or individually possess or may be supposed to have or possess over their respective Territories as the sole sovereign thereof.

Article the Third

In consideration thereof Her Majesty the Queen of England extends to the Natives of New Zealand, her Royal protection and guarantee to the Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand, and to the respective Parties and Individuals thereof the full and undisturbed possession of their lands and estates, farmers, fisheries and other properties which they may collectively or individually possess, so long as is it their wish and desire to retain the same in their possession; but the Chiefs of the United Tribes and the individual Chiefs, shall be, in Her Majesty the exclusive right of possession 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.

The Treaty of Waitangi

At Waitangi on the sixteenth day of February in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty, in the presence of the Chiefs of the Confederation and the Submissions of New Zealand meeting there at Waitangi, the Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi.

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