

The first successful revolution in North America against European rulers was not achieved by men with muskets and wearing tri-cornered hats . . .



Photograph of Oyatyegh-o-onyey, "Moving Front", Governor of Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico by Edward S. Curtis and is reproduced courtesy of the Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NSHM/DCA), 143719

. . . it was a revolution by New Mexico's Pueblo Indians in 1680. President Abraham Lincoln recognized Pueblo independence with something beyond the common treaties often signed and ignored in Washington, DC in its dealings with indigenous peoples. Lincoln sent personal symbols - silver engraved canes - acknowledging the independence of each Pueblo Nation. Of more than 500 sovereign Indian Nations in the United States, only these 19 received the symbolic Canes. These gifts confirmed sovereignty for each Pueblo nation at a precipitous time, just as half of the "united" States declared their independence from America.

These gifts have long out-lived President Lincoln whose motivation remains a mystery. Why did this President, commanding a War Between States and a stranger to the Southwest, reinforce sovereignty to these Pueblo nations?

Treaties of the 1860's may be long forgotten. But the Lincoln Canes remain, revered by the Pueblos as symbols of independence and incorporated into tribal rituals. New Mexico's 19 Pueblos have a unique political status. Each is a separate and independent government, a nation within a nation, residing on its same ancestral lands, protected for twelve hundred years.

The story of The Lincoln Canes - Canes of Power - honors the sovereign freedom of native people everywhere. As a banner for one of the greatest success stories for American Indians, the Canes serve as an inspiration for all indigenous peoples.

Make History!

Support the production of

Canes of Power

Symbols of Pueblo Sovereignty

Canes of Power will be told through historical narrative, voices of Pueblo Leaders and photographic or oral histories of cultural and political events - all through the watchful eyes of noted Cherokee Actor and Director, Wes Studi.



Photo by Ward Russell. George Rivera, Governor of Pojoaque Pueblo, New Mexico. www.pochcenter.com

To support this film and **Make History**, please contact **Silver Bullet Productions** www.silverbulletproductions.com

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