

TERRITORIAL PROCLAMATION

THE FOLLOWING PRESENTED IS A : ACT/BILL/**OTHER**

PRESENTED BY: *Emperor Joseph I*

DATE: 4 Dec. 2022

DOCUMENT NO. 031

TERMS: The Empire of Meritia shall hereby Formally Annex the entirety of the area commonly known as Turtle Island, on Lake Erie. The Empire shall bear full legal ownership of the Island and its surrounding waters, as well as the airspace which lies above it and the ground which lies below it. Regardless of any other self proclaimed sovereign states making the assertion of legal status over the Island's sovereignty, these shall all be fully illegitimate, and Meritia shall hereby become the rightful owner of the island in its entirety. Turtle Island shall formally be known as "The Protectorate of Turtle Island", and shall hold this Protectoral Status just as stated in the name. Just as any Protectorate, it shall not hold the ability to form a Government to any degree, and shall be directly administered by the National Government of the Meritian Empire, with Emperor Joseph I being its Protector. Regarding the extent of maritime, airspace, and underground claims, the State shall maintain a claim of 50 feet beyond the above-water edges to the areas of the Island, including that of the manmade circular seawall which surrounds part of the island. Meritia shall also claim up to 150 feet below the surface of the island, and the entirety of the airspace above it, up to the line

of space. Due to the area being an island, the borders of the Protectorate shall be enforced by cooperative efforts between the National Police Department and Meritian Navy, with the Navy using its vessels to patrol the area on border enforcement. Due to the Navy being the only ones able to access the Protectorate as well, they shall hold responsibility for the transport of Citizens of the Empire which wish to either visit or move to the Protectorate, which they may present a fee for to any willing Citizens, or may make it free transport if the Navy so chooses. Any action of provocation by any other proclaimed sovereign state to attempt to suppress Meritian legitimacy on the island will be ruled an invasion if physical action is taken, such which shall warrant War. Non-physical action taken may also warrant a Declaration of Warfare by the Empire of Meritia, to which all Members of the Tri-Alliance Pact shall be summoned to unless stated to remain neutral by a Member for a justifiable reason. Meritia may use lethal force on any foreigners deemed to be intruding upon the island on behalf of a proclaimed sovereign state to undermine Meritian legitimacy on the island, and Surveillance shall also be installed to maintain constant watch of any possible foreign intruders entering the island without authorization. Those not seeking the affirmation of claims by a sovereign state may be deported without lethal force necessary, unless they pose a threat to the lives or well being of the Citizens residing there, or the Patrol on duty there. This Proclamation shall be left open to peaceful negotiations, however such which give the terms for Meritia to revoke claims entirely of Turtle Island, or terms which secede less than an Acre of the island to Meritia shall all be deemed illegitimate and will be immediately terminated

by Meritia, who shall reaffirm claim to the island. Any cyber-attempts at promoting false information regarding Meritia's legal ownership of the island shall be struck down immediately, with the State having permission to hold this as a provocation of hostility, warranting the removal of any peaceful negotiations regarding the island, and the immediate call to arms of the Meritian Military to prepare for conflict. Any treaties which attempt to override the Terms of this treaty, unless passed by Meritia and Approved by Emperor Joseph I, shall be deemed entirely illegitimate in nature, and shall also warrant hostility between the parties. Hereby until revoked, the Protectorate of Turtle Island shall be Established as Legal Territory of the Meritian Empire and Meritian Commonwealth, and may in its glory shall it stand for all of eternity.

EMPEROR SIGNATURE: *Emperor Joseph I*