

The Cherokees Were Right

A Video Script Converted Into a Feature Story in the *Southern Defender*™, National Edition #4

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Most of you are familiar with *The South Was Right* by Ronnie and Donnie Kennedy. The Kennedys show in that book by much historical evidence and sound arguments that the South was indeed right for seceding from the United States. The title of this message is copied after the Kennedy Brothers' title. The South was right, and the Cherokees were right.

The history of the Cherokee people is an interesting story, and their role in the War for Southern Independence is especially interesting.

By the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, the Cherokees "agreed" to remove from their ancient homelands in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and the Carolinas to what is now northeastern Oklahoma. Many of the Cherokees did not recognize the treaty because they claimed it was not signed by legitimate representatives of their nation. A good number of Cherokees had begun moving to Oklahoma as early as 1817, but with the signing of the Treaty of New Echota many more Cherokees began moving voluntarily to Oklahoma, and in 1838 many others were forcibly moved by United States troops in what is called the "Trail of Tears" because so many died on the way.

The Cherokees have been known as one of the "five civilized tribes". The other four tribes were the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Seminoles. They were called the "civilized tribes" because they were in a great measure agrarian and settled in permanent villages and homesteads before the coming of Europeans. Many Cherokees converted to Christianity and were greatly influenced by the white man's culture. Many Cherokees became successful farmers and planters, and not a few were slave holders. A few were large slave holders, including John Ross who was Principal Chief at the time of their removal and served in that capacity until after the war.

The Cherokees moved to Oklahoma and carried with them their traditional agrarian lifestyle. By 1861 the Cherokees were prospering in their new western homeland. Land was being cleared, farms and plantations were being opened, homes and church houses were being built, and the Cherokees and the other five civilized tribes were hopeful they could live under their "own vine and under their own fig tree" and manage their own affairs under their own constitutions without interference from white people. Then, in 1861 Abraham Lincoln ordered federal troops to invade the Confederate States of America and the South.

At first the Cherokees tried to remain neutral. Geographically and historically, they were Southerners, and their institutions and customs were southern. However, their treaties were with the United States government and many of them had fought under the flag of the United States. But as the invasion of the South continued, and the intentions of the Radical Republicans became apparent, the Cherokees saw that their interests and their way of life was being threatened along with the rest of the South. Finally, representatives of the Nation met in Tahlequah, Oklahoma in August of 1861 and on the 21st day of that month declared their allegiance with the Confederacy. *The Declaration by the People of the Cherokee Nation of the Causes Which have Impelled Them to Unite Their Fortunes with Those of the CSA*, is a masterpiece. It ranks in history as a statement of liberty, home rule, and constitutional government. History has proven that the Cherokees were right!

The Declaration begins this way: "When circumstances beyond their control compel one people to sever the ties which have long existed between them and another state or confederacy, and to contract new alliances and establish new relations for the security of their rights and liberties, it is fit that they should publicly declare the

reasons by which their action is justified." This preamble reminds one of the preamble to the Declaration of Independence of the original 13 American States.

In five following paragraphs the Cherokees then stated the reasons they originally desired to maintain neutrality. They were a southern people, and their institutions and customs were Southern, but their treaties were with the United States. They were a very small nation and could easily be overwhelmed militarily. They preferred peace and dreaded the horrors of war. But then in paragraph 7, they recognize that "Providence rules the destinies of nations and events". The Cherokees were a people who had embraced the God of the Bible and recognized His sovereignty in the affairs of men and nations. Then they go on and take note that the Lincolnites had violated the constitution, set aside the right to habeas corpus, closed newspapers which dissented from the Republican program, jailed people (including women) without proper charges or trial, and made free speech (and practically free thought) a crime. They looked with horror at the Yankee invasion of the South, employing mercenaries and convicts for their vile purposes. They were repulsed by the barbarity of the Yankees in making war on civilians including women and children and old people. By contrast they saw that in the South there was no interference with the civilian authorities by the military. They also understood that the South was fighting a war of defense and had no intention of invading the northern states or overthrowing the U.S. government. They foresaw that if the North defeated the South, they, the Cherokee people would not be safe to pursue life, liberty, and happiness and continue to rule themselves under their own constitution. Then in paragraph 13 they recognized that the object of the Lincolnite party was "to annihilate the Sovereignty of those states and utterly change the nature of the general government". History proves the Cherokees were right on all points, but it is their fear concerning the Lincolnite purpose to annihilate state sovereignty and "utterly change the nature of the general government" that is most prophetic. The northern defeat of the South did indeed change the character of the general government.

Let us remember that the American republic was begun by secession. In 1776, thirteen British Colonies declared themselves independent from Great Britain and seceded from the mother country. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "these **STATES** (plural) are and of right ought to be free and independent **STATES**" (plural). In 1783 the King of England made the Treaty of Paris with thirteen **STATES**, not with one nation. These 13 original states first formed a confederation under the Articles of Confederation in which they maintained their sovereignty. When they changed that confederation by the Constitution of 1787, they did not surrender their sovereignty. The union formed by the constitution was a voluntary union of sovereign states. The states entering the new confederation under the Constitution of 1787 gave a few, specific and limited powers to the general government for their general welfare and mutual defense. They reserved all other powers to themselves, individually, and to their people. This they made plain by the 10th amendment.

In the years following ratification of the Constitution of 1787 through the time of the War for Southern Independence there were debates regarding the issue of sovereignty, and whether certain powers were held by the general (federal) government or by the states individually. These disagreements eventually led the Southern states to secede, just as the original thirteen colonies seceded from England. Prior to Southern secession, the New England states themselves threatened to secede on several occasions, again proving that a state did indeed possess the right to secede.

Following the War of Southern Independence, the sovereignty of the states has been "annihilated," as the Cherokees feared and predicted. This was not settled by debates between honest men, but by force of arms, and is still enforced by the general government through force. With the illegal ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment (again by force of arms), the general government made its own courts the final and sole definer of the Constitution. Might does not make right, and this annihilation of the sovereignty of the states is still illegal. Force of arms may require us to suffer under tyranny, but such force will never make it right. The Cherokees were right-- the Lincolnites' purpose from the beginning was to annihilate the sovereignty of the states, and they did.

The Cherokees understood the Lincolnites intended to utterly change the character of the general government, and they were certainly right on this. To see how utterly the general government was changed by the outcome of the war note, first of all, the states under the Constitution delegated seventeen specific powers to the general government and reserved all other powers to themselves and the people. These seventeen delegated powers are enumerated in Article I, section 8. Since the Lincolnites forced their interpretation of the Constitution on the states by force of arms, the general government has assumed for itself unlimited power, despite the clear and unambiguous words of the Constitution, and despite the Tenth Amendment. They have done this by force of arms, and by the illegal ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment, have made themselves the sole interpreter of the constitution. Through case laws, and unconstitutional legislation, and edicts of courts, the general government has now assumed power to do whatever it pleases. The seventeen specific powers delegated by the states to the general government limited the general (federal) government to representing the states abroad, providing for their mutual defense, regulating commerce between them, paying their collective debts, coining money (which can only be gold or silver legally), and carrying the mail. Federal usurpations of power now extend far beyond the scope of these seventeen powers.

To further illustrate this utter change in the character of the general government, remember that George Washington's cabinet only had five departments: State, Treasury, War, Attorney General, and Postmaster General. This were the only positions that were needed to execute and administer the honest laws that could be adopted by the general government under the Constitution. Lincoln himself only had six departments- the Department of the Navy was added to the original five. Today, the President has fifteen departments to help execute the myriads of "laws" in the federal registry. Yet, there is no constitutional authority for the government to spend one cent on education, health, welfare, agriculture, internal improvements, or highways. There is no Constitutional authority for the departments of education, health and human services, agriculture, labor, interior, transportation, energy, homeland security, commerce, or veterans' affairs. To what degree individual states or local governments should be involved in these types of affairs is another question, but these affairs are definitely outside the constitutional purview of the general (federal) government.

The Founders of our American republic never envisioned the general government becoming such a monstrosity. The South opposed even moving in that direction. The Cherokees who fought with the South were fighting to try to stop what the U.S. has become. As a result of the Northern conquest of the South the character of the general government was changed from a voluntary union of sovereign states to a consolidated central government with unlimited and unchecked powers.

The utter change in the general government has greatly reduced our liberties. The United States has become "despotic at home and meddlesome abroad". This despotic government now controls virtually every aspect of our lives, including the education of our children, the management of our businesses and farms, the production of goods, our healthcare, etc., ad nauseum. Through enabling legislation, the national legislature has sent out swarms of bureaucrats and agents to harass the people and eat out our substance.

The Cherokees, and the rest of the South understood that the Lincolnites were seeking to utterly change the character of the general government, but we doubt if that they thought it would get as bad as it has become.

Our country is in turmoil right now because of a stolen election and an illegal government. But what we need to realize is that we have been under an illegal government since 1865 when the Lincolnites utterly changed the character of the general government by force of arms and effectively disannulled our Constitution. I almost said "forever changed," but "forever" is a long time. We don't have to live under this tyrannical empire forever, and we don't have to bequeath such a tyranny to our posterity. Thankfully, there is renewed interest in secession. Even Rush Limbaugh, somewhat of a Lincolnite himself, was recently suggesting secession as a viable option.

Now, the South, including the Cherokee Nation saw the problem and tried to stop it from happening. Although we have lived under this despotic government for 175 years, we do not have to accept this as normal or right. I submit to you that most of the political problems we are facing in this country at the present time are the result of the utter change in the character of the general government forced on the United States by the Lincolmites starting in 1861 with the invasion of the Southern States.

It appears to me that we conservatives have been fighting symptoms and ignoring the disease. For example, since 1973 some of us have labored for the right to life of the unborn and for an overturning of the infamous Roe Vs Wade decision. But the real issue is that a tyrannical Supreme Court has unconstitutionally nullified the laws of the sovereign states concerning unborn children. The Court was able to make such a ruling because the character of the general government was changed by the Lincolmites and the corrupt politicians that followed him in droves.

Another example is the effort to rein in federal spending and reduce the federal debt. The real issue is that most of the federal budget is being spent on things for which there is no constitutional basis. The federal budget could be balanced quickly if all unconstitutional spending were stopped. The thirty trillion-dollar national debt is a result of the change the radical Republicans made in the character of the general government.

So what should we do?

First, we must educate ourselves and our neighbors. We need to quit listening to Fox News and Lincolmite commentators and learn the true history of our country, especially the South. Let me suggest starting with the Cherokee Nation's Declaration of Causes Which Impelled them to Join with the South in their War for Independence. You can read it on the internet. If you have not read *The South Was Right* by our good friends Donnie and Ron Kennedy, do so as soon as possible. Then, you must read *A Defense of Virginia and the South* by Robert L. Dabney, one of the greatest theologians that ever lived... and a Confederate. These books can be found at VictoryFlagsAndMore.com and at other local and online retailers.

While you're educating yourself start talking to anyone who will listen. Urge them to read the two books I just mentioned or buy them a copy if they will read them. Join the Southern Victory Campaign of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Go to MakeDixieGreatAgain.com and don't just join the Confederate Legion, become an active participant in the campaign.

Secondly, we must live and think like free people. As much as possible practice personal secession. Secede from this illegitimate government in your mind and in your actions as much as possible.

Thirdly, we must use the Southern Victory Campaign to become leaders of the masses. We cannot sit back and hope that someone will be anointed by God to do the work that each of us can do ourselves through the Southern Victory Campaign. If we would put our time, effort and money into the campaign, good politicians will see us as leaders and want to join with us. In other words, politicians that want to serve the principles of liberty and constitutional government will come to us and say, "I want to help you turn this country around." Good political servants will rise to the top if, and only if, we create a cultural climate in which they can.

Fourthly, pray! And this ought to be first. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much- and we do not know how much. With that in mind let us close with prayer to Almighty God.