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This is 1992's "surprise publication" from Planet Drum. We actually have published it before but feel it is especially pertinent now and will be fresh reading for more recent Members. It serves as a bioregional overview of the history leading up to the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the Western Hemisphere.

The ongoing encounter between indigenous people and Europeans has had a monumental effect on both cultures. Many native groups were completely devastated and those that survive continue to struggle against domination. Europeans abandoned their own life-places and became unrooted colonial manipulators of people and land.

The last decade of the Twentieth Century is proving to be a time of unpredictable and rapid social and political transformation. Long overdue changes are being made practically overnight and long suppressed quarrels are erupting into major conflicts. Will the still-unresolved antagonisms of at least 500 years that have made such a unique and powerful impression on world events be set on a promising course that leads toward a beneficial outcome?

A true resolution would involve more of us more deeply than we thought was possible. The ensuing confrontations might prove nearly unbearable. But there is reason to believe that a healing partnership between all Earth-defending people is starting to get underway now.

Let it be joined quickly and let its works be visible soon.