

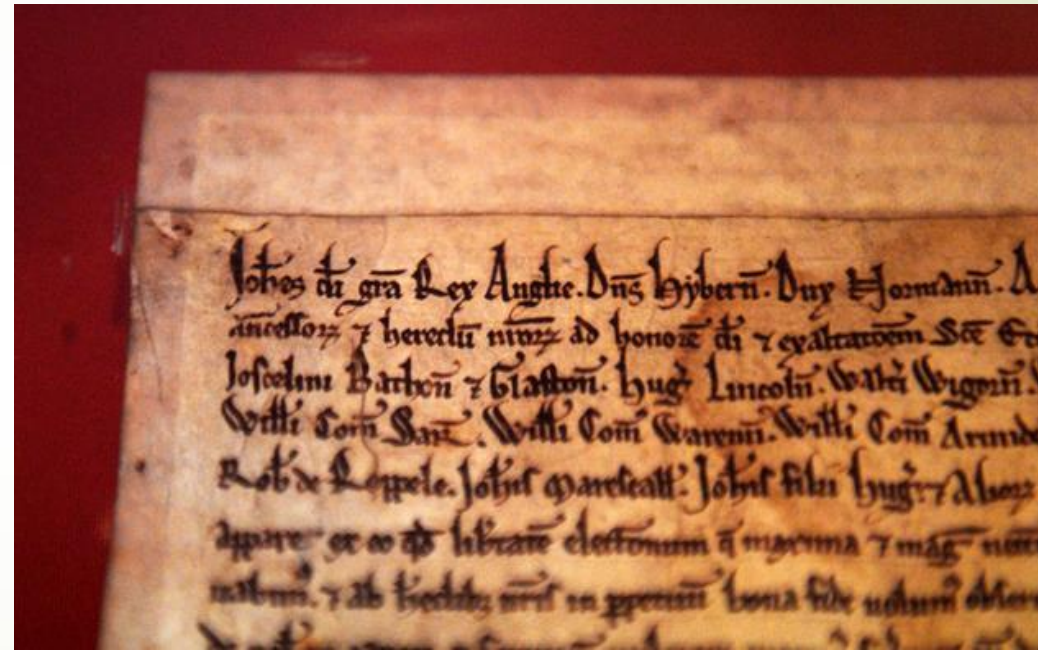


Magna Carta

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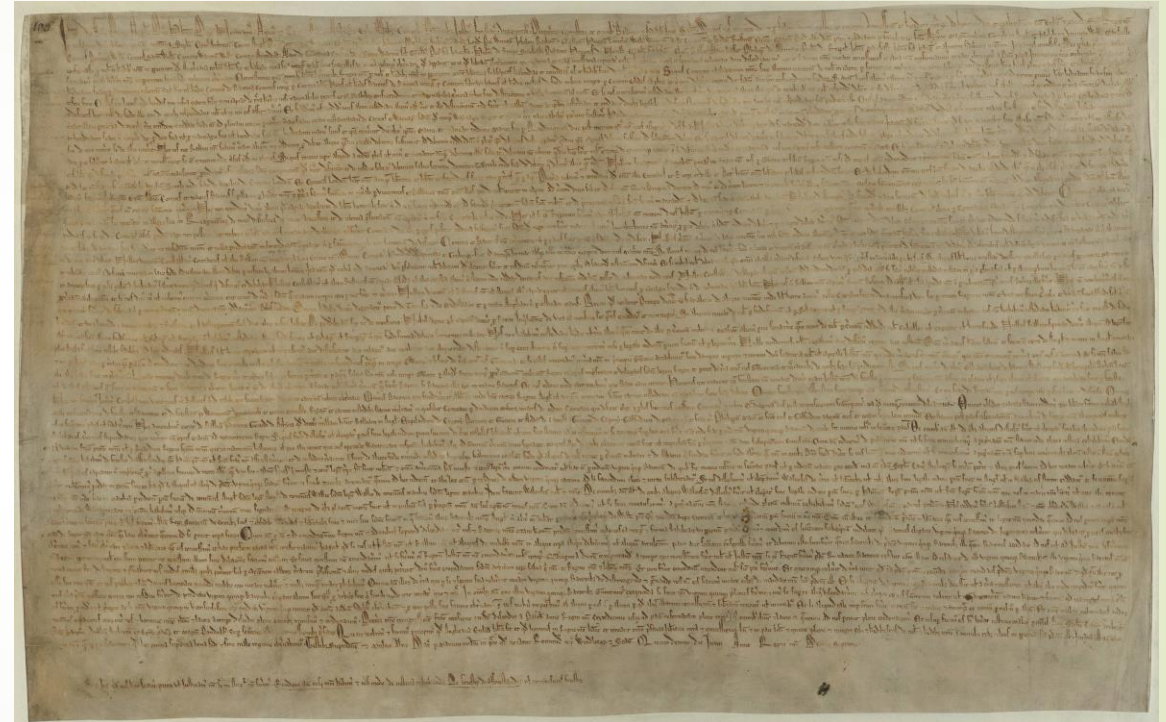
What is Magna Carta?

- Magna Carta is an important medieval document that limited the right of the king to do as he wished without taking into account the law. You may not have read it, but its legacy has inspired liberty and freedom in many countries across the world today.



The history

- Magna Carta, meaning 'The Great Charter', is one of the most famous documents in the world. Originally issued by King John of England as a practical solution to the political crisis he faced in 1215, Magna Carta stated for the first time that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law.



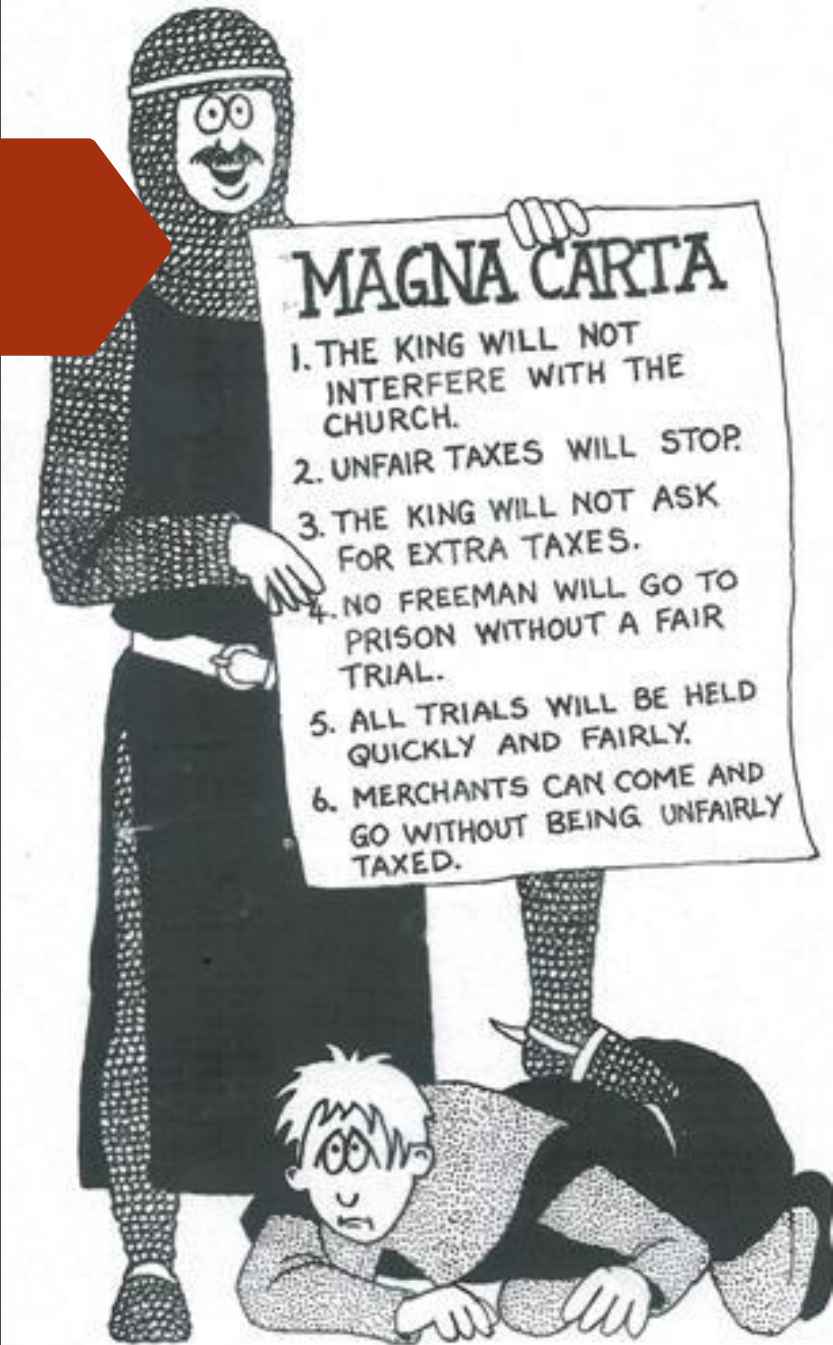


When and why was it introduced?

- By 1215, the barons of northern England had had enough of John's high taxes. They decided to rebel. Led by Baron Robert Fitzwalter, they marched in London calling themselves the "army of God". After taking London, John agreed to negotiate with them.
- King John met the barons on June 15, 1215 at Runnymede. Here, the barons demanded that King John sign a document called the Magna Carta guaranteeing them certain rights. By signing the document, King John agreed to do his duty as King of England, upholding the law and running a fair government. In return, the barons agreed to step down.

Details

- ▶ There were 63 clauses in the document outlining various laws that the barons wanted the king to enforce. Some of the rights these clauses promised included:
- ▶ Access to swift justice
- ▶ Protection of church rights
- ▶ No new taxes without the barons' agreement
- ▶ Protection from illegal imprisonment
- ▶ A council of 25 barons who would insure that king John followed the laws



King John agreed to Magna Carta in 1215. However, the rights he gave were for freemen, not for the villeins.

Why Magna Carta still matters today?

- Magna Carta is recognised as the most important legal document in the common world of law. It stands for trial by jury. It also stands for human rights, democracy, freedom of speech and personal liberty. It lay the foundations for the evolution of parliamentary government and subsequent declarations of rights in Great Britain and the United Nations.



<https://www.bl.uk/magna-carta/videos/800-years-of-magna-carta> (A cartoon video about Magna Carta)



Magna Carta and human rights

- ▶ Perhaps the most significant influence of Magna Carta today is the Universal Declaration Human Rights. Written after the atrocities of World War II, the declaration states that people around the world are protected by fundamental human rights, regardless of their citizenship, race, gender or beliefs. Eleanor Roosevelt famously said that the Declaration may well become «the international Magna Carta of all men everywhere». This Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was key to the development of rights as we understand them today.



Clause 39: Right to justice

- ▶ « No free man is to be arrested, or imprisoned, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any other way ruined, nor will go against him or send against him, except by the lawful judgement of his peers or by the law of the land».
- ▶ The essence of this clause echoes in Article 9 of the UDHR, relating to freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile. However, the particular liberty of being tried by our equals prior to being sent to prison is sometimes overruled when the question of national security is presented. Especially, after the 11/9 and under the threat of terrorism, individuals are detained and imprisoned immediately. People's rights and freedoms are limited or denied in order to protect the public from harm.

Magna Carta

*Thanks for watching!
King John*



THE END

