

Magna Carta

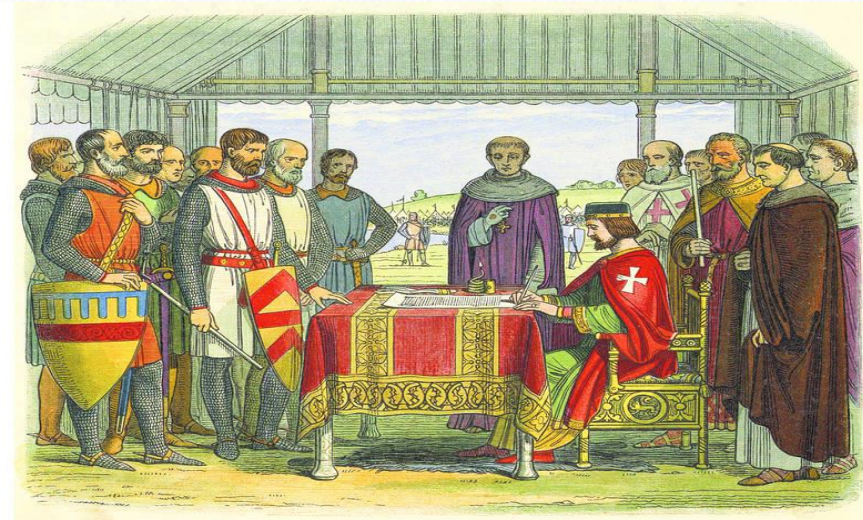
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When and why was it introduced?

- Magna Carta or the 'Great Charter' is one of the most famous documents in the world.
- It was signed by King John of England, at Runnymede on 15 June 1215 as a practical solution to the political crisis, brought about by his barons.

When and why was it introduced?

- The heavy taxes that the unpopular king put on his barons who then taxed the people, in order to pay for his military campaigns made the barons rebel against King John and captured the city of London. So, he had no choice but negotiate or be defeated.



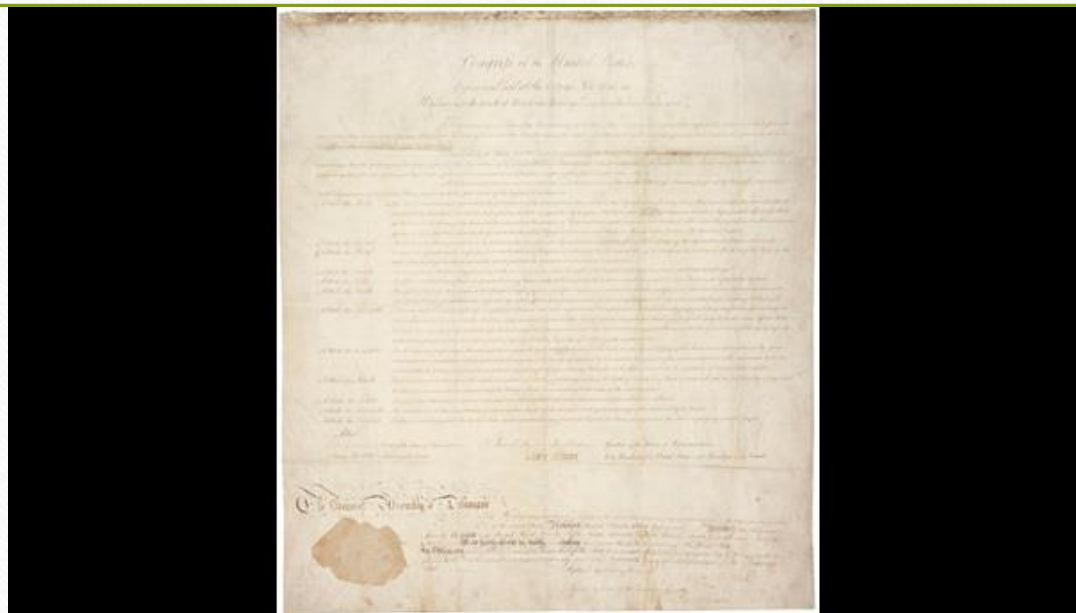
What did it state?

- Magna Carta contained 63 clauses dealing with specific problems that barons had with the King; such as the ownership of land, taxation and the judicial system.
- The most famous clause of Magna Carta is 39 stating, that no free man can be arrested or imprisoned without a fair trial.
- Another important legacy of Magna Carta is that everyone including our leaders must obey the law and that we're all equal before the law.

Why is it important today?

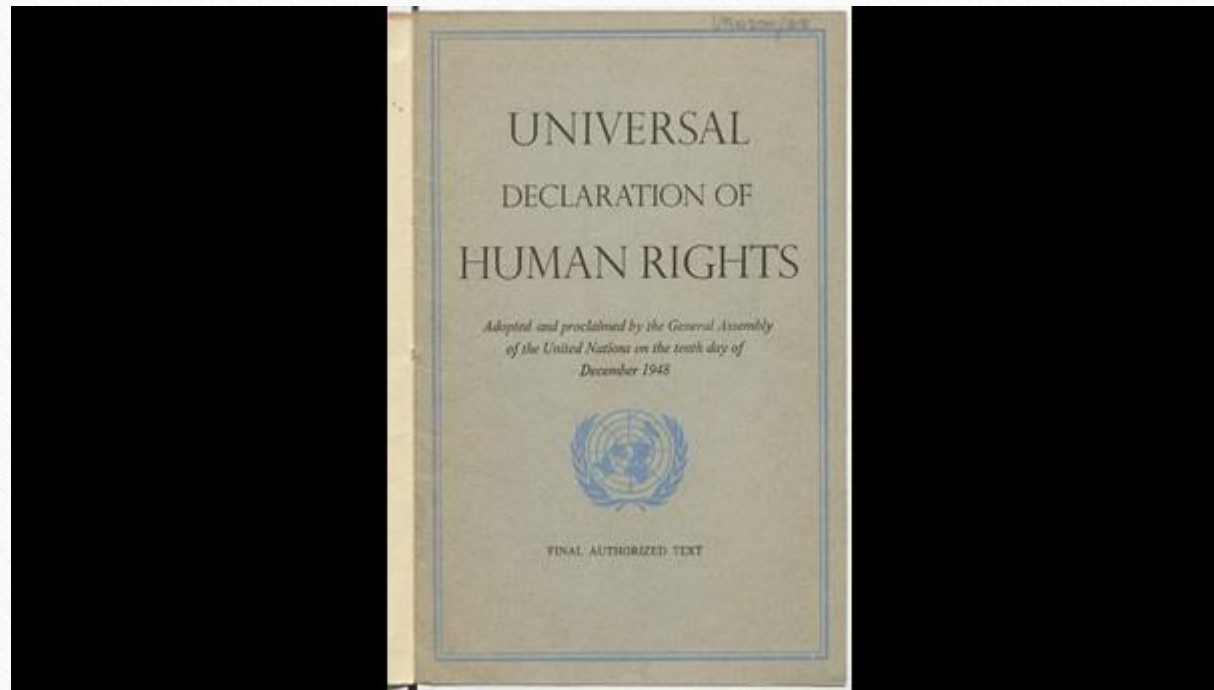
- Nowadays Magna Carta is a cornerstone of the individual liberties that we enjoy. It is seen not only as foundation of liberty but also democracy.
- Magna Carta has become a powerful symbol of liberty around the world, as it is echoed in the USA, Bill of Right, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Bill of Rights



- Delaware copy of the United States Bill of Rights This copy of the Bill of Rights was ratified by Delaware in January 1790.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights



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- Of course abuses of these principles may still occur. For example, the attempts in the early 2000 to extend the period of detention without trial as a response to heightened concerns over terrorism.

Cartoon entitled 'Does Magna Carta mean nothing to you?' and featuring David Davis.



Cartoon entitled 'Magna Carta? Habeas Corpus?' and featuring Charles Clarke



This cartoon uses Magna Carta to symbolise the legal rights that were believed to be threatened by the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2005

My opinion

- In my opinion, while considering the situation in Europe I think that there is an infringement on civil liberties. I would compare king John then, with Germany today. Like king John he put heavy taxes on his barons. Germany does the same to other countries of the European Union.