

MAGNA CARTA



OUR SHARED LEGACY OF LIBERTY



BY SOFIA, ANNIE AND ELENA ☺

Magna Carta

Magna Carta was signed by King John on the 15th of June 1215. It stands for the Great Charter. It was the first formal document saying that a King had to follow the laws of the land. The Magna Carta said that the people of England could limit the power of a King if he was doing things that were not good for the country.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xo4tUMdAMw>

Many people believe that King John was one of the worst kings in history.

King John had imposed heavy taxes on the barons in order to pay for his wars. If they refused to pay, he punished them. The barons demanded that King John obey the law, and when he refused, they rebelled and captured London.



The two sides met at Runnymede in June 1215, where Magna Carta was written.

The document was written in Latin and it had 63 clauses. Of the 63 clauses of the Magna Carta only 3 are still used. These clauses are 1) the freedom of the English Church, 2) the "ancient liberties" of London and 3) a right to due legal process.



Clause 1

- Clause 1 was introduced on the 15th of June 1215. The reason why clause 1 was written was that king john and the Pope had an argument about the Archbishop of Canterbury before Magna Carta. So, they wrote this clause because they wanted to make sure this wouldn't cause controversy again.

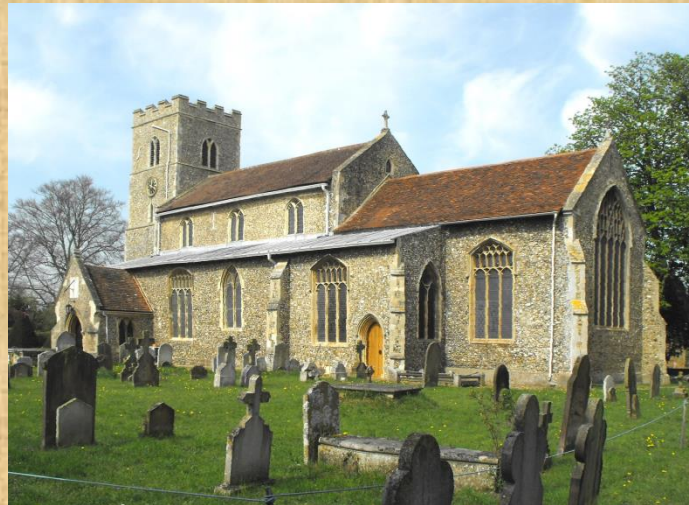


The clause says:

The English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights and its liberties.



- The Magna Carta is considered one of the first steps taken in England towards democracy. With clause 1, which is still used in the constitution of England, they achieved to make the church independent and to stop the king from getting involved in what the Church did. They gave the Church the right to elect its own leaders, rather than have them chosen by the king.
- It is very important today because by making the church independent, we give it the right to elect its own leaders and do what they want so as to help the people without the involvement of the government.



Infringement on civil liberties in Europe

- The European countries, which are trying to protect their citizens from terrorists, sometimes violate the civil liberties of their citizens.



- For example, when they search for terrorists they read text messages and emails and listen to the telephone conversations of suspects. As a result, there is an infringement of the civil liberties of their innocent citizens.



THE END

BY SOFIA SKEPARNIA ☺
ELENA MIHALAROGIANNI ☺
ANNIE VOKOTOPOULOU ☺

