

# Would the Magna Carta have mattered to me?

## Key terms

**Barons** – Part of the nobility (Lords)

**Clause** – part of a document

**Constitution** – the fundamental laws/ rules of a country

**Feudal relief** – a tax paid by the heirs of Lords to the King

**Freeman** – a peasant who is free

**Liberty** – the state of being free/ freedom

**Magna Carta** – Magna Carta is Latin for 'Great Charter'. It was signed in 1215 after negotiations at Runnymede.

**Monarch** – king or queen

**Supreme Court** – the highest/ most important court in America

**Villein** – a peasant who is not free

**Widow** – a woman whose husband has died

## Key clauses in Magna Carta

**Clause 14** – “No scutage nor aid [tax] shall be imposed on our kingdom, unless by common counsel of our kingdom”

**Clause 39** – “No free man shall be seized, imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed, exiled or ruined in any way, nor in any way proceeded against, except by the lawful judgement of his peers and the law of the land.”

## Causes of Magna Carta

- King John was unpopular because he **lost lots of land** in France, he **tried to seize the throne** from his brother, and he **raised taxes**
- The **barons were angry** at him for these things, so decided to rebel against him
- They wanted to reduce the power of the King
- Magna Carta was a result of negotiations with the barons after they rebelled

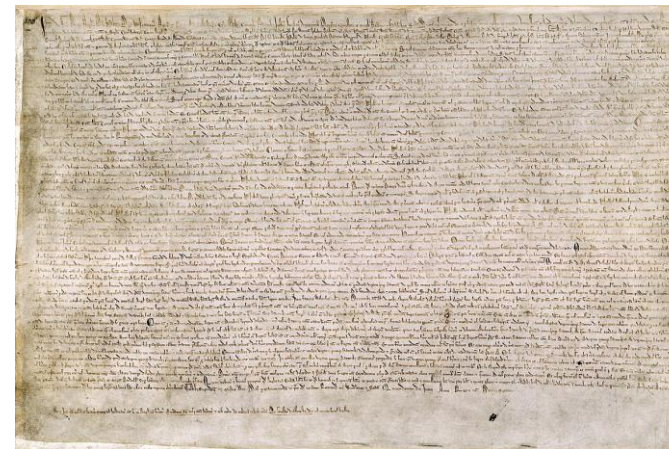
## Important dates

- **1215** – Magna Carta signed
- **1236** – Councils advising the king were first called 'parliaments'
- **1948** – Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted stating that 'no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile'
- **1953** – European Convention on Human Rights stating everyone has the right to 'liberty and security of person'



## Important individuals

- **Richard I/ Richard the Lionheart** – King John's brother, he was a king who led England in the third crusade
- **King John** – Looked after England while Richard was fighting in the third crusade. He became king when Richard died in 1199.



## Changes made due to Magna Carta

- The King could not keep raising taxes, particularly **feudal relief** taxes
- Free men were not allowed to be punished for crimes unless they were found guilty by the **legal system** (put on trial)
- The King could no longer force a **widow** to remarry
- **Barons** could pick **25 representatives** to ensure that the agreements of the Magna Carta were being followed
- Barons had the right to **declare war** on the king if he did not follow the agreements
- **Monarchs** had to follow the law like everyone else

'While bonny good King Richard leads The great crusade he's on We'll all have to slave away For that good-for-nothin' John'

