

?How did the Magna Carta change life in Britain?

Key Figures

Archbishop Stephen Langton
 Pope Innocent III (1161– 1216)
 King John

- People– Who had the greatest impact on the Magna Carta?
- Power– Why did King Johns rule give rise to the development of the Magna Carta?
- Place in History– What was the long term impact of the Magna Carta?
- Purpose– How did the ‘Dark Ages’ provide opportunity for the development of the Magna Carta?

Links
 Year 3 (Summer Term)
 EMPIRE– Romans, Georgians ,& Victorians

Key Knowledge Focus

- ⇒ King John, who ruled England from 1199 until his death in 1216, was the brother of Richard the Lion heart. John exploited his feudal rights to extort money from the barons: he set taxes at very high levels, he enforced arbitrary fines and he seized the barons’ estates. John used this income to fund his expensive wars in France, but still he failed to hold together the empire created by his father– Richard the Lionheart.
- ⇒ John had a dispute with the church over the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury in 1207. John’s preferred appointment was ignored by the Pope, who was the head of the Catholic Church. John refused to allow the Pope’s appointed archbishop, Stephen Langton, to enter England.
- ⇒ 1208 Pope Innocent issued a decree (Interdict) This resulted in the Pope removing the rights of priests and bishops to conduct church services in England.
- ⇒ Langton was eventually allowed to come to England in 1213, and worked with barons in opposing John, leading to the creation of the Magna Carta in 1215.
- ⇒ 1214 At Christmas the barons demanded that John should confirm the rights promised to them by the Coronation Charter of King Henry I in 1100.
- ⇒ 1215 In January John met the barons in London, but there was deadlock. The barons insisted on what they saw as their traditional rights and freedoms. The two sides agreed to put their case to

- the Pope for a decision.
- ⇒ The Pope forbade the Barons from rebelling against King John
- ⇒ In late April to early May the barons who opposed John met in Northamptonshire and announced that they would no longer obey King John. War followed.
- ⇒ In 1215 the Barons captured London and negotiations began in Runnymede.
- ⇒ 15th June King John granted the Charter of Liberties (Magna Carta).
- ⇒ 19th June Oaths of allegiance were renewed.

The Magna Carta- Magna Carta established for the first time the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law. The Magna Carta was a peace treaty between the King and the rebel barons. In that respect it was a failure, but it provided a new framework for the relationship between the King and his subjects.

- ⇒ 2015– The Magna Carta focused on the fundamental principles that the king was subject to—the law. He was unable to take any money from individuals and justice was to be far and available to all free (a small proportion of the population).
- ⇒ On June 15, 1215, in a field at Runnymede, King John affixed his seal to Magna Carta. Confronted by 40 rebellious barons, he consented to their demands in order to avert civil war.
- ⇒ Although King John agreed to the terms a later document issues by the Pope declared the Magna Carta “null and void”
- ⇒ The subsequent king– Henry III revised the Magna Carta (2016) reissuing it in an attempt to regain the support of the Barons.

Key Vocabulary

| Topic | | Skill |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Monarchy | Rule | Evidence |
| Law | Rights | Sources |
| Clauses | Value | Evaluate |
| Justice | Fair Trial | Compare |
| Interdict | | Consider |



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Key Knowledge Focus

- ⇒ Magna Carta was written by a group of 13th-century barons to protect their rights and property against a tyrannical king. It is concerned with many practical matters and specific grievances relevant to the feudal system under which they lived. The interests of the common man were hardly apparent in the minds of the men who brokered the agreement. But there are two principles expressed in Magna Carta that resonate to this day:
- ⇒ "No freeman shall be taken, imprisoned, disseised, outlawed, banished, or in any way destroyed, nor will We proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land."
- ⇒ "To no one will We sell, to no one will We deny or delay, right or justice."
- ⇒ During the American Revolution, Magna Carta served to inspire and justify action in liberty's defence. The colonists believed they were entitled to the same rights as Englishmen, rights guaranteed in Magna Carta. These core rights are echoed in; the US Bill of Rights 1791, Universal Declaration of Human rights 1948 and the European Convention on Human rights 1950.
- ⇒ Most of the 63 clauses granted by King John dealt with specific grievances relating to his rule. However, buried within them were a number of fundamental values that both challenged the autocracy of the king and proved highly adaptable in future centuries. Most famously, the 39th clause gave all 'free men' the right to justice and a fair trial. 3 of the original clauses remain part of English law today.