

DETECTED  
CONNECTED  
EXPLORED  
DISCOVERED

**MAGNA CARTA AND THE  
ROAD TO DEMOCRACY  
'MINI EXPLORE YOUR ARCHIVE'  
CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT**

UNEARTHED  
CREATED  
UNLOCKED  
REVEALED  
CELEBRATED  
IMAGINED  
OPENED  
LEARNED

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## The purpose of this 'mini Explore Your Archive' toolkit

This toolkit aims to give some facts, guidance and artwork to those in archives wishing to commemorate the 800th birthday of Magna Carta or another aspect of the rise of democracy and development of human rights.

**Explore Your Archive** is the archive sector's public awareness campaign. The **Explore Your Archive** branding has been developed by The National Archives and the Archives and Records Association and can be used at any time by anyone in the sector to promote and celebrate the collections held in UK and Irish archives and the extraordinary work done by all who work in those archives.

Whenever else the branding is used, we ask that every archive is involved in the annual **Explore Your Archive** campaign. In 2015 this is from 14 to 22 November. If every archive does something during this period, the sector as a whole makes a loud noise and the public is more likely to hear some of our messages.

A 'mini **Explore Your Archive**' is intended to give the sector another, additional opportunity to celebrate – under the Explore brand – by taking a topical subject or theme and offering artwork, guidance and advice in a small toolkit. Not all archives will want to join in every 'mini **Explore Your Archive**', but if the subject resonates then hopefully the 'mini toolkit' will save colleagues time and work and allow them to join in with minimal effort.

# MAGNA CARTA IS 800 YEARS OLD. IT WAS ISSUED BY KING JOHN ON 15 JUNE 1215.

Explore Your Archive is led by The National Archives and the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland)

 The National Archives

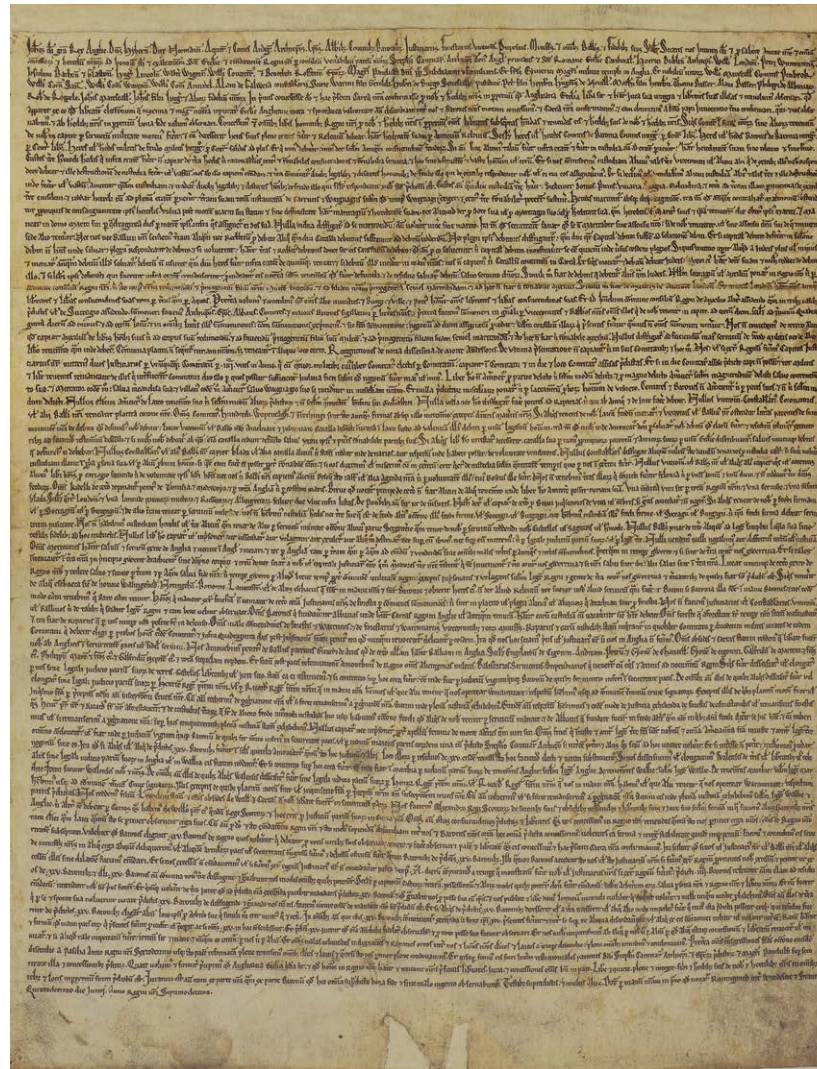
 Archives & Records Association  
UK & Ireland

What is Magna Carta?

Magna Carta, meaning ‘The Great Charter’, is one of the most famous documents in the world. It is widely recognised as one of the most important constitutional documents of all time and crucial to the rise of democracy and human rights. It was originally issued by King John of England as a practical solution to the political crisis he faced. It was sealed and issued at Runnymede (between Staines and Windsor) on 15 June 1215.

Magna Carta established for the first time the principle that everybody, including the King, was subject to the law. Although about a third of the text was deleted or substantially rewritten within ten years, and almost all the clauses have been repealed in modern times, Magna Carta remains a cornerstone of the British constitution.

Most of the 63 clauses granted by King John dealt with specific grievances relating to his rule. But within the text are a number of fundamental values that both challenged the autocracy of the king and resonated down the centuries. Famously, the 39th clause gave all ‘free men’ the right to justice and a fair trial. Some of Magna Carta’s core principles are echoed in the United States Bill of Rights (1791) and in many other constitutional documents around the world, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1950).



© Salisbury Cathedral

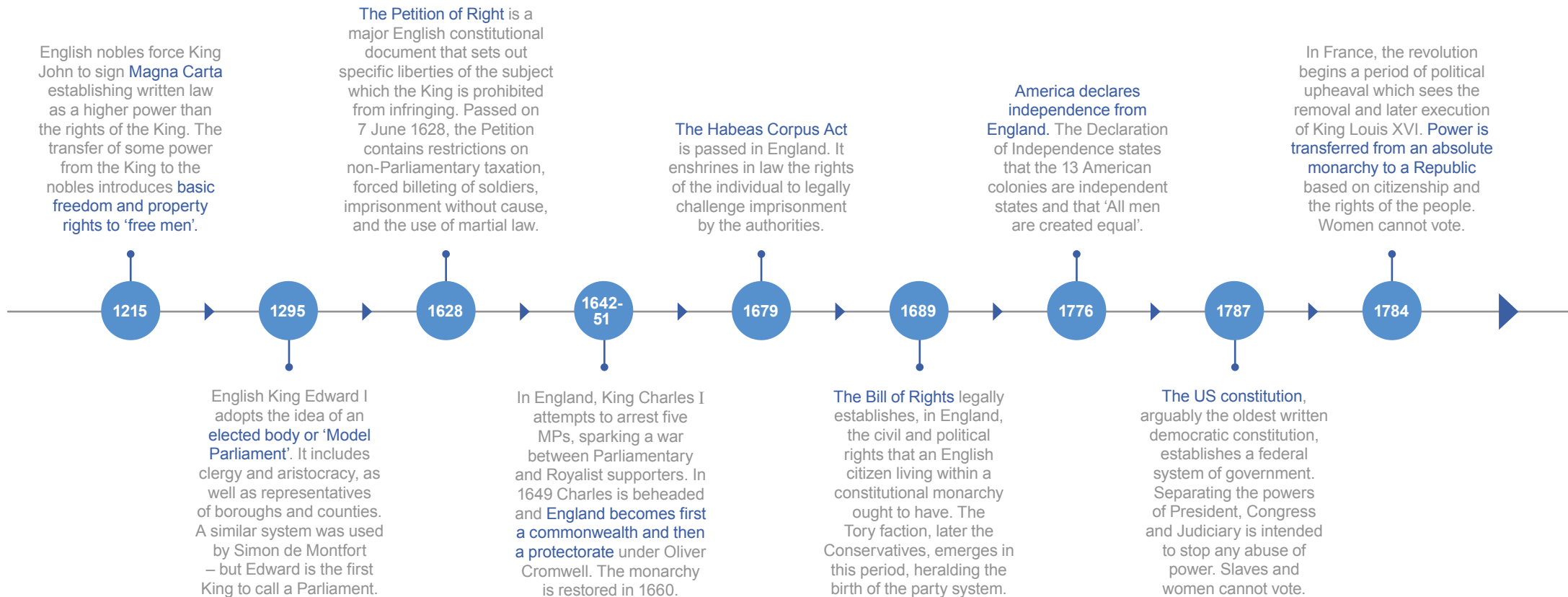
Where are the original Magna Carta copies?

There are four copies from the Charter of 1215, one from the Charter of 1216, and four apiece from the Charters of 1217 and 1225.

Four of the 1215 copies survive. The best preserved is in Salisbury Cathedral where it is on display in the Chapter House. One is owned by Lincoln Cathedral and is on display in Lincoln Castle and two are in the British Library.

1215 to 2015: a timeline on Democracy and Human Rights

Read more at:  
[www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-and-human-rights#sthash.SeQawZIT.dpuf](http://www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-and-human-rights#sthash.SeQawZIT.dpuf)



### 1215 to 2015: a timeline on Democracy and Human Rights

*Continued*

Read more at:

- [www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf)
- [www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/universal-declaration-of-human-rights.html](http://www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/universal-declaration-of-human-rights.html)
- [www.equalityhumanrights.com/your-rights/human-rights/what-are-human-rights/human-rights-act](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/your-rights/human-rights/what-are-human-rights/human-rights-act)

America's Bill of Rights enumerates freedoms not explicitly indicated in the main body of the Constitution, such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, a free press, and free assembly – and the right to keep and bear arms.

The Second Reform Act in Britain virtually doubles the size of the electorate by increasing the number of men who can vote. All male householders – and lodgers paying £10 a year in rent – are given the right to vote.

Britain's Equal Franchise Act of 1928 gives the vote to women over 21. Women finally achieve the same voting rights as men. This act increased the number of women eligible to vote to 15 million.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is adopted by the United Nations General. It is the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled.

The UK's Human Rights Act comes into force to incorporate into UK law the rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights.

1791

1864

1867

1918

1928

1945

1948

1950

2000

The Geneva Conventions establish the standards of international law for the humanitarian treatment of war. The singular term Geneva Convention usually denotes the agreements of 1949, negotiated in the aftermath of the Second World War.

In Britain's Representation of the People Act women over the age of 30 who met a property qualification are given the vote. The same act abolishes property and other restrictions for men, and extends the vote to all men over the age of 21. Additionally, men in the armed forces can vote from the age of 19. The electorate increases from eight to 21 million, but there is still huge inequality between women and men.

The United Nations is established to promote international co-operation. A replacement for the ineffective League of Nations, the organisation is created following the Second World War to prevent another such conflict. At its founding, the UN has 51 member states; there are now 193.

The European Convention on Human Rights is an international treaty to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe.

**‘Magna Carta’ towns and cities**

Certain English towns are very specifically linked with Magna Carta: Canterbury, London, Runnymede, St Albans, Salisbury, Bury St Edmunds, Oxford, Lincoln, Hereford.

**Read more at**

<http://magnacarta800th.com/history-of-the-magna-carta/the-magna-carta-towns>

**What is happening in 2015?**

All kinds of organisations will be marking the 800th birthday of Magna Carta. There will be national and international events, exhibitions and a wide range of educational activities throughout 2015. As the custodians of much of the documentary history of the last 800 years, we know that those who work in archives will also be joining in a conversation about the history of our rights.

<http://magnacarta800th.com>

**Other useful links:**

- [www.stalbanscathedral.org/history/the-road-to-magna-carta](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org/history/the-road-to-magna-carta)
- [www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-english-translation](http://www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-english-translation)
- [www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/magna-carta](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/magna-carta)

Resources for download

Magna Carta and the Road to Democracy artwork available for you to download:

Archi've Discovered Democracy artwork:

- Campaign identity
- A3 poster
- A4 poster
- Web MPU
- Web banner
- Facebook post

Archi've Discovered Magna Carta artwork:

- Campaign identity
- A3 poster
- A4 poster
- Web MPU
- Web banner
- Facebook post

You can download resources for the Explore Your Archive campaign at:

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/yourtoolkit](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/yourtoolkit)

For further advice and information please email:

[exploreyourarchive@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:exploreyourarchive@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Campaign Identities

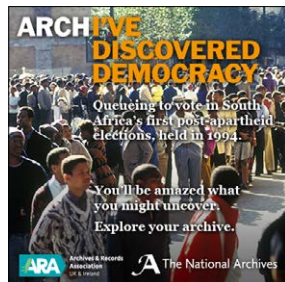
ARCHI'VE DISCOVERED DEMOCRACY

ARCHI'VE DISCOVERED MAGNA CARTA

Web MPUs 300 x 250 pixels



Facebook posts 403 x 403 pixels



A3 and A4 Campaign Posters



Web banners (leaderboard) 728 x 90 pixels

