

## Democracy: a development from 1066

### Magna Carta 1215

#### Causes:

- King John was unpopular due to the high taxes and losses in the war with France. He was a poor soldier in comparison to the previous King - his brother Richard.
- King John angered people by trying to control the church. This led to the Pope closing all churches in England for 7 years.
- The **Barons** were angry at paying scutage - a high tax and giving John their best fighting men.

#### Events:

In 1215 the barons gave the king a choice: change the way the country was run or face a fight against the barons' armies. The barons came up with 63 rights they thought all barons should have. The list of rights became known as the **Magna Carta**.

Key promises included

- No demanding taxes without the barons' permission, not interfering with the Church, fair trials for all **freemen**, no inheritance tax and a reduction in fines for crimes.

#### Impact:

- It was the start of the idea of Parliament.
- It involved ordinary people in the running of England (e.g. Barons, bishops and knights).



### Key timeline of events

- 1066- Battle of Hastings is won by William the Conqueror.
- 1085 - William the Conqueror orders the creation of the Domesday Book.
- 1199 - King John reigns over England, unsuccessfully starting wars against France and raising taxes.
- 1215 - The Magna Carta is written by the Barons, demanding fairer rights.
- 1216 - King John dies and King Henry III reigns, making changes to the Magna Carta.
- 1485-1603 - The house of Tudor reigns over England.
- 1603 - King James I becomes King of England. He had already been King of Scotland for 36 years.
- 1605 - The Gunpowder Plot - an unsuccessful assassination attempt on King James in order to restore the Catholic Monarchy.
- 1625 - King Charles I becomes King after the death of his father.

### Key Individuals

William the Conqueror	After winning the Battle of Hastings, became the first Norman King of England on Christmas day in 1066. He ruled until his death in 1087 and is famous for creating the Domesday book.
King John	Reigned as King of England from 1199 until his death (1216). His reign was marked by disputes between his barons and bishops.
The House of Tudor	The 6 monarchs who ruled over England and its realms from 1485 until 1603. During this time the War of the Roses took place as well as the formation of the Church of England.
King James I	Reigned as King of both England and Scotland. He dissolved Parliament twice. James was the son of Mary Queen of Scots and descendant of King Henry VII.
King Charles I	Reigned from 1625 until his execution in 1649. He believed in the divine rights of kings. In 1642 he called for his loyal subjects to support him in a war against Parliament. This was the beginning of the English Civil war.

<b>Key vocabulary</b>	
Democracy	The belief in freedom and equality between people, or a system of government based on this belief, in which power is either held by elected representatives or directly by the people themselves: The government has promised to uphold the principles of democracy.
Magna Carta	Written in June 1215, it is regarded as one of the most important documents from Medieval England (which is the period in history between the 5th and 15th centuries).
Barons	The Feudal Barons were noblemen who held land granted by the king. The barons collected taxes and recruited soldiers for the king.
Freemen	Freemen were poor farmers who had control of small portions of land. Freemen usually made just enough money to live on.
Domesday Book	A survey ordered by William the Conqueror in 1085 which contained the names of places, the number of people, goods and animals and the use and the owners of the land. It is believed the King used this to find out how much taxes he should expect from the land.
Feudal System	A system of land ownership and duties. All the land was owned by the King who would then give the land to nobles and lords who fought for him.
Parliament	It is where politicians meet to decide laws and make decisions for the United Kingdom.

#### **Questions for you to answer:**

- What does 'democracy' look like today in England?
- When was Parliament created?
- Where is our National Parliament held?
- Which 'House' currently rules our country?
- What is the different between parliament and government?

#### **Books and useful links:**

- <https://www.bl.uk/magna-carta>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Kings-and-Queens-of-Britain-1856932>
- Rupert's Parchment - Eileen Cameron

If you have any enquiries/questions please feel free to email us at [Year5@becket.n-somerset.sch.uk](mailto:Year5@becket.n-somerset.sch.uk)

Have a great first term.

Miss Aylott and Mrs Meigh