

Magna Charta

The Great Charter or the Charter of Liberties, as it is commonly called, is a constitutional instrument executed by King John of England, June 15, 1215, guaranteeing to the people in perpetuity certain rights and privileges. The nobles, who procured it, are often called the Patriots of their age.

The concessions these nobles wrested from the feeble hands of King John, were far from being original, but had their origin, in principle at least, in the old Anglo-Saxon times. It was intended mainly for the nobles and landowners of England, but it embraced in its terms all freemen, so that they looked up to it with reverence and confidence. Its force has never lost by disuse and its principles never forgotten and now, today, wherever the English speaking people hold sway, the principles of freedom and personal liberty, as inculcated in that doctrine, live and rule. As Mr. Hallam fitly says, "It is the keystone of English Liberty."

Even in America Magna Charta is often appealed to in discussions of constitutional questions, and its promise of protection by "the law of the land," is incorporated in some form in every American constitution.

It is well named MAGNA CHARTA.

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We emphasize the spirit of conservative progress in political affairs which seems to be the unique possession of the Anglo-Saxon peoples, in that they hold fast to the best of the old while modifying it to meet new conditions.

At the end of the 18th century, and today, we have examples of two other races, both great peoples, who are types of the opposite way of making progress by destroying their entire political system in order to build it up anew.

Thus to the spirit of conservative progress do the Anglo-Saxon people owe their political advancement.

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This is prepared at the suggestion of William Archer, Esq., the English critic and author, so that the friends of this widespread movement may have in convenient form the plans which are arousing so much enthusiasm.