



THE KING'S CORNERED, AND NOW HE'S ON THE RUN(NYMEDE): MAGNA CARTA, 1215

One of the most famous and significant documents in the world, the Magna Carta, or “The Great Charter,” was originally issued by King John of England as a pragmatic resolution as a result of the political crises of a civil war he faced in 1215. Due to unsuccessful foreign policies and heavy taxation demands, a rebellion was spurred by England’s powerful barons. Their demands were for freedom from oppression and liberty from the English crown. On June 15, 1215, forced into a corner, King John yielded at Runnymede, and accepted the terms of the Barons, a document called the Articles of the Barons. Four days later, after several modifications, the King and Barons issued a final version of the document, known as the Magna Carta. Magna Carta established that the sovereign, including the King of England, was subjected to the rule of law, and such liberties that are held by “free men.” The Magna Carta was the basis for individual rights in Anglo-American jurisprudence, and while nearly a third of text has been deleted or extendedly rewritten within the ten years of its birth, Magna Carta is the foundation of the British constitution. Delegates on this committee, taking on the roles of counselors to King John, members of the council of twenty-five barons established by the Magna Carta, or excommunicated rebel barons, will be tasked with responding to the complex domestic and international issues that Britain faces in this time period. Delegates will have to tackle some of the philosophical questions that arise from one of the first instances of a charter of liberties in the world and what a country run by a non-unilateral monarch looks like. With the whole world watching, it is up to them to help their glorious country and its people succeed, as well as set an example for future generations to come -- whether that involves upholding the ideas of civil liberties and freedoms, or tearing it down altogether, is up to you.

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