

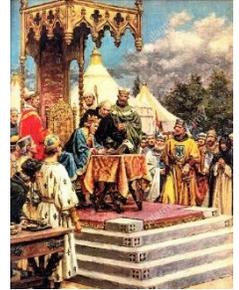
# The Secrets of the Magna Carta

## Part 02



### Review of Magna Carta Part 01

- After the Norman Conquest of 1066, William the Conqueror imposed feudalism on England, and this was new to them. Under feudalism, the king (big government) owned every acre of English land. This is just like socialism in our day. Feudalism = Socialism
- King John took the king's power to tax to a new level. John became the richest king in English history. Where did the money come from? He confiscated it from the people in a variety of creative ways!
- When John staked all the money he had taken from the barons on reconquering lost lands in France, he lost the key battle and thus lost the money. The barons retaliated and asserted their rights. John was forced to agree to the Baron's demands in the Magna Carta on June 15, 1215 at Runnymede.



### The Magna Carta contained the following sorts of provisions:

- 39: No man shall be seized or imprisoned except by the lawful judgment of his equals.  
This eventually evolved into "Trial by Jury" and "Due Process."
- 40: To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.  
This relates to protection from unlawful arrest and equal justice under the law.
- 41: All merchants may enter or leave England unharmed and without fear for purpose of trade, free from all illegal actions. This relates to freedom from government regulations involving freedom to trade.
- 12: No scutage or aid (taxation) may be levied in our kingdom without its general consent.  
Taxes may not be levied without the approval of the common council – soon to be called the Parliament. Parliament's job was to protect taxpayers from the greedy tax consuming king.

### Property rights and economic freedom are an important part of Magna Carta! They are the key to freedom!!

- This is critical for us to remember because the central tenet of *Marxism* is the *abolition of property rights!!*
- The importance of economic freedom is sometimes underplayed.
- While Magna Carta was not specifically designed for the purpose of ending feudalism, its principles did bring down feudalism in the end! The critical factor that freed the peasants/serfs from the feudal system was TRADE!!!! 😊
- The Tudor Era was unintentionally built on free trade and with that came tremendous prosperity! Technically, Guilds controlled each trade/craft within the city limits. Big government (the King & his pals) became wealthy off of the Guilds who had to pay fees in order to operate.
- But freedom emerged outside the city limits! Illicit black markets sprung up outside city boundaries, and they were out of the control of the guilds. These areas were called liberties!! They had liberty from the Guilds and thus, from the government! They became areas of free trade!
- Free trade led to prosperity which led to social mobility. (*Social mobility is the ability to move from one social class to another based on your self-initiative and willingness to work hard.*)
- The Tudor Era came to an end with the death of Queen Elizabeth I and the ascension of King James I of Scotland. James believed in the principle of the Divine Right of Kings. His sons and grandsons did too. Reflecting Magna Carta principles, the English eventually took charge, rid themselves of kings who did not understand the limits of their authority, and replaced them. They invited Mary II and William III to rule if they would be willing to rule under a Bill of Rights that placed limits on their authority. The English drafted their own Bill of Rights in 1689.

### Some final thoughts:

- Parliament (and the Congress of the United States) was *supposed* to be about limiting taxation, but now it's seems to be about deciding how to spend money!
- Parliament (and the Congress of the United States) is behaving more like the King of 1215 than the Parliament/Council of 1215!



# The Secrets of the Magna Carta

## Part 02



1. Magna Carta contains three ideas that were revolutionary in their time.

1 - The king or government must respect the \_\_\_\_\_ of individuals. The government/king cannot \_\_\_\_\_ things from the citizens.

2 – Taxpayers themselves would decide how much \_\_\_\_\_ they were prepared to pay.

3 – The law must be an instrument not of domination but of \_\_\_\_\_. It should exist not to deny us freedom, but to secure it.

Note: Magna Carta ensured the rule of law and protection against the arbitrary rule of the state. These are important protections!!!!

2. Under King James I, to engage in a craft or trade, you needed to obtain a license from the \_\_\_\_\_ for which you had to pay dearly. In reaction to this where did people go in search of freedom? \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Jeffrey Tucker is the author of the booklet "Advice for Young Unemployed Workers" that you received earlier this semester!

3. When does prohibitive taxation begin in the colonies?

- 1609 The Jamestown Act
- 1620 Massachusetts Initiative
- 1765 The Stamp Act
- 1789 The Affordable Freedom Act

4. When you tax something, you get...  more  OR  less ...of it.

5. The American Revolution began as a \_\_\_\_\_ revolt.



6. The Constitution was written in 1789. What did they add that ensured the principles of the Magna Carta were upheld in this document?  Declaration of Independence  Bill of Rights  Amendment 39  The Pentateuch

7. The Bill of Rights promoted and emphasized the principle that people are independent from the king/government.  True  False

8. The essence of America is that Your life belongs to:

- the government/king/fuehrer/Caesar
- the tribe
- the Pope
- YOU

9. Two AMAZINGLY COOL things about 1776 are: (PICK TWO!!)

- The Declaration of Independence/American Revolution
- The Constitution
- The Bill of Rights of England
- An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations by Adam Smith



10. Where people enjoyed the freedom of Magna Carta, people got richer.  True  False

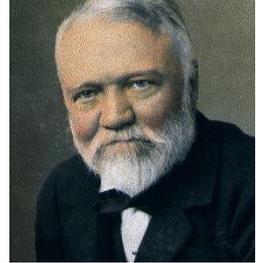
11. Liberty encourages economic activity!  True  False

12. Industrial Revolution was made possible by the liberties in Magna Carta.  True  False

NOTE: I would emphasize that it is no coincidence that the Industrial Revolution begins in England in the years after the English Bill of Rights is enacted (post 1689)! Then human progress takes off like crazy in the years after the American Revolution (post 1776)! Remember the "Hockey Stick of Human Progress"?

13. Once merchants feel confident in their stability of their property rights, what happens?

- They are afraid to invest in new equipment.
- They hesitate to build factories.
- They build factories, invest in new equipment, innovate, produce, & hire employees!



14. What do the lives of such men as John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and Cornelius Vanderbilt show us?

- You have to come from wealth to succeed in this world.
- Economic liberty leads to prosperity and the chance for people from any class to succeed.

15. Wealth in a free society comes from:

- wealth redistribution
- serving your fellow man
- greed
- government programs

16. Who benefits from economic freedom? (Note that Marxists say that Capitalism benefits the wealthy while harming the common man.)

- Only the wealthy
- the common man
- common man and the wealthy

17. The 14 Amendment that abolished slavery is infused with Magna Carta principles.  True  False

18. In the 1920s, Magna Carta principles were challenged by the Ku Klux Klan, segregation, and Prohibition, all meant to curtail liberties.  True  False

19. 1933, a new challenge to Magna Carta came in the form of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) and his New Deal for the American people. FDR famously redefined freedom as *Freedom from* \_\_\_\_\_

20. Under FDR's New Deal, the government forced up food prices by destroying food!  True  False

21. FDR's New Deal created artificial shortages to drive up the price of goods.  True  False

22. Under FDR, Magna Carta property rights no longer applied.  True  False

23. Under FDR's New Deal, social planning caused the entrepreneurial spirit to fade.  True  False



24. The eternal truth about government is that:

- government has nothing to give to anybody except what it first takes from someone else.
- government is the savior of mankind and necessary for solving society's problems.

25. How long did the Great Depression last?  2 years  5 years  8 years  10 years

❖ XC - In 2007 a copy of Magna Carta was sold at Sotheby's in NYC for \_\_\_\_\_ million dollars.

26. Magna Carta was a tax revolt against a rapacious tax-consuming monarch. In many places, taxes are higher today than when King John was on the throne.  True  False

27. The Welfare State was created to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. The effect of these programs has:  
 achieved its goals.  made the lives of poor worse.

28. What solves the problem of poverty?  
 social welfare programs     economic growth     taking more from rich to give to the poor
29. How is economic growth achievable?  
 by stressing the Magna Carta freedoms  
 by giving the government more power to create programs to help
30. King John benefited from the taxes he seized from the people. Now it's the large class of government employees who benefit because they are the tax consumers. They are the new King Johns.  
 True     False
31. In the US, close to \_\_\_\_\_% of the people did not even pay any taxes at all!
- ❖ XC - Magna Carta demanded that taxPAYERS should determine how much tax they should pay. Why is this no longer the case? (answer after the video)



Once again - Parliament (and the Congress of the United States) was supposed to be about limiting taxation, but now it's seems to be about deciding how to spend money! Parliament (and the Congress of the United States) is behaving more like the King of 1215 than the Parliament/Council of 1215!

32. Law, according to Magna Carta, should be an instrument of *j*\_\_\_\_\_ and not an instrument of domination and control.
33. The Ruling Class of the past was the class of Kings and nobles. Is there a Ruling Class today?  
 No, of course not! We live in a modern democracy!  
 Yes! Today's Ruling Class is the large class of government employees.



34. Licensing codes (requiring a person to buy a license to trade from the government) are the same thing as those nasty Guilds of the past.     True     False
- ❖ XC - Restrictions to Free Trade: In the 1950s, only about 5% of workers needed a license to practice their profession & trade their services and skills in the marketplace. Now about one in \_\_\_\_\_ American workers need a license in order to work.
35. This licensing is about:  
 concerned professionals using government to protect consumers  
 established members in the profession using government to stamp out competition and drive up prices for themselves.
36. We are all becoming King Johns, trying to live at the expense of our fellow man! "We have met the enemy and he is \_\_\_\_\_."
37. You already know this. Is the word "democracy" in any of our founding documents?     YES     NO
38. Did our Founding Fathers intend for our nation to be a democracy?     YES     NO
39. According to Walter Williams, we have to try to sell our fellow man on the moral superiority of personal \_\_\_\_\_ and its main ingredient – limited \_\_\_\_\_!

Magna Carta is a weapon used by history's greatest freedom fighters! If we can reclaim and hang on to our freedoms enshrined in Magna Carta, we will experience even more positive progress in the future! You can be a freedom fighter! Spread the word about the principles of Magna Carta!!