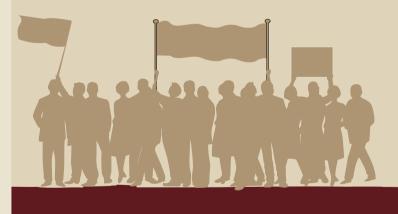


History of English Civil Rights

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Magna Carta Libertatum

Why was it originally created? In 1215, England was ruled by King John "Lackland", who was considered one of the worst kings due to his attitude. The barons demanded him to obey the law but he refused so they captured London and together with knights, clergy and town's people forced him to negotiate. As the result of the negotiation, the King signed the Magna Carta at Runnymede.



Magna Carta Libertatum What does it say?

"NO MAN SHOULD BE ARRESTED OR IMPRISONED EXCEPT BY THE JUDGMENT OF THEIR EQUALS AND BY THE LAW OF THE LAND. TO NO ONE WILL SELL, TO NO ONE DENY OR DELAY RIGHT OF JUSTICE".

makes illegal:

IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT A LEGAL TRIAL

ARBITRARY IMPOSITION OF TAXES BY THE KING



Magna Carta Libertatum

Symbol of liberty:

- it started as a document of specific complaints from barons and turned into an international symbol of liberty,
 - it is echoed in the USA Declaration of Independence and in the Universal
 - Declaration of Human Rights,
- its most important legacy is the one that establishes that everyone including the leaders must obey the law.



The Petition of Right



What was the *Petition of Right*? As a precondition to granting any future taxes, in 1628, the Parliament forced the King to assent to the Petition of Right. This asked for a settlement of Parliament's complaints against the King's non-parliamentary taxation and imprisonments without trials, plus, the unlawfulness of martial law and forced billets.





The Petition of Right

sought recognition of four principles:

NO TAXTATION WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

NO QUARTERING OF SOLDIERS ON SUBJECTS

NO IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT CAUSE

NO MARTIAL LAW IN PEACETIME





The Petition of Right

The King's reaction: Charles I accepted this curtailment of the royal prerogative and the petition became an Act, although, he refused to admit that these were new rights, and later he dismissed it because he thought that he was king by divine right.



The Bill of Rights



Risk of a CIVIL WAR

- There were Whigs and Tories in conflict. The main cause was king James II's
 - intention of restoration of catholicism.
- William of Orange was called by the Parliament to be the new successor to the **throne**.







The Bill of Rights

What was the *Glorious Revolution*?

In 1688 William II went in London with the army, thanks to the intervention of the **Parliament**, he became **KING**, this charge was no longer by divine right. This is why is called "revolution", but why "glorious"...?

Because there was neither a real war nor violence.



The Bill of Rights

What was the *Bill of Rights*? This document dates back to 1689, it was drawn up by the Parliament. Without the Parliamentary consent, the king **could not**:

impose taxes

raise an army

suspend laws

What about the history of Civil Rights in your country?

What were the most important steps in achieving civil rights in your country?





Thank you for your attention!

