

## Magna Carta

The Magna Carta was created in 1215, by a group of Barons who wanted to protect their rights and property from King John. The Magna Carta in Latin means "Great Charter". It was a peace treaty that stated all the things the king could and couldn't do. It promised to protect the churches' rights and the Barons from illegal imprisonment. Later in 1215, King John was forced to sign the Magna Carta. The document was a symbol of liberty to the Barons, and their lives were forever changed when he signed it.

"Due Process is the legal requirement that the states must respect all legal rights that are owed to a person." Due process started off as a few rights that individual people have, but over the centuries the Magna Carta has been changed and improved to better our country. We based our government on the Magna Carta and passed two amendments that were based on Due Process. The first one is the Fifth Amendment. It was passed on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1789. It's called Criminal Proceedings; Due Process; and Eminent Domain. It states that people accused of crimes have rights and there must be evidence in order for a person to go on trial. A person also cannot be tried twice for the same crime and they must receive a fair trial. Lastly, the government cannot take your land for public use without paying a full price for it. The second one is the Fourteenth Amendment. It was proposed on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1868. It addresses citizenship rights and equal protection to the laws, which means everyone, gets equal treatment in life and in court.



The way I would describe Due Process in my government would be the rights a person has that protect his or her life or property. The protections Due Process would protect would be the following. The government cannot take your property unless they have your permission. You have certain rights that government can't take, just like in our government, and finally, Due Process would prohibit anyone from treating someone unfairly. The number one thing I would want in my government is diversity. I want diversity because I feel like we need it to thrive and grow as a country. When it comes to trial by jury, in today's society the jury doesn't always consist of all races and genders. I would change this by making sure each gender and race is represented. I also think we should consider diversity when we vote for representatives and try to make sure each race is somewhat involved. I would also like to make going to the doctor or hospital free of charge. I believe that it shouldn't matter whether you're poor or rich you should still be able to get help if you need it. Finally, I want The House of Representatives to be equally democratic and republican, so votes can be fair and equal when it comes to new bills and laws.

The Magna Carta still remains a powerful and important document today. Without it we wouldn't have individual rights. When it comes to our government, we wouldn't have a good justice system, because we wouldn't have the Fifth Amendment which includes the rights of the accused. Immigrants wouldn't have been able to come to our country, because the Fourteenth Amendment wouldn't exist. In conclusion, without the Magna Carta our country wouldn't be the great and influential country we know today.

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