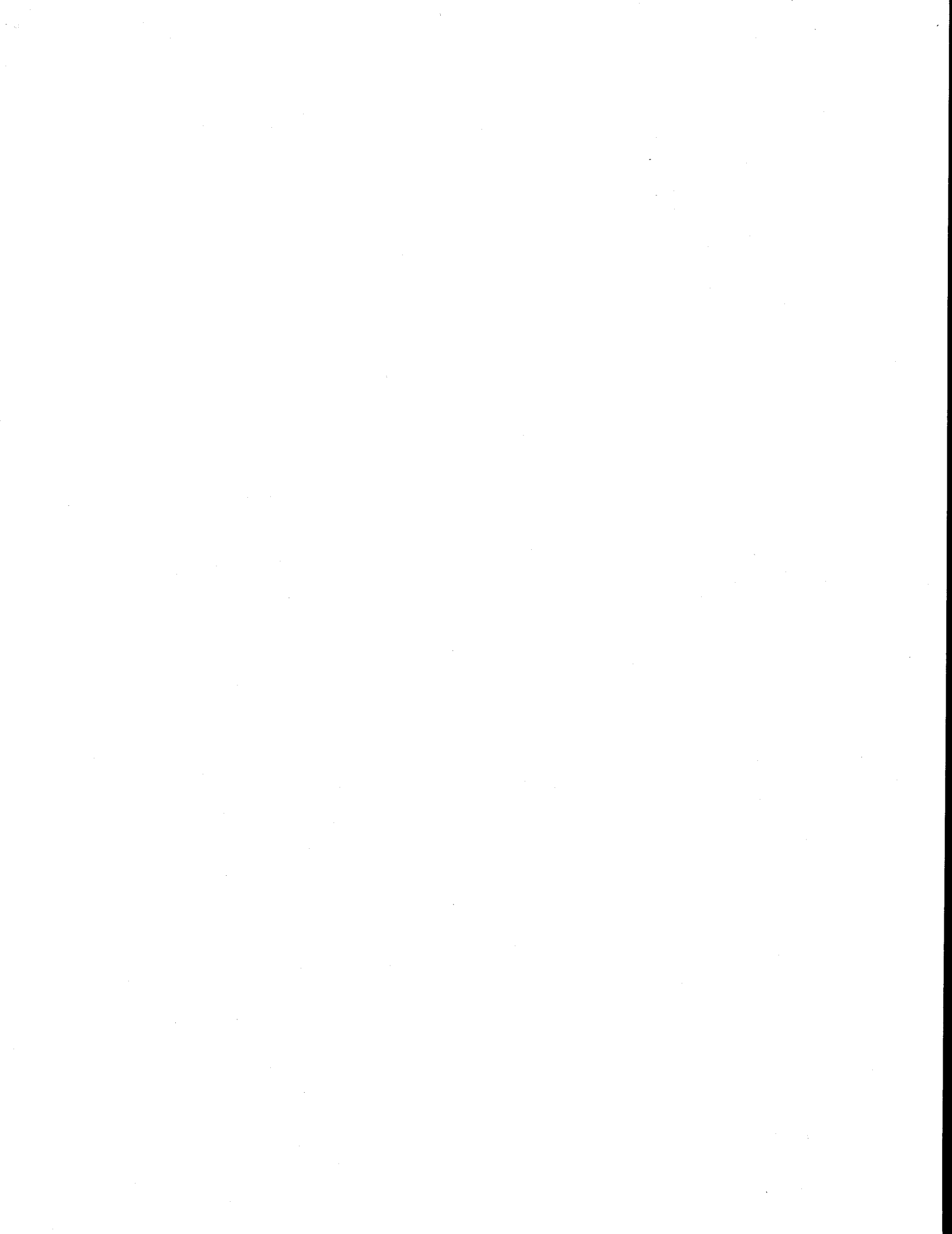


Eight-hundred years ago in England the first effective and comprehensive system of laws was established. It stated that no free man shall be unfairly harmed or punished without a lawful judgment, and that the king guaranteed certain rights and protections for his subjects. This document, the Magna Carta or Great Charter, was a major influence on the United States Constitution, and its key ideas still remain in our system of government. The "due process of law" ensures that every citizen of our nation has a right to a fair trial before being deprived of life, liberty, or property.

If I were to set up a government, I would model it after America's current system. The United States government is very stable, and has a global reputation of protecting the rights of its people. Our government enforces the "due process of law", and ideally everyone is considered innocent until proven guilty. In addition we have a right to a trial with a jury of our peers, before punishment. In the United States the freedom of speech, religion, and movement is guaranteed. This allows us to choose how we want to live our lives, and where we want to live them. In the US there is an impartial judicial system, and a democratic method of electing our president and other leaders. This ensures that the people of our nation freely choose who will lead our country in creating and enforcing legal protections. Some of the most valued protections embedded in our Constitution include laws that prevent discrimination against people based on their race, creed, gender and religion.

Although the United States government is very organized, stable, and successful, there is always room for improvement. Our government and legal system is constantly evolving and improving to overcome obstacles that are being thrown its way. The



judicial system, including the Supreme Court, passes new laws according to hardships in our society at a certain time. For example, in 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed that banned discrimination, making it possible for all races to have a fair chance in voting, employment, and public accommodations. This was a new law and it solved many problems that had been occurring in the past. Laws against abortion, and same sex marriage are current political injustices that are being changed today. Some states allow people to choose whomever they want to marry, and others think that it should be illegal to marry a person of the same gender. The federal law may soon change to accommodate such rights.

The US government is not impeccable, but without the "due process of law", and the Constitution, the country would be chaotic. Our government could be repressive, and we would not be assured our rights and protections. Laws to prevent violence would not be enforced, and people could harm and kill each other without consequences. These problems are displayed in countries without a fair legal system and due process. In Syria, for example, rebel and terrorist groups, are killing innocent humans and aren't being punished by the corrupt government. The chaos and violence in other countries makes me grateful to have such a balanced, and secure legal system keeping the United States a stable country.

The Magna Carta profoundly affected our current government. The legal system, "due process of law" and guaranteed rights, are all rooted in the Great Charter. That is why today, May 1st, 2015, we honor the 800th anniversary of the document that changed the course of history.

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