Smithsonian Associates

# Magna Carta: 1215 to Today

*Thomas J. McSweeney*

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1138-1153- “The Anarchy”- Civil War between two claimants for the throne, Matilda and Stephen

1154- Henry II, Matilda’s heir, ascends the throne.

1166- Assize of Clarendon establishes new procedures for the king’s courts. Additional reforms to the courts in the ensuing years.

1189- Henry II dies and is succeeded by his son, Richard I (“the Lionheart”)

1199- Richard dies and is succeeded by his brother John

1202- King Philip Augustus of France declares John’s lands in France forfeit to the crown

1204- Philip Augustus takes Normandy from John

1205- Hubert Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, dies

1207- Stephen Langton elected archbishop at urging of Pope Innocent III. John rejects him.

1208- Innocent III declares interdict

1209- Innocent III excommunicates John

1212- Innocent III sanctions French invasion of England.

1213- John surrenders England to pope and receives it back as a papal fief. John’s excommunication lifted.

1214- John invades Normandy to try to take it back. Defeated decisively at Battle of Bouvines.

1215

May- Rebel barons renounce their fealty to John

June 15- John assents to Magna Carta

August 24- Innocent III declares Magna Carta void

September- Civil War breaks out

1216

October- John dies. His 9-year-old son succeeds him as Henry III

November- **First Reissue of (Revised) Magna Carta**

1217

September- Civil War ends.

November- **Second Reissue of (Further Revised) Magna Carta**, together with the **Charter of the Forest**, sometimes collectively known as the "Charters of Liberties."

1218- First known use of the term "Magna Carta" to refer to the "big charter"

1225- **Third Reissue of (Further Revised) Magna Carta**.
Confirmations and reissues of the 1225 text in 1237, 1253, 1265, 1297, and 1300

1354- Statute glossing Magna Carta uses phrase "due process of law" for the first time

1607- Case of Prohibitions del Roy- Sir Edward Coke and other justices of the central courts tell King James I that he may not sit personally as a judge in the king's courts.

1648- Laws and Liberties of Massachusetts echo language of Magna Carta

1676- William Penn draws up Fundamental Laws of West New Jersey. Sections on right to jury echo language of Magna Carta

1776

January- Thomas Paine, in his *Common Sense*, suggests that colonies create a constitution, a "Continental Charter; (answering to what is called the Magna Charta of England)"

June- Virginia Declaration of Rights echoes language of Magna Carta