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 **TOOIS**

Vincent, Nicholas (2015) *Magna Carta:Origins and Legacy*. Bodleian Library, University of Oxford. ISBN 9781851243631

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Abstract

Magna Carta is arguably the most famous document in the world. Although it's unclear how many versions survive, more than thirty documents claim to be "originals" of the "Great Charter." Can this be? How many surviving Magna Cartas are there, and in which archives can they be seen? What are the important differences among them in appearance and text? Published on the occasion of the eight hundredth anniversary of Magna Carta, this lavishly illustrated volume draws on recent archival research undertaken by the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Magna Carta project. The book reproduces full-color photographs of more than thirty Magna Cartas from around the world, seeking out the originals, as well as some charters not recorded in any of the surviving charter rolls. Taking readers through the story of the charter's publication in 1215 as part of an agreement between a group of feudal barons and the English king, the book describes how the document was distributed and broadcast to the people. Throughout its rise to one of the most important cornerstones of civil liberties, subsequent versions of Magna Carta also included curious changes, and the book places these changes within historical context. A beautifully illustrated guide to the publication and long legacy of this document that led to the rule of constitutional law today, *Magna Carta: Making and Legacy*, written by one of the world's foremost experts, will be an indispensable resource for those looking to learn more about the charter.

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© UEA All rights reserved. University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, UK. Telephone: +44 (0) 1603 456161 [Accessibility Statement](#) [Legal Statements](#) Magna Carta was the result of the Angevin king's disastrous foreign policy and overzealous financial administration. John had suffered a staggering blow the previous year, having lost an important battle to King Philip II at Bouvines and with it all hope of regaining the French lands he had inherited. While Magna Carta would one day become a basic document of the British Constitution, democracy and universal protection of ancient liberties were not among the barons' goals. The Charter was a feudal document and meant to protect the rights and property of the few powerful families that topped the rigidly structured feudal system. In fact, the majority of the population, the thousands of unfree laborers, are only mentioned once, in a clause concerning the use of court-set fines to punish minor offenses. "Magna Carta has lived in the hearts and minds of our people. It is an incantation of the spirit of liberty. Whatever its text or meaning, it has become the talisman of a society in which tolerance and democracy reside, a society in which each man and woman has and is accorded his or her unique dignity, a society in which power and privilege do not produce tyranny and oppression". Eleanor Roosevelt, Chair of the Human Rights Committee which drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, saw the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an iconic document in the same class as the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta and UDHR share a common regard for the 'rule of law' as the best way to deal with tyranny and oppression. Oliver Cromwell. Stretching from 979 to 2015, this simple timeline charts the key events leading up to the declaration of Magna Carta in 1215, and explores the legacy of the document up to the present day. 979 – Coronation of Æthelred the Unready. Æthelred the Unready takes the traditional three-fold coronation oath of an English king, to uphold peace in the church, to forbid robbery and unrighteousness to all, and to provide justice and mercy in all judgements. 24 August 1215 – Pope annuls Magna Carta. Pope Innocent III issues a papal bull declaring Magna Carta null and void. The papal bull annulling Magna Carta. More articles on Medieval origins. Magna Carta: an introduction. What is Magna Carta? The origins of Magna Carta. King John and the origins of Magna Carta.