

Magna Carta: The King's Compromise with Rebellious Barons

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Magna Carta: The King's Compromise with Rebellious Barons

*"[The Magna Carta] is a story, in short, about the heroic defense of freedom and justice against tyranny."*¹

-Dr. Sophie Ambler, renowned medieval historian

Introduction

King John has been described as one of the worst kings in English history due, in part, to high taxes and fighting with the Catholic Church. Despite this, he is still remembered 800 years later for putting his seal on the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta is perhaps one of the greatest compromises born of conflict. This conflict, between King John and the wealthy and powerful English barons, was, at its heart, due to the barons' anger over the king's excessive taxation and their belief that King John thought he was above the law.² In May of 1215, this anger came to a head leading the barons to organize and capture London. The capture of London was a huge risk, but it paid off. This act of rebellion not only forced King John to acknowledge the growing conflict between the barons and himself, it also led the king to compromise by signing the Magna Carta on June 15th, 1215. Significantly, the Magna Carta led to the formation of the ideas of limited government and human rights shaping western ideals for centuries to come.

¹ Ambler, Sophie, Dr. "The Making of the Magna Carta." *The Historian*, vol. 125, Spring 2015, p. 6.

² Magna Carta and the Emergence of Parliament. UK Parliament, 2014.

Grievances of The Barons

The grievances the barons had against King John were many, including the high taxes he levied against them. The reason John raised taxes was two-fold. First, King Richard, John's brother who reigned from 1189-1199, left debt from England's involvement in the Crusades that needed to be paid.³ Then, when John took the crown in 1199, he created more expenses by living a life of comfort compared to the rest of the country⁴. England didn't have the money needed to support John's lifestyle and pay the debt from the Crusades at the same time. Instead of lowering his standard of living, however, King John solved the problem of how to pay for both his lifestyle and the debt by raising taxes tremendously.⁵ This large raise in taxes meant some barons were now unable to pay their tax bill, leading the king to repossess their homes and land.⁶

The repossession of homes and land certainly bothered the barons, however, the fact that King John raised taxes without consulting them bothered them even more. The Feudal System that was in place at the time made it so John typically talked to the barons before raising taxes. When this didn't happen, the barons became furious and felt that their power was being challenged by the king.

While not being consulted over taxes made the barons feel that their power was being challenged, King John's presence in the country was actually a bigger part of the threat. The barons had become used to holding most of the ruling power during King Richard's reign. According to some historians, Richard spent as little as 6 months in England during his entire 10 year rule.⁷ His long

³ "Richard I, the Lionheart." *Biography*, Gale, 2011. *Gales Databases*, link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ2108101926/MSIC?u=va0040_002&sid=MSIC&xid=7e442fc3. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

⁴ John, King." *UXL Biographies*, UXL, 2011. *Research in Context*, http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ2108101176/MSIC?u=va0040_002&sid=MSIC&xid=7aea9f53. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

⁵ Vincent, Nicholas, Professor. "The Origins of the Magna Carta." *British Library*, 13 Mar. 2015, www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/the-origins-of-magna-carta. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

⁶ Magna Carta and the Emergence of Parliament. UK Parliament, 2014.

⁷ Richard I, the Lionheart." *Biography*, Gale, 2011. *Gales Databases* link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ2108101926/MSIC?u=va0040_002&sid=MSIC&xid=7e442fc3. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

absences meant that he had to defer to the barons to run the country. When John became King, however, he stayed in England more. This limited the barons power and influence and caused conflict between them and John.⁸

High taxes and challenges to their power were not the only grievances the barons had with King John, however. As John took the crown, instead of rewarding the people who had backed him as a youth in rebellions against his family, he dismissed the majority of his followers. To the barons, this showed that the king was unreliable. They felt they could not trust him.⁹ The barons also disliked that King John would force widows, mainly the barons sisters, into marriage and treat them badly. In the Magna Carta the barons voiced their anger with how King John treated the women.¹⁰

“No widow is to be distrained to marry while she wishes to live without a husband, as long as she gives security that she will not marry without our consent, if she holds of us, or without the consent of her lord of whom she holds, if she holds of someone else.

“After the death of her husband a widow is to have her marriage portion and inheritance immediately and without difficulty, nor is she to give anything for her dower, or for her marriage portion, or for the inheritance which she and her husband held on the day of his death, and she may remain in her husband’s house for forty days after his death, during which she is to be assigned her dower.”¹¹

Even worse to the barons than the way John treated his followers and widowed women, was his loss of the English control of Normandy to the French.¹² This was one of the main reasons the barons finally rebelled. People at the time believed the king was backed by God and would be rewarded with victories in battle if he was favored by God. If a king lost, though, it was a sign that he had lost favor

⁸ Magna Carta and the Emergence of Parliament. UK Parliament, 2014.

⁹ "Magna Carta: The Road to Magna Carta." Hosted by Melvyn Bragg. *Magna Carta*, episode 1, BBC Radio 4, 5 Jan. 2015.

¹⁰ Andrew Payne head of Education and Outreach at National Archives, United Kingdom, Email on January 4th 2018.

¹¹ The Articles of the Barons." *The Magna Carta Project*, magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/read/articles_of_barons/all. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

¹² Danziger, Danny, and John Gillingham. *1215: The Year of the Magna Carta*. Touchstone, 2003

with God. Therefore, the large loss of land in Normandy made the barons, and much of the country, believe King John had lost God's favor.¹³

Adding to the belief that King John had lost God's favor were his arguments with Pope Innocent III. One of these arguments focused on the appointment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury. King John wanted John De Gray to become the new archbishop while the pope wanted Stephen Langton. King John refused to let Stephen Langton into England, though. This fight with the church got England excommunicated and brought morale in the country down.¹⁴ The fight with the pope made the barons extremely mad. People's lives revolved around religion. The barons were taught without the Roman Catholic Church you would go to hell; so when churches were closed in 1207 it worried many people.

The Army of God

The barons decided to organize and make their voices heard. They organized themselves into a group in May of 1215 with the help of Archbishop Stephen Langton and Robert Fitzwalter. It is understandable that both Archbishop Langton and Robert Fitzwalter helped lead the rebellion as both had problems with the King¹⁵. John would not let Stephen Langton into England, as stated earlier, when he was chosen as Archbishop of Canterbury. Eventually, though, he did become Archbishop and he did get into England. His role in the Magna Carta is quite interesting because he helped the barons organize, but he was listed as a loyalist on the Magna Carta¹⁶. This suggests that he tried to stay as neutral as possible and not actually choose a clear side. As for Robert Fitzwalter, he clearly was on the side of the barons and for good reason. It is speculated that King John poisoned Matilda Fitzwalter, Robert's

¹³ Magna Carta: The Road to Magna Carta." Hosted by Melvyn Bragg. *Magna Carta*, episode 1, BBC Radio 4, 5 Jan. 2015.

¹⁴ "John, King." *UXL Biographies*, UXL, 2011. *Research in Context*,

¹⁵ Magna Carta and the Emergence of Parliament. UK Parliament, 2014.

¹⁶ Magna Carta: Runnymede, 1215." *Runnymede, 1215*, episode 2, BBC 4, 6 Jan. 2015.

daughter¹⁷. The two men organized the barons into a group called the Marshals of the Army of God, known simply as the Army of God. They believed themselves to be doing God's work¹⁸. In the Crowland Chronicles it states:

"Therefore, those who had come together at first with uncertain spirit, raised their many complaints against the King, and having accused him, condemned him, saying that they should no longer have him for King... And so, a true conspiracy arose against him. Having appointed leaders of the army whom they called 'marshals of the army of God'¹⁹

The Army of God had the support of Prince Louis VIII of France. He offered military support if needed, which it eventually was in the civil war that followed suit.²⁰ This support that the barons found abroad, however, did not equate to having everyone's support inside the country. The Earls of Warenne, Arundel, Chester, Pembroke, Derby, and Salisbury stayed loyal to the King. These earls, being in higher positions, had much more to lose than their peers.²¹

The Capturing of London

The Army of God decided to act while led by Robert Fitzwalter.²² The decision to act was fraught with risk. If the barons failed, King John could have them charged with treason.²³ Despite this, they proceeded with their plans and captured London on 17 May 1215.²⁴ With 500 knights and little

¹⁷ "Matilda Fitzwalter Memorial." *FindaGrave*, www.findagrave.com/memorial/57457680/matilda-fitzwalter#. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

¹⁸ Magna Carta and the Emergence of Parliament. UK Parliament, 2014.

¹⁹ N. Vincent, 'Feature of the Month: May 2015 - The Rebel Seizure of London, 17 May 1215', *The Magna Carta Project*[http://magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/read/feature_of_the_month/May_2015 accessed 12 February 2018]

²⁰ "Magna Carta: The Aftermath of Runnymede." *Magna Carta*, episode 3, BBC Radio 4, 7 Jan. 2015.

²¹ N. Vincent, 'Feature of the Month: May 2015 - The Rebel Seizure of London, 17 May 1215', *The Magna Carta Project*[http://magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/read/feature_of_the_month/May_2015 accessed 12 February 2018]

²² Magna Carta and the Emergence of Parliament. UK Parliament, 2014.

²³ "Treason? The Trial of the Magna Carta Barons." *Trial of the Magna Carta*, UK Supreme Court, 31 July 2015.

²⁴ N. Vincent, 'Feature of the Month: May 2015 - The Rebel Seizure of London, 17 May 1215', *The Magna Carta Project*[http://magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/read/feature_of_the_month/May_2015 accessed 12 February 2018]

resistance from the common folk, who had also felt the impact of King John's reign, the city was captured with ease. The people of London described how the capture of their city happened, "Going ahead of the others, scaled the wall by means of steps that had been made for the wall's repair. Opening one gate, they let their men in through another."²⁵ This description has been disputed, however. Historians actually believe that the citizens of the city openly let the barons in because of their disgust with the King. The citizens did not want King John to know this, though, because they feared he would punish them.

In order to further get the King's attention during the seizure of the city, the barons captured his supporters and took their goods. In the Crowland Chronicles, it states,

*"Occupying Northampton, they attacked various of the King's castles, boldly seizing as their prey those things that the King himself had preyed upon. With alliances sworn with the citizens of London via go-betweens, and with the earl of Salisbury approaching the city, on Sunday morning, 17 May, having prepared their manoeuvres, the barons came to London and seized it without opposition, the citizens being busy at Mass. Having entered, the barons captured all of the King's supporters whom they found, depriving them of their goods."*²⁶

These tactics worked and helped the barons meet with King John, but this was not the only reason the king agreed to meet. John realized that he could not win in this conflict. Even at that time, London was a city of considerable size and one man could not capture it back. If John desired peace he, would need to compromise. This led to the king and the barons meeting in Runnymede.²⁷

²⁵ "Magna Carta: The Road to Magna Carta." Hosted by Melvyn Bragg. *Magna Carta*, episode 1, BBC Radio 4, 5 Jan. 2015.

²⁶ N. Vincent, 'Feature of the Month: May 2015 - The Rebel Seizure of London, 17 May 1215', *The Magna Carta Project*[http://magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/read/feature_of_the_month/May_2015 accessed 12 February 2018]

²⁷ "Magna Carta: The Road to Magna Carta." Hosted by Melvyn Bragg. *Magna Carta*, episode 1, BBC Radio 4, 5 Jan. 2015.

Sealing the Magna Carta

King John met with the barons in June of 1215 for negotiations in Runnymede (Appendix I). The main negotiations were done by Archbishop Stephen Langton and The Magna Carta was sealed with the King's seal on 15 June²⁸. While it is not certain who wrote the Great Charter, it is certain that John bent to the will of the barons, in an effort to avoid civil war and keep his crown, and placed his seal on it.²⁹ In *Flowers of History* it stated,

Accordingly, at the time and place pre-agreed on, the king and nobles came to the appointed conference, and when each party had stationed themselves apart from the other, they began a long discussion about terms of peace and the aforesaid liberties. . . . At length, after various points on both sides had been discussed, King John, seeing that he was inferior in strength to the barons, without raising any difficulty, granted the underwritten laws and liberties, and confirmed them by his charter”³⁰

By sealing the Magna Carta, John helped introduce many new ideas into English governance. It put forth the notion that no one is above God's law. It also introduced the idea of the twenty-five barons. This concept, which was considered radical, consisted of creating a group of twenty-five barons who would watch over John to make sure he was obeying the charter as well as deal with minor problems. There were also quite a few clauses in the Magna Carta that were written with the citizens of London in mind and benefitted them specifically.³¹

²⁸ "Magna Carta: Runnymede, 1215." *Runnymede, 1215*, episode 2, BBC 4, 6 Jan. 2015.

²⁹ Jones, Dan. "Magna Carta and Kingship." *British Library*, 13 Mar. 2015, www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-and-kingship. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

³⁰ Wendover, Rodger. "Flowers of History." *Fordham University*, sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/wendover1215.asp. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

³¹ "Magna Carta: Runnymede, 1215." *Runnymede, 1215*, episode 2, BBC 4, 6 Jan. 2015

Magna Carta Annulled

Unfortunately, only 10 weeks after it was put into place, Pope Innocent III declared the Magna Carta invalid. The king, who had awarded the church power to heal the the broken relationship between the barons and himself, sent a letter requesting the pope invalidate the charter. John made the request after being embarrassed that the 25 barons would not come to his bedside when he was ill and desired them to do so, instead insisting that he come to them. The document being declared null plunged England into a civil war, called the Barons First War. King John died in the middle of the war on 19 October 1216.³²

Effects

History was made with the Magna Carta. Even though some the clauses are now considered futile, few other documents have stood the test of time like it has. The Magna Carta may have failed at its original goal of ending a civil war before it began, but it served as an inspiration to the founding fathers when writing the Declaration of Independence and Constitution³³. It has also been used in many court cases throughout English history³⁴ and is still a part of English law today after being reissued in both 1225 and 1297³⁵. A few important concepts affecting modern English law can be seen in clauses 39 and 40 of the Magna Carta. Clause 39 states, “*No free man is to be arrested or imprisoned, or disseised, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any other way ruined, nor will we go against him or send against him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land,*” and clause 40 states, “*We will not sell, or deny, or delay right or justice to anyone.*”³⁶ Most of the effects of the Magna Carta were

³² "Magna Carta: The Aftermath of Runnymede." *Magna Carta*, episode 3, BBC Radio 4, 7 Jan. 2015.

³³ Musson, Anthony. "Magna Carta- Foundation of Freedom." *Royal Historical Society*, 22 May 2015, royalhistosoc.org/

³⁴ Rozenburg, Josh. "Magna Carta in the Modern Age." *British Library*, 13 Mar. 2015, www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-in-the-modern-age. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

³⁵ Payne National Archives, United Kingdom, January 4th 2018.

³⁶ "Magna Carta." 15 June 1215. *British Library*, www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/

not immediate, but there were some effects that took place almost immediately. For example, the Magna Carta almost completely stopped the forced marriage of women shortly after it was sealed by the king.³⁷

Conclusion

King John's institution of high taxes, loss of large amounts of land, and unreliability pushed the barons to the point of rebellion. Forming the Army of God and seizing London succeeded in capturing the King's attention. After coming to the conclusion that he could not win the battle, King John met with the barons at Runnymede. Several days of discussion produced a compromise and the Magna Carta was signed. The Magna Carta introduced current western ideals, such as human rights and limited government, making it one of the greatest compromises in history. Our world would not be the same without the Magna Carta.

magna-carta-english-translation. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

³⁷ Payne National Archives, United Kingdom, January 4th 2018.

Appendix A

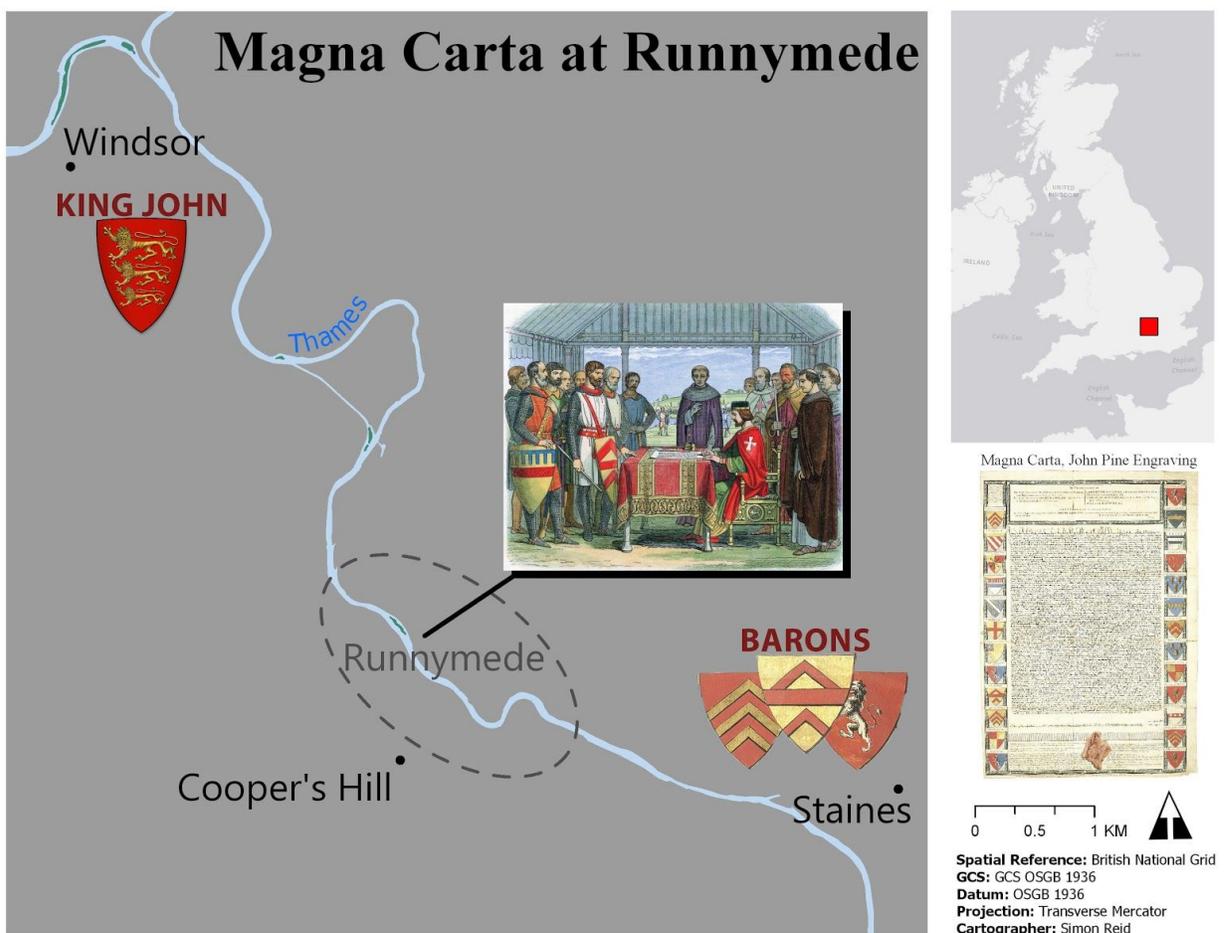


Image Sources: Esri; Magna Carta. Photo. Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Web. 27 Mar. 2018; Wikimedia Commons. Web. 27 Mar. 2018.

This is map explaining why Runnymede was chosen it was created by Simon J Reid my father who has a master in geography and is a professional cartographer. Reid, Simon Jeffery. *Magna Carta at Runnymede*. 2018. Map

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

"The Articles of the Barons." *The Magna Carta Project*,
magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/read/articles_of_barons/all. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

The Articles of The Barons is a draft of the Magna Carta and was helpful in showing the main wants and needs of the barons but also in showing compromises when comparing the two documents. I feel like this source was one of the most important primary sources when looking for a compromise in the Magna Carta. I wish I could read the actual document instead of the translation in English.

Edward, I. "Magna Carta Reissued 1297." 1297. *Fordham University*,
sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/conf-charters.asp. Accessed 19 Feb. 2018.

Edward I's version of the Magna Carta was useful because it helped show the changes of the barons but also showed a historical effect of making sure the Magna Carta was in English law, This document also showed how the Magna Carta had become a document that kings could use to make more compromises with future barons

Innocent III, Pope. "The papal bull annulling Magna Carta." 24 Aug. 1215. *British Library*,
www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-papal-bull-annulling-magna-carta. Accessed 19 Feb. 2018.

When Pope Innocent III called the Magna Carta invalid he put England into civil war. Seeing this document helped show a few things, notably the improvement in King John's relationship with the Pope.

It also showed how the Magna Carta was trying to stop a war. I do wish I could read the original Latin

"Magna Carta." 15 June 1215. *British Library*,
www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-english-translation. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

It was really important to be able to read the Magna Carta to see what the barons wanted and how they compromised but it was cool to see how each version looked so unique and so much time was put into each copy to make sure the barons got what they wanted.

"Matilda Fitzwalter Memorial." *FindaGrave*,

www.findagrave.com/memorial/57457680/matilda-fitzwalter#. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. The grave of Matilda Fitzwalter helped provide information on the legend of her death which is said to have inspired Robert Fitzwalter, her father, to join the rebellion. This source was not the best of quality but it worked enough.

N. Vincent, 'Feature of the Month: May 2015 - The Rebel Seizure of London, 17 May 1215', *The Magna Carta Project*[http://magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/read/feature_of_the_month/May_2015 accessed 12 February 2018] This document gave me first-hand experience of how London was captured, the effects on the city and people, and also how it got the Kings attention. I think this source was so important to my project as it had multiple primary sources on the page. The quality was also very high to where I could easily understand this source. This source also led me to other important sources .

Wendover, Rodger. "Flowers of History." *Fordham University*,

sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/wendover1215.asp. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018.

This gave an account of the signing of the Magna Carta which helped me picture the event and also proved crucial detail in terms of numbers and other small things. This document was small but still crucial in painting the story in the reader's mind.

Secondary Sources

Ambler, Sophie, Dr. "The Making of the Magna Carta." *The Historian*, vol. 125, Spring 2015, p. 6. *Historical Association*, file:///C:/Users/ms_lab132/Downloads/Historian_125%20(1).pdf. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. Much historical context to the whole situation not only in England but to the broader world was proved by the source . It gave some great comparisons to really understand the whole situation also proved a great quote to open with. This source had the best quality of my secondary sources and provided so much context to my project.

C N Trueman "Magna Carta"

historylearningsite.co.uk. The History Learning Site, 5 Mar 2015. 15 Mar 2018 The importance of the source was high ,it helped clarify and stress the importance of England getting kicked out of the church and how the barons played a part of King Richard's Reign and how that changed with John. This source really helped me realize the importance of some of the small details.

Danzinger, Danny, and John Gillingham. *1215: The Year of the Magna Carta*. Touchstone, 2003. The book was pretty much pure context to show how the people lived and worked at the time, and how lives changed from the Magna Carta, and the whole year leading up to it. The book was very well written and helped show some very important insights into the lives of the people of the England

Jones, Dan. "Magna Carta and Kingship." *British Library*, 13 Mar. 2015, www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-and-kingship. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. The webpage helped show how the monarchy held each position of power and the spots of different barons. Most importantly the article helped provide insight of the non rebellious barons.

"King John." 2011. *Gale*, UXL Biography, 2011. *Gales Databases*, link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ2108101176/MSIC?u=va0040_002&sid=MSIC&xid=7aea9f53.

Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. General information about King John's life and how he upset the barons was provided in this database.

"King John of England." *DISCovering Biography*, Gale, 2003. *Research in Context*,

http://0-link.galegroup.com.aries.jmrl.org/apps/doc/EJ2102100938/MSIC?u=va0040_002&sid=MSIC&xid=927cd6fe. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. I mainly used this source for information involving wars that lost land specifically Normandy, although the information provided was very general, this source was a great starting point of research.

"Magna Carta." Reviewed by Goldwin Smith. *The New Book of Knowledge*. Scholastic Grolier Online
A general source but provided a great place to start and helped me identify specific people involved the the Magna Carta.

"Magna Carta." *Salisbury Cathedral*, www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/magna-carta/what-magna-carta.

Accessed 19 Feb. 2018. The website Completely general but helped lead me to better sources and even experts. I could have produced a good project without this source but not without the ones it led me to.
Magna Carta and the Emergence of Parliament. UK Parliament, 2014. The Army of God was deeply explained in this video and it proved much historical information of the event/time period.

"Magna Carta: Runnymede, 1215." *Runnymede, 1215*, episode 2, BBC 4, 6 Jan. 2015. The podcast explained why Runnymede was chosen as the location in great detail, and proved to be my second favorite secondary source.

"Magna Carta: The Aftermath of Runnymede." *Magna Carta*, episode 3, BBC Radio 4, 7 Jan. 2015. The capturing of London and the baron's grievances were detailed in this radio show. My project relied heavily on this source as it provided many important parts of the story of the Magna Carta.

"Magna Carta: The Road to Magna Carta." Hosted by Melvyn Bragg. *Magna Carta*, episode 1, BBC Radio 4, 5 Jan. 2015. This more specifically talked about capturing London and barons grievances this source had experts on the Magna Carta. This source was so important giving me so many parts this story. My project relied on this source.

Morris, Marc. *King John Treachery and Tyranny in Medieval England the Road to the Magna Carta*. Pegasus Books, 2015. General information provided in the book it was great starting point.

Musson, Anthony. "Magna Carta- Foundation of Freedom." *Royal Historical Society*, 22 May 2015, royalhistsoc.org/anthony-musson-magna-carta-the-foundation-of-freedom/. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. This article explained how the Magna Carta directly influenced freedom.

Payne, Andrew. "Magna Carta Report." 4 Jan. 2018. Andrew Payne helped explain to me why the Magna Carta is still in English law and its effects for women. He also helped edit my project and that was very useful making him a very important part of my project.

Reid, Simon Jeffery. *Magna Carta at Runnymede*. 2018. Map. Magna Carta at Runnymede is a map highlighting why Runnymede was chosen.

"Richard I, the Lionheart." *Biography*, Gale, 2011. *Gales Databases*, link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ2108101926/MSIC?u=va0040_002&sid=MSIC&xid=7e442fc3. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. General information about Richard I the lionheart and the debts from the Crusades were proved in this source.

Rozenburg, Josh. "Magna Carta in the Modern Age." *British Library*, 13 Mar. 2015, www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/magna-carta-in-the-modern-age. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. Though this source was not of best quality because it was

"Treason? The Trial of the Magna Carta Barons." *Trial of the Magna Carta*, UK Supreme Court, 31 July 2015. This fictional court trial showed how barons could have been tried for treason and how they were being quite daring. The source also proved great facts and numbers.

Vincent, Nicholas, Professor. "The Origins of the Magna Carta." *British Library*, 13 Mar. 2015, www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/the-origins-of-magna-carta. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. Gives brief and general but useful information on the Magna Carta. This source was less general than some but still not the most specific, because of that its quality is in the middle.

What Is Magna Carta? British Library. Helped explain the Barons First War and other general information. This source was not the best quality because of how general the source was but it was a great starting point..

"Why Does King John Face Rebellion." *United Kingdom National Archives*, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/medieval/magna-carta/index.php. Accessed 12 Feb. 2018. Showed grievances of the barons and why they were mad. This source was not the best quality because of how general the source was.

