

- 0. THE POPE RESPONDS - Story Preface
- 1. WHAT IS THE MAGNA CARTA
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- 4. THE POPE RESPONDS**
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This contemporary illustration—a fresco depicting Pope Innocent III, circa 1219—purports to show the likeness of the Pope who opposed the barons during their quarrels with King John of England. The fresco is located at the cloister Sacro Speco (at the Monastery of St. Benedict in Subiaco, located east of Rome) and was created by an unknown 13th-century artist. Innocent III was born as “Lotario de’ Conti” and lived between 1198 and 1216. The fresco was created about three years after his death. Image online via Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain. Click on the image for a better view.

Pope Innocent III was shocked. It wasn't merely John's concessions that upset the pontiff. It was the audacity of the nobility who had used force to get what they wanted.

And there was something else: King John had "given" England to the Pope as a fiefdom in 1213. Although that action had been opposed by the barons and the English Church - especially Stephen Langton, then Archbishop of Canterbury - Innocent III considered King John to be his vassal.

The Pope thought he should have been consulted before the "Great Charter" was signed.

He promptly excommunicated every baron who signed the *Magna Carta*.

He then declared the "Great Charter" null and void.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-POPE-RESPONDS-Magna-Carta)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-POPE-RESPONDS-Magna-Carta)

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Media Stream



Stephen Langton

Image online, courtesy the findagrave.com website.

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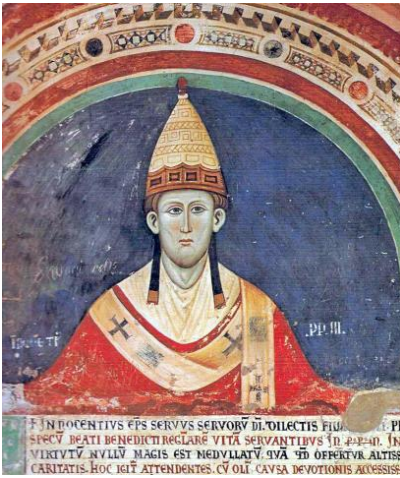


Canterbury

Image online, courtesy the University of Twente website.

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