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THE BARONS PREVAIL

Forty barons were weary of King John's efforts to minimize their rights. In 1215, they prevailed upon the King to sign the *Magna Carta* (the "Great Charter") which protected their rights. Among their gains, from the King, was the right of *habeas corpus* (still an important legal right). This image, from the British Library, depicts the *Magna Carta* as it appears in the statutes of Britian. The Library <u>describes it with these words</u>: "This manuscript of statutes, which would have been used by lawyers and administrators, contains the text of the 1215 *Magna Carta*, the 1225 *Magna Carta* issued by Henry III and the *Charter of the Forest*."

In those days, before the Church of England existed, excommunication was a terrible penalty. The mere threat of it often caused people to change course.

The *Magna-Carta* barons remained undaunted. The "<u>Great Charter</u>" is the product of their defiance. (Be sure to use the zoom feature to closely examine this ancient document. <u>Click here</u> to read an English translation.)

Four original copies of the Magna Carta still exist. Two are kept at the British Museum in London; one is located at Lincoln Cathedral (once the tallest building in the world); and the fourth is at Salisbury Cathedral.

For Great Britain, Magna Carta is Statute Number One.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-BARONS-PREVAIL-Magna-Carta

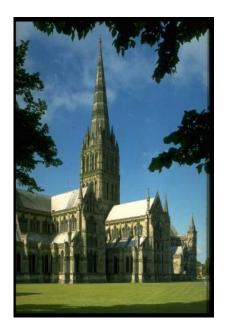
See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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Media Stream



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THE BARONS PREVAIL

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