



The Changing Power of Monarchs and The Magna Carta



Vocabulary

Monarchy - A form of government that has a single person at its head (king, queen).

Monarch - The King/Queen.

Absolute monarchy - When the monarch has all the power.

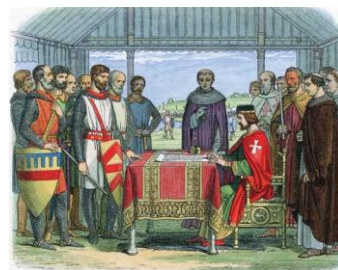
Shared monarchy - When the monarch shares power.

Constitution - A set of rules that guides how a country works.

Democracy - When the people have a say in how the government is run.

Magna Carta

The Magna Carta (Latin for "Great Charter") was a document that gave certain rights to the English people. **King John of England** agreed to it on **June 15, 1215**. The Magna Carta stated that the king must follow the law. He could not simply rule as he wished. It was one of the first documents to state that citizens had such **rights**.



In the Middle Ages, the king was the most important and powerful man in England.

- He owned all the land.
- He was supported by **the Church**.
- He gave land to his followers in return for their loyalty.
- He made the laws.
- He was an **absolute monarch**.

Now, the monarch is just one part of the government.

- They have no political power (they can't make laws).
- We vote for the people who make the laws and run our country.
- They are a **constitutional monarch**.

Hereditary monarchy

This is when the role of king or queen is passed down in the family. After the current monarch dies, their **eldest son** will become king. If they have only daughters, then the **eldest daughter** will become queen.



