



# The Charter That Would Not Stay Dead

*WisdomForge Booklet — Adult*



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### About This Book

This booklet is for people who vote, hire, serve on boards, read news, and quote "Magna Carta" in rooms where nobody will grade them except the people who have to live with what they said. High band was source protocol for a course of study. This band is civic literacy. The sitting map is the same six beats. The Practice is not.

On 15 June 1215, at Runnymede, King John sealed a royal charter of sixty-three later-numbered clauses. On 24 August, Pope Innocent III declared it void. War followed. A November 1216 reissue under William Marshal dropped the teeth. 1217 split forest law into its own charter and gave the Great Charter its nickname: the bigger twin. In 1225 Henry III, of age, put his own seal on a shorter text in exchange for a tax. In 1297 Edward I's Inspeximus put that tradition on the statute roll. Coke, 1689, American due-process language, and tourist bronze did the rest. The 1215 text was a feudal peace attempt. The symbol is an afterlife. Adults who mash them are not being poetic. They are being inaccurate in public.

Sittings exist. This booklet does not ship gold art or a site page. It does not give legal advice, voting instructions, or a way to charge a neighbor. It will not name a family. It will not call itself safe.

Every block quote is a real clause or statute as in Harry's pack (British Library / Holt numbering for 1215; Harry 2.6 for the security clause; 1354 as in 2.3; Fifth Amendment as public text without the high band's ellipsis cut; Forest Charter in National Archives English of the 1225 reissue of the 1217 split; 1689 as in Harry 6.3). If you need a courtroom, hire a lawyer. If you need a priest, call a priest.

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# Chapter 1: A Grant Written Like a Surrender



*Illustration for Chapter 1*

Adults meet Magna Carta as furniture: a gift-shop poster, a lawyer's throat-clearing, a politician's "since 1215." The furniture is the afterlife. The event is a king with no army putting wax on a list because London was gone.

John Lackland was not a fable villain you need for a party. He was the youngest son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, heir by deaths and by Richard I's decade away on Crusade, in an emperor's prison, and in France, financed by squeezing England. He inherited in 1199 an Angevin span and the resentment of that squeeze. He used courts, sheriffs, and feudal taps without the old restraint, lost Normandy, Anjou, Maine, and Touraine to Philip II in 1204 — a catastrophe for barons who held land on both sides of the Channel — fought the Church into interdict and excommunication, bought papal cover by making England a fief in 1213, then lost Bouvines in 1214 on an expedition his barons had been forced to pay for. The barons who had paid for the war took the capital in May 1215. Runnymede is halfway because neither camp would walk into the other. The legal form is a royal grant under the Great Seal. The political fact is a coerced settlement. Adults who say "the king granted liberty" are reciting the form. Adults who say "the people rose" are reciting a later country.

Innocent's bull is an adult fact because it is how power undoes parchment without shrugging. Duress, papal overlordship, a security clause that licensed distress against a vassal-king: attackable in that legal world. The barons declined to treat the bull as the last word and invited Louis of France. John's death at Newark Castle in October 1216 changed the personal grievance. Harry's files disagree on the day: 3.3 writes 19 October; 3.4 writes 18 October. Dysentery is the usual account; poisoning is sometimes offered and not established. Name the disagreement in the first telling. Do not tidy a king into a single calendar line to make a speech land. Marshal reissued a shorter charter for a child in November 1216 — about 42 clauses, teeth gone. That is not a miracle of liberty. It is regime maintenance: peel rebels from a French prince.

When you hear "Magna Carta" in a speech, ask which object the speaker needs. Four objects, not three:

- 15 June 1215: drama, c. 61, a grant already void by 24 August. - November 1216 / 1217: Marshal's political paper; Forest split; the name "Magna" meaning bigger, not magnificent. - 1225: Henry III's own seal, a tax grant, the version that became the legal text — 37 clauses in the later numbering, c. 12 and c. 61 gone. - 1297: Edward I's *Inspeximus*, extracted by the earls of Hereford and Norfolk who would not pay a new tax unless the charters were confirmed, entered on the royal statute roll.

If the speaker cannot say which, they are using a brand. Brands are allowed in advertising. They are sloppy in civic talk.

Holt versus Coke is not a seminar you owe a stranger at dinner. It is a sorting tool, and Harry 7.1 is the adult version of the fight, drafted here at adult length, not as a term paper and not as a cartoon. Feudal reading (Holt, Maitland, Barraclough): forty of sixty-three

clauses are reliefs, wardship, scutage, homage, debt; the subject is a free man; enforcement is twenty-five barons, not a court; the aim is to make a broken feudal contract work. On that reading, later constitutional fame is anachronism — seventeenth-century politics projected onto a medieval list. Constitutional reading (Coke, Stubbs, and in another key Linebaugh): "law of the land," "common counsel," "to no one will we deny" were general enough to be principles from the start; centuries of reissue are recognition, not invention. Synthesis a civic room can use without a seminar: origin feudal, afterlife constitutional, language that traveled because it was useful. If someone needs 1215 to be already the Bill of Rights, they are with Coke's political technology, and Pocock will tell you the history is weak. If someone needs 1215 to be "just feudal trivia," they are over-learning Holt. The adult middle is the synthesis, said without a smirk.

Rooms this chapter is for: the museum gift shop, the naturalization-study group, the civic-club speaker who has twelve minutes, the relative who says "we've had these rights since Runnymede." You do not owe them a lecture. You owe yourself a sorting tool so you do not nod. Nodding is how brands become memory.

Physical facts still fight granite when you are forty. Four 1215 originals, not one holy sheet — Lincoln, Salisbury, two in the British Library — and they differ in small marks. No numbered clauses on the parchment. About the size of a small poster, cramped Latin. If you have only seen bronze, you have not seen the document. The British Library site is the honest next click. Use it after you can say "free man," not instead.

Treat 1216 and 1217 as objects you can say at a dinner without a timeline tattoo. November 1216: Marshal, about 42 clauses, c. 61 and c. 12 gone, core protections kept, a tool to peel rebels from Louis — not a child's philosophy. November 1217: forest clauses split; "Magna" means bigger. If a speaker says "the charter lived on," ask whether they mean Marshal's paper, Henry's 1225 seal, or Edward's 1297 roll. Living-on is a metaphor. Those three are dates.

The Articles of the Barons precede the sealed grant. Negotiation, not revelation. Witness lists mix factions who would not all keep the same side by autumn. Sealing is wax on a ribbon, a royal grant in form, a surrender in fact. Adults who need the form to be the fact will call it "granted liberties." Adults who need the fact to erase the form will call it "just a ceasefire." Both sentences are half. The civic use is to hold both in one breath: it was a grant, and it was extracted, and it was voided, and it was reissued because the extraction had been written down.

Feudal grammar, said for a table rather than a lecture: reliefs, wardship, marriage as market, scutage, debt, sold justice. The barons wanted the existing contract kept. Mutual obligation is the seed later democrats watered. The seed was class-sized. If your dinner

table needs the barons to be heroes of the poor, change the subject or tell the truth. Both are kinder than the costume.

Harry 7.5 belongs in this first sitting because adults will ask "did it even matter?" before dessert. Failure view: annulled in ten weeks; king used the bull as license; barons offered the crown to Louis; war; c. 61 and c. 12 deleted forever. If "matter" means "the barons got what they came for," 1215 failed. Success view: an admission written down cannot be unwritten; 1216, 1225, and 1297 exist because the precedent was useful. Synthesis: practical failure, constitutional success through use. Intention is not effect. Effect is not a license to lie about intention. Despair ("parchment never mattered") and pep ("bronze already contains justice") are the two cheap endings of this debate. Adult work is smaller: name the object, then stop.

A naturalization-study group will often get a one-page "Magna Carta guaranteed our rights." Your job in that room is not a lecture on Holt. It is three sentences: it was a coerced grant; it was voided in ten weeks; the sentences we still quote traveled through 1225, 1297, 1354, and later American paper. If the group needs a fourth sentence, add "free man." If it cannot bear "free man," it is not studying the document. It is studying the poster. You can still love the poster as a civic ritual. You cannot cite it as 1215.

Langton is an architect with a file, not a mascot of liberty: mediator, bishop, in some tellings the man who showed barons Henry I's 1100 coronation charter as a written concession to copy from. Whether or not that scene is tidy, the method is adult-useful: they hunted a prior royal promise they could cite. 1215 is not the first English limit-language. It is the one that got recopied enough to become furniture. Pandulf at the sealing is foreshadowing. Copies to sheriffs are publicity as enforcement — weaker than c. 61, longer-lived. A charter in a chest cannot be cited at a school board any more than at a county court.

### *Big Idea*

A coerced grant can still become a citable limit. Citing it without knowing which century — 1215, 1225, 1297, or bronze — is not reverence. It is fog.

### *Practice*

1. Speech audit. Take one public sentence that uses "Magna Carta" (news, campaign mail, classroom poster, workplace training). Write which object it needs: 1215, 1225, 1297, or symbol. Write one clause or date that would falsify the sentence. Deliverable: three lines. Not a letter to the editor unless you want one; the protocol stops at three lines. 2. Form/fact card for a meeting. Front: "royal charter." Back: "surrender, then a bull." Bring it to the next time someone says "granted." Deliverable: the card. 3. Duress without therapy. In four sentences, explain to a colleague why "he didn't mean it" is both historically true of John and civically insufficient as a reason to ignore written limits. Name 24 August 1215 in one of

the sentences. Deliverable: four sentences. No advice about your workplace contract. 4. Model smear, adult version. Ask a model to explain Magna Carta for a civic club. Mark villeins, the bull, and c. 61. If all three survive, the model is unusually honest. Deliverable: the marked text.

### *Reflect*

When you quote a founding to win a room, are you keeping a limit or borrowing a brand — and how would you tell the difference if nobody in the room has read a clause?

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## Chapter 2: Edges You Can Point To



*Illustration for Chapter 2*

"No one is above the law" is a chant adults use on opponents. 1215 is a list of edges extracted from one king by one class. The list's adult use is not to pretend the chant is 800 years old. It is to remember that chants without lists are weapons.

Clause 39 and 40 are the edges that traveled. Clause 1 is the institutional edge, and it is a grant you can read, not a mood:

*"We have granted to God, and by this our present charter have confirmed, to us and our heirs in perpetuity, that the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished and its liberties unimpaired."*

That Church is not your conscience clause. It is land (Harry 2.5: roughly a third of England), tithes, elections, vacancies, ecclesiastical courts over marriage and wills. Dual authority already limited kings before the meadow. John's Canterbury war was a boundary war. In 1213 he became Innocent's vassal for cover after refusing Langton, seizing Church property, and living through interdict (sacraments, burials, marriages stopped) and excommunication. He accepted Langton only when he needed Rome. Clause 1 then promises Church freedom from the king. The bull of 24 August 1215 voids the charter partly because that same king, as papal vassal, had licensed war on himself without Rome's consent. Adults who want a simple "Church vs tyranny" story will not get it here. "Free" meant free of this king's interference, not free of every later crown, and not pluralism. Henry VIII is not this sitting's work. He is a reminder that institutional independence can be rented, then revoked, while the idea that some domain is not the state's to run still walks around.

A congregation, a university, a press, a professional body: any of them can be a rival jurisdiction or a captured one. 1215 does not tell you which yours is. It tells you a king already met a boundary and then tried to buy Rome. If your civic talk needs clause 1 to be the First Amendment, you are a century map short and a Reformation short. Say "cousin in a different genre" and sit down.

Dicey (1885) and Bingham (2010) are how later lawyers packaged the chant. They are not Runnymede psychology. Opening a board meeting with Dicey and then "Magna Carta" as illustration is centuries backward. You may still find Dicey useful. Date him. Bingham's modern restatement is a twenty-first-century packaging of an English lawyer's rule-of-law list. Useful in a courtroom culture. Not a witness at the meadow. A board that needs 1215 to already contain Bingham will skip the list of edges this chapter actually has.

Reissues are the adult lesson in how limits survive: drop the teeth (c. 61), drop the fiscal lock (c. 12), keep due-process and justice-not-sold language, keep Church freedom as an institutional edge, trade confirmation for tax (1225), force a powerful king onto a statute roll (1297). Harry 1.3's table is the object you can put on a slide: five columns, five years, which clauses lived. Less revolutionary, more permanent. If your politics needs teeth in the text, you lost in 1216. If your politics needs a citable sentence, you gained. Say which you are doing. A budget hearing that confirms a mission statement in exchange for an

appropriation is a cousin of 1225 in structure, not a photocopy. Name the cousin. Do not name Runnymede unless you mean Runnymede.

Harry 7.3 is the method tax on this chapter. Coke needed English liberty to be older than 1066 so Stuart absolutism would look foreign: Englishmen had always had due process and consent; Normans usurped; Magna Carta restored; common law was that ancient constitution. Anglo-Saxon government was monarchical and aristocratic. The Witan advised. It did not run modern due process or representative taxation. Feudal reliefs and scutage have no tidy pre-Conquest constitutional ancestors. Medieval writers did not claim 1215 restored 1066. Pocock (1957) is the book that says the history is wrong and that the error still made English constitutional history because it was usable. An honest error that changes a country is still an error. It is also a fact about 1628. You may still think Coke was right to resist kings. You may not cite him as a 1215 witness. The charter's civic status does not depend on being ancient. It depends on being first as a written royal admission, then used.

Harry 5.1, 5.3, and 5.6 are adult misconception taxes you pay before you use the chant on someone you dislike. The charter did not create democracy. Most clauses are dead law; "still in force" without a clause list is a tour-guide lie. John did not simply refuse; he obtained a voiding. Pay those taxes in the same sitting as the bronze. A workplace or union or church can have a chant without a list. Adults who have been on the wrong side of a chant know the cost. The 1215 list is useful because it is ugly and specific. Specificity is a kind of fairness to opponents: they can show you the clause you meant. If you cannot show a clause, sit down.

Ambrose telling an emperor he is in the church, not over it, is a cousin in another genre (Harry 6.5). Do not baptize the meadow. Do not make a bishop into a baron. Notice only that "the ruler is not the whole of order" is older than wax.

A gift-shop poster that prints "to no one will we sell" and omits "free man" is doing clause 40 as a mascot. You can still buy it. You cannot let it write a training. Clause 40's "no one" is real language. Clause 39's subject is also real. Hold them in tension in the same room. If the room can only bear one, it is not ready for this sitting.

Church dual-authority, adult application: not "bring back ecclesiastical courts." The application is that concentrated power hates rival jurisdictions. Schools, professions, churches, cities — any of them can be a rival jurisdiction or a captured one. 1215 does not tell you which yours is. It tells you that a king already met a boundary and then tried to buy Rome. Boundaries can be rented. That is an adult sentence.

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Clause 13 (London's liberties) belongs in the same breath as c. 1: the charter is a coalition document. Church, city, barons. Coalitions are not peoples. "We the people of 1215" is a category error in a naturalization class and in a campaign mailer.

A board packet that opens with "no one is above the law" and then prints a bronze king has already chosen symbol. You can still use the packet if you add a list. The list this chapter offers: c. 1 as Church inventory; c. 39 as a class gate; c. 40 as "no one"; c. 12 as a deleted lock; c. 61 as deleted teeth; 1225 as seal-for-tax; 1297 as roll. Seven lines. If the packet cannot bear seven lines, it is a poster with minutes attached.

Angevin machinery is the adult explanation of why a list was worth a war. Royal courts, treasury, sheriffs, itinerant justices: more direct reach than most medieval kings had. The barons were not asking John to abolish the machine. They were asking him to write down the restraint that made it tolerable. Specificity is not pedantry. It is how you keep a chant from becoming a weapon against whoever is in the room this week.

### *Big Idea*

Written edges are a technology. Clause 1 writes one as Church freedom in perpetuity. 1225 and 1297 write others as dated bargains. The technology can be a lie, a statute, a myth, and a resource in the same week. Sorting is adult work.

### *Practice*

1. Chant-to-list. Write "no one is above the law." Under it, 1215 who, 1354 who, Fifth Amendment who, Fourteenth "no state shall" if you know it. Deliverable: the stack. If you cannot fill 1215 who, you are not ready to use the chant in public. 2. Confirmation-for-tax. In a budget season, write one paragraph that distinguishes "we fund you if you reaffirm a limit" from "we fund you because we like you." Name 1225 or 1297 as a cousin, not a photocopy. Deliverable: the paragraph. Not a vote instruction. 3. Coke risk. The next time a speaker treats Magna Carta as pre-Conquest English liberty, you will say one sentence: Coke's 1628 politics, not 1215. Practice the sentence aloud. Deliverable: the sentence,

written. 4. Kitchen clauses. Name one 1215 grievance that is not due process (weirs, measures, wardship). Why it mattered to someone who lived it. Deliverable: five lines. The point is to stop due process from eating the whole charter in your mouth.

### *Reflect*

If a limit you love was extracted under duress and then confirmed for money, does that cheapen it, explain it, or both — and which answer do you use on your opponents versus yourself?

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## Chapter 3: Process Before the Knock



*Illustration for Chapter 3*

Adults meet due process as a feeling: I should have gotten a warning. 1215 is a machine.

*"No free man shall be taken or imprisoned or disseised or outlawed or exiled or in any way destroyed, nor will we go upon him nor send upon him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land."*

Who. Harms. Raid language. Gate. Peers are rank-equals. Law of the land is forms — writs, Common Pleas / King's Bench / Exchequer, cases that should sit at Westminster rather than follow the household — not a pocket constitution.

*"To no one will we sell, to no one will we deny or delay right or justice."*

Hold 39 and 40 in tension in any room where someone says "Magna Carta says everyone gets a hearing." 39's subject is a class. 40's language is wider. Do not let either silently eat the other.

1354 is not a mention in this band. It is a block, because this is the English statute that actually says the phrase American trainings steal:

*"No man of what estate or condition that he be, shall be put out of land or tenement, nor taken, nor imprisoned, nor disinherited, nor put to death, without being brought in answer by due process of law."*

Two changes: who ("what estate or condition") and the phrase ("due process of law"). Dates are jobs. A school-board packet that says "due process comes from Magna Carta" without 1354 and 1791 is a blender. Unplug it.

The Fifth Amendment due-process clause, as public constitutional text, without the high band's ellipsis cut:

*"No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."*

That amendment is doing several jobs at once: grand jury, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, due process, takings. Adults who quote only "due process" from Magna Carta while waving the Fifth are mixing a meadow, a 1354 statute, and a 1791 federal catalogue. Fourteenth aims process (and equal protection) at the states. Four dates, four jobs: 1215, 1354, 1791, 1868. Mash them and you cannot say which paper did which work. A training

slide that prints the Fifth and captions it "Magna Carta, 1215" is a blender with a logo. Unplug it even if you like the trainer.

1354 is not universal suffrage. It is not racial equality. It is not 1868. It is a statutory widening of who gets the path and a naming of the path. If your anger needs 1354 to have already done the Fourteenth, you will misuse both. If your calm needs 1215 to have already done 1354, you will skip the statute that actually says the English phrase. Dates are jobs. Jobs are how you stay accurate when nobody is grading you.

Sham process is the adult problem. A hearing whose end is fixed. An HR investigation with no notice. A public comment period after the vote. Those are analogies. Name them as analogies. This booklet will not tell you how to sue. It will tell you that 1215's gate can be decoration when it always opens the king's way, and a class tool when it is closed to people the text does not name. A code of conduct that always finds the same students is closer to sold justice than to clause 40, even if the letterhead is kind. Analogies are not filings. Dates still are jobs.

Substantive due process is an American judicial fight. Do not back-date it to a meadow to win a culture-war point. Procedural path is the descendant. If you need the other doctrine, argue it as itself.

Coke's *Second Institute* is how many American lawyers met 1215. Transmission is not original meaning. If you are about to say "the Founders were just restating Magna Carta," you are skipping 1354, Coke, 1689, and a revolution. That is a lot to skip for a slogan. Coke did not coin "due process of law." 1354 already used the phrase. What Coke did was read *lex terrae* as that tradition and then load parliamentary claims onto 1215. If a secondary source says he coined the phrase, correct the secondary in the room if the room can bear it. If it cannot, correct it in your own notes. Transmission errors are how bronze gets written.

HR, schools, licensing boards, HOAs, platforms: modern process theaters. This booklet will not litigate them. It will say: notice, a chance to answer, a decision-maker who is not the accuser — those are the procedural descendants. A theater that always finds the same people guilty is closer to John's sold justice than to clause 40, even if the letterhead is kind. Analogies are not filings.

If you serve on a jury, this booklet is not your instructions. If you write student-conduct policy, this booklet is not your counsel. If you are angry, date your anger. 1215, 1354, 1791, and 1868 are four different jobs. Anger that needs them to be one job will misuse all four.

Clause 17 (common pleas in a fixed place) is the unglamorous cousin adults skip because it does not sing. You should not have to chase a court around the country to be heard. Kitchen clauses (weirs, measures) explain why parchment was worth a war. Famous clauses

traveled. Kitchen clauses paid for the war. A civic-club talk that only reprints c. 39 is doing bronze, not 1215.

Mashaw's administrative-state worry is a modern question, not a 1215 claim: when is process a path, and when is it a show? Adults who have sat through a hearing that always ends the same way already know the question. 1215 cannot answer your agency. It can keep you from calling every show "Magna Carta" and every path "tyranny." Jury language in the Sixth Amendment is a grandchild of "judgment of his peers," which in 1215 meant rank-equals, not a random modern panel. Do not grade 1215 as a failed Sixth. Do not grade the Sixth as "just Magna Carta." A room that needs them to be the same room will misuse both.

If you write a letter to a licensing board, this booklet is not your counsel. If you are about to post "this violates Magna Carta," quote a clause or sit down. The internet is full of bronze. It is short of dates.

### *Big Idea*

Process is a dated path that widened by statute and amendment. Feelings of unfairness are real. They are not a clause. 1354 and the Fifth Amendment are clauses. Use them as clauses.

### *Practice*

1. Packet correction. Take a workplace or school policy that says "due process." Write which century it is actually imitating, if any. If it cites Magna Carta and skips 1354, write "blender" on the sticky. Deliverable: a sticky note, not a grievance filing. 2. Facing dates. 1215 / 1354 / 1791 / 1868. One job each, eight words. Deliverable: four jobs. No mash. 3. Knock story. Write the last time a public body acted on someone without a path. Label analogy, not identity, with 1215. Deliverable: ten lines. No names of minors. No legal advice. 4. Clause 40 in a queue. Where in your civic life is justice sold, denied, or delayed in the ordinary sense (fees, never getting a hearing, waiting that is the punishment)? One example. Deliverable: the example plus "this is not a 1215 lawsuit."

### *Reflect*

When process protects someone you cannot stand, do you still want the gate — and if not, what chant were you actually using?

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## Chapter 4: Who Gets Asked, Who Has Teeth



*Illustration for Chapter 4*

Consent in 1215 is baronial counsel over scutage and aids, with three old exceptions, then a deleted clause. Adults who say "no taxation without representation is in Magna Carta" are collapsing a lineage into a tattoo. Quote the ask-first clause. This band did not have it as a block before. It does now.

*"No scutage or aid shall be imposed in our kingdom except by the common counsel of our kingdom, except for the ransoming of our person, the making of our eldest son a knight, and the marrying of our eldest daughter once."*

Scutage: money instead of knight-service, used by John at rates that made it an arbitrary tax. Aids: named feudal exactions. Common counsel: great council of tenants-in-chief — not Parliament, not you. Three exceptions: the old feudal list. The yard is fenced. A republic is not founded. Harry 1.3's table is a dated object: the clause is in 1215 and gone from 1216, 1217, 1225, and 1297. Kings would not keep a written lock on that tap.

The lineage is real: great council; Provisions of Oxford 1258; de Montfort's 1264–65 summons of knights and burgesses; 1295 Model Parliament; later parliamentary grant; Petition of Right 1628; then a later English object you can quote without pretending it is Runnymede. Harry 6.3, Bill of Rights 1689:

*"Levying money for or to the use of the Crown by pretence of prerogative, without grant of Parliament, is illegal."*

That sentence is Parliament. It is 1689. It is what c. 12's deleted lock became after centuries of mutual need: rulers who lose wars need money; communities sell consent for concessions. 1225 is limit-for-tax. 1297 is the same engine under a stronger king. Colonists then use English tools against a Parliament they do not sit in. Skip those stops and 1776 looks like a meadow sprout. It is not.

Teeth were twenty-five barons seizing castles after forty days, then a deleted clause. Quote the twenty-five / forty days / distraint language as Harry 2.6 carries it:

*"Since we have granted all these things... the barons shall elect twenty-five of their number to keep, and cause to be observed, the peace and liberties granted and confirmed by this charter of us. If we, or in our absence abroad our justiciar, or our judges, or any other of our ministers, do anything in any way that violates this charter, and the offense is brought to the attention of four of the twenty-five barons, they shall come to us... and ask us to rectify the infraction without delay. If we do not rectify the infraction within forty days... the twenty-five barons shall distraint and distress us in every way possible — seizing castles, lands, possessions, and anything else — until they are satisfied that the charter has been honored."*

Persons of the king, queen, and children spared, in Harry 2.6's surrounding account. Anyone may swear to obey the twenty-five. This is not a court. It is not Locke. It is aristocratic distress with a written warrant. Deleted 1216, never restored.

Harry 7.4, at adult length: was c. 61 a proto-right of revolution or a feudal distress remedy? Both readings can quote the same Latin. Case for: limits without enforcement are suggestions; this is the first English attempt to build enforcement into the text; later courts, elections, and impeachment are other species of the same problem; Locke and the Declaration generalize from barons to a people. Case against: a class with a warrant to seize castles is a recipe for civil war, which followed; the barons offered the crown to a French prince; modern systems have less destructive teeth; a resistance right anyone can claim is anarchy. Honest tension: without enforcement, paper; with violent enforcement, the system those limits protect collapses. This booklet will not become a militia manual. Name the species. Name the vice. Then stop.

Enforcement species have vices. Baronial distress is oligarchic war. Papal voiding is international override. Sheriff publicity is weak. Parliamentary supply can starve as easily as restrain. Courts can be captured. *Marbury* is a different species. Do not back-date it into the meadow to make your favorite court sacred. Do not sneer at courts to make your favorite street sacred.

Locke's right of revolution is a philosophical claim about a people. Clause 61 is a committee of nobles. The Declaration's list of abuses is a republican genre cousin of a baronial shopping list. Harry 2.6 quotes the public text:

*"When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government."*

Mirror is not identity. Adults who need Jefferson to be a baron, or barons to be democrats, are recruiting.

Harry 2.7's later machines — Provisions of Oxford, de Montfort, Model Parliament — are English sequels, not secret clauses. The great council had no fixed membership and met when called. What it had was a class speaking at once. Mutual need is the dull engine: the king needed money he could not raise efficiently without cooperation; the community used that need as leverage. 1225 is that engine as a dated object. 1297 is the same engine under Edward I. American colonists later pointed the English engine at Westminster. That twist is 1765, not 1215. A PTA budget fight is not 1225. It may still be a room where "who must be asked" is the only honest question. Use the question. Do not tattoo the meadow on the minutes.

Gaines Post's *quod omnes tangit* work places counsel in a wider medieval language. "What touches all should be approved by all" was available as a maxim while "all" still meant the politically countable. Do not pretend the barons were in a seminar. Do notice that oligarchic

procedure is still procedure. Clause 14's summons rules are the unglamorous cousin of c. 12: how you call the room, not who the people are.

1689 also reset the crown on parliamentary terms after James II. Standing army without consent, suspension of laws, free elections, parliamentary speech: later English objects. Harry 6.3's lineage chart is useful if you treat it as lineage, not photocopy. The charter's teeth were twenty-five barons with swords. 1689's teeth are a legislature that controls money, law, and the army. Institutional difference is the adult point. If your room wants 1215 to have already been Parliament, it wants a founding, not a meadow.

Budget season is where this chapter lives. Who is in the room when a levy is shaped? Who is outside? 1215's answer is barons. Yours is whatever your charter, code, and habits say. The adult discipline is not "make it 1215." It is "do not tattoo 1215 on a process that never asks the people it names." Representation fights are later. They still use the ask-first sentence. Using a sentence is not being the author of the sentence.

Teeth you would not accept on yourself are a moral test the barons failed in one direction (villeins) and later kings failed in another (deleted c. 61). Adults fail it when they want courts for their enemies and streets for themselves, or the reverse.

A union hall, a church board, a city council: each can have a chant without a list, and each can have a list without teeth. 1215 wrote teeth and then lost them. 1689 rebuilt teeth as Parliament. *Marbury* rebuilt a different species as courts. None of those rooms is Runnymede. The adult question is which species you are asking for, and whether you would accept it used on you. If you would not, you were praising a brand. This booklet will not pick your species. It will not write a strategy memo. It will tell you that deleted c. 61 is the honest exhibit of how hard enforcement is, and that a handbook with no teeth is a cousin of 1225 in the wrong direction: language kept, lock removed.

### *Big Idea*

Ask-first and enforcement are the hard parts. 1215 wrote both, then later kings extracted the hard parts from the parchment. 1689 rebuilt the ask in parliamentary clothes. Species matter.

### *Practice*

1. Tattoo test. Find "no taxation without representation" near "Magna Carta" in a textbook or post. List three skipped stops (deletion of c. 12, 1689, colonial unrepresentation). Deliverable: the list. 2. Teeth grid. Baronial distress / supply / courts. One strength, one vice, each. Deliverable: six cells. No winner. Not a strategy memo for anyone's movement. 3. Consent room. Who must be asked before a levy in your town, in fact? Who is outside that room? Two sentences. Deliverable: the pair. Not a campaign plan. 4. Deleted clause. Explain

in 150 words why a ruler would keep justice-not-sold language and drop a right to seize his castles. Name 1225 or 1297 as an object. Deliverable: the words. No morale.

### *Reflect*

If the paper you praise has no teeth you would accept being used on you, what were you praising — the limit, or the brand?

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## Chapter 5: The Majority the Parchment Forgot



*Illustration for Chapter 5*

This is the sitting posters skip, and the one adult rooms skip when they want a mascot. Thesis was already in the first draft. Depth was not. Add the evidence.

"Free man" is the subject of the famous gate. Villeins — unfree, bound to land, most of England — lived under manorial weather. Harry 5.5's rough map, said without false precision: crown a rounding error; barons a few hundred families; knights in the thousands; free tenants perhaps 15–20 percent; villeins and serfs perhaps 75–80 percent. There is no clause that says villeins shall not be imprisoned without lawful judgment. Amercement clauses 20 and 22 mention them to limit fines "after the manner of their wainage" — farm stock spared so the farm produces. That is not a liberty speech. It is an interest in keeping the farm working.

Harry 7.2, held rather than flattened, at adult length (200–250 words, not Aquinas-class). Deliberate exclusion (Hilton, *Bond Men Made Free*; Linebaugh, *The Magna Carta Manifesto*; Brenner): class document; barons want protection from the king, not rights for their own unfree tenants; labor is the source of baronial wealth; no incentive to extend protections downward. Evidence: "free men" as c. 39's subject; c. 20 and 22 as wainage management, not due process for the unfree; manorial power left intact; Forest Charter kept as a separate paper so use-rights would not live inside the Great Charter that later got marble. Scope limitation (Holt, chapter 7; Vincent): this parchment is king-and-tenants-in-chief; villeins were not the king's direct tenants here; manorial courts, not royal courts, were their weather; clauses 17–19 and 39–40 simply did not apply in that weather; Forest Charter is separate because forest law was royal jurisdiction, which the king could reform. Synthesis: both. Jurisdictional silence is real and not politically innocent. Feudal structure made the silence feel natural. Natural is not just. The charter was not a cartoon conspiracy against peasants. It was a document about a political community that did not count villeins as participants. Silence of a system is still a political fact. If you can only preach Hilton, you have not done the sitting. If you can only preach Holt, you have not either. If you shrug "both" without the wainage clause, the manorial/royal split, and the other paper, you have not either.

Posters treat clause 60 as if it invited everyone in. Read it as hierarchy instead:

*"All these aforesaid customs and liberties which we have granted to be held in our kingdom, in so far as pertains to us, all men in our kingdom, of whatever condition, are to observe, as far as they are concerned, against their own men."*

"Of whatever condition" here is hierarchy: the liberties the king grants his barons, the barons must observe against their own men. Form flows down. Status as "free" does not. Quote it as "everyone was included" and you have failed the sitting in a school-board room as surely as in a seminar.

Forest Charter, first issued 1217, split so forest law had its own paper. "Forest" means land under forest law — perhaps a third of England — not trees. Old penalties could be savage.

Vestiges lasted until the Wild Creatures and Forest Laws Act 1971. "Magna" first meant the bigger twin. Quote it as a text, not a mention. National Archives English of the 1225 reissue of the 1217 Forest Charter, clause 10:

*"Henceforth, no man shall lose his life or suffer the amputation of any of his limbs for killing our deer. If any man is convicted of killing our deer, he shall pay a grievous fine, but if he is poor and has nothing to lose, he shall be imprisoned for a year and a day."*

Clause 9, same source, is pigs and pasture, not marble:

*"Every freeman may agest his own wood within our forest at his pleasure, and shall take his pawnage. Also we do grant, that every freeman may drive his swine freely without impediment through our demesne woods, for to agest them in their own woods, or else where they will. And if the swine of any freeman lie one night within our forest, there shall be no occasion taken thereof, whereby he may lose anything of his own."*

Note the subject: "every freeman." Even the "popular" twin still names a free man. That fact belongs next to wainage. It does not let Hilton off. It does not let a poster claim 1217 freed villeins. Harry 1.4's furniture of forest law — no clearing without permission, lawed dogs, attachment courts, swanimotes, forest eyre — is a parallel sovereignty, a royal monopoly over land use that bypassed common-law courts. Linebaugh's warning: which charter got the marble. Holt's warning: do not turn 1215 into a peasant charter. Hold both in a school-board discussion without a sneer and without a wash.

Women as a class are not rights-holders here. Widow dower is lineage (cc. 7–8 in the later numbering). Jewish lenders appear as regulated credit, often despised, not as liberty-holders. London and the Church bought clauses because they could. "Free man" sits in that map.

1354 widens process language. It is not suffrage, not racial equality, not 1868. The Fourteenth, Federalist 54, three-fifths are later American tests. Magna Carta's villein gap is the civic chain's first "who counts." If you skip it to keep the bronze pretty, you will skip the later tests too.

Villeinage eroded for many reasons. None of them is "clause 39 secretly included them." A video that implies the meadow freed the peasants is entertainment.

Women, Jews, London, Church: the charter is a map of who could force a clause. London's liberties (c. 13) are a city bargain. Church freedom (c. 1) is a bishop bargain. Widow dower is a lineage bargain. Debt clauses regulate a credit relationship the crown used and

resented. "Free man" sits in that map. It does not float above it. If a museum label says "rights for all Englishmen," the label is doing Coke, not 1215. You can still walk through the museum. You can still buy the tea towel. You cannot let the tea towel write the curriculum.

1354 as expansion still leaves work. "What estate or condition" is not universal suffrage, not racial equality, not sex equality. It is a statutory widening of process language. Later American work (Fifth, Fourteenth, later amendments) is later. If you need 1215 to have already done 1868, you are recruiting. A board that wants Magna Carta as original sin will resist Holt. A board that wants a mascot will resist Hilton. The sitting's integrity rule is both warnings on the table: Linebaugh — a curriculum that only reprints c. 39 launders the labor system; Holt — do not turn 1215 into a peasant charter. Parents can keep promise and gap in the same sitting without a vote. Boards that cannot will ship a poster.

Forest law at its height covered perhaps a third of England. That is not a sidebar. For villages inside it, the other paper could matter more than a baron's relief. Marble is still a political fact about later memory. Which charter got the bronze is a fact about later rooms, including yours.

Curriculum fights: a district that wants Magna Carta as a liberty mascot will resist this chapter. A district that wants 1215 as original sin will resist Holt. Your job as an adult in that fight is not to pick the mascot that matches your party. It is to keep promise and gap in the same sitting. Parents can do that at a table without a board vote. Boards that cannot do it will ship a poster.

Immigration, prison, disability, tribal status, felony disenfranchisement: later American "who counts" tests. This chapter does not run them. It trains the muscle so you do not skip them because a bronze king looks friendly. The Fourteenth booklet is the American instrument. Do not steal it. Do not pretend 1215 already did it.

A parent-teacher night that wants Magna Carta as a mascot will flinch at wainage. Say the phrase anyway. "After the manner of their wainage" is how the unfree appear: as farm stock to be spared so the farm produces. That is evidence, not a sneer. Hilton reads class. Holt reads jurisdiction. You can hold both without joining a party. If the night cannot bear the phrase, it cannot bear the sitting. Ship a poster if you must. Do not call the poster this booklet.

### *Big Idea*

Who a text names is as important as what it promises. Clause 60 is flow-down, not inclusion. The Forest Charter is the other paper, with real clauses, not a secret meaning of c. 39. Adults who launder the gap to keep a mascot are doing public-relations, not civic memory.

### *Practice*

1. Mascot refusal. Ninety seconds answering "Magna Carta gave rights to everyone," no sneer, naming villeins, c. 60, Forest c. 10, and 1354. Deliverable: a checklist of those four names, not a recording you owe anyone. 2. Two-charter card. Great Charter / Forest Charter. Who felt which, which got marble, one real quote each. Deliverable: the card. 3. Hilton/Holt columns. One evidence each: wainage, manorial vs royal jurisdiction, or Forest as the other paper. You are not joining a party. Deliverable: two columns on one page. 4. Next gap. Name one person a modern rule you live under still does not cover the way the poster claims. Do not name a private individual. Deliverable: the rule and the gap, one sentence each. Not a lawsuit.

### *Reflect*

Is "they just didn't think of them" an acquittal, an indictment, or a description — and which of those three do you use when the forgotten people are not your people?

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## Chapter 6: What You Are Doing When You Cite It



Use made the charter great. Origin keeps you honest. An adult who keeps only use will recruit 1215 into every fight. An adult who keeps only origin will sneer at every later widening. Both are lazy.

Coke's ancient constitution is 1628 politics: liberty older than 1066, Stuarts as foreign innovation. Historically weak. Politically effective. Pocock is the method book. You may still think Coke was right to resist kings. You may not cite him as a 1215 witness.

1215–1700 (Harry 3.5): often confirmed, often inert while feudal clauses died; 1225 as Henry's seal-for-tax; 1297 as Inspeximus on the roll; then weaponized in the seventeenth century; then carried in colonial legal memory; then used in post-1763 English-rights talk. Thirteenth to fifteenth centuries: confirmations that were sometimes routine politics, even forty-plus times by some counts, as feudal clauses went obsolete. Seventeenth: Coke's *Institutes* clause-by-clause, historically creative, legally expansive, politically weaponized. Petition of Right 1628. Civil War as the question "can the king govern without consent" fought with armies. 1688–89 as a settlement the 1215 war only prefigured. Colonial charters and courts carried the English memory. Harry 3.5's "American Revolution as final enforcement of Magna Carta" is a speech. Speeches are allowed if labeled. They are not clause maps. If a worksheet prints 1215 and then 1776 with an arrow and no 1225, 1297, 1354, or 1689, the worksheet is recruiting.

A civic-club twelve minutes can carry four dates and one exclusion. 1215. 1225. 1354. 1868. Then "free man." If the club wants a fifth date, 1297 or 1689. If it wants a pep talk instead, you are not the speaker for that hour. That is allowed. This booklet will not write the pep talk.

1689 is a dated object in this chain. Harry 6.3 also carries the later cruelty language American civics treats as if it were a meadow:

*"Excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."*

That is parliamentary settlement after James II, ancestor of the Eighth Amendment, not a hidden 1215 clause. The charter's enforcement was twenty-five barons. 1689's enforcement is Parliament. Name the object.

Constitution (Harry 6.1): draws on a tradition of written limits; does not copy the meadow. Designed branches, Article V, court teeth, later universal language after the Fourteenth — American choices. Shared shape with 1215: failure, compromise, edges in writing. Shared shape is not identity.

UDHR family-tree talk is poster kinship. Articles 9 and 10 are cousins in a global idiom. Clip art that makes 1215 and 1948 the same century is a lie.

Living document, honest: people keep citing a text while they fight. Dishonest: 1215 already contained 1868. Recruitment is not history.

When you cite Magna Carta in a room, you are doing one of four jobs — 1215 drama, 1225 statute memory, 1297 roll, or symbol — and the room is allowed to ask which. If you cannot answer, sit down.

Harry 7.5 again, now as what you are doing rather than as morale. If 1215 had been lost and only 1225 survived, lawyers would still have due-process and justice-not-sold language without the meadow and without c. 61. Drama is pedagogy. Statute is law. Symbol is politics. Adult rooms mix the three and then wonder why nobody can be corrected. Your remaining work is to unmix them in the sentence you are about to say.

Next links exist as other WisdomForge booklets. Do not steal the Fourteenth. Do not stop the chain at bronze. The Federalist booklet exists so you do not have to fake Publius here. The Fourteenth booklet exists so you do not have to fake 1868 here. This booklet's last civic job is to hand you four answers — one 1215 act, one reissue change, one later borrowed phrase, one original exclusion — and then stop. If you cannot produce the four, you are not ready to cite the name in a room. That is not a grade. It is a self-limit.

Despair and pep are the two cheap endings. Despair: parchment never mattered, so nothing you write matters. Pep: bronze already contains justice, so you can go home. Adult work is smaller: accurate talk, local keeping of process, legislation if that is your office, litigation if that is your case, and a refusal to launder gaps. None of that is a personality. It is a list, like 1215, except yours is not sealed in a meadow.

If you hold office, this booklet is not your counsel. If you draft a resolution that "reaffirms Magna Carta," name a clause or do not pass it. If you teach civics, do not ghostwrite the essay. Hint first. If you parent, do not make this booklet a loyalty test. If you post, quote a clause or do not use the name. That last rule would empty half the internet of Magna Carta. Good. The emptying would be a civic improvement. Bronze without a date is how a limit becomes a mascot, and mascots do not restrain anyone you dislike. They only cheer the room you are already in.

Stubbs wanted national constitutional history. Holt wanted feudal precision. Linebaugh wanted the commons and the Forest Charter remembered. Three jobs. A writer who needs 1215 to be a founding will always find a founding. Your job is to see the need in the room before you feed it.

Harry 6.1's honest lineage for a Constitution conversation: the American instrument draws on a tradition of written limits; it does not copy the meadow. Improvements named there — universal language after the Fourteenth, designed branches, Article V, court enforcement — are American design choices. Shared shape: both answer a governance failure; both are compromises; both try to put edges in writing. Shared shape is not identity. If a speaker says "the Constitution is just Magna Carta," you have a three-word correction: "No. Dates. Who." If the speaker cannot bear three words, you are not in a civic conversation. You are in a brand fight. Brand fights are allowed. They should not use this booklet as a club.

Cottonian manuscripts and edition problems are a reminder even the Latin is an edition. Holt's numbering is convenience. Tourist bronze is a further edition. When you cite Magna Carta, you are choosing an edition, whether you know it or not. Know it. Then say which.

### *Big Idea*

Citation is an act. Acts have jobs. Name the job. 1225 and 1297 are jobs you can date. Bronze is a job you should admit.

### *Practice*

1. Three jobs. The next time you hear the name, silently label drama / statute / symbol. Afterward, write the label and one reason. Deliverable: the line. 2. Became > was. One paragraph for a civic-club talk that uses "became" more than "was." Deliverable: the paragraph. If you cannot, you are still in gift-shop history. 3. Grandchild test. One American clause that is a grandchild; one American fact 1215 cannot cover (slavery, three-fifths, XIV). Deliverable: two names. 4. Self-limit. Complete: "I will not use Magna Carta to..." with a modern recruitment you refuse (a party, a lawsuit, a culture-war mascot). Deliverable: one sentence. Not a vow anyone else must sign.

### *Reflect*

If supreme-sounding law can sit unenforced, and symbols can sit over-enforced in speech, what is an adult's remaining work — accurate talk, local keeping, legislation, litigation — and how do you describe that work without a pep talk and without despair?

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### *For the Grown-Up Reader*

This adult booklet is written for rooms, not for a high-school leftover. Practice aims at claims you will actually meet: a mailer that says Magna Carta is democracy; a training slide that says due process "comes from 1215"; a board packet that launders villeins; a headline that treats bronze as statute. None of the protocols is legal, pastoral, or medical advice. None tells you how to vote or how to instruct a jury.

If you already read the high booklet, this one is not a reprint. High is source protocols for a course of study. Adult is civic literacy for rooms where nobody grades you except the people who live with what you said. The sitting map is the same six beats. The sentences you owe are the same. The Practice is not.

Quote honesty: Harry 1.2 English of 1215 Latin for cc. 1, 12, 39, 40, 60; Harry 2.6 for c. 61 twenty-five / forty days / distrain; 2.3 for 1354 as a block in this band (high already had it; the prior adult only mentioned it); National Archives Fifth Amendment as a full amendment block (high used an ellipsis extract); National Archives English of Forest Charter cc. 9–10 (1225 reissue of the 1217 split); 1689 levy and excessive-bail sentences (Harry 6.3); Declaration "long train of abuses" (Harry 2.6). 1216, 1217, 1225, and 1297 treated as dated objects (Harry 1.3 / 3.4). Clause numbers are scholarly. Date collision on John's death named in the first telling. No invented sayings. No family names.

Scholarly debates at adult length (200–250 words, not Aquinas-class): 7.1 in ch. 1; 7.3 in ch. 2; 7.4 in ch. 4; 7.2 with wainage / jurisdiction / Forest evidence in ch. 5; 7.5 in ch. 1 and again as citation-job in ch. 6. Five files.

Voice is George. Practice is civic rooms, not high-band source protocols. Six Reflects. No Research Prompt in this band. Ghostwriting is refused.

Gold/PDF art/site remain Aiona's lane. Typeset only. No gold claim. No EPUB. No site push. Payment stays out. Thin-PDF risk after typeset (0 images expected) remains Aiona's.

This band's unused-primary inventory, so a reviewer can see the floor was filled with text rather than fog: c. 1 (Harry 1.2, ch. 2); c. 12 scutage block, which the prior adult lacked (Harry 1.2, ch. 4); c. 39 and c. 40 kept (ch. 3); c. 61 twenty-five / forty days / distrain (Harry 2.6, ch. 4); c. 60 flow-down, not inclusion (Harry 1.2, ch. 5); Forest Charter cc. 9–10 (National Archives English, ch. 5); 1354 as a block (Harry 2.3, ch. 3); Fifth Amendment as a full amendment block (ch. 3); 1689 levy and excessive-bail sentences (Harry 6.3, chs. 4 and 6); Declaration "long train of abuses" (Harry 2.6, ch. 4). 1216, 1217, 1225, 1297 named as objects. John's death: 18 vs 19 October collision named in the first telling. Elementary and middle were not touched. WIP remains one figure. Magna Carta lock.

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## About WisdomForge

WisdomForge turns founding documents and great thinkers into booklets for every age. Each figure or document gets four booklets: ages 5–10, 11–14, 15–18, and adults. The same text, told at the right depth. Because Magna Carta is not a costume of liberty. It is a meadow, a seal, a 1225 bargain, a 1297 roll, and a long afterlife, and every generation has to read it again.

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## Sources

### Primary

- Magna Carta 1215, standard English of the Latin as used by the British Library and J.C. Holt's numbering (Harry 1.2): clauses 1, 12, 39, 40, 60, 61, and related - Harry 2.6 English of c. 61 (twenty-five barons, forty days, distrain and distress) - 1216 Marshal reissue / 1217 Forest split / 1225 reissue / 1297 Inspeximus (Harry 1.3, 3.4) - Charter of the Forest 1217, National Archives English of the 1225 reissue, clauses 9–10 - 42 Edward III, c. 3 (1354) due-process statute (Harry 2.3) - English Bill of Rights (1689), levy and excessive-bail sentences (Harry 6.3) - Declaration of Independence, "long train of abuses" sentence (Harry 2.6) - U.S. Const. amend. V (full public text of the amendment) - U.S. Const. amend. XIV (later civic chain; not taught here as a substitute)

### Secondary

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*Adapted by Airia Edge for WisdomForge. Typeset only — not gold. No EPUB. No site push. Payment stays out. Elementary and middle accepted packs were not rewritten. Airia does not self-accept.*