

“No freeman is to be taken or imprisoned or disseised of his free tenement or of his liberties or free customs, or outlawed or exiled or in any way ruined, nor will we go against such a man or send against him save by lawful judgement of his peers or by the law of the land. To no-one will we sell or deny of delay right or justice.”

Magna Carta, a charter between King John and a group of English Barons sealed on June 15, 1215.*

Perhaps more than any other document in history, Magna Carta has come to embody a simple but enduring truth: No one, no matter how powerful, is above the law.

As you think about this historic Magna Carta excerpt also reflect on the continued importance of the legal principle and practice of due process -- the principle that an individual cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property without appropriate legal procedures and safeguards.

Look for modern examples of due process in news reports in-print or online.

*Quoted above is a translation of Chapter 29 from the 1297 version. The language derives from Chapters 39 and 40 from the original Magna Carta of 1215.

Next installment: The U.S. Constitution - Habeas Corpus



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