

THE GREAT CHARTER

King's position in the
history of the Great
Charter

RULES UNDER WHICH THE KING WAS SUBMITTED BY

The Great Charter, after being imposed to be signed by the king, represented the first case of successful rebellion from the highest power at that time.

The new figure of the king had to follow some new rules that limited his power in the country, and that he wouldn't have accepted if not forced.

9. Nobody, king included, could seize any land for any debt, as long as the debtor could pay the debt.

If the debtor should have failed to pay it, sureties would have answered the debt.

(Until that time the king could decide the destiny of any land, depending or not from a debt)

12. No scutage should have been imposed on the kingdom, except for making someone become a knight, or for once marrying someone.

- (The king, before The great charter, could impose what was called a scutage; a tax that couldn't have been discussed by others except the same king)

- **14. For obtaining the common council or a scutage the king had to gather with archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls and greater barons that all had to accept the request in order to confirm it and let it become law.**

(until now the king had the supreme decision to create new laws)

18. Four times a year 2 justiciaries (or the king) and 4 knights had to walk in the kingdom, at local courtes, to hold assizes.

(until now the king had in his hands the destiny of everyone, and the majority of the cases the accused couldn't have a regular trial)

29. If the king sent a knight fighting, at the end of his military service he should have been paid proportionally at the time he spent on service.

(before the Great Charter knights weren't paid)

30./31. Nobody could take someone else's horses, carts, or wood.

(Before the king could appropriate himself of everything he wanted)

32. Lands that had been convicted of felony belong to the king for one year and one day after the charge. After this period the lands should have been returned to the expropriaries.

(after have obtained a felony land, the king would have had the control of it for ever)

39. No freeman should have been taken or imprisoned without a lawful judgment of his peers, depending from the law of his land.

(before, the king had the supreme power to decide who had to be condemned or who could have been released, without present the accused to a lawful court)

**40. To nobody would have been sold,
refused, or delayed justice and rights.**

(sometimes the king was corrupted in exchange
for something else)