



THE MAGNA CARTA

THE GREAT CHARTER

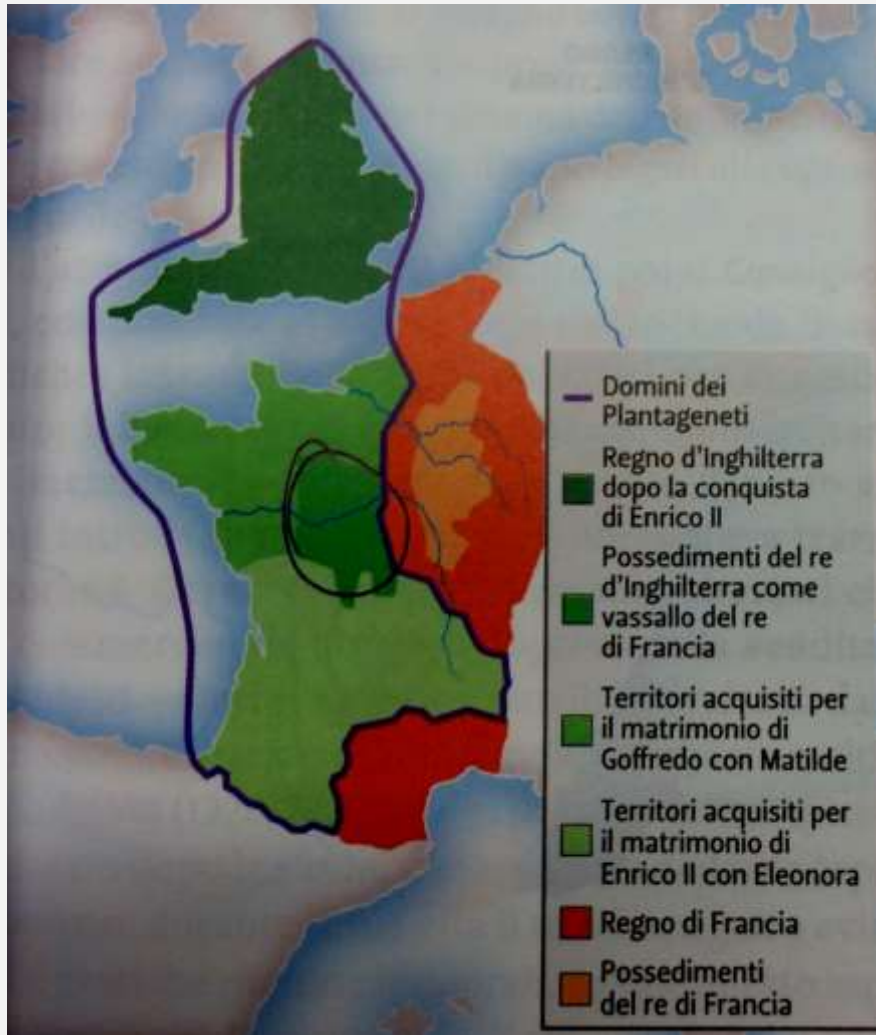
JOHN'S KINGDOM

- When King Richard, also known as the Lion Heart, died in 1199, his brother John became King of England and Lord of Ireland.
- He had two nicknames: John Lackland (i.e. Without Land) and Softsword (i.e. unsuccessful at war).
- In order to get more money to wage wars to defend his French possessions, King John decided to collect higher taxes.
- The barons, the Church and the population were exposed to his violent abuse of power. Indeed, John seized lands without any process of law, imposing arbitrary taxes.



BEFORE THE BATTLE

The red territories belong to the English Kingdom, whereas the ones in green represent the French Kingdom.



BATTLE OF BOUVINES

On 27th July 1214, a battle broke out in Bouvines for two reasons:

- A religious conflict between the King and the Pope;
- The disagreement between vassals and the King, because the sovereign was too cruel and he demanded more and more taxes.

The battle was lead by Ottone IV (allied with John) and Innocent III (allied with Philip II).

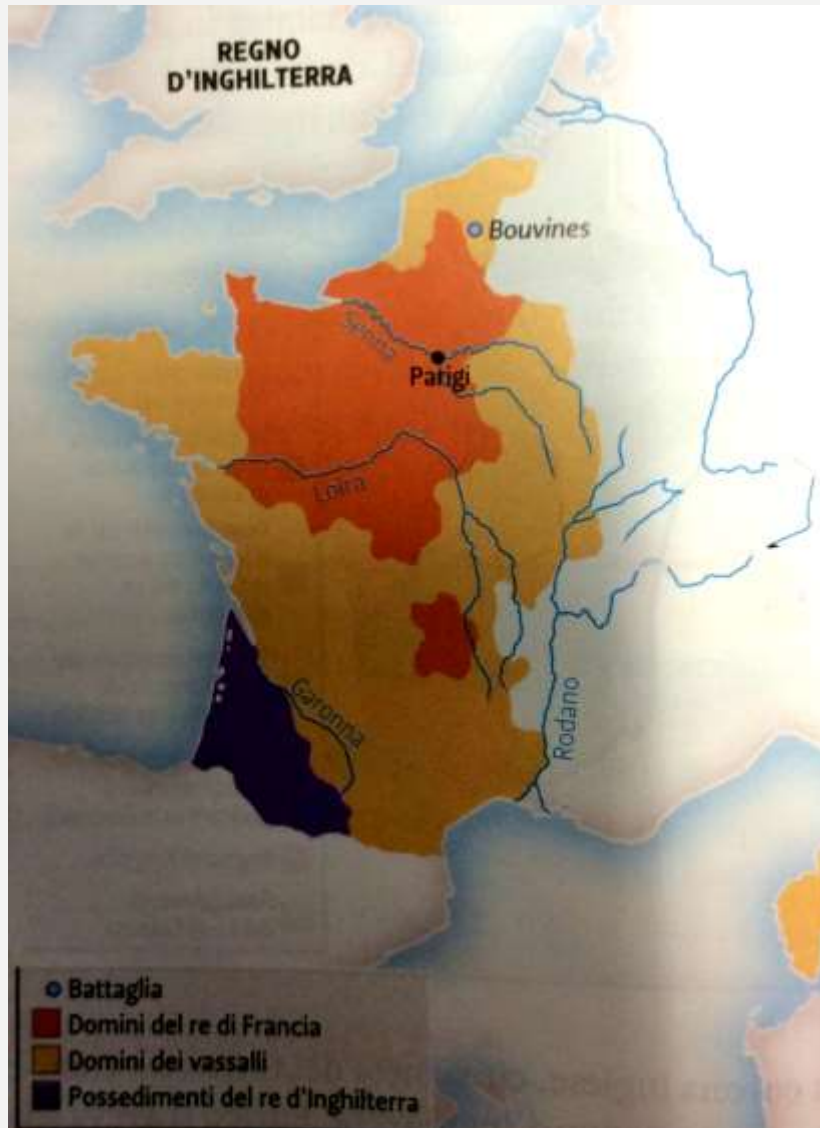
At the end of the battle:

- Ottone IV lost his land and after the withdrawal he died.
- Frederick II was crowned in 1215 and started a new project of a universal empire.
- Philip II guided the French power and forced John to return the French possessions, except from Aquitaine.
- In the same year, John was forced by a group of powerful barons to sign the Great Charter.

AFTER THE BATTLE

Here is a visual representation of how the French boundaries were expanded.

The red territories belong to the English kingdom.
The others in green indicate the French kingdom.

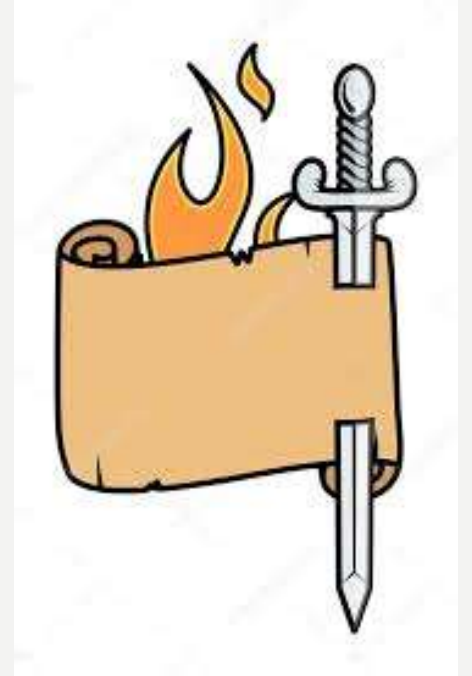


THE BARONS' REBELLION

- The barons, knights, the clergy and town people organised a rebellion against King John and asked him to sign the Magna Carta.
- This document contained laws that no medieval sovereign could have accepted.
- After a few months, in the summer of 1215, the fight between the barons and the supporters of the King burst openly.
- The barons, led by the prince of France Louis, organized an expedition against John.
- Finally, he fled from Winchester and Louis conquered half of the English Kingdom.

THE MAGNA CARTA

- Magna Carta, meaning 'The Great Charter', is one of the most famous documents in the world. It was called «Magna» not to be confused with an inferior document and «Carta» to state the power limits of the King of England.
- It establishes for the first time the principle that everybody, including the king, is subject to the law.



SOURCES

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