

Transparency 5

Key Principles of the Magna Carta

“We will appoint as justices, constables, sheriffs, or bailiffs only such as know the law of the realm and mean to observe it well.”

–Magna Carta

Key Principles of the Magna Carta

- Most of the Magna Carta affirmed a long list of feudal rights, but it also included a few clauses recognizing the rights of townspeople and the church.
- Asserted that nobles had certain rights
- Made it clear that the monarch must obey the law
- Stated that the king will not sell, deny, or delay justice
- Protected every freeman from arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, and other legal actions, except “by legal judgment of his peers or by the law of the land”
- Prohibited raising new taxes without the consultation of the Great Council of lords and clergy