

Political and Social Change



Why is change needed?

Kings take advantage

- By the 1200s kings do as they please
- Nobles become upset when kings create new taxes and take their property
 - Begin to look for ways to limit kings power

Nobles step up

- In 1215 a group of nobles decide to take their respect back
 - Force King John to approve a document they have written



Democracy is demanded

What is the Magna Carta?

- Document listing rights the king could not ignore
- king forced to approve the document

What does the Magna Carta say?

- protected the rights of the people
 - 63 demands in all
 - so influential that the British still consider it part of their constitution



Causes and Effects

Effects of Magna Carta

1. King required to honor certain rights
 1. Habeas corpus—people cannot be kept in jail without reason
 2. Right to a fair trial
2. Everyone must obey the law
 1. Even the King
 2. This is one of the basic principles



King John

Changes after Magna Carta

1. Create a council of nobles to advise the king
 1. Became parliament
 2. Eventually king needed their approval to do almost anything
2. Judges become free of royal control (1600)
 1. The king no longer appoints them
 2. True democracy is born



Medieval Parliament

France and England collide

Magna Carta had a great effect in England only

In 1328 the King of France dies with no heir

- two women claim his throne as a result, one French and one English
- eventually the French man becomes king

English King did not like the outcome

- decides to invade France
- Hundred year war is started a few years later

The results...

- First English armies did well, winning most of their battles
- After about a 100 years a teenage peasant girl rises up and rallies the French troops





Joan of Arc

Who is she?

- born into peasant life, but still comfortable living
- had 3 brothers and one sister

Why did she fight?

- Said that God sent an angel to her that told her to deliver her people from the English
- Got up and left her home at age 16 to fight

What affect did she have?

- led an army to Orleans in 1429
- wins several battles for her cause
- Eventually captured and killed but it was too late, the French army had risen and drove the English out in 1453

Results of the War

The French ultimately win but there are many changes as a result for both sides

For the English

- Parliaments power grows because the king needs their approval to raise taxes
- Asparliament gains power the king loses it

For the French

- Kings power grows
- During the war the king had become popular with his nobles
 - Noblessupport their king as result

