

GROWTH OF ROYAL POWER

England and France

FOUNDATIONS FOR UNITY

◎ Middle Ages:

- power was fragmented between feudal lords
- King held little power
- Land was owned by nobles and the Church

FOUNDATIONS FOR UNITY

- ◎ Monarchs could count on support from townspeople:
 - King could better keep peace therefore increase trade
 - Monarchs issued uniform coins, courts
- ◎ Monarchs profited from increased trade:
 - Tax rich towns
 - Use money to hire armies (less dependence on feudal lords)

THE NORMAN CONQUEST

- ◎ England had not become as much of a feudal society:
 - Anglo-Saxon kings kept authority and united people against the Danes
- ◎ 1066 - Battle of Hastings
 - Norman conquest of England (William the Conqueror)



THE NORMAN CONQUEST

- William put in place measures to insure his authority:
 - Divided Anglo-Saxon lands and gave them to Norman barons who swore allegiance to him
 - Ordered all peoples to owe loyalty to him first
 - Ordered barons to build castles
 - Juries and the Domesday Book



EXTENDING ROYAL POWER

○ Henry I:

- Eliminated hereditary officeholders (loyalty)
- Increased income (payment instead of military service from vassals)
- Established central treasury (Exchequer)



EXTENDING ROYAL POWER

◎ Henry II:

- Expanded power of royal courts:
 - Circuit judges
 - Grand juries/trial juries
 - Common law
- Most people preferred royal courts to manor courts
- Increased treasury (through fines and fees)

THE MAGNA CARTA

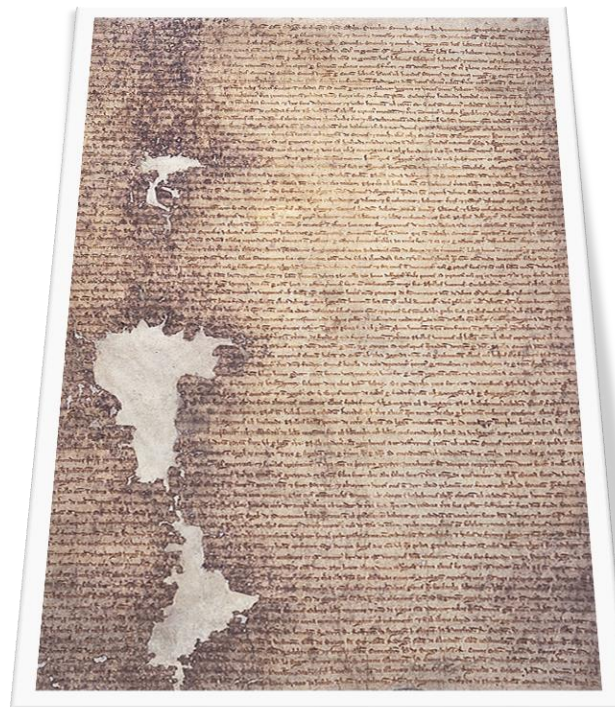
◎ Henry II and Thomas Beckett

◎ John I:

- 1209: excommunicated but bought back Rome's favour through making England a Papal Fief and paying a fee to Rome
- Levied heavy taxes on Barons to pay for war in France
- 1215: Forced to sign a charter that defined the rights of the barons

THE MAGNA CARTA

- ◉ Written guarantee of traditional rights and privileges
- ◉ Of lasting importance for 2 reasons:
 1. The rights would later be extended to all classes
 2. Certain clauses were later used to limit the power of the monarch:
 - ◉ Consultation of general council before imposing new taxes
 - ◉ Monarch should respect the law



ORIGINS OF ENGLISH PARLIAMENT

- ◎ Great Council was made up of:
 - High officials,
 - Nobles
 - Bishops
 - Later included lesser knights, and representatives from the towns
- ◎ Meetings became known as Parliament (French - “parler”)

ORIGINS OF ENGLISH PARLIAMENT

◎ Edward I: 1295

- Summoned parliament to raise funds for war in France:
 - Included great nobles, bishops, two knights from each county, and two citizens from each town (Model Parliament)
 - Knights and citizens would listen and respond only if asked

◎ Later, the two groups would meet separately:

- House of Lords, House of Commons

◎ Idea of limited monarchy

BUILDING THE FRENCH MONARCHY

- ◉ More feudal control in France compared to England
- ◉ 987: feudal lords elected Hugh Capet King
 - Capetian dynasty would last 350 years
 - Gradually increased royal power
 - ◉ Made monarchy hereditary
 - ◉ Used diplomacy, marriage and war to add to royal lands

A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- ◎ French monarchs set up an efficient royal bureaucracy
 - Paid by monarch - added to monarch's power
- ◎ Increase power through royal courts
 - No common law, local customs and practice
 - Highest court was parlement of Paris (King as source of justice)

A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

◎ Philip IV:

- Conflict with church
- Called the Estates General to demonstrate his support
- Was not as powerful as English parliament because it did not have power over taxation

◎ Control by French monarchs was largely through control of the bureaucracy