



King John and the Magna Carta: 1215

King John lost land in France (and was nicknamed '**soft sword**'). He fell out with the Pope and was excommunicated. He taxed the barons too much using a tax called '**scutage**'.

The barons made King John sign a document called Magna Carta in 1215. It means '**great charter**'. It is a list of rules about power the king had to obey as was important because it was the **first ever time there were limits placed on the power of a king**. The king had to obey the law and needed consent to raise tax. It is still significant today because it established the right to a free and fair trial with a jury.

Themes: Government and Power Economy and taxation.

Simon de Montfort

Henry III was King John's son and was not obeying Magna Carta, losing wars with France and appointing his relatives to top jobs. The barons made him sign the **Provisions of Oxford in 1258** where he had to agree to rule jointly with a **council of 24 barons** and abide by Magna Carta. Simon de Montfort is known as the '**father of parliament**' because he led an army of barons to victory over King Henry III at the Battle of Lewes in 1264. In 1265 representatives from the Commons (shires and towns) were invited to Parliament to explain their issues in return for the right to tax them. This is the beginnings of parliament as we know it. De Montfort was killed but is significant because after this Kings needed to ask Parliament to agree to taxation.

Themes: Role of individual, Government and Power, Economy and taxation.



Peasants' Revolt 1381

A **poll tax** was introduced in 1381. Everyone had to pay the same amount whether you were rich or poor. Many peasants had died in the **Black Death** and Parliament had treated those who survived harshly e.g. passing the **Statute of Labourers Act in 1351** that forced people under 60 to work.

Starting in Kent, people in many villages began to refuse to pay and the rebellion spread quickly. **Wat Tyler** led the rebels from Kent and they marched to London. They freed prisoners e.g. the radical preacher, **John Ball** (who used the Bible to justify better conditions for the poor), they attacked palaces and captured and beheaded **Hales and Sudbury** (the King's Treasurer and the Archbishop of Canterbury) putting their heads on spikes.

King Richard II met with the rebels and calmed them but Wat Tyler was killed by Mayor of London. The revolt failed but it made the ruling classes more scared of the power of the peasants if they united. **(NB: Thatcher also used a poll tax in 1990. It failed.)**

Themes: Government and Power, Economy and taxation, key individuals.



Pilgrimage of Grace 1536



The North were unhappy about the **Reformation** where Henry VIII had forced the country to become Protestant. He destroyed monasteries and sacred relics and stolen land and money. **Robert Aske** became their leader. Religious reasons were: restoring Catholicism and opposing the new Prayer Book of 1535. Economic reasons: **poor harvests** and rumours of taxes on births, deaths and marriages. The revolt spread across the North and over **50 000** joined in. Henry initially gave into demands but then when another revolt broke out, he treated the North very harshly, **executing over 200 people** including priests and monks and Robert Aske hung and beheaded. It was a big failure and Henry sped up his religious reforms afterwards.

Themes: Religion, Economy and taxation, Government and Power.

Cromwell, Charles and Civil War c 1640s

Charles I ruled without Parliament for **11 years**, was unpopular raising taxes e.g. **Ship Tax** and was married to a French Catholic. He kept dissolving Parliament and believed in '**divine rights of Kings**'. This led to Civil War in 1641 between the Royalists (supporters of King Charles) and the Parliamentarians supporters of Parliament). The Parliamentarians won and Charles was executed in 1649. Cromwell, leader of the Parliamentarians, became Lord Protector. Some people think he was a hero for protecting the rights of Parliament. He was in charge of the **New Model Army** (recruited based on '**ability not nobility**') but he ruled very much like a King, even passing the position to his son, Richard, when he died. Others says he is a villain, for example massacring thousands of Catholics in Ireland (Drogheda Massacre). He passed controversial laws called the '**Blue Laws**' – even banning Christmas.

Themes: Religion, Economy and taxation, Government and Power, Role of Individual.



American Revolution c. 1776

The **13** colonies on the east coast of the USA wanted independence from Britain. They were made to pay tax e.g. Stamp Acts and they used the slogan '**no taxation without representation**'. They showed their opposition in the **Boston Tea Party of 1773** when rebels boarded a ship in Boston harbour tipping the tea into the sea in protest at trade and tax. In 1776 they issued the **US Declaration of Independence** using language like Magna Carta to say that '**all men are created equal**'. The British were defeated in the US War of Independence at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. **It was significant because it was the first time a colony had become independent.** France were inspired in their revolution by the American revolutionaries.

Themes: Government and Power Economy and taxation.





Chartism c. 1838

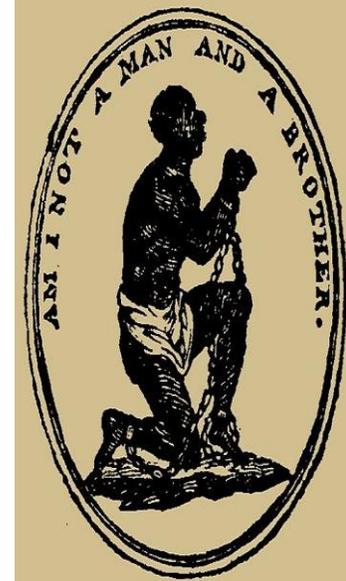
Only rich people could vote. The **1832 Reform Act** gave the vote to rich people in towns but not to workers. In 1838 the **People's Charter** was published which had 6 key demands about suffrage and voting rights a vote for all men over 21, secret ballots etc. **Moral force Chartists led by Lovett** used more peaceful methods to campaign but **physical force Chartists led by Feargus O'Connor** had a newspaper called the **Northern Star**, The Chartists sent three huge petitions to Parliament and after the third was rejected in 1848, some physical force Chartists used violence in the **Chartists Risings** e.g. in Newport and Sheffield. Although they failed at the time, all but the demand for annual elections happen today (5 out of 6).

Themes: Government and Power Economy and taxation, role of key individuals, communication.

Slavery Abolitionists

William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson. They used **petitions** to parliament e.g. **one in Manchester in 1787 was signed by 20% of the population**. They also used merchandise e.g. Wedgwood plates with the phrase **'Am I not a man and a brother?'** One of their most successful strategies was **boycotting slave grown sugar**. It is estimated over 300, 000 people refused to buy it. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) were very involved in the abolition movement. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1833.

Themes: Religion, Economy and taxation, Government and Power, Key individuals, communication, opposition.



Workers' Rights and Unions

The first union was the **Tolpuddle Martyrs** in 1834 where six farm workers in Dorset were arrested for swearing an illegal oath and sent to Australia as punishment. After this, harsh laws were introduced to stop workers forming trade unions to campaign for better pay and working conditions. **New Model Unions** grew in the 1850s and 1860s and were made up of skilled workers who paid high subscriptions to be members e.g. Society of Engineers. They preserved the skill and status of the jobs. **New Unions** grew from the 1880s and were different from New Model Unions because they were for unskilled or semi skilled workers e.g. Dockers' Union. They had lower fees to join and reflected the growth of working class culture as a result of the industrial revolution.

Strikes: Annie Bessant led the **Match Girls Strike in 1888**. Their work was dangerous and women got **'phossy jaw'** from the match chemicals. The government gave in and it was the first time women had gone on strike and won. They inspired the **Dockers' Strike in 1889** when the Port of London came to a standstill and who were also successful.

General Strike 1926: Miners went on strike because of pay and conditions after the price of coal fell and wages were cut. Other industries and workers came out in **sympathy strikes**. It wasn't as effective because many **middle class people volunteered** to do other jobs to keep the country running. Although it started peacefully, there was some **violence and rioting** and the Flying Scotsman was derailed. Other workers went back to work and the miners were left striking on their own. Eventually they had to accept the cuts and go back to work. Although it failed it showed how powerful workers could be if they stood together. The **Trades Disputes Act of 1927** made striking really hard as a result.

Themes: Economy and Taxation, Government and Power, Key Individuals, opposition.



THE TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS



Anti Corn Law League c. 1830s

Corn Laws (1815) were taxes on imported corn to make foreign corn expensive and British corn cheaper. It was unfair on poorer people because it put the price of bread up. People in the countryside wanted to keep the Corn Laws because they made more money but people in the towns didn't like it because it kept them poorer. The **Anti Corn Law Association** was set up to oppose the laws and groups were set up in new industrial towns like **Manchester**. They produced **merchandise** like cups and plates and used lots of speakers. **However they also stood candidates in elections successfully e.g. South Lancashire in 1845 where they got a majority of 3000.**

Themes: Economy and taxation, Government and Power, communication.



Social Reformers

Lord Shaftesbury: 10 Hours Bill which limited hours children under 9 could work, stopped women and children working in mines, set up **Ragged Schools** to educate the poor.

Titus Salt: Set up **Saltaire** outside Bradford, a model village next to his factory for his workers to live in good conditions, with a library, concert hall and school (But no pub!). Some people think he was motivated by self interest because he got more hours from his workers who didn't have to travel but this was definitely a better environment for them.

Themes: Religion, Economy and taxation, Government and Power, Key individuals, communication.

Suffragist/Suffragettes

Suffragists: NUWSS: National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies led by **Millicent Fawcett**. They used **peaceful methods** like petitions and meetings.

Suffragettes: WSPU Women's Social and Political Union led by **Emmeline Pankhurst**. They used **militant violent methods** e.g. chaining to railing firebombing politicians houses e.g. Lloyd George's house.

They stopped their militant activity in 1914 when war broke out and many women were involved in the war effort e.g. nursing, women's services etc. **In 1918 the Representation of the People Act gave women over 30 who were property holders the votes.**

Themes: Role of individual, war and violence, Govt. and power, Taxation and economy, communication.



Windrush and Race Relations

Windrush 1948 brought Caribbean migrants to Britain for work. They were classed as **British citizens** because of the British Empire and Britain needed workers after WW2. NHS and London Transport amongst others employers recruited across the Empire for workers to come to Britain.

Many migrants, despite being British citizens, were treated poorly when they arrived in Britain, experiencing **racism** at work, poor, **overcrowded housing** and **few employment rights**. In 1968 a racist speech by Enoch Powell; called for migrants to be sent home and showed the hostility many people faced. **Race Relations Acts** were passed in 1965 and 1968 to help prevent discrimination by making forms of discrimination illegal and setting up organisations like the Commission for Racial Equality, but problems have still existed. This is shown in the Brixton Riots of 1981, the racist murder of teenager, Stephen Lawrence in 1993 and the current Windrush scandal.

Themes: Government and Power, Government and Power, opposition, violence.

