



ANSWERS

1. The Magna Carta (meaning Great Charter), issued in England in 1215, was the first document that stated that a king and his government was subject to the law. By placing power in the law rather than in the king as an individual, it limited the power of a king for the first time in history.
2. The Founding Fathers were influenced by this document when they drafted the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and The Bill of Rights, as well as state constitutions. They felt that Magna Carta represented the rights of the people against tyranny. They felt that Magna Carta guaranteed the rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, and that the English government has not lived up to that principle.
3. Specific clauses from the Magna Carta upon which the founding fathers drew included those guaranteeing the right to a trial by a jury, protection against excessive fines and punishments, safeguarding of individual liberty and property, and the prohibition of taxation without representation.