

# DEBATE

## OPPOSING TEAM

**Argument 1:** The Magna Carta rests on the King and nobility holding absolute power, while power in a democracy is shared between the government and the population.

- Political organisation → OLIGARCHY  
↳ “All fines [...] shall be entirely remitted or the matter decided by a majority judgment of the 25 barons [...] securing the peace.”

**Argument 2:** Moreover Magna Carta did not create legal equality, one of the founding stones of modern democracy.

- Not everyone was subject to the same laws  
↳ “No one shall be arrested or imprisoned on the appeal of a woman for the death of any person except her husband.”  
⇒ Women → subject to less rights
- Man=subject to a more favourable system of justice than women  
⇒ “in future no official shall place a man on trial upon his own unsupported statement, without producing credible witnesses to the truth of it.”  
⇒ Women =judged without credible proof

**Argument 3:** However, not the entire population was included in Magna Carta

- Excluded subjects → villeins, serfs, peasants  
“No free man shall be seized or imprisoned or stripped of his rights.” (article 54)  
This fundamental right was not provided to free women and unfree people.  
  
Only the church members such as archbishops decided what happened inside the church and people’s beliefs, the subjects could not vote.
- “Freedom of the church’s election.”  
The Magna Carta can’t be the foundation of democracy if there were no rules imposed on free merchants.  
“All merchants may enter or leave England freely”

**Arguments 4:** Furthermore, Magna Carta did not introduce key democratic principles.

- Modern democracy= based on universal rights  
+ rule by the people
- “The barons shall elect 25 of their number to keep.”
- Ordinary people=no freedom of vote