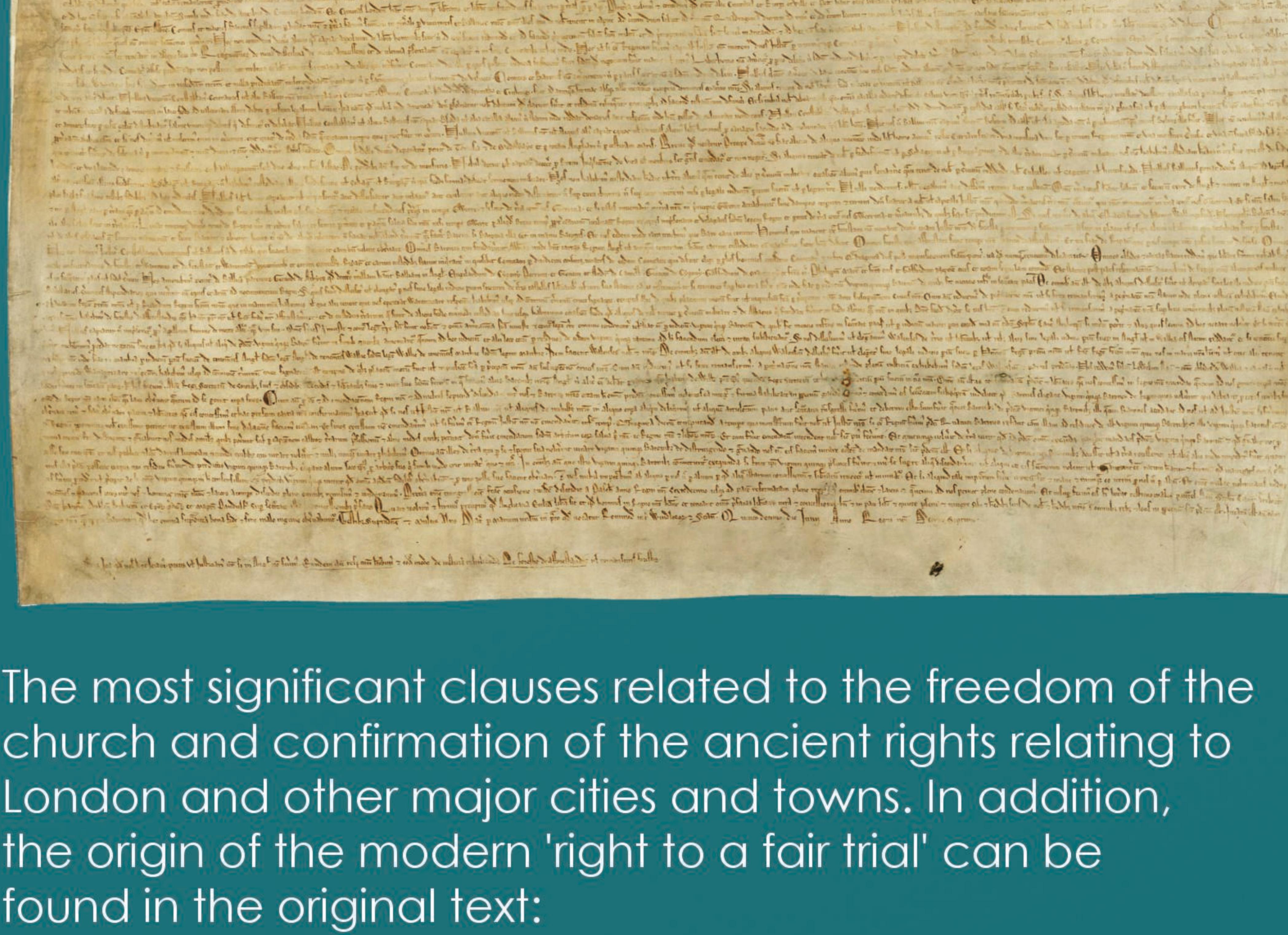


# Magna Carta - 800 Years

## The Charter of Liberties

The Charter is a relatively short document containing 63 clauses and many of these deal with the specific grievances of the barons such as land ownership and taxation. However, the fact that the King had agreed to such a charter was important in itself as it demonstrated that no one was above the law of the land. Clause 61 provided for a commission of 25 barons to ensure the King did not simply disregard the terms laid down.



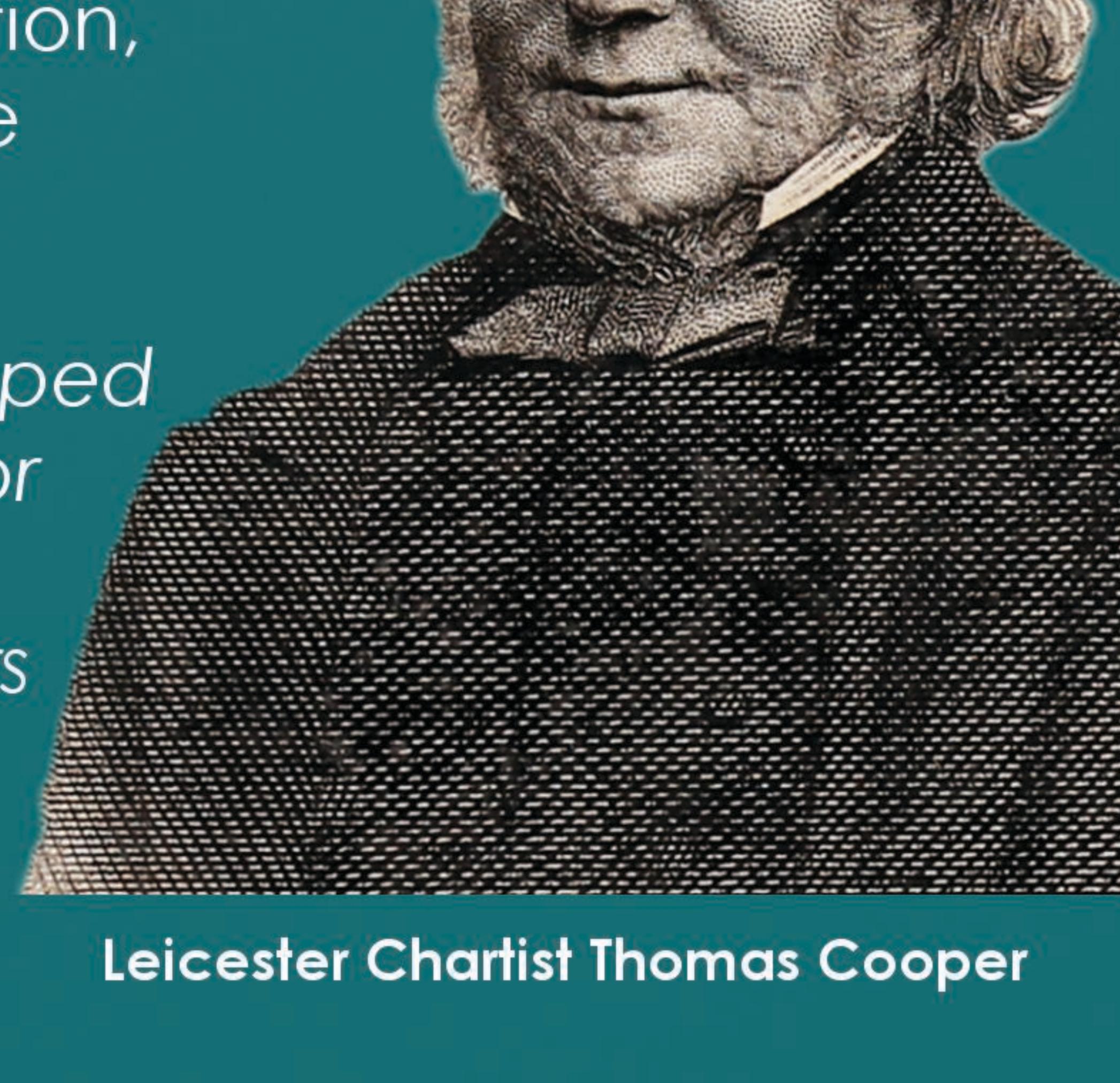
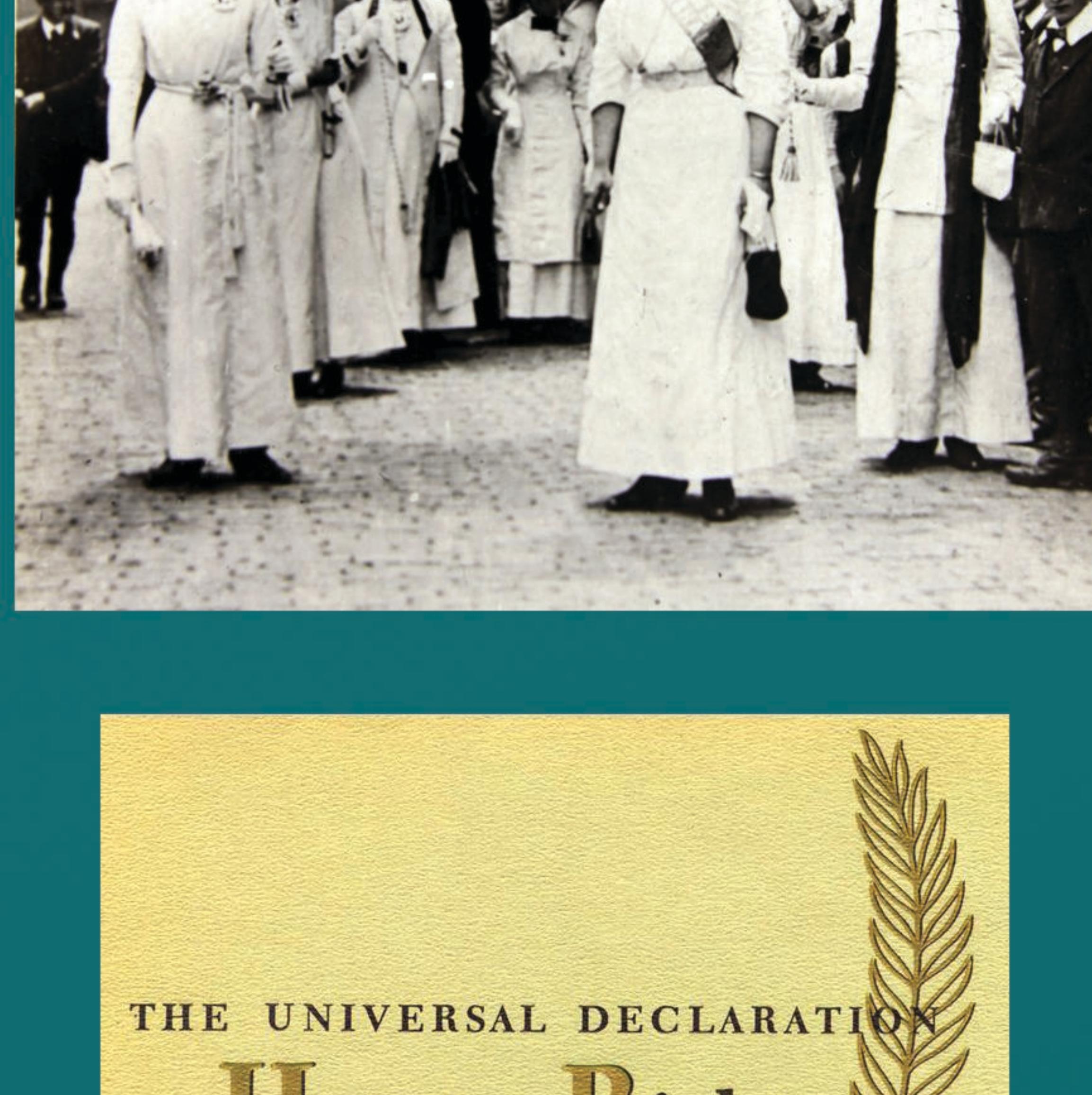
Magna Carta: one of four surviving copies

The most significant clauses related to the freedom of the church and confirmation of the ancient rights relating to London and other major cities and towns. In addition, the origin of the modern 'right to a fair trial' can be found in the original text:

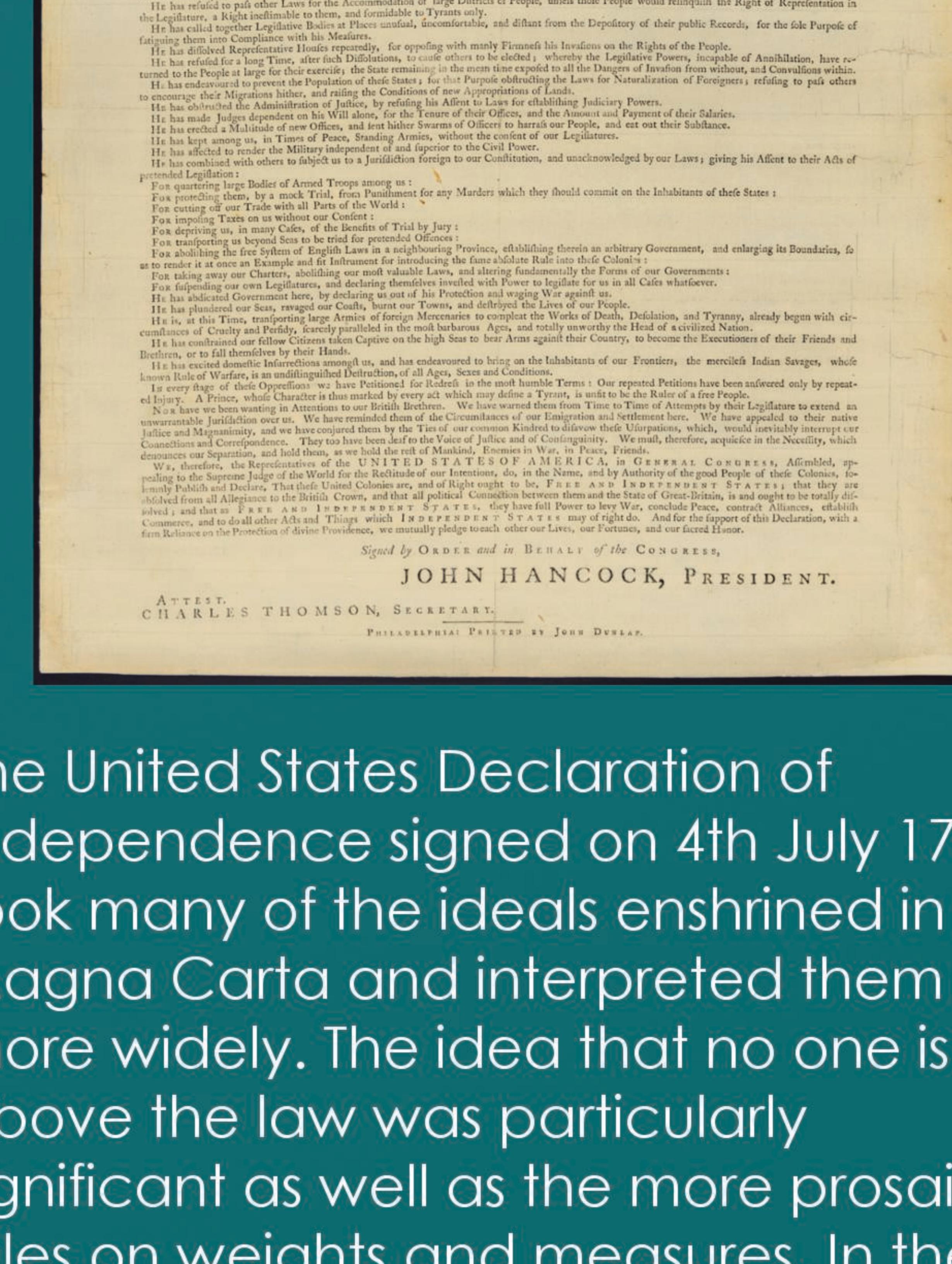
*No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.*

This has been examined and

reinterpreted over the past 800 years, and has been seen at various times to guarantee judicial procedure, trial by jury and the presumption of innocence.



Leicester Chartist Thomas Cooper

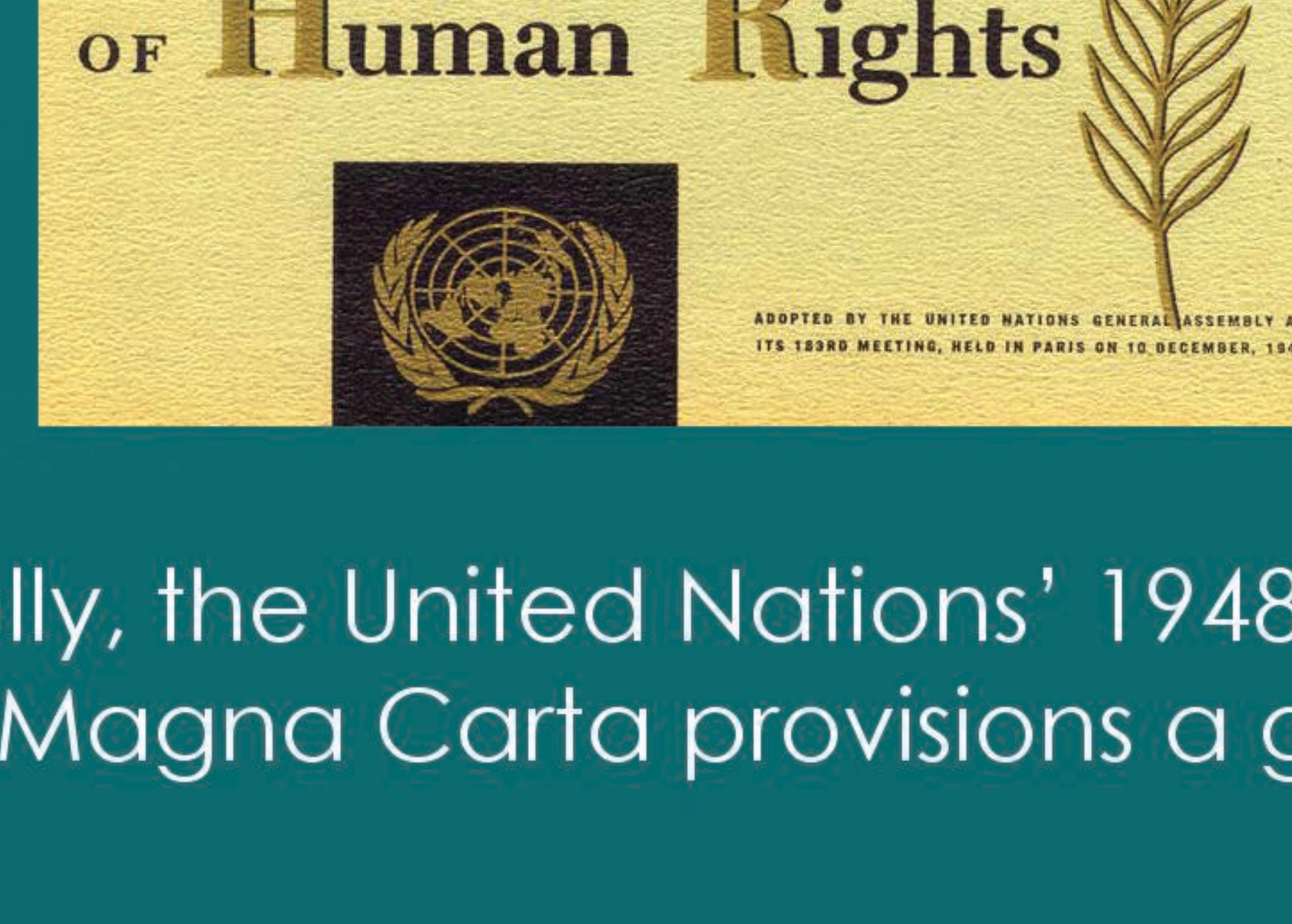


The United States Declaration of Independence signed on 4th July 1776 took many of the ideals enshrined in Magna Carta and interpreted them more widely. The idea that no one is above the law was particularly significant as well as the more prosaic rules on weights and measures. In the 20th century the suffragettes asserted that taxation without representation was contrary to the provision that the consent of the realm had to be obtained to levy duties upon citizens.

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Finally, the United Nations' 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights made the Magna Carta provisions a global phenomenon.