

Unit 3: The Constitution and Foundation of the American Political System

Standards 8.28-8.37

8.28 Describe the significance of the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, and the Mayflower Compact in relation to the development of government in America.

Magna Carta (1215)

- Protects a noble's (wealthy men) rights
- King was not above the law
- King cannot tax without permission of a council

English Bill of Rights (1689)

- Jury trials
- No excessive (extra) bail
- Free elections to Parliament
- Free speech in Parliament

Mayflower Compact (1620)

- Compact was supreme law of the land
- “Just and equal laws”
- Provided a way to amend (or change) the document

Goals of the Constitution

1. Form a more perfect union
2. Establish justice
3. Ensure domestic tranquility
4. Provide for the common defense
5. Promote the general welfare
6. Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity