

# **HISTORICAL SOURCE BOOK**

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Historical Source Book by Hutton Webster

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**HUTTON WEBSTER**

**HISTORICAL  
SOURCE BOOK**



# HISTORICAL SOURCE BOOK

BY

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“The most ingenious and the most eloquent  
of modern historical discourses can after all  
be nothing more than a comment on a text.”

—E. A. FREEMAN, *Methods of Historical Study*

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## PREFACE

My *Readings in Ancient History* and *Readings in Medieval and Modern History*, published some years ago, were intended to provide high-school students of history with a considerable body of narrative and biographical material, for use in connection with their textbook. I now put forth this third volume of thirty-three documents. All but the first two relate to the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries.

Two principal motives have dictated the selection of these particular documents, out of the hundreds which might have been chosen. First, I wished to exhibit the historical development in England and America, and later on the Continent, of orderly, constitutional, and democratic government. From this point of view, an intimate acquaintance with Magna Carta, the Petition of Right, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the Northwest Ordinance, the Constitution of the United States, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man is of supreme value to every intelligent American citizen. Second, I wished to trace the growth of international law and of international relations, generally, as registered in such state papers as the Monroe Doctrine, the Durham Report, the Declaration of Paris, the Peace Circular of Nicholas II, and the Covenant of the League of Nations. Few at this time will deny their epoch-making significance for mankind.

It is not expected that every student will read every document. A proper choice must be made by the teacher, in accordance with the scope and character of her instruction and the maturity of her class. Moreover, some of the longer documents (especially Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, and 14) will doubtless never be read *in extenso*. To facilitate omissions and to aid in the comprehension of the subject matter, I have retained the numbered articles and sections appearing in many of the documents and elsewhere have myself supplied them.

The documents are reprinted in their original form without verbal change. No omissions have been made, except as indicated. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation have been modernized

throughout, though it has been difficult to preserve entire uniformity in these respects. Brief editorial introductions, a few notes which seemed to be indispensable, and an index and pronouncing vocabulary complete the equipment of the book.

I am under great obligations to James MacLehose and Sons, of Glasgow, for permission to use the now standard translation of Magna Carta by Professor W. S. McKechnie. The version of the Confirmation of the Charters is that by Bishop Stubbs, as revised by Mr. H. W. C. Davis. Three French Revolutionary documents are taken by permission from the *Translations and Reprints* published by the Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, and from Professor F. M. Anderson's well known collection illustrating the modern history of France. The other documents are transcribed from official or semi-official sources, as indicated in the foot-notes.

HUTTON WEBSTER

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

*August, 1920*



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# HISTORICAL SOURCE BOOK

## 1. THE GREAT CHARTER, 1215<sup>1</sup>

MAGNA CARTA stands foremost among the great documents which established the liberties of Englishmen. Nevertheless, it did not form an innovation. King John's predecessors, Henry I, Stephen, and Henry II, had issued coronation or accession charters restricting the authority of the sovereign in favor of nobles, clergy, and commons. Magna Carta was suggested by and based upon these earlier grants. The barons who forced it on the king took care that it should be widely known and distributed sealed copies throughout the land. Of these, four are still in existence: two in the British Museum and two in the cathedrals of Lincoln and Salisbury, respectively. The division of the document into a preamble and sixty-three articles is not found in any of the original copies; it is a modern device for convenience of reference. Much of the charter cannot now be understood without special research in English constitutional and legal history. Every student should be familiar, however, with at least articles I, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XX, XXVIII, XXIX, XXXIX-XLII, XLV, LI, LXI, and LXIII.

### THE GREAT CHARTER, 1215

John, by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and count of Anjou, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justiciars, foresters, sheriffs, stewards, servants, and to all his bailiffs and liege subjects, greeting. Know that, having regard to God and for the salvation of our souls, and those of all our ancestors and heirs, and unto the honor of God and the advancement of Holy Church, and for the reform of our realm, by advice of our venerable fathers, Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury,

<sup>1</sup> W. S. McKechnie, *Magna Carta*, pp. 185-479, *passim*. Second Edition. Glasgow, 1914. James MacLehose and Sons.