

Intro Question

In what ways can a society push itself to become a better place for all people?

Prologue 3

Democratic Developments in England

- I) Medieval Reforms
- II) Parliament Grows Stronger
- III) Establishment of a Constitutional Monarchy

I) Medieval Reforms

- The economic and political system of the Middle Ages was **feudalism**, where nobles are granted the use of lands that belong to the king in exchange for their loyalty, military service and protection of the people who live on the land.
- **Common Law** develops, which reflects the customs and principles established over time, not just the will of a ruler.
- To limit royal power, the **Magna Carta** (Great Charter) was created. It implied that the monarch had no right to rule in any way they pleased, but had to govern according to the law.
- Magna Carta gave people the right to **due process of law** - the right to fair treatment by the law.

II) Parliament Grows Stronger

- Over the next few centuries, Parliament's **power of the purse** or right to approve expenses gave it growing influence in governing.
- The idea of the **divine right** of kings states all kings were chosen by God.
- Charles I is forced to sign the **Petition of Rights** in return for granting revenue from taxes.

II) Parliament Grows Stronger

- **The Petition of Rights – Stopped:**
 - Taxing without Parliament's consent
 - Imprisoning citizens illegally
 - Housing troops in citizens' homes
 - Military government in peacetime

III) Establishment of Constitutional Monarchy

- A series of corrupt Kings continue the push from English Parliament to establish a more constitutional Monarchy.
- The Pass the *Habeas Corpus* Amendment Act – the accused are granted the ability to face a judge in court.

III) Establishment of Constitutional Monarchy

- The **Glorious Revolution** established Parliament's right to limit the power of the English king and control succession to the throne.
- England was now a **constitutional monarchy**, where the powers of a ruler are restricted by constitution and the laws of the country.

III) Establishment of Constitutional Monarchy

- In 1689 **English Bill of Rights**, a formal written summary of rights and liberties considered essential to the people.
 - Gave free speech, no cruel and unusual punishment, the right to petition the government.
- England's Glorious Revolution and Bill of Rights , along with the ideas of the Enlightenment, would give rise to democratic revolutions in America and France in the late 18th century