

## Atlanta: City of Peace, Inc. (ACP)



**"Gifting our Global Family with a Global Capital of Peace!"**

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**June 15, 2015:** Character Ethics (Virtues) proved to be more transformative than Code Ethics (Laws)

### **The Magna Carta's 800th Anniversary!**

**"The global event to which the whole world is invited"**

[www.MagnaCarta800th.com/events/](http://www.MagnaCarta800th.com/events/)

Exactly 800 years ago, on this special date in history - **June 15, 1215** - King John of England placed his seal upon "The Magna Carta" (Latin for 'Great Charter') and established for the first time the principle that everybody, the king too, was subject to the law.



The Magna Carta remains a cornerstone of the British and US constitutions. It has influenced the development of democracies worldwide. Some of Magna Carta's core principles are emulated in the United States Bill of Rights (1791), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1950). It was also an inspiration for Thomas Jefferson's revolutionary Declaration of Independence (1776) and most recently, John R. Naugle's Declaration of Peace Millennium (08/08/08).

The Magna Carta's rule of law is a good guide to secure rights and the American Bar Association (ABA) has developed "**Icon of Liberty Under Law**" ([IconOfLiberty.com](http://IconOfLiberty.com)) which educates about public representations of Magna Carta throughout the world. The legacy of the Magna Carta has attracted the interests of many scholars, philosophers, and lawmakers throughout history. It is fascinating to note that Thomas Jefferson may have had great respect for the laws (Code Ethics) but that he placed more value, or supremacy in Character Ethics (excelling in responsibilities & virtues). From Paris on August 23, 1785 Jefferson, in a letter to John Jay (a fellow founding father, plus first Chief Justice of the U.S.A.) emphasized the character of farmers and gardeners by stating:

**"cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independant, the most virtuous and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty & interests by the most lasting bands."**

Gandhi is the world's best known attorney. Although he used his knowledge of law in the establishment of the contemporary peace movement on 9/11/1906, he mostly called people to build their character: **"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."** In 1914, when he was leaving South Africa to move to India he referred to the Indian Relief Act as 'Magna Carta' on the grounds that the Act gave the Indian community in South Africa the right **'to have our reasonable wishes respected'**, that it **'vindicated Passive Resistance as a lawful clean weapon'** and that it confirmed **'the theory of the British Constitution that there should be no legal racial inequality between different subjects of the Crown.'**

60 years ago Dr. King received his PhD from Boston University and 50 years ago in his Nobel Peace Prize speech: **"The Quest for Peace & Justice"** he proclaimed: **"In the past ten years unarmed gallant men and women of the United States have given living testimony to the moral power and efficacy of nonviolence. By the thousands... they have taken our whole nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the founding fathers in the formulation of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. One day all of America will be proud of their achievements."** Additionally, in clause 40 of the Magna Carta-1215, it reads, **"To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice."** Dr. King, in his Letter from Birmingham Jail, adapted the phrase into: **"justice too long delayed is justice denied."**

FACT: The Magna Carta may have been sealed or "signed" in year 1215, but over 1,215 years earlier (2,400+ years ago) there was a widely-respected sage named Confucius who was telling everyone that character ethics was of greater value than code ethics:

**"If the people be led by laws... they will try to avoid the punishment, and have no sense of shame.  
If they be led by virtue... they will have the sense of shame, and moreover will become good."**

In closing, and to add greater substantiation to the fact that Character Ethics provides the most lasting direction to helping all excel in their individual (and our collective) responsibilities it is exciting to note that schools throughout the USA and in many other nations of Earth are mandating **Character Education**; the teaching of character traits and virtues. Through our organization, you and ALL are invited to help us ramp up our mission and projects so we may better amplify and memorialize the great character traits of Gandhi & King; two of Earth's most respected peace builders. Will you help us to "gift" THIS inspiring present to our global family?

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**A Global Capital of Peace Cultivation - Education - Inspiration**