

# China is Quaking in Its Boots Over This Little Piece of Paper

According to the [New York Times](#), communist China is terrified of an 800 year-old copy of the Magna Carta. The touring document arrived in China this week, but was abruptly moved from its high profile exhibition spot at a university to a secluded and limited viewing area.

Although no explanation was given for the switch, it is suspected that the principles set forth in the document are the culprit.

*“In 2013, the [Communist] party issued its ‘[seven unmentionables](#)’ – taboo topics for its members. The first unmentionable is promoting Western-style constitutional democracy. The Chinese characters for ‘Magna Carta’ are censored in web searches on Sina Weibo, the country’s Twitter-like social media site.*

*Hu Jia, a prominent Chinese dissident, said he was not surprised that the exhibit had been moved off the campus. He said that Renmin University had close ties to the Communist Party’s training academy and that the principles the document stood for were contrary to the party’s. More important, he said, Chinese leaders may have been concerned that the exhibit would be popular and that ‘many students would flock there.’*

*‘They fear that such ideology and historical material will penetrate deep into the students’ hearts,’ Mr. Hu said.”*



Are you familiar with the principles of the Magna Carta which

have the Communists running in terror? Below are five brief points to increase your knowledge of this foundational document.

- “In the first place we grant to God and confirm by this our present charter for ourselves and our heirs in perpetuity that the English Church is to be free and to have all its rights fully and its liberties entirely.”
- “The city of London is to have all its ancient liberties and customs. Moreover we wish and grant that all other cities and boroughs and vills and the barons of the Cinque Ports and all ports are to have all their liberties and free customs.”
- “No sheriff or bailiff of ours or of anyone else is to take anyone’s horses or carts to make carriage, unless he renders the payment customarily due...”
- “No bailiff is henceforth to put any man on his open law or on oath simply by virtue of his spoken word, without reliable witnesses being produced for the same.”
- “No freeman is to be taken or imprisoned or disseised of his free tenement or of his liberties or free customs, or outlawed or exiled or in any way ruined, nor will we go against such a man or send against him save by lawful judgement of his peers or by the law of the land. To no-one will we sell or deny of delay right or justice.”

*Image Credit: Erik Wakkell; Inset: Nick Stember*