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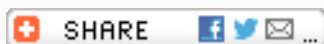
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Magna Carta and the holy grail

Judicial Review: Selected Conference Papers: Journal of the Judicial Commission of New South Wales, The Volume 12 Issue 3 (Dec 2015)

Neuberger, Lord

Abstract: This paper explores the spectrum of views about what Magna Carta meant when it was written and what it has represented since. On one view, it was the first step on the long road from a dictatorial monarchy and arbitrary laws to the rule of law and parliamentary democracy (the lawyer's view). At the other extreme, it was

no more than a feudal law code (a short-term political settlement between King John and the barons) with only symbolic significance (the historian's view). The author discusses the importance given to Magna Carta by Sir Edward Coke, an approach taken up after the Civil War in the 17th century and the Enlightenment in the 18th century, and by the US founding fathers. The author then compares the mythical character of Magna Carta with that of the Holy Grail. He traces the history of the Holy Grail and the work of Sir Thomas Malory in 1485, which breathed fresh air into the Holy Grail myth.



FULL TEXT PDF (219KB)

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