We the People | Paragraph 1 – Amendments Kolin Krewinkel

Period 3/4

In the United States, due process is guaranteed through two amendments to the Constitution. The Fifth Amendment was ratified in the year 1791 as a component of the Bill of Rights. It drew inspiration from the Magna Carta, and guarantees citizens’ rights against legal and governmental authority. Stating that the government shall not deprive a citizen of anything without due process of law, the Fifth Amendment ensures one cannot be punished or harmed beyond what is legally just. In addition, the Fifth Amendment also states that one’s property shall not be taken without just compensation. Drawn from the Magna Carta, these clauses prevent power abuse and unjust punishment for the accused. These rights, fought for in both early England and infant-America, form an integral part of our guaranteed set of rights, by protecting the rights themselves. Secondly, the Fourteenth Amendment, adopted on July 9, 1868, was part of series of Amendments from the Reconstruction era. Because many local courts were declaring many forced workers “non-citizens,” the North was forced to install provisions. These amendments provided the same Fifth Amendment rights to local courts. This solved the problem of abuse in the lower court systems, in the opinion of many Northerners. The result of these amendments was a positive one, protecting many previously abused African-Americans. Now, in modern times, it guarantees our rights to prevent our abuse.