Journal Assignment #2

Much like England a few hundred years ago the United States utilizes a system on laws that limit the power of the nations ruler in order to prevent an absolute monarchy or in the case of the United States a monarchy at all. With the power of the monarch rising in the 1300s may nobles felt threatened, because of this they came together in 1215 and wrote the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta was a turning point for democratic thought because it established checks and balances between a monarch and their power. England would later expand on the Magna Carta with the Bill of Rights in 1689. One of the main purposes was to stop the monarch from unfairly raising taxes “Raising money to be used by the Crown at any time must be approved by Parliament” (Document 2). The United States has a system similar to this in which the Senate and House of Representatives must approve new taxes before they can be implemented. The English documents of the Magna Carta and Bill of Rights fundamentally shaped the United States distribution of power between leader and counsel.