

Paul Langford, *Eighteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction* (1984, 2000)

1. Revolution
 - a. Convention to Parliament (question of legality)
 - i. nonjurors/Jacobites oppose
 - ii. Whigs/Tories accept the legal fiction
 - b. Revolution to War
 - i. Success, esp. under Marlborough & War of Spanish Succession
 - ii. Domestic Impact of War
 - (1) Financial Revolution
 - (2) Establishment Maintained, but Toleration
 - (a) supported by (Whig) Bishops who support Revolution Settlement
 - (b) warning by Tory lesser clergy of “Church in Danger”
 - (3) Rage of Party
 - (a) Whig vs. Tory
 - (i) though some Whigs stay in opposition (Country Tories)
2. Robinocracy
 - a. the ‘15 & the eclipse of the Tories; Whig Ascendancy
 - b. Walpole’s Rise from the South Sea Bubble Crisis
 - c. attack on luxury and corruption
 - i. Jonathan Wild (Thief-finder General)
 - ii. Smugglers
 - iii. Gay’s *Beggars Opera* and attack on corruption of period, but also on Walpolean regime
 - d. Real basis of Walpole’s Success: Patronage/Corruption or Management of King, Lords, and Commons
 - e. Fall of Walpole but maintenance of Robinocracy
3. Industry?
 - a. three precursors:
 - i. demographic
 - ii. agricultural
 - iii. mercantile
 - b. related issues:
 - i. transport (turnpikes/canals, what do they signify?)
 - ii. opening up of cities (demolishing London’s gates, 1761)
 - iii. enclosures, low food prices (though note Gin Craze)
 - iv. Methodism
4. Middle England
 - a. middle-class respectability
 - i. note Hogarth’s relation to same
5. Protest Politics
 - a. Pitt the Elder and Patriot Opposition
 - i. attempt to coopt
 - ii. Seven Years War, union of Pitt, Newcastle, and Frederick, Prince of Wales, c. 1757

langford.wpd

- (1) success but also cost
 - b. Lord North and the Return of the Tories
 - i. George III as glorying in being a “True Briton”
 - ii. Bute and Instability of 1760s
 - iii. Wilkesites
 - (1) Middle Class Call for Reform
 - (2) (influence in the Americas)
- 6. Rebellion and Reform
 - a. Empire in the East
 - i. Robert Clive’s victory at Plassey (Ganges basin, above Calcutta), 1757
 - (1) East India Co., and fear of power of “nabobs”
 - b. Empire in West, Americas
 - i. (not mentioned, importance of West Indies)
 - ii. (not discussed much, the American War of Independence)
 - iii. Ireland uses problem in 13 colonies to demand more trading rights, 1780s
 - c. Domestic demands for Political Reforms, 1780s
 - i. more after Exam