

George I (1714-1727)



George I

- Significant that he succeeded to the throne by an act of Parliament, not by direct succession
- Evolution of the Cabinet
 - preferred to having his ministers discuss affairs without him and then receiving from one of them their conclusions
 - this practice allowed the Cabinet to act collectively and formulate policies
 - minister who replaced monarch at cabinet meetings became Prime Minister

Robert Walpole

- Known as the first “Prime Minister”
- Had one of the longest running administration in British history (1721-42)
 - served under both George I & George II
- Wanted firm control of government’s institutions
 - made sure all appointees were loyal
 - brought government institutions into disrepute
- Believed peace to be route for fiscal recovery

Robert Walpole



Enclosure Movement

Background:

- During the Middle Ages, the lord of the manor retained perhaps 1/3 of the land for his own use (called demesne)
- The remainder was divided between the villeins & farmed by them for the common benefit
 - the villagers paid for their share of the common fields by working for the lord on the demesne land for 2 or 3 days a week or paying something in kind

Enclosure Movement

- The Black Death Plague of 1348
 - Labor scarce
- Dissolution of the monasteries
 - those who bought the land kept the land
- Laborers no longer were guaranteed a parcel of land
- Trend toward larger estates
 - part of the animosity between Whig and Tory was because of this trend

Enclosure Movement



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- Slow development at 1st half of century
- Foreign trade was dominated by trading companies
- Industry organized according to old guilds
- Lack of capital: not enough sources from which money could be borrowed for development
- Poor transportation:
 - terrible roads
 - shallow rivers
 - few canals

Societal Changes

1717: St. Paul's finished



Growing interest in China
tea drinking becoming fashionable