



AN IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION OF THE SOCIO-POLITICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT OF ENGLAND DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

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Abstract:

This article presents findings from an investigation of the historical context of Britain in the eighteenth century. This will deepen one's appreciation of the pivotal circumstances of the eighteenth-century that ultimately determined England's fate. Also of significance in this story are the customs, clothes, and etiquette of the time period being discussed.

Keywords:Business, Voters, Buying, Discord, Uncertainty, Rebirth, Production, Employment

1.INTRODUCTION:

Political instability: Some significant historical events and developments throughout the eighteenth century need our attention. The conflict between the Whigs and Conservatives is still ongoing. Britain experienced political unrest. George III took the throne when George II passed away. The most divisive British ruler was this new king. Knowing that seven different administrations were in place during the first 10 years of the reign helps us to understand how unstable the situation was. Pitt resigned in 1761, and Newcastle was given a power-sharing arrangement with John Stuart, lord of Brute. Newcastle resigned in 1762, and Bute took over as leader until 1763. Grenville took Bute's post until he was fired in 1765. The first lord of the treasury that year was Watson-Wentworth. Pitt took Rockingham's position in 1766 when Rockingham was fired. Duke of Grafton

Augustus Henry served as president from 1768 until 1770. Frederick, Lord North was the minister the king discovered in 1770 who he could rely on. It goes without saying that such political unrest makes it difficult for Britain to address the issue of her American colonies.

Yet, conflict and instability did not just exist in political systems. Also, at this time there were poor harvests, an increase in food costs, and sporadic unemployment. The public's concern about Jon Wilkes, who was experiencing such economic and social issues, was dissenting protestant. He was a morally corrupt and careless individual who was denied a position in the administration. He became a journalist in opposition after being disappointed. His writings were deemed seditious in 1763, leading to his incarceration along with a few others. But, the chief judge of the court of common pleas, Charles Pratt, freed him. He was put on trial in 1764 for sedition and obscenity. He was chosen as a member of parliament for Middlesex, which at the time was England's most populated electorate, in 1768.

Wilkes was detained in the Tower of London after being ruled unsuitable for office. This caused unrest throughout the country. He was revered as a libertarian martyr. To bring about legislative changes, the Association for the Supporters of the Bill of Rights was established. It increased demand for parliamentary representation for emerging cities like Manchester and



Birmingham. An interest in parliamentary representation and taxation was growing among English and American colonists.

For certain British Roman Catholics who were denied civil rights in 1778, Parliament provided accommodations. To abolish the Catholic Relief Act of 1778, George Gordon organised the Protestant Association. As this movement reached London, rioting broke out. There were several fatalities and property damage. The majority of Lord North was overthrown in March 1782, and he resigned against George III's desires. Then Lord Ruckingham established a new government. William Petty succeeded as the first lord of the treasury after his death. With the Treaty of Paris's defeat of the Americans and Brits, he declared peace. The Empire suffered humiliation and the loss of lucrative provinces as a result of the conflict. So, in 1793, Britain once again engaged in combat with France.

Britain reclaimed additional West Indian Islands that had been lost during the conflict in 1783. Britain was given permission to travel freely via Holland's spice islands. By enacting a measure to restructure the administration of British colonies in India, which was formerly handled by the East India Company alone, a Lord North-James Fox coalition administration intended to bolster their position. The measure was rejected by the lords in 1783. This provides justification for replacing Fox and North with William Pitt Jr. In the 1784 election, he won a majority in the House of Commons. He signed the Eden Treaty, a business pact with France, in 1786. By brokering a deal between Turkey and Austria in 1790, he showed off the might and dignity of Britain. He enacted the

India Act in 1784 to govern East India Company and Indian operations.

Social and economic developments: As Britain's standard of living improved, it did so unevenly. In the towns and among the wealthy, changes were seen. Estates ranging in size from 10,000 to 20,000 acres belonged to landowners. The dukes, earls, and barons were the owners of such estates. They are qualified to sit in the House of Lords because of their inherited titles. Those individuals had opulent homes in London. The mansion and grounds cost money, according to the earls. Strong commercial classes were created as a result of increased trade and commerce; the Smiths were linked with banking, and the Strutts with textile manufacture.

Land was owned by people connected to different political roles including the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The monarchs selected Lord Lieutenants to uphold law and order in their respective counties. They appointed deputy lieutenants and judges to help with these duties. They are respected and influential in their community. The number of middle income groups was growing. Professional prospects in finance, government service, and medicine increased. The leisure and luxury sectors saw a rise in job possibilities.

London served as the commercial epicentre. Due to its size and variety of uses, it was the only true national metropolis. Ten percent of all Britons lived in this city by the middle of the eighteenth century. The nation's main port and financial hub were in London. Provincial towns were expanding in size and significance at the same time. The towns improved in terms of safety and livability. The town's pristine water



resources and sophisticated urban design and architecture were two of its standout characteristics.

Cultural developments: Newly accessible goods like coffee, tea, and porcelain helped to fuel a developing consumer culture. Provincial towns established their own cultural life, adding libraries, theatres, assembly halls, and coffee shops. These places offered newspapers and a place for gossip to its patrons. It functioned as a hub for political, social, and debate activity. Schools were built in towns and the surrounding countryside. Newspapers were the most notable communication advancement. The books, dictionaries, journals, and ads produced in each province were independent.

This period displays a modest Renaissance that spread throughout almost all of Europe. A overall improvement in human intelligence corresponded with an increase in comfort and luxury.

The new learning has various branches in England. We saw the resurgence of Romanticism in literary works. study of literary genres including ballads, new publications

Shakespeare and Geoffrey Chaucer, among other classic writers, had a significant role in it. Beautiful examples of ballad writing were included in Bishop Percy's publishing of the *Reliaues*, which is regarded as a turning point in the Romantic Movement. Shakespeare was edited by Pope and Johnson. Historical writing began to flourish in this time period.

We have the novel's startling conclusion, which dealt with domestic occurrences. Henry Fielding wrote in

graphic depth about human existence. Robinson Crusoe and Lamuel Gulliver are two of the most enduring literary figures in British literature.

Ministers no longer had a preference for poets and writers. Walpole openly detested the genre of literature. Writers nowadays must rely on their audience. Men of literature like Samuel Johnson and Oliver Goldsmith flourished during this time. These authors produced works in response to popular demand. In 1755, Johnson published *Dictionary of the English Language*. It introduced spelling consistency and was the first official treatment of the language. *Lives of the Most Prominent English Poets* is another publication he made. Later in the century, the British cultural heritage became stronger. In 1768, the Royal Academy was founded.

Like to literature and art, music was easily adapted to the eighteenth-century consumer culture. They bought music instruments, literature, and artwork. Solo performances were quite popular, and as a result, music and manuals were written.

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Industrial Engineering Journal

ISSN: 0970-2555

Volume : 51, Issue 09, No. 1, September 2022

Vol. 25, No. 4, pp. 359-379

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