American Revolution and Britain: Themes

- George III and History
- King and Parliament
- ‘Wilkes and Liberty’
- Britain’s American Problem 1763-1783
- Public Opinion
George III and History

- Reign of George III: 1760-1820
- Madness
- ‘Farmer George’
- George and the age of revolutions
King and Parliament

- Patronage and influence
- Expanding power of executive
- Limits of royal power and parliamentary power—the unresolved legacy of 1688
‘Wilkes and Liberty’

- John Wilkes
- His challenge to the authority of government
- Parliamentary reform and popular politics
Britain’s American Problem

Lord North: Prime Minister 1770-1782
Britain’s American Problem
1763-83

- National debt from Seven Years War
- Increased taxation
- Parliamentary representation
Public Opinion

- The invention of the idea of the “public”
- Middle class interest groups
- Public debate about reform
- The American Revolution revolutionized politics in Britain: it put the idea of changing the political system into popular consciousness
Public Opinion: Hogarth
Public Opinion: Reform a keyword

- What did reform mean?
- Constitutional and political
- Economical government
- Institutional
Reform: some reformers

- William Pitt, the younger: Prime Minister 1783-1801
Reform: some reformers

- Adam Smith
Reform: some reformers

- Jeremy Bentham