1740  George II

1740-1760

1740  War of Austrian Succession was opened on the continent

1741  A vote of confidence against Walpole failed

1742  ● Walpole lost nearly all of his political power and resigned;

1743  ● George II beat the French near Dettingen am Main

1744-45  Anglo-French sea war

1745  ● Stuart followers under Charles Edward were beaten near Prestonpans (Scotland);

1748  Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle ended the War of Austrian Succession

1751  in a border agreement the French gain Montreal

1756-1763  Seven Years War with France, Austria and Russia on the side of Frederick the Great of Prussia.

This Colonial War was waged on three continents (Europe, America, Asia/India) and ended with British victories over France in India (Robert Clive, battle of Plassey 1757) and Canada (Wolfe captures Quebec in 1759), War ended by the Treaty of Paris.

William Pitt (Pitt the Elder 1708-78, Whig) became Minister of War. He began exercising unrestricted control in national and military affairs and directed the war on three continents on land and sea, but lost power on the succession of George III, who favoured the Tories.

1757/58

Militia Bill; Pitt had organized military service and had founded the Scottish Highland regiments besides the regular army

1740  First spinning machine factory opens in England (change from cottage textile industry to factory production)

1747  Bradley discovers the swaying of the earth's axis

1752  Calendar reform to the Gregorian system

1741/42  D. Hume (1711-1776), Essays, Moral and Political

1744  G. Berkeley (1685-1753), Philosophical Reflections Concerning Tar-Water

1748  D. Hume, Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding

1748  Thomson  The Castle of Indolence

1749  Henry Fielding, The History of Tom Jones

1750  Dr. Samuel Johnson, Irene

1753  Edward Moore, Gil Blas

1753  Colley Cibber, Apology for the life of Mr. Cibber, Comedian

1754  Miss in Her Teens

1755  Colley Cibber, Apology for the life of Mr. Cibber, Comedian

1756  Englishman returned from Paris

1757  The Author

1740  Colley Cibber, The Lying Valet

1747  The Gamester

1749  Henry Fielding, The History of Tom Jones

1751  Amelia, Increase of Robbers

1752  Convent Garden Journal

1755  Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon

1757  Ferdinand Count Fanthom