**Lecture 11: Radicalism and Revolution**

Structure:

* Wilkes
* Association movement and the American Revolution
* Radical societies and the reaction to the French Revolution
* Historiography

**John Wilkes (1725-97)**

1763 – arrested for libel in *North Briton*, number 45.

Hogarth’s caricature, ‘John Wilkes Esq’

Why was Wilkes popular?............................................................................

**American Revolution and the war of independence (1774-1782)**

‘no taxation without representation’

Impact on British politics –

Rethinking of Hobbes and Locke

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)

1780 - Yorkshire Association – Rev Christopher Wyvill,

Westminster Association – Charles James Fox, William Pitt the Younger, Richard Price

Major John Cartwright, *Take Your Choice*! (1776)

1782 reform activity in parliament:

Crewe’s Act – disenfranchises civil servants who worked in the revenue services

Clerke’s Act and Burke’s Establishment Act – reduce the number of placemen and pensioners in the House of Commons

May 1782 – House of Commons - Pitt moved for a committee to examine the state of the representation. Defeated 161 -141.

Anti-slave trade campaign – role of Evangelicals and Dissenters – William Wilberforce and Hannah More

**Impact of the French Revolution**

Debate about liberty

Society of the Friends of the People re-established 1792

London Corresponding Society – ‘members unlimited’ – founded by Thomas Hardy

1. continuance of older reforming activity:

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2. new departures:

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Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man* (2 vols, 1791 and 1792)

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1791)

Mary Wollstonecraft

1795 ‘Two Acts’…………………………………………………………………..

**Historiography**

1. Whig histories…………………………………………………………………

2. J.C.D. Clark…………………………………………………………………..

3. debate on why Britain did not have a revolution……………………………………………………………………….

**Further reading:**

Wilkes’s Squint:

West, Shearer, 'Wilkes's squint: synecdochic physiognomy and political identity in eighteenth-century print culture', *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 33:1 (1999), 65-84

<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/eighteenth-century_studies/v033/33.1west.html>

Antique Valuers – for the Wilkes tankard - <http://www.antiquevaluers.co.uk/old_harlequins/articles/tankard.html>

I. Christie, *Wilkes, Wyvill and Reform*