**Walpole and the Politics of Corruption**

**Timeline**

1701 – Act of Settlement – ensured that the monarch’s successor would always be a Protestant – chosen from the House of Hanover

Sir Robert Walpole enters parliament

1710 – Dr Sacheverell’s trial – London cleric arrested for preaching a sermon in St. Paul’s Cathedral against toleration

1712 – Stamp Act imposed levy of 1p per sheet on newspapers

1714-15 – Jacobite rebellion

1715 – election – Tory majority of 240 in the Commons decimated – Whigs gain majority of 130 seats in Westminster; Irish Whigs also triumphant in Dublin

May 1716 – Septennial Act – elected parliament for seven years (previously three)

1717 – Walpole resigned

1719 – Peerage Bill – ministry attempted to entrench its supremacy in the Lords, but failed

1720 – South Sea Bubble crisis

1722 – Whigs condemn Tories to permanent opposition

1722 – parliament bans the reporting of its debates in the press

1724 – revised Stamp Act

1726 – Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*

1728 – Walpole obtained for George II the largest civil list that parliament had ever voted

1728 – John Gay, *Beggar’s Opera*

June 1733 – dismissal of Cobham, Chesterfield and other disgruntled Whigs from government places

1733 – excise crisis

1734 – general election – Walpole’s majority decreased

1736 – Gin Act

October 1739 – War of Jenkins’ Ear

1741 – election – Walpole’s majority reduced from 42 to 19.

2 February 1742 – Walpole resigned.