

George III and His American Colonies

Patrick Allitt

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- I. In America it's called "The American Revolution." In Britain it's called "The Loss of the American Colonies." Everyone agrees that it was a vital moment in world history, but there's plenty of disagreement about whose fault it was, and whether King George III should carry the blame.
- II. On his ascension in 1760 he was the youngest king since Henry II in 1154 and British people on both sides of the Atlantic were proud to have a king who had been born and raised *in England*, unlike his immediate predecessors.
- III. Despite claims in the *Declaration of Independence*, he was not a tyrant. In sixty years as king, he never vetoed an act of Parliament and he always acknowledged parliamentary supremacy.
- IV. British narratives about the 1770s and 1780s emphasize a different set of turning points because we all like to remember our victories and forget our defeats.
- V. Britain and the United States were soon reconciled after 1783 and became vital trading partners throughout the Nineteenth Century, then vital allies in the two world wars.

Suggested Reading:

Andrew Roberts, *The Last King of America: The Misunderstood Reign of George III* (Penguin, 2023)

Jeremy Black: *George III: America's Last King* (Yale University Press, 2008)

Catherine Curzon, *Kings of Georgian Britain* (Pen and Sword Press, 2017)