POLITICS IN THE AGE OF
FOX, PITT AND LIVERPOOL

British History in Perspective
General Editor: Jeremy Black

PUBLISHED TITLES

- C. J. Bartlett *British Foreign Policy in the Twentieth Century*
D. G. Boyce *The Irish Question and British Politics 1868–1986*
John W. Derry *British Politics in the Age of Fox, Pitt and Liverpool*
Ronald Hutton *The British Republic 1649–1660*
Diarmaid MacCulloch *The Later Reformation in England, 1547–1603*
A. J. Pollard *The Wars of the Roses*
Robert Stewart *Party and Politics, 1830–1852*

FORTHCOMING TITLES

- John Davis *British Politics 1885–1931*
Ann Hughes *Causes of the English Civil War*
Michael Prestwich *English Politics in the Thirteenth Century*

POLITICS IN THE AGE OF
FOX, PITT AND LIVERPOOL
CONTINUITY AND TRANSFORMATION

JOHN W. DERRY

Macmillan Education

© John W. Derry 1990

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1990

All rights reserved. For information, write:

Scholarly and Reference Division,

St. Martin's Press, Inc., 175 Fifth Avenue,

New York, N.Y. 10010

First published in the United States of America in 1990

ISBN 978-0-333-42221-2

ISBN 978-1-349-20694-0 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-20694-0

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Derry, John W. (John Wesley)

Politics in the age of Fox, Pitt, and Liverpool : continuity and transformation / John W. Derry.

p. cm. — (British history in perspective)

ISBN 978-0-312-04089-5

1. Great Britain—Politics and government—1760-1820. 2. Great Britain—Politics and government—1800-1837. 3. Fox, Charles James, 1749-1806. 4. Pitt, William, 1759-1806. 5. Liverpool, Robert Banks Jenkinson, Earl of, 1770-1828. I. Title.

DA505.D47 1990

941.07'3—dc20

89-24155

CIP

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>Introduction</i>	1
1 The Pittite Restoration	5
<i>The political background</i>	5
<i>The Wilkes affair</i>	20
<i>The American dispute</i>	21
<i>North and his opponents</i>	25
<i>The second Rockingham ministry</i>	34
<i>The Fox–North coalition</i>	38
<i>Fox’s India Bill</i>	44
<i>Pitt in office</i>	52
<i>The Foxite opposition</i>	58
<i>The Regency crisis</i>	63
2 The Challenge of War	71
<i>The impact of the French Revolution</i>	71
<i>The intervention of Burke</i>	74
<i>Reform movements</i>	82
<i>Problems for Pitt</i>	86
<i>Paine and radicalism</i>	90
<i>Britain at war</i>	93
<i>Ireland and Union</i>	102
<i>Catholic emancipation and the fall of Pitt</i>	106

Contents

3	The Search for a Ministry	120
	<i>The Addington ministry</i>	121
	<i>Pitt returns</i>	128
	<i>The ministry of all the talents</i>	133
	<i>Portland struggles on</i>	137
	<i>Iberian opportunities</i>	141
	<i>Walcheren and disaster</i>	144
	<i>Perceval rallies the nation</i>	146
4	The Pittite Tradition Renewed and Extended	151
	<i>Liverpool and his ministry</i>	151
	<i>Final victory</i>	165
	<i>Castlereagh and foreign policy</i>	167
	<i>Domestic problems</i>	174
	<i>A ministry in transition</i>	187
	<i>Suggestions for Further Reading</i>	198
	<i>Index</i>	202

PREFACE

In writing this brief survey I have sought to provide the reader with sufficient narrative to make sense of what happened, while seeking to concentrate on a number of themes. I am grateful to Jeremy Black for inviting me to contribute a volume to his series; to Vanessa Graham, for her patience in waiting for the typescript, and to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, whose provision of a term's study-leave greatly facilitated the production of the book.

Department of History
University of Newcastle upon Tyne

JOHN W. DERRY