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**America's Revolution (21) - The
Incompetence of King George III – I**

Lead: In the 1700s the United States broke from England. No colony in history had done that before. This series examines America's Revolution.

Intro: A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts

Content: He was the first monarch of his kin to be born in England – Norfolk House, London in 1738 – and the first Hanoverian monarch to speak English. The prince who would become King George III was raised in obscurity by parents who clearly doted

on his brother Edward. When he managed to get a word in edge-wise during family conversations he was too often admonished, “Do hold your tongue, George: don’t talk like a fool.” Therefore, the young man who would grow up to command and lose an empire developed into a quiet, shy, modest introvert who loved the British Constitution but only too slowly grew effectively to learn his role as a sovereign in a time of growing crisis.

In 1751 his father Frederick died and this placed Prince George next in succession to the throne. George’s mother, Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, reacted by becoming ultra-protective and walled him off from all influences save those most trusted. At the age of

17 he came under the tutelage of John Stuart, the Earl of Bute, a Scottish advisor to the future king's mother, and some said inaccurately, her lover. For the next half decade the Earl became both friend and mentor to the affection-starved young man who drank deeply of the proffered friendliness. Already far better educated than most aristocratic young Englishmen and certainly more than most British monarchs, under the Earl he embarked on a rigorous regime of studies, but his early ineptitude as a ruler derived less from any discrepancy of knowledge, but rather from his deficient temperament. Next time: the evil Earl.

At the University of Richmond's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I'm Dan Roberts.

Resources

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