

**THE ECONOMIC
POLICY OF
ROBERT WALPOLE**

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The Economic Policy of Robert Walpole by N. A. Brisco

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N. A. BRISCO

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ROBERT WALPOLE**

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**THE ECONOMIC POLICY OF
ROBERT WALPOLE**

BY
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SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN THE
FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

1907

To his Uncle,
GEORGE I. HAM,
A MAN WHO BY HIS GENIUS
HAS MADE A SUCCESS IN THE FINANCIAL WORLD,
THE AUTHOR DEDICATES
THIS BOOK

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PREFACE

THE following pages constitute a study that was commenced at the suggestion of Professor Seligman. There has hitherto been no systematic treatment of the economic policy of the administration of Robert Walpole and it was felt that here was a field for study. Care has been taken to arrange the economic facts in order, so that this monograph may be of some service as an economic history of the period. The writer trusts that he will be able to continue his studies and to treat other periods of the eighteenth century in a similar manner.

Among the different sources mentioned in the book, attention must be directed to the numerous pamphlets of the period. Much information has been obtained from the perusal of scores of these pamphlets. The writer feels very grateful to Professor Seligman for extending to him the privilege of his library which, with the exception of the British Museum, and perhaps the Foxwell library, now in London, contains the best collection in existence of the pamphlet literature of the period.

It must be remembered that no pretense is made to any great originality of thought. The writer has indeed attempted to present the different economic theories arising from the discussion over the excise; but in this he does not claim any especial credit. If he has succeeded in throwing some new light on the economic policy of Robert Walpole, and in arranging in order

the economic facts of the period so that they may be more accessible to students, he will feel satisfied. Whether the work which is the result of three years' study possesses any merit, the author leaves to the reader to decide.

Thanks more than the writer can express are due to Professor Seligman who has evinced from the beginning a great interest in the book and spared no pains in carefully reading the manuscript and offering many valuable suggestions. To Professor Seager, the author is indebted for assistance in the reading of the manuscript and the offering of many helpful criticisms. Grateful acknowledgment is expressed to Professor Clarke for his careful reading of the proof and his many valuable suggestions. Sincere gratitude is also expressed to Professors Short and Ferguson of Queen's University under whom the author received his college training in economics and English history.

N. A. B.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, *March, 1907.*

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