Board of Trade

by Robert J. Cain, 2006

The Board of Trade was the agency of the British government principally concerned with matters relating to the colonies. Established in 1695, the board maintained correspondence with provincial and royal governors, compiled statistics and other data, and prepared reports and recommendations regarding administration of the colonies. Although technically subordinate to the Privy Council, of which it was a committee, and to the secretary of state, who also had oversight of colonial affairs, the Board of Trade wielded much influence in the formulation and implementation of colonial policy. The board's involvement in the governing of North Carolina increased markedly with the establishment of royal government in 1731, and it remained substantial until the creation in 1768 of the position of secretary of state concerned exclusively with the colonies.

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[9] https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/go
[12] https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-