**Analysis activity 6.1: The British opposition**

As the War of Independence dragged on, the British Parliament became increasingly divided. Many saw it as an unjust war against their fellow countrymen. Prominent figures within this Whig movement were Edmund Burke and William Pitt (who later became prime minister). Both had repeatedly denounced British policy in the colonies during the days of the *Stamp Act* crisis of 1765. Below is an excerpt from a Pitt speech in the House of Lords:

*You have ransacked every corner of Lower Saxony; but forty thousand German boors never can conquer ten times the number of British freemen. You may ravage – you cannot conquer; it is impossible: you cannot conquer the Americans. You talk, my Lords, of your friends among them to annihilate the Congress, and of your powerful forces to disperse their army: I might as well talk of driving them before me with this crutch! … If you conquer them, what then? You cannot make them respect you; you cannot make them wear your cloth: you will plant an invincible hatred in their breasts against you. Coming from the stock they do, they can never respect you.*

William Pitt, Speech in the House of Lords, 30 May 1777



**Source 6.7** William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham, by Richard Brompton, 1772

Quote sections of the extract to support your arguments when answering the following questions:

1. Who is Pitt referring to when he states ‘You have ransacked every corner of Lower Saxony’?

1. What does Pitt imply will be the result of using ‘German boors’ in the American colonies?

1. What reasons does Pitt give as why ‘you cannot conquer America’?

1. What system (covered in Part One of this text) is referred to when Pitt states ‘you cannot make them wear your cloth?’

1. What is meant when Pitt states ‘you will plant invincible hatred in their breasts against you. Coming from the stock they do …’?