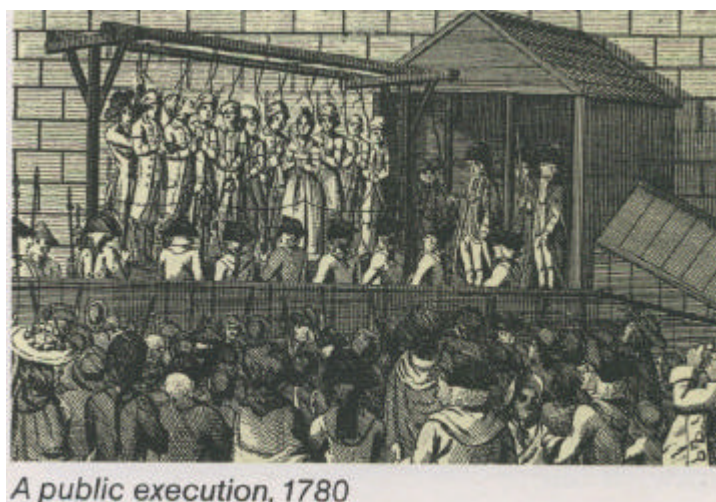




When Captain James Cook landed on the east coast of Australia, he called the place he found Botany Bay³ because there were so many beautiful flowers there. However, for seventeen years after Cook had discovered Australia, the English did nothing with their new colony. They could see no use for it. It was too far away. It was empty, uncultivated⁴, and only Aborigines lived there. And they already had richer colonies in America, Canada and India. However, events in America soon made the English change their policy⁵.

During the eighteenth century unemployment, poverty and crime were great social problems in England. Many families lived in dark, unhealthy homes. Children often died of illnesses and, if they survived, all they could expect from life was hard work and little to eat. Many people stole what they needed. As the prisons got fuller, the judges⁶ became stricter and more cruel. Men and women were hanged for stealing sheep or even bread, or they were sent to work in one of the prison colonies in North America. After the War of Independence, the English lost

their American colonies. But they still had an unexplored⁷ and undeveloped continent at the other side of the world, which might bring them the kind of wealth the American colonies had brought. So the English turned their attention to Australia. But at first they only used it as a



prison. Within a few years Botany Bay became the name of one of the most feared prison colonies in the world. It wasn't until the middle of the next century that regular settlement began.

1 settlement - Besiedlung 2 Declaration of Independence - Unabhängigkeitserklärung 3 Botany Bay
4 uncultivated - unbebaut 5 policy - Politik 6 judge - Richter/in 7 unexplored - unerforscht