

## Abstract

Our essay investigates the influence of Hegel on Foucault concerning to the modern state and the political rationality. In his course at College de France in 1978, Foucault employs a concept of “governmentality” to describe the means through which the administrative state forms and maintains itself. Political “governmentality” marks a passage from a territorial state to the state of population, referring to a rational knowledge that aims to govern the people through a new political structuration and new technologies of power. This important transformation consists of two doctrines: The reason of state and the theory of police. These doctrines allow Foucault to discover the rationality of the modern state, whose main purpose is respectively a perfect knowledge of state with its institutions and a growth of state power through the population. In Hegel’s work, we find the rationality according to which the administrative state should be constituted and maintained. It is a domain of the objective spirit which, by overcoming of individual wills, arrives finally at universality and objectivity. This central process will not take place without the institutions which coordinate the private interests with collective imperatives and which provide a space for social intercomprehension. Despite the fact, that Foucault tries to escape the influence of Hegel, by criticising the big political structures, he does not propose a true strategy against the modern state.

**Keywords:** Michel Foucault; G.W.F. Hegel; Governmentality; Political rationality; Modern state.