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Michel Foucault in the Post-Foucauldian Epoch

Foucault opened several issues on neoliberalism, describing it as a discursive framework for the current epoch. It should be kept in mind that it is in accordance with his methodology, namely, to open more questions than to give explicit and finalized answers. Our question is the following: does the epoch that lasted from his death until today affirm his ideas? Do we need to revise the basic direction of his thinking or is it necessary to merely correct certain tendencies? Does his account highlight the most important moments of today's socio-economic dynamics or thematize only marginal moments? Here I will argue that the prospective speech on neoliberalism is in line with the discourse in terms of today's era. But, I am not going to deal with philological details of the subject matter, but try to offer some directions for a correction of Foucault's approach, and in doing so I will keep in mind that the presented corrections concern the main orientations of Foucault's thinking. The most important moment that determines my thinking is a critical reconstruction of the relation between power and violence. This moment is associated with the fact that in addition to the forms of power treated by Foucault (governmentality) we should endorse the cynegetic forms based on the force. In other words, I want to show that Foucault's analytics can be corrected with cynegetic forms of power that are either nonexistent or marginalized in Foucault's work. Only on this basis can we access such phenomena as a) a monetarized governmentality, b) an interpenetration of economies and cultures, c) the transformation of the dimensions of wars in the circuits of neoliberalization.

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The Prison and the Neoliberal State

In his studies of the penal system in the US, Loïc Wacquant argued that the prison has become one of the most important political institutions in the neoliberal era. In my presentation I will first confront Foucault's vision of prison and the panoptic model of social control with Wacquant's analysis of contemporary mechanisms of surveillance and punishment

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