
**Abstract**

The focus of this research is to develop a social theory explaining why corporal phases of discipline emerge in recent modernized societies. This theory is generated from the historical analysis of Argentina throughout the years 1969 to 1979. Within this time period, a state developed terror apparatus was utilized between 1976 and 1979 to eliminate all forms of subversion. The theoretical bases of this research stem from two major sources. Michel Foucault's work in Discipline and Punish (1979) aided in the formulation of ideological arguments and Immanuel Wallerstein's World-systems theory assisted the structural analysis. In general, this research pays close attention to a nation's ability to satisfy both world market demands and domestic class demands. A nation which cannot appease both sets of demands will experience heightened levels of social conflict. Violent, organized and sustained conflict will contribute to the emergence of corporal phase discipline. This research carefully traces the relationship between the world-economy, internal dissent and an emerging phase of corporal discipline.

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In Discipline and Punish Foucault examines the origin of the modern prison. Foucault divides the time he deals with into two periods as follows: (1) the age of torture during the Ancien Régime which ended in the late 18th century. The “Panopticon” is thus the model and epitome of the emerging “bourgeois” surveillance and disciplinary society in schools, military barracks, armies, factories, hospitals and prisons (Merquior 1991: 92), so that there is a whole “carceral” system that characterises modern society where people are coerced, and the school and factory are the mirror of the prison. According to Foucault, the modern penitentiary system supposedly just creates recidivism and manufactures criminals. One can see...
obvious intellectual sources for the theory presented in Discipline and Punish.