

Foucault and the Modern International: Pluralizing IR, power, domination and ... Foucault

Philippe Bonditti, Didier Bigo, Frédéric Gros (eds.), Foucault and the Modern International: Silences and Legacies for the Study of World Politics

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Michel Foucault is one the French thinkers who, along with Pierre Bourdieu or Bruno Latour, deeply influenced the evolution of how scholars of International relations (IR) understood their field over the last two decades. The book *Foucault and the Modern International* is a rich and eclectic exploration of these influences. It is an edited volume of eighteen chapters written by scholars who have extensive experience in working on Foucault's thought. It approaches the author's significance by scrutinising a wide range of research objects, such as security, neoliberalism, globalisation, the Anthropocene, space and geometry. Consequently, *Foucault and the Modern International* is an intellectually dense and highly analytical text that contributes to the debate on the place of Foucault in the evolution of IR, both as a discipline and a reality to be studied. Its contribution is an important one for at least three reasons.

First, as Bonditti puts it, “[t]his is not a book on Foucault, nor is it a book on “international relations”. This edited volume is both ...”¹ The book aims to rediscover Foucault's work through the study of the field of international relations and, at the same time, to analyse the latter through the lens of the former. Of course, examining Foucault's relevance in some IR sub-fields, such as security studies,² is now an

1 Philippe Bonditti, “Introduction: The International as an Object for Thought”, in P. Bonditti, D. Bigo, F. Gros (eds.), *Foucault and the Modern International: Silences and Legacies for the Study of World Politics* (Paris: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), p. 1.

2 Michael Dillon, Andrew Neal (eds.), *Foucault on Politics, Security and War* (Basingstoke and New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) ; Julian Reid, *The Biopolitics of the War on Terror: Life Struggles, Liberal Modernity and the Defence of Logistical Societies* (Manchester : Manchester University Press, 2006); Vivienne Jabri, “Michel Foucault's Analytics of War: The Social, the International, and the Racial”, *International Political Sociology*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (2007), pp. 67–81 <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-5687.2007.00005.x>; Ayse Ceyhan (ed.), *Identifier et surveiller: Les technologies de sécurité, Cultures & Conflits*, n°64, 2006; *Biopolitique et*