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## **Rosen. Cameralism and the Concept of Medical Police, In Bull. of the History of Medicine, 1953 [photocopie]**

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Références bibliographiques

- [\[anonyme ou collectif\] Bulletin of the history of medicine](#)
- [Rosen, Cameralism and the Concept of medical police, In Bull. history of medicine 1953](#)

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### **Références éditoriales**

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What national power required, as the rulers and their advisers saw it, was first of all a large population; second, that population should be provided for in a material sense; and thirdly, that it should be under the control of government so that it could be turned to whatever use public policy required. While mercantilist doctrine in its application received varying emphasis at different times and in various places, it was recognized everywhere in some degree that effective use of population within a country required attention to problems of health.

### III

The framework for the development of German thought and action on the social relations of health was provided by *cameralism*, the German variety of mercantilism. The term cameralism has two connotations. On the one hand, it designates the ideas that appeared to explain, justify, and guide the centralizing tendencies and practices in administration and economic policy of the absolute monarchy in the German states during the later seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. On the other hand, it refers to the various attempts of the same period to work out in terms of emerging contemporary political and social science a systematic account of the functioning of the various administrative services as a basis for the training of public officials.

Historically, cameralism was part of the process of legal and administrative consolidation in the growth of the modern state. Proceeding from the household of the sovereign as a point of crystallization, the modern state in its evolution advanced from a loose federation of provinces united by the person of a monarch to actual territorial amalgamation by means of institutional unification and administrative centralization. The task of cameralism as a discipline was to supply the positive content for the occasions of state action, and to systematize the growing number of state functions. This development is characterized by the establishment, in 1727, by Friedrich Wilhelm I of the first two professorships for the teaching of cameralism, one at Frankfurt a. d. Oder, the other at Halle.<sup>12</sup> Indeed, the entire process is not unlike that which in our own time led to the appearance of schools of business and business administration following upon the rapid expansion of industry in the later nineteenth century, which centered attention on the organizational and directive features of business.

<sup>12</sup> Albion W. Small: *The Cameralists. The Pioneers of German Social Polity*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1909, pp. 207-210, 222.



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<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.

<sup>14</sup> Cited by

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.

<sup>16</sup> See Ros  
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