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

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Rudolf II and published in 1617 under the title *Fünff unterschiedliche Secreta Politica*,¹⁷ it set forth Obrecht's economic views. Of the five monographs contained in this work, the fourth outlines a scheme of police (*Einsondere Policey-Ordnung, und Constitution . . .*). The underlying concept is presented in a preface:

The following Police Order and Constitution, with its seven Sanctions (*Sanctionibus*) is ordained by us especially that we may every year, and as far as practicable at all times, have reliable information how matters stand with all our subjects, young and old, rich and poor, in all parts of our jurisdiction and territory, and also how matters stand with our whole *Policey*, and all of its branches, and how, in this later wholly perverted time, they may be protected against ruin, and may be sustained in constant integrity; and how we may bring it about, after ascertaining all the facts, that our subjects may rightly, well and usefully bring up their children, and themselves lead a Christian, worthy life, and thus so conduct themselves that they may be to their children, to us their divinely appointed rulers, to their neighbor, and to the common weal, a blessing and an honor, to their own temporal and eternal advantage.¹⁸

Toward this end Obrecht proposed an elaborate plan for registration and regulation of the people from birth to death. Actually, in this proposal he outlined a complete system of population statistics. Furthermore, in connection with this scheme, Obrecht also suggested a plan of savings and endowment insurance for children.

From these beginnings, the police concept was expanded and carried further by a number of German writers and public officials.

An early but pregnant formulation of the cameralistic approach to the health problems of social life was presented by Veit Ludwig von Seckendorff (1626-1692), whose writings were well received by his contemporaries and exercised considerable influence even after his death. Throughout most of his life, Seckendorff served in various administrative posts at the ducal courts of Gotha and Sachsen-Weitz.¹⁹ His most persistent influence was exerted through his book, *Der Teutsche Fürsten Staat*, a compendium of civil law and administrative practice, which first appeared in 1655 and passed through eight editions, the last published in 1754.

According to Seckendorff, the appropriate aim of government is to establish such ordinances as will assure the welfare of the land and the

¹⁷ Five different political secrets.

¹⁸ Quoted by Small, *op. cit.*, p. 57.

¹⁹ See Small, *op. cit.*, pp. 60-106; Roscher, *op. cit.*, pp. 238-252; Alfons Fischer: *Geschichte des deutschen Gesundheitswesens* (2 vols.), Berlin, F. A. Herbig, 1933, vol. I, pp. 327-328.

