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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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condition of the country."²¹ This should include the number of cities, towns, villages and where necessary individual houses, as well as the total population of the country and its acreage. There should also be an enumeration of the number of soldiers, merchants, artisans, and journeymen, as well as information on the relation of the crafts to each other. Then there should be a listing not only of the numbers of deaths but also of the causes as in England.²² One of the first to lay stress on statistical investigation, Leibniz's analyses of statistical materials formed the basis for later developments along such lines. Although acknowledging his indebtedness to Petty, he apparently formed his plan for a political topography independently.²³

As to the manner in which this could be done, Leibniz had various proposals. He realized that such matters fell within the sphere of police. Thus, in 1680, in a series of notes prepared for the Emperor, he suggested the creation of a chief administrative office for police affairs. This office should include a health council.²⁴ Also during the eighties, Leibniz published several essays in which he indicated the need for adequate population and mortality statistics. In one of these essays he dealt with the establishment of a registration office, pointing out that in England and France mortality records were available and that information useful for politics and medicine had been derived from these sources. In a "Proposal for a Medical Authority," Leibniz again insisted on the significance of birth and death registration, the latter to include age, cause of death, and related circumstances. Having given much thought to the questions on which statistical data might supply the answers, he presented 56 questions under the heading, "Questions in political arithmetic concerning the life of man and related matters."²⁵ He was in-

²¹ Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz: *Sämtliche Schriften und Briefe*, Erste Reihe, *Allgemeiner politischer und historischer Briefwechsel*, herausgegeben von der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Zweiter Band, 1676-1679, Darmstadt, Otto Reichl, 1927, pp. 74-77.

²² John Graunt's *Natural and Political Observations upon the Bills of Mortality* first appeared in 1662 and the fifth edition in 1676, it is said under William Petty's supervision. Leibniz probably refers to this work.

²³ *Essai de quelques raisonnemens nouveaux sur la vie humaine et sur le nombre des hommes*, *Die Werke von Leibniz*, herausgegeben von Onno Klopp, 1. Reihe, Bd. 5, Hannover, 1866, pp. 326-337.

²⁴ Leibniz, *Sämtliche Schriften*, Dritter Band, 1680-1683, Leipzig, K. F. Koehler Verlag, 1938, p. 405.

²⁵ In the original the three essays mentioned are entitled: *Von Bestellung eines Registratur-Amtes*; *Vorschlag zu einer Medizinal Behörde*; *Quaestiones calculi politici circa hominum vitam, et cognatae*. See *Die Werke von Leibniz*, herausgegeben von Onno Klopp, 1. Reihe, Bd. 5, Hannover, 1866, p. 315 ff.

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