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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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ures ordered what they should or should not do. The absolute patriarchal state is the ever-present working assumption in Justi's handling of social problems.

Justi's concept of administration and its application to matters of health are presented in two works—*Staatwirthschaft, oder systematische Abhandlung aller oekonomischen und Cameral-Wissenschaften, die zur Regierung eines Landes erfordert werden*, 1755, and *Grundsätze der Policey-Wissenschaft*, 1756.³⁴ In Justi's view, the internal administration of the state is the center of gravity of its power relationships. Since the paramount aim of the state is to preserve and to extend its means, the monarch has the responsibility for taking such action as will maintain and expand the available resources and make the subjects happy. It is with this objective that the science of police is concerned, namely, the maintenance and increase of the wealth of the state through appropriate institutional organization, for instance, through improved cultivation of the land, aiding the laboring class, and maintenance of order in the community.

Problems of health and disease are considered in connection with the aim of augmenting the population. Justi's treatment of the matter in his *Grundsätze der Policey-Wissenschaft* occurs in the chapter entitled "On the internal cultivation of countries or the increase of population." Among the measures proposed to promote this aim, he urges that people with hereditary diseases or who are unable to procreate should not be permitted to marry; that vice should be treated severely since it diminishes fecundity and discourages marriage; and that dissipation and disease should be prevented when at all possible. Specifically, through improved sanitary administration the government should try to lengthen the life of the people.³⁵

The same problem is discussed by Justi in his *Staatwirthschaft*, where the military focus of interest is specifically brought to bear on the matter. Before engaging in war, he argues, a wise monarch will give serious attention to his population, that is, to his human resources. Through his administrative apparatus the monarch will do all he can to diminish sickness among his subjects and prevent the outbreak of contagious diseases. In relation to this aim, medicine must be improved and encouraged by the government. The same is true of surgery, midwifery, and pharmacy.

³⁴ State Management; a systematic treatise on all the economic and cameral sciences necessary for the government of a country, 1755; Fundamentals of Police Science, 1756.

³⁵ J. H. G. von Justi: *Grundsätze der Policey-Wissenschaft*, Göttingen, 1756, pp. 64-76.



