
1. What was the “problematic” (problematique) of government?
2. What does “government is the right disposition of things” mean? What does the idea entail?
3. To what did “economy” originally refer?
4. What was the initial understanding of “the common good”?
5. What is the “perspective of population” and what are the consequences of seeing sovereignty in such terms?
6. Does Foucault diminish or undervalue the state?


1. What are the “social contract” and “social warfare” models, and what problems are there with both? Where does Foucault stand with regard to such models?
2. What is “governmentality”?
3. What is “biopolitics”?
4. Note the ways in which government is both generalized and localized.
5. Foucault thinks of “power as a complex flow”. Do you find this perspective to be convincing?
6. Note the role of “care”, “protection,” and “regulation” in the exercise of sovereignty.


Part 1. State Projects of Legibility and Simplification, pp. 9-10
Chapter 1: Nature and Space, pp. 11-52.
Chapter 10: Conclusion, pp. 342-358.

1. Note: “legibility as a central problem in statecraft”
2. What is the purpose of legibility in the form of “mapping”?
3. What is the political nature of the states included in this book? What is the author’s slant, and does this undermine the usefulness of his analysis?
4. How does forestry management have any relevance to understanding statecraft?
5. In addition to legibility, what are all of the other processes of state management/manipulation that are mentioned in these chapters?