

Liberalism and history

Barry Hindess

Abstract

The paper addresses two problems in Foucault's work. One concerns his treatment of liberalism in *The birth of biopolitics* (2008), but probably more familiar through the work of the governmentality mob, and the other concerns a comment on relations between the West and the rest in *The order of things* (1970) that expresses an insensitive Eurocentrism. I argue that we cannot make sense of liberalism without grasping the place of this Eurocentrism in eighteenth/nineteenth-century western thought.

Biography

Barry Hindess is Professor of Political Science in the Research School of Social Sciences at ANU. He has published widely in the areas of social and political theory. His most recent works are *Discourses of power: from Hobbes to Foucault*, *Governing Australia: studies in contemporary rationalities of government* (with Mitchell Dean), *Corruption and democracy in Australia* and *Us and them: anti-elitism in Australia* (with Marian Sawer). He has published numerous papers on democracy, liberalism and empire, and neo-liberalism.

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