



SC 4880D POLICING & SECURITY

\\ Wednesdays

@ 12 pm

@ AS1-02-12

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How historical trajectories shape societies at structural levels

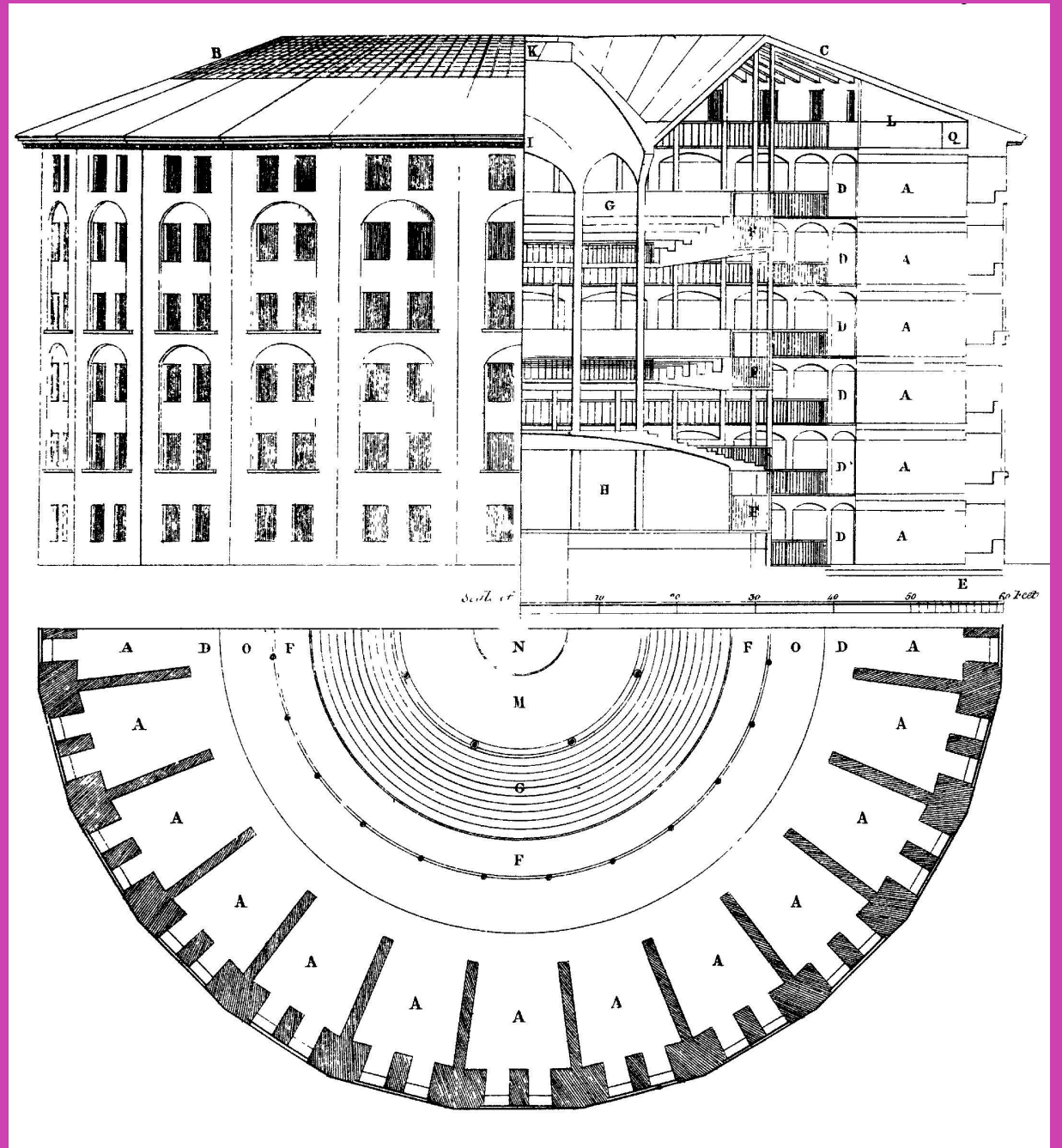
1. Legacies of colonialism
 - e.g. Eck on policing institutions
2. Historical transformations in foundational ideas
 - e.g. Foucault on discipline, control, sovereign power

(why) does history matter?



MODERN FORMS OF DISCIPLINE & CONTROL

“A HISTORY OF THE PRESENT”





Spectacle of torture & punishment

“By the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century, the gloomy festival of punishment was dying out...”

(Foucault, p 8)

Great transformations 18th > 19th centuries

“From being an art of unbearable sensations punishment has become an economy of suspended rights.”
(p11)

Q What happens to the body and who has the authority to act?

“Economy of suspended rights”

Q what are the change in objectives?

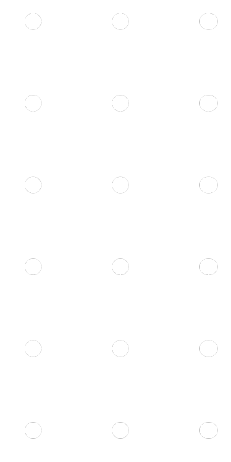
i.e. what does punishment target?

“displacement in the object of the punitive operation”

Big Q How do we get from punishing the individual body to determining social dangers and targeting them?

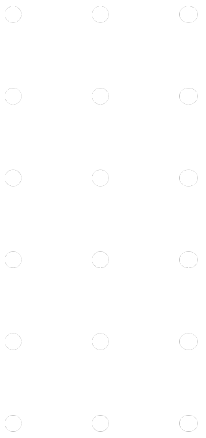
“Genealogy of the present scientifico-legal complex from which the power to punish derives its bases, justifications, and rules, and from which it extends its effects and by which it masks its exorbitant singularity.” (p 23)

From punishment >> criminal justice

- 
- Not only prohibiting bad acts but creating desires
 - Disciplines to know – different kinds of persons
 - Power encoded in and realized through architecture, networks, norms
 - Surveillance & discipline is intimate

Power is not repressive but PRODUCTIVE

- Prisons
- Schools
- Hospitals/clinics
- Asylums
- Militaries
- Factories



Modern discipline takes place through “docile bodies”



COLONIAL LEGACIES



WHAT ARE SOME OF THE
INSTITUTIONS INHERITED
FROM THE COLONIAL PAST
IN SINGAPORE?

Laws and legal precedence

- e.g. sexuality/intimacy & marriage
- E.g. religious custom



State institutions

- E.g. police



Discursive

- e.g. language,
- e.g. racial categories



Colonial inheritances

Kristine Eck (2018)

If there is a relation between the two, what is it?

How come there are variations? How to explain that in contemporary policing practices?

**Experience of colonial armed conflict >>
postcolonial policing structures**

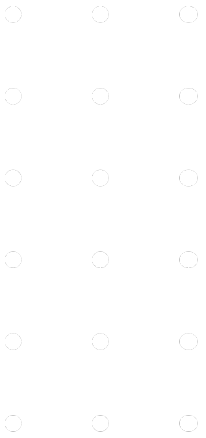
If there is a relation between the two, what is it?

- Is it indicative of / weaken the state?
- Does violent insurgency/counterinsurgency mean make a state stronger?

**Experience of colonial armed conflict >>
postcolonial policing structures**

Q How did colonial states respond to armed conflict?

Q What were British policy responses to the Malayan insurgency?



MALAYAN EMERGENCY AS A MODEL OF COUNTERINSURGENCY

- British Malaya
- British Kenya
- Egyptian Palestine
- Postcolonial India in the north-east
- Iraq



Kristine Eck (2018)

If there is a relation between the two, what is it?

Q How come there are variations? How to explain that in contemporary policing practices?

**Experience of colonial armed conflict >>
postcolonial policing structures**

“while it is clear that colonial legacies are important to the functioning of policing institutions, it is important to ask **for whom** these institutions are functioning”

Eck, p. 158