

MICHEL FOUCAULT
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SLIDES

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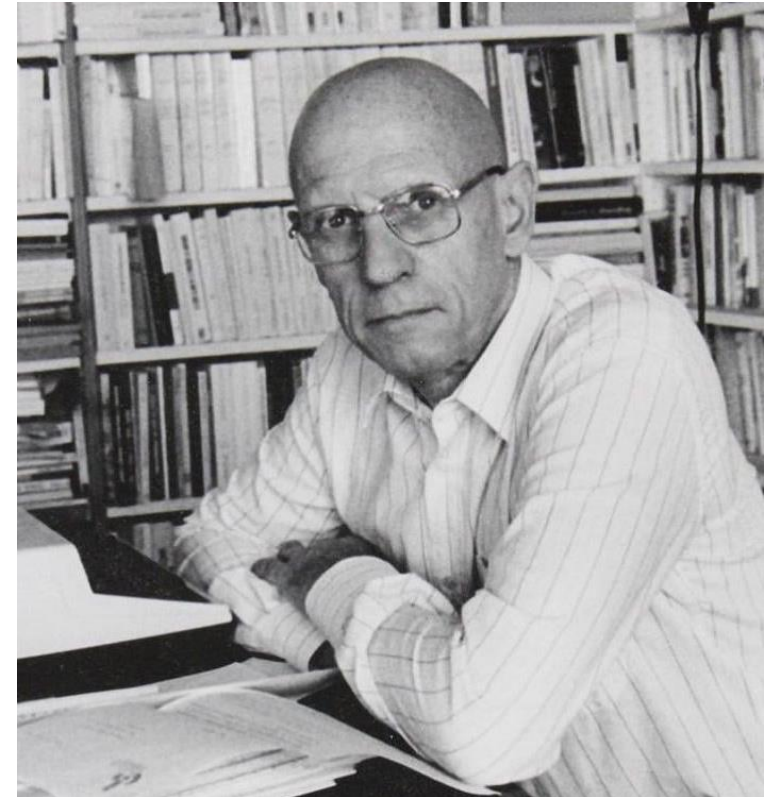
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FOUCAULT'S BACKGROUND

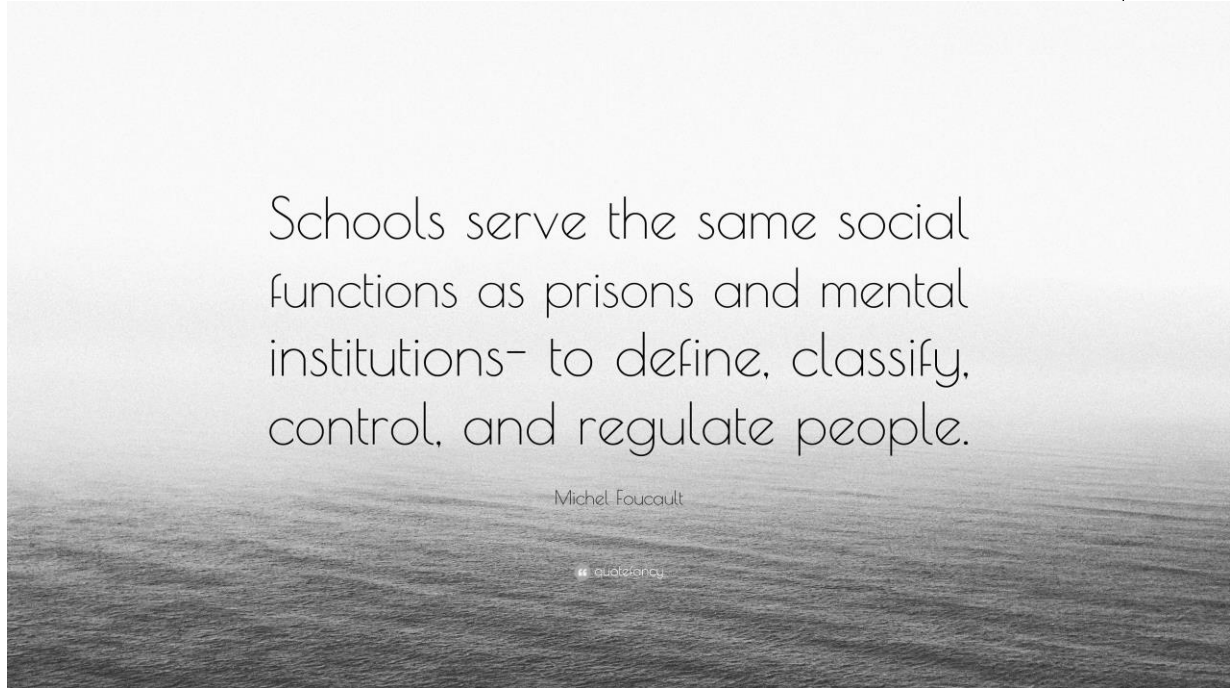
- Born on October 15th, 1926, in the city of Poitiers, France. He would often hide and refuse to mention his adolescence when mentioned it by the press or interviewers.
- Born into a wealthy bourgeois family and successful line of surgeons, he would come to resent his family, his father in particular. He struggled with his homosexuality at a young age and would often harm himself over it.
- From a young age was interested in philosophy despite his father's disagreement. He enrolled at the **Lycée Henri-IV** and studied under **Jean Hyppolite** and **Louis Althusser** where he earned degrees in **Philosophy** and **Psychology**.
- Involved within **The French Intellectuals** and a key component within the movement.
- Wrote groundbreaking works such as: *Madness and Civilization*, *The Birth of the Clinic*, *Discipline and Punish*, and *The History of Sexuality*
- Passed Away June 25th, 1984, at the age of 57 due to complications of HIV/AIDS. He is noted as being the first major public figure to die from HIV/AIDS in France.



RELATION TO RHETORIC: DISCOURSE

For Foucault, rhetoric was all about discourse. While never directly sighting the term rhetoric, Foucault's work is filled with it and presented under the idea of discourse. He believed that the purpose of discourse was to use and understand language, knowledge, and truth to control through various disciplines.

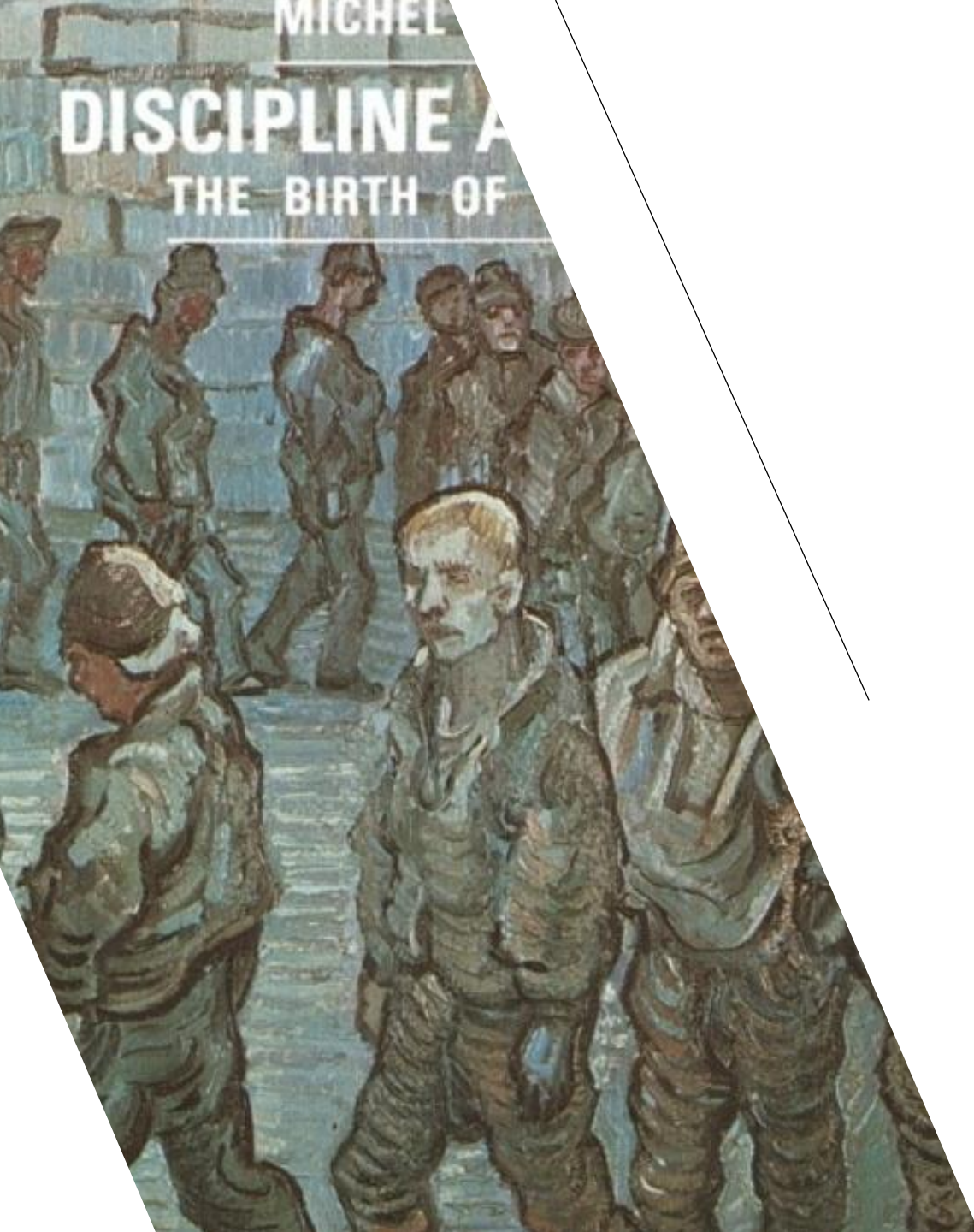
- Discourse is a power that results in the use of language and knowledge.
- For discourse to work, it needs to be spoken with the authority to do so and the creditability to back it up.
- Foucault argued that this limited you and have power or control over you.



Schools serve the same social functions as prisons and mental institutions- to define, classify, control, and regulate people.

Michel Foucault

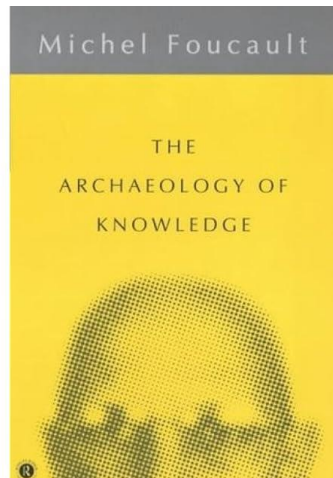
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GENEALOGY

The word genealogy comes from Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morals*, from which Foucault was inspired to write his first major work. For Foucault, genealogy is what Foucault called a "history of the present." What this means is that:

- It is meant to challenge the linear progression of narratives.
- Engages with history, conflicts, social relations, and power relations.
- Reveals that history is not linear but rather filled with more complex routes.
- A form of critique that aims to strip away the narrative truth of history and to reveal it in its naked self to show the real origin of them.
- Often related to Foucault's *Archeology of Knowledge*.



ARCHEOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE

The Archeology of Knowledge is a treatise made by Foucault which is a rejection of the narrative approach that history has taken. Like genealogy, archeology aims to find information that is oftentimes buried under a general understanding of the event. By using multiple sources and materials from that era, Foucault tries to breakdown the idea of one general summarization of an era and instead seeks out multiple sources within the era being studied.

FOUCAULT & RHETORIC

While Foucault never directly mentioned rhetoric often within his work, he still had a vast influence within the field. His approaches to discourse, knowledge, and power had impacts on the field of Rhetoric.

- Foucault often used the term Governmentality to highlight authority figures and propaganda within society.
- Power is deeply connected to knowledge and discourse and argued that it was operated with the use of practice to shape knowledge and truth within society.
- Discourse was a massive part of Foucault's beliefs. His examination of language and persuasions relate to how Rhetoric analyzes both within the field.

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