

EUROPE'S ONSET AND THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF WESTERN CULTURE. Philosophy, antihumanism and colonialism according to Michel Foucault

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Abstract

In this contribution we will focus on the way in which, according to Foucault, both colonialism and decolonization can not be dissociated from the importance that modern Europe has given to "The idea of man" and its fundamental vocation to universalisation. We will thus highlight how, from this angle, the anthropological structure of modern philosophical discourse that has unfolded since the 19th century is for Foucault the sign of a European culture in the process of changing geopolitical scale and erasing of all limits (both geopolitical and cultural) that until then was attributed to it. The aim is to analyze how the Foucauldian conception of colonization and decolonization, which conveyed the universalization of European culture based on the idea of man, finally succeeded in imposing it as a sort of historical and geopolitical a priori in which we are today still wrapped in, as if on its basis any other non-western or extra-European cultural specificity can be defined or define itself, or even as the historical and geopolitical condition of who we are and what we can know about ourselves through a diagnosis of our global present.

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