

# Gramsci and Foucault: Hegemony in the Global Episteme

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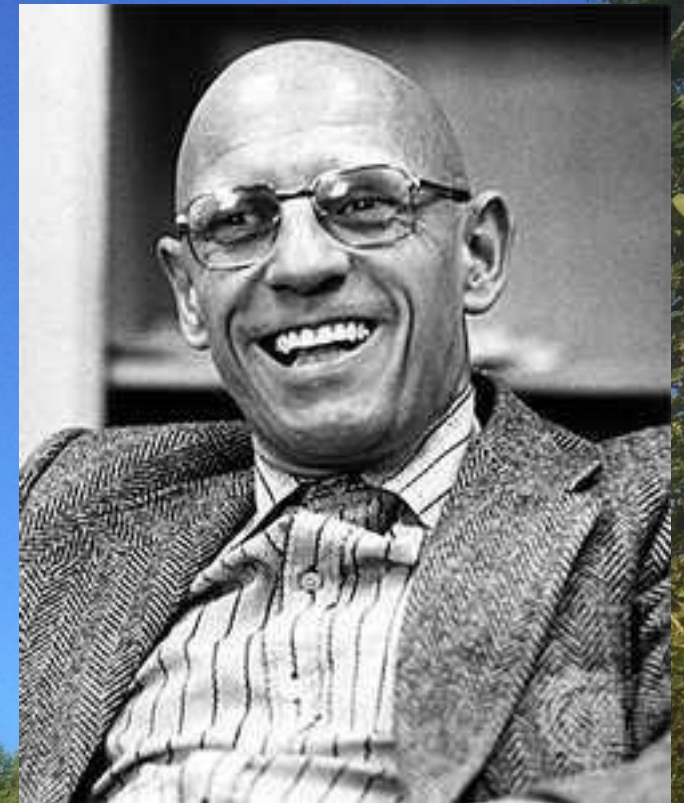




## Antonio Gramsci

1891-1937

Italian Marxist  
theoretician spent  
much time in prison.  
Most of what we  
know is in  
*'Prison Notebooks'*



## Michel Foucault

1926-1984

French  
poststructuralist  
philosopher and  
historian of ideas.  
Author of numerous  
books and academic  
lectures



## Hegemony



Force and consent  
used by the dominant  
to rule more effectively  
than with force alone



## Power/Knowledge



Power is not located  
in those who exercise it  
- relations of power are  
everywhere, especially  
within 'knowledge'



## Discipline

Selves constituted by the institutions, languages and practices we grow up with



## Culture

Shifting alliances of different social groups vying for hegemony - more than just 'economic necessity'





## Dissonance

Gramsci: power over - macropolitics - state and social classes

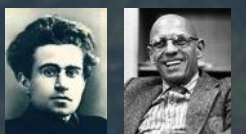
Foucault: power between - micropolitics - decentred individuals



## Consonance

Foucauldian Gramsci: hegemony situated within discursive micropolitics

Gramscian Foucault: resistance is possible through the collective revolution of the self





# Hegemony in the Global Episteme

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❖ /,ep.i'sti:m/

Foucault: the historical *a priori* that grounds knowledge and its discourses and thus represents the condition of their possibility within a particular epoch

❖ Gill: transnational historic bloc

❖ Hardt & Negri: Empire:  
(distributed/epistemic) neoliberal  
ascendancy



# Hegemony in the Global Episteme

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- ✦ Laclau & Mouffe: hegemony articulates (discursive) social identities
- ✦ Consumerised / financialised / virtualised social identities: a new transnational and distributed hegemonic governmentality
- ✦ Global episteme: hegemony and resistance:  
Google, Apple, Facebook, Monsanto, Nestle,  
TPP/TTIP  
vs  
Syriza, Podemos, Sanders and Corbyn.



# ✿ Leadership

✿ Newspaper barons and private education

VS

‘Social media’ mediated social movements

✿ ‘Social media’ belong to corporate interests

- a site of resistance where hegemony is fought for at the interpersonal level
  - the collective revolution of the self

✿ Arab Spring – leaderless – US: Sanders, Greece: Tsipras UK: Corbyn etc – heads of social movements organised online



# Gramsci and Foucault: A Reassessment

Edited by - *David Kreps*

Foreword - *Stephen Gill* - the Post-Modern Prince

## Chapters

*David Kreps* - Introduction - three camps: Gramsci right, Foucault right, or the possibility of some benefit to using both

*Alex Demirovic* - Truth and power

*Ngai-Ling Sum* - Discourses of competitiveness

*Marcus Schulzke* - Power and resistance

*Jean-Paul Gagnon* - Education and democracy

*Sonita Sarker* - Subaltern positions without identity: Dalit and indigenous US

*Jelle Verserien & Brecht de Smet* - Religion, modernity, Catholic and Shia

*Efe Gurcan & Onur Bakiner* - Latin American revolutionary politics

*Heather Brunskell-Evans* - Western child psychology in post-invasion Iraq

*David Kreps* - Complexity theory: can hegemony emerge from micro politics?



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<http://bit.ly/gramscifoucault>