Foucault: A Very Short Introduction

By Gary Gutting
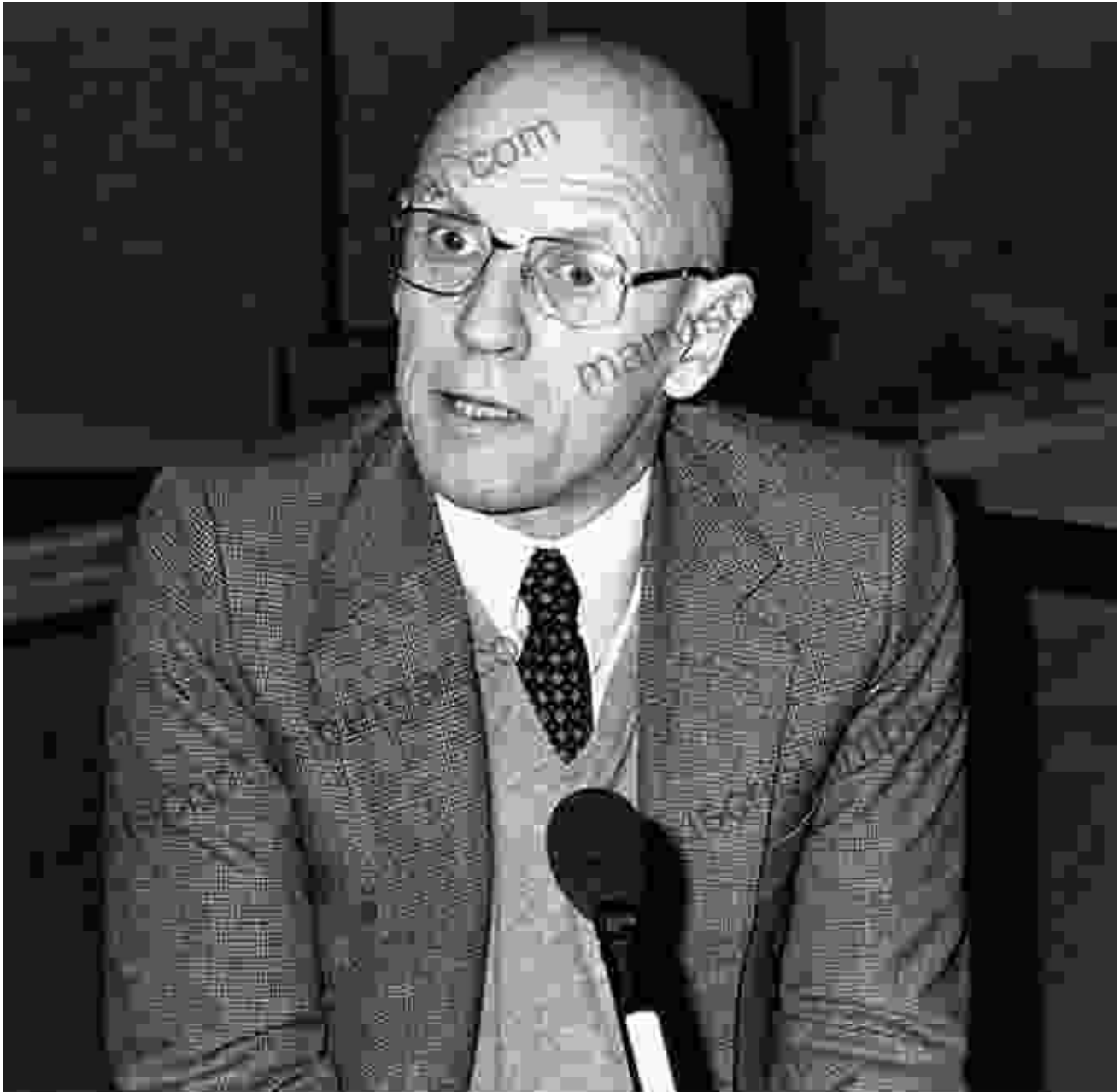
Foucault: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) by Gary Gutting

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1683 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 160 pages
Lending	: Enabled

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Michel Foucault was one of the most important and influential philosophers of the 20th century. His work has had a profound impact on our understanding of power, knowledge, and subjectivity. In this Very Short , Gary Gutting provides a clear and concise overview of Foucault's thought, exploring his major concepts and ideas.

Gutting begins by introducing Foucault's early work on the history of madness. He shows how Foucault's analysis of the changing attitudes towards madness reveals the ways in which power operates in society. Foucault went on to develop a theory of power that emphasized its productive and creative aspects. He argued that power is not simply a negative force that represses and controls, but also a positive force that produces new forms of knowledge and subjectivity.

Foucault's work on knowledge has also been highly influential. He argued that knowledge is not a neutral and objective reflection of reality, but rather a product of the power relations that operate in society. He showed how different forms of knowledge are produced and legitimized by different power structures.

Foucault's work on subjectivity has also been groundbreaking. He argued that the self is not a fixed and essential entity, but rather a product of the discourses and practices that circulate in society. He showed how different forms of subjectivity are produced and disciplined by different power structures.

Foucault's work has been controversial and challenging, but it has also been immensely influential. His insights into power, knowledge, and subjectivity have helped us to understand the world in new ways. This Very Short provides a clear and concise overview of Foucault's thought, making it an essential read for anyone interested in his work.

About the Author

Gary Gutting is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of numerous books on philosophy, including *Foucault: A*

Very Short , The Cambridge Companion to Foucault, and *What is Philosophy of Religion?*

Further Reading

- Michel Foucault, *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*

- Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An*

- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*

- Michel Foucault, *The Archaeology of Knowledge*

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