

# Review of: "Carl Friedrich's Path to "Totalitarianism""

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I have an ambivalent feeling about this study: on the one hand, I find it very detailed - it is obvious that the author is very well versed in the issues presented. On the other hand, I feel that the paper lacks a clear conclusion: what do I get from reading the article, why is the author telling us this, what are the lessons to be learned from the article?

If the goal of the authors was to give a retelling of Frederick's work along with the reaction of Frederick's opponents, then this is a brilliant work.

If the authors of the article have tried to draw lessons for the present from Frederick's work, then I am not so sure about the perfection of the present work.

For example, the author writes in the introduction that "...Communist regimes of the 1960s dropped "terror" as a method, and accordingly Friedrich dropped it from his definition". The question then is what terror means - yes, from the 1960s onward, executions of opponents of the regime ceased in most communist countries, but coercion and injustice still existed - only the forms of oppression of opponents of the regime and their families changed.

It would certainly be worthwhile to expand the discussion of the limits of direct forms of democracy that Friedrich promoted - perhaps it was his own experience of how direct democracy brought a totalitarian Nazi regime to power in Germany in the 1930s, and how all democratic safeguards failed.