Review of: "Neoliberalism, Strong State and Democracy"

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This article was a real joy to read. It not only makes an important and timely argument highlighting a *conceptual* affinity between neoliberalism and a strong state. While highlighting such an affinity in the practice of neoliberalism is not in itself entirely new – both David Harvey and Michel Foucault did much to reveal it in actually-existing neoliberalism – the author compellingly demonstrates that it has been very much at the core of neoliberal thinking since its inception, in the form of an authoritarian liberalism. Under neoliberalism, then, the state is not only active, but its interventions also compromise democracy. I think that, overall, it makes a strong case for moving away from the principle of minimal state towards that of minimal democracy in construing neoliberalism.

However, it wasn't clear to me what the section on Keynes aimed to tell the reader about neoliberalism. That section didn't seem to contribute much to the overall argument. I would suggest re-writing this section by making it a lot more explicit what we might learn about the re-interpretation of neoliberalism the article seeks to offer.

I also wonder whether it might be fruitful to engage with the work of Michel Foucault and reflect on the extent to which the presentation of neoliberalism as authoritarian liberalism relates to a concept like governmentality. Can the latter help understand the specificity of the authoritarian liberalism depicted in the article or is it actually limited in its capacity to do so? I do indeed think the argument would benefit from such an exercise, not least for further clarifying what exactly differentiates this article's approach from an approach to neoliberalism that has already highlighted the presence of a strong state in neoliberal practice.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to review this piece. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it!