

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

Fabien Gibault¹

¹ University of Bologna

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A very interesting article that traces the life of a political and social actor - Friedrich - but which is of real interest for the research and analysis of totalitarian regimes. Friedrich's theories are also from the Prussian school, which brings interest in the cross-cultural analysis and the concept of totalitarianism, as well as its evolution (both as a general concept and in Friedrich's thought).

The opposition between concepts of democracy (widely accepted by all) and the reality of its application is relevant. The reflection on the role of bureaucrats as a major instrument of democracy is also a relevant and transversal point, as it is also used in other countries and contexts. The sense of responsibility and legitimacy are also addressed, which are fundamental aspects, as is the risk of the devotion of militants, who are sometimes more dangerous than the leaders themselves. These statements raise an interesting aspect of the analysis. The nuances between totalitarianism and democracy exist, and that the emphasis of the latter can lead to the other: totalitarianism is not authoritarianism. To sum up: the author makes a complete tour of Friedrich, a panorama of all his thought.

A well-constructed, fascinating article, which also makes us think about the political and social situations that many countries are going through, and for which some of the analyses presented are partly applicable (times are no longer the same). A research that brings us back to current concerns, and that we should certainly take into account in our contemporary analyses.

On the basis of all that is brilliantly presented, the conclusion could go even further and offer us a contrastive analysis of certain contemporary situations. This will certainly be the subject of a future publication.