

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

Petteri Pietikainen¹

¹ University of Oulu

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Despite some shortcomings, this is a solid piece of scholarship that contributes to the historiography on the intellectual history of totalitarianism. I for one found Turner's discussion of, for example, Friedrich's understanding of "true authority" and "authoritarianism" in the 1953 conference highly interesting (the much talked about book *The Authoritarian Personality* by Adorno et al had been published a few years before the conference). There is no doubt about Turner being an expert in Friedrich's thinking, and the article is well-written and informative. It just needs to be revised so as to make it more structured and more tightly argued. First, in the introductory part the author should clarify how this article contributes to the existing literature on Friedrich and/or totalitarianism. Also, he should mention the sources that he uses, and make an argument, because it's clear that what he is offering is a (re-)interpretation of Friedrich's thinking on totalitarianism – in short, what is new in this article? Second, the text is very descriptive, which in a historical text is not a problem per se, it's just that there should be a little more analysis of why Friedrich thought the way he did. For example, what is a plausible explanation for his strong emphasis on rational bureaucracy and the attending discretionary power? Why was Friedrich an elitist, at least until the 1950s? Turner refers to Friedrich's "own unique agenda and background" in the first paragraph, but in the article I could not find a satisfactory account of what made his agenda "unique", except that he "rejected the focus on freedom that was central to the American vernacular". Third (and another reviewer has noticed this shortcoming too), there really should be a concluding chapter where Turner draws relevant conclusions about Friedrich's thinking up and until the book he wrote together with his young colleague Zbigniew Brzezinski (*Totalitarian dictatorship and autocracy*, 1956). It would also be nice to know something about Friedrich's later writings on these issues (a chapter or two would be enough). A minor nuisance in the article is that, in the text, other thinkers and scholars are sometimes referred to only by their family names, which can leave the reader guessing who they were; there is e.g. a reference to "Dicey" – well, who was this Dicey? Albert Venn Dicey, the British constitutional theorist? Who was Joseph Dorfman who reviewed F's book *The Common Man*? Also, David Riesman is spelled wrongly at one point: "Reisman". All in all, a very interesting article, just in need of "minor revisions" to make it more convincing and less draft-like.