

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

"Carl Friedrich Paths to Totalitarianism".

Review:

This article over the political thought of Carl Friedrich offer a very interesting perspective in the Philosophy of politics, especially through the relativization of the democratic State as unique form of a modern right politics. In fact the democratic State tend to seem us the extreme last evolution of a history of politics during which the ethical side of power has dominated increasing with her greatest expression in the French Revolution in the concept of "will of the people". Friedrich demonstrate however that this concept doesn't match absolutely the reality of politics, because her essence consists in the responsibility to perform technically a good execution of the task. Therefore a most realistic State is the "bureaucratic" and not the "democratic" one, that is a technocratic State.

This understanding of the State and of the politics contradicts very frontally the ideas of Max Weber, who developed further the idea of a ethical basis of the democratic State, that is the judicial control over those statesmen who exercise the power. But Friedrich turn upside down this principle claiming that the main task of a government is to exercise "responsibility". These last match with the inhibitory control over any action that could compromise the interests of the whole "community".

On these basis Friedrich gave us a precise definition of totalitarian State claiming that there is objectively a "list" of typically characters of these State in his political action: 1) establish a terroristic police; 2) control the means of mass communication; 3) control the army.

In summary Friedrich offer us three precious tools in the Philosophy of politics: – 1) the possibility of not to confuse authoritarian State with a really totalitarian State; 2) the possibility of to relativize the ethical necessity of the democratic State; 3) the possibility to recognize very precisely what is really a totalitarian State.