

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a characteristically brilliant discussion of a figure who has somewhat dropped out of scholarly attention. I have no substantive comments to make. It would have been interesting to know more (perhaps in another article) about Friedrich's intellectual relationship to Carl Schmitt & his collaboration with Brzezinski. I wonder also if he had any input into the West German discussion of democracy and public opinion, which for a time was similarly dominated by a fear of mass involvement in democratic politics. (See for example Roman Yos, *Der junge Habermas. Eine ideengeschichtliche Untersuchung seines fruhen Denkens 1952-1962* (Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2019) I see that Friedrich published German translations of 2 of his books, so I imagine he must have engaged in their reception.

A couple of editorial details: In the abstract, the reference to Art 48 should perhaps add <in the Weimar constitution> for the sake of clarity, and similarly to the American occupation <of Germany>. Similarly, at n10, the reference to Kelsen & authoritarian and democratic types might add <of people>, which I think is what's intended, In the previous paragraph, the reference to <Max Weber, who had abandoned the idea of genuine authority> is a bit lapidary.