

Jan Mertl and the Concept of „Authoritative Democracy“

Abstract: This text focuses on the shift that the political sociologist Jan Mertl has undergone in the 1930s, moving away from empirical sociological analysis through a critique of the Czechoslovak republic to the support of the concept of limited, „authoritative“ democracy. My work seeks to identify the essential contemporary influences and ideological conflicts that may have contributed to the fact that Jan Mertl shifted his attention to a strong state as the only guarantee of basic political unity.

Keywords: democracy, authoritarianism, pluralism, partisanship