



Mehdi Mozaffari
with
Sara Normann Thordsen

Western
TOTALITARIANISM
A Reminder

CIR



Nowadays, we are witnessing a loss of originality in the concept of totalitarianism which is often used as a trivial concept. Almost everything that is perceived as being 'wrong', 'unjust' and 'abusive' is considered 'totalitarian'. It is neither correct nor does it reflect the real sense of the term 'totalitarianism'. Totalitarianism is a very serious matter and any attempt to trivialize it will inevitably create confusion and misunderstanding.

This short handbook is by no means exhaustive, but sufficiently representative of the main currents of ideas, observations and criticism of totalitarianism. After reading the book or some of the chapters, readers will be able to proceed with their own personal investigation. The title, *Western Totalitarianism*, is justified by the fact that the book deals only with totalitarian regimes in Europe: Fascism, Nazism and Bolshevism. Maoism and Islamism in particular have not been the subject of our inquiry.

The authors are all scholars, thinkers and philosophers. At the end of the booklet, you will find three superb fragments of writing by British philosopher Bertrand Russell (1920), French author André Gide (1936) and Czech author and former president Václav Havel. Don't miss reading or re-reading them!

Centre for Studies in Islamism and Radicalisation (CIR)
ISBN 978-87-92540-14-0