

Conformity and Authoritarianism

The authoritarian personality is a personality type characterized by **extreme obedience** and **unquestioning respect for and submission to the authority** of a person external to the self, which is realized through the oppression of subordinate people.

In the 1950s-1960 there was a very high interest among social psychologists in what causes of Authoritarianism in societies. Following the nazism and the Holocaust, the question was this: If Nazi government became possible in an individualistic and industrialized society like Germany, how can we foresee and prevent it from happening in any other country like Canada or the US?

After multiple researches on Authoritarian personality, no consensus was reached as for its validity or cause, but a few elements were agreed on:

- Authoritarian person has a high degree of conformity
- Authoritarian person has a high degree of aggression and repression
- Authoritarian person has a high degree of conventionalism (rules agreed by society, rather than reality)