

SOCIAL POLICIES IN (NEO)LIBERAL TIME:

A CRITICAL ESSAY

Abstract

Brazil was living through a re-democratization process when the Federal Constitution of 1988 was approved, guaranteeing social rights to every Brazilian citizen and starting the debate on public policies. Since then, we have seen countless advances and setbacks of such policies. One of the possible causes of these setbacks is the coexistence of democratic ideology that approaches the Constitution to a neoliberal ideology that advocates the privatization of social rights by the belief in the sovereignty of individual liberty. With the purpose of discussing this question, this essay was drawn up based on literature review, which relates some democratic ideals assumptions on national legislation, fundamental concepts of neoliberalism, and a discussion on the coexistence of these two opposing ideologies. One of the biggest concerns raised is related to the risk of insecurity, the precariousness of life and death threat to several people as a result of privatization defended by neoliberal persons. Therefore, it is concluded that forces of resistance have the power to prevent the victory of hegemonic speech, being necessary social, cultural and political changes.

Keywords: *Social Rights. Structural Change. Liberalism.*