

Review of: "Neoliberalism, Strong State and Democracy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The introduction is good, gives a clear overview of the objectives, structure of the text, the arguments, etc. The text is very well written and reasoned. The debate is very pertinent academically and socially and, in my view, it is right to resume some central thinkers of neoliberal ideology as a proxy to understand neoliberalism and right to focus the discussion on the question of the State and democracy to understand neoliberalism. I have two more pointed comments and a more general reflection:

1-I had the impression that the text, for the argument developed, could dialogue with two books, by Harvey (A Brief History of Neoliberalism) and by Dardot and Laval (The New Way of the World: On Neoliberal Society) which are already classics in studies on neoliberalism.

2-I think it is important to ponder one question: neoliberalism cannot be seen only in terms of theory or of the thoughts of some seminal authors of neoliberal ideology, but also in terms of its concrete practices and effects located in concrete historical contexts. The implementation of neoliberalism needs to be articulated with different actors (above all intellectuals, politicians, media, capital and market agents), which implies a non-linear dialogue between theory, political practice, etc.

Now, a reflection:

-I wonder about "classical laissez-faire liberalism", what does the author consider when saying this? Which liberalism is not authoritarian? For example, I think, more specifically, of the close link between this "classical laissez-faire liberalism" and colonialism (this last point seems to vanish from economic and historical theories and analyses about the topic).