

WHAT IS NEOSTRUCTURALISM?

in Latin America?

WHAT IS NEOSTRUCTURALISM?

It is an intellectual and political outcome of Neoliberalism. According to specialists, the neoliberal market reforms “may unintentionally have sown the seeds for protest” in society.

It reacts to the “excesses” of neoliberalism, such as: the deep social polarization, the precarious social mobility, and the “technocratic monopolization of political space”.

It includes the participation of intellectuals, public officials (center to the left), new or renovated organizations, and the support of members of different social classes preoccupied by equity issues.

WHAT IS NEOSTRUCTURALISM?

Neostructuralism promotes changes within the framework of capitalism and democratic practices. It also promises a path to development for countries of Latin America (and other developing countries).

It promotes a new “paradigm” that intent to compete with Neoliberalism (that still exists in Latin America).

ORIGINS OF NEOSTRUCTURALISM

The intellectual origin of Neostructuralism can be traced back to the publications of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC)* in the 1990s. **Fernando Fajnzylber is one of its “founding fathers.”**

*The ECLAC was also involved in pioneer studies on dependency in the 1950s.

MAIN PREMISES OF NEOSTRUCTURALISM

- It recognizes that globalization is a given fact for any contemporary nation. Thus, it is a valuable goal the pursuing of an export-led economy (and free trade agreements) that may include the participation of foreign investors.
- The role of the State is more visible and proactive in politics, social policy and the economy, and should be able to defend “the public interest.”

MAIN PREMISES OF NEOSTRUCTURALISM

- Neostructuralism advocates the expanding relatively new social policies, particularly so-called “conditional cash-transfer programs,” which provide resources for segments of the population in a position of disadvantage that meet certain criteria, such as be enrolled in school or or in the learning of a trade.
- It proposes a shift towards new forms of democratic practices, including, for example, the incorporation of social movements.

Development of NEOSTRUCTURALISM

In new millennium, Neostucturalism has continued its development. European and Latin American scholars (Wilson Peres) have contributed to this intellectual tradition.

According to Pia Riggirozzi and Jean Grugel,* unlike the "old" left in Latin America, Neo Structural leaders "do not represent a revolutionary attack on market-led development. They rather signify an attempt to ameliorate or modify and limit the worst forms of poverty left behind by Neoliberal restructuring (See, "Neoliberal disruption and neoliberalism's afterlife in Latin America: What is left of post-neoliberalism?" In *Critical Social Policy*, 38:3, August 2018).

Development of NEOSTRUCTURALISM

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In the political arena, by the first decade of the millennium at least 7 governments in Latin America adopted neo structural ideology / policies; they are also known as “Pink Tide”. Your textbook (161-163 pp.) provide more information about it.

Development of NEOSTRUCTURALISM

Check this video on Evo Morales (a neostructuralist) that was President of Bolivia until 2019. You may want to pay attention to the main issues of his political agenda.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlrnhtpHsNU>

Development of NEOSTRUCTURALISM

Interestingly, in Mexico, the administration of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of the party MORENA (inaugurated in December 2019) is the most prominent representative of certain key premises on Neostructuralism. Although some observers highlight that some of the principles of Neoliberalism are present in his agenda.

On Lopez Obrador, check: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2BpD6zmfcY>

NOTE: Lopez Obrador does not explicitly use the term Neostructuralism in his discourse, yet he has openly criticized Neoliberalism.