

1. COMPETING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES

Neoliberalism

Competition

Human beings are competitive by nature. It is this that brings out the best in people and will thus help create a successful and enterprising society. Individuals are basically responsible for themselves.

The market

Government should not interfere with business and industry by trying to regulate them. Free enterprise means that the 'market' will decide which business and initiatives will succeed and which will fail.

Individual enterprise

Government should not support social services such as welfare and health care. They will work best if they too have to compete in the open market for funding and resources. Taxes should be kept low.

Deregulation

Laws and regulations that could reduce economic profits should be repealed so that true competition can occur which will allow the most enterprising and best to succeed.

Privatisation

State-owned enterprises, goods and services should be sold off to private investors as this will lead to competition and therefore greater innovation and efficiency all round.

Marketisation of education

Education should be modelled on the business world (the knowledge economy). A highly skilled workforce is thus needed in order to compete effectively in the global marketplace.

Welfare state

Cooperation

Human beings are basically cooperative by nature. It is this that brings out the best in people. There are those, who through no fault of their own, need the support of society and there is a collective responsibility for this.

Welfare state

Government has a responsibility for the 'public good'. Decisions should therefore not be left solely to the 'free' market but should be made in order to ensure the welfare of all members of society.

Public expenditure

To ensure there is adequate provision for all, services such as education and health should be the responsibility of the state. Appropriate taxation is needed to fund such public services.

Intervention

The state has a key role to play in introducing legislation that regulates unfair competition, protects people's working rights and nurtures the biosphere.

State ownership

Privatisation and market forces can lead to greater inequalities in society. State ownership and the notion of collective responsibility can help to minimise the detrimental effect of these forces.

Socially critical education

Education has an important role to play in understanding and changing both self and society. It should promote a person-centred and socially critical view of the world based on fairness and cooperation.