

Stream of submission: Housing in the era of neoliberalism between adaptation and transgression

Right to housing and neoliberalism: case study of the city of Fortaleza, Brazil.

This paper intends to contribute to the understanding of the urbanization process in Brazilian cities. More specifically, this study highlights the issue of housing rights in the contemporary world, taking as object the city of Fortaleza, capital of the state of Ceará, in the Brazilian northeast. Fifth most populous city in Brazil, Fortaleza is one of the most unequal cities in the country, specially, in which regards income and forms of housing distribution. Since the beginning of its urbanization, a huge social inequality have been bouncing off various aspects of its social life. The analysis of the construction of the right to housing in the city of Fortaleza can put some light on the causes of this historical concentration, which is unfortunately becoming worse. As temporal frame, we use the period starting with the promulgation of the Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988 – considered a “Citizen Constitution” – until the year 2015, when the research was developed. Adopts the analysis came from social tension developed between the state and local social movements organized around the struggle for housing, prioritizing the part assumed by the state in this process, specially, in terms of its normative production. For this, were analyzed the Municipal Master Plans developed in the temporal cut of the period used, as well as other urban planning laws that promote, curtail or remain silent on the right to housing. We start from the fact that the legislation around the right to housing is not intended to overcome class contradictions, but the opposite, strengthen them through their maintenance in a state of latency. In this respect, according to Boaventura Santos (2008), the global strategy adopted by the state these days consists of suppress the tensions produced by struggles of the social movements to maintain capitalist hegemony. In fact, the right to housing in contemporary capitalist society is the result of a condensation of the relation of forces between the state, the housing market and the need for housing of the poor population. The term "condensation" is used in this context as meaning given to it by Nicos Poulantzas, who understands the concept of condensation of relations of forces can be generalized to understand the dynamics of the global order societies.

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