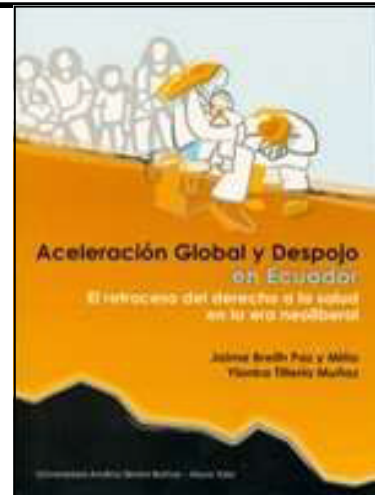




Global Acceleration and Dispossession in Ecuador. The Retreat of the Right to Health in the Neoliberal Era

Aceleración global y despojo en Ecuador. El retroceso del derecho a la salud en la era neoliberal, Jaime Breilh & Ylonka Tilleria
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In this book Jaime Breilh and Ylonka Tillería, researchers at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador, have documented the acceleration both of wealth concentration and of dispossession that have taken place during the past two decades of aggressive neoliberal structural adjustment policies and counter-revolutionary conservative “reform” in Ecuador. To do this, they have used science as a critical tool, employing hard facts examined with a multidimensional lens. The resultant critical/social essay lays bare the devastating consequences of these policies on human health and the environment.

Their book offers two main contributions. First, we learn how the Ecuadorean government (1990-2006) redefined public health policies, responding to the demands of the World Bank’s neoliberal structural adjustment

policies. Second, epidemiological mapping of the Ecuadorian population demonstrates a close connection between ill health and the environmental damage that resulted from these same World Bank policies.

The authors also highlight the lack of health information available from the government. They call on governmental bodies, professionals, and academics to develop reliable health indicators that would support research and decision making.

This book provides important information to those seeking to understand health during the golden years of structural adjustment in Ecuador as well as other countries. During the period of neoliberalism, from 1990 to 2006, there was a persistent retreat in the right to health. By highlighting the consequences of this, the book seeks to avoid problems which arise when health management remains limited by functionalist approach

advocated by the World Bank. The book provides a wake-up call for all those working on an alternative health project. As such, it is mandatory reading for critical thinkers in the fields of health services and social medicine.

Table of Contents

Preface

By way of introduction: Understanding the current debate over public health in Ecuador.

Part 1

- Economic acceleration and decline in the quality of life
- Acceleration, plunder, and shock
- *Sumak kawsay* and demedicalizing health
- Key processes and categories for the study of the social determinants of health
- The Latin American perspective: a comprehensive methodology

- The urgent challenge of re-gaining the right to health
- Part 2*
- Dispossession and global acceleration in Ecuador
 - Global acceleration, deepening inequality, and exclusion in Ecuador since 1985
 - Adjustment and its principal stages
 - Economic growth is not equal to human development
 - The grim social landscape of the "bonanza"
 - Deconstruction of small peasant economies
 - Deregulation of work and making labor pliable
 - Neoliberal globalization and loss of collective solidarity
 - The mechanisms of community and family agribusiness
 - Privatization and deterioration of the public in health
 - Adjustment in general and adjustment in health: Two dimensions of the same strategy
 - The World Bank approach and losses in healthcare
 - International regimes: another mechanism to strengthen health privatization
 - The modernization of evils: water privatization in Guayaquil and "electrosmog" in Quito
 - The privatization of water services in Guayaquil
 - Private electro-contamination in Quito
 - Heightened inequality in the distribution of resources
 - The precariousness of work-

- ing conditions
- The AUS ("Universal Health Insurance") as a mechanism of privatization, inequality, and declining public services
 - The Guayaquil AUS
 - The new face of hunger: cultural globalization and unhealthy ways of eating

Part 3

- Epidemiological and ecological deterioration in the global acceleration
- Review
- Cases that illustrate the impact in Latin America
- Deterioration of urban and rural spaces: Vector-borne diseases
- Commodification and the monopoly of sports: hegemony and health damage
- Postmodern epidemics of new technologies in the service of profit: gene doping and nanotechnology
- Diseases caused by the consumerist demand for improving one's personal appearance: anorexia and tanorexia
- The Ecuadorian case: health deterioration in the years 1990-2007
- The levels of general and infant mortality in the past and during neoliberalism
- Maternal mortality and induced abortion in the years of structural adjustment
- Increase in infectious sources and vectors

- Deterioration in lifestyles, mental suffering, and domestic accidents
- The high social costs for both health and the environment of the "new [agribusiness] rurality": Floriculture
- Final Thought: Challenges to the full right to health

Bibliography

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