

# Neoliberalism and the New Right perspective on education

## Introduction/ context

These ideas have been influential in shaping education policy since the late 1970s and remain influential today

Basically an anti-marxist, pro-capitalist 'free market' perspective

## The New Right

A conservative view point which incorporates neoliberal ideas

The new right believes the state should play a more active role in regulating education, in contrast to pure neoliberals

## Two roles for the state

Education standards were too low

Schools were not preparing pupils adequately for work

In the late 1970s they believed that too many state run schools were failing pupils

Parents had no choice in where to send their kids, they had to send them to the local comprehensive

They believed that creating an education market was the way to drive up standards in education

Believed parents should have a choice over which school their child goes to, and that schools should compete for pupils

Established the current, competitive education system 1988 education act

See mm on the '1988 education act'

Marketisation + Parentocracy

SATs and GCSEs

OFSTED

League tables

Imposes a national curriculum

Important for a shared sense of national identity

Imposes a framework of inspection on schools

OFSTED etc.

## Criticisms

State schools can work just as well as private schools, if funded appropriately

Competition benefits the middle classes - they can pay for extra tuition

Marketisation has encouraged teaching to the test

## Positive evaluations

Policies seem to have raised standards

Countries with the most competitive education systems top the PISA league tables

## Chubb and Moe: consumer choice

From the USA

Believed state education had failed too many pupils

Private schools had better standards because they were answerable to fee-paying parents

The idea was to make schools more answerable to parents

Proposed the introduction on a market system in education to raise standards

Proposed setting up a 'voucher system' - each family would be given a voucher to spend on buying education from the school of their choice

## Neoliberalism

People are best left to meet their own needs through the free market

The state (government) should not provide public services such as education, health and welfare

The state should create a 'business friendly society' and encourage competition

Lower taxation

Deregulation

Privatisation

Schools should be run like businesses and be made to compete for pupils