I. Neoliberal Theory and its Concept of Freedom

A. Neoliberal theory's concept of freedom is a central component of the theory.

B. Neoliberalism's global hegemony is tied a great deal to its concept of freedom

"One might say, neoliberalism has captured our understanding of freedom to the point that any other understanding appears fantastic, obsolete and unintelligible."

C. Concept of freedom

1. Thesis: freedom is the unconstrained ability of individuals to pursue in the free market the goals of wealth and the accumulation of material goods.

2. Assumption about the individual

a. separate biological and psychological entity motivated by self-interest

b*.* individual(s) exist in nature prior to any form of social relation except competition in struggle for survival

c. society is a secondary phenomenon; primary phenomenon is individual

d. individual and freedom are synonymous

3. The function of society and the neoliberal concept of freedom

a. society needs to create the optimal conditions for the individual to pursue self-interest

b. the free market creates the environment for freedom, understood as the freedom to compete and accumulate

c. the free market is only the starting point, all of society's institutions, and policies need to reflect in their structure this concept of freedom

4. Institutions

a. The function of the political, government and the law is to eliminate the obstructions to freedom.

(This is the neoliberalism's justification on state intervention on behalf of capital)

b. Education must organize itself so that it enables students to maximize their cultural, symbolic and academic capital, furthering their capacity to compete and accumulate.

i. freedom of school choice

ii. scientific techniques for teaching and measuring students

iii. curriculum for maximizing potentialities in the market competition

iv. curricular choice

5. In a free society, a society that has transformed its institutions to reflect the concept of market freedom, there will be inequality, a hierarchy.

a. unavoidable and justifiable: based on success in the educational system and the freely competitive market place.

b. positive: the success of the winners/optimizers leads to civilizational advance greater freedom: expands the arena for competition and acquisition, more and more to accumulate.

c. welfare to somewhat alleviate inequality undermines the synergy between the free society, its free institutions-the realm of freedom that it creates- and the freely competitive individual.

6. The grammar of freedom

a. choice

b. personal responsibility

c. success and failure

FREEDOM!

<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/24ekd8/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-fear-factory>