

Ramiro Gonzalez

POLI 003

Professor Daniel de Kadt

28 January 2020

Analysis of Egalitarianism and Liberalism

Egalitarianism and liberalism are not fundamentally contradictory worldviews because they answer different questions and may solve different problems. Egalitarianism's main principle is equality while liberalism is freedom, although such ideas may at times clash there is evidence that freedom may lead to equality and vice versa. If liberalism's approach to increasing freedom is to reduce the size of the government then we must ask ourselves whether equality can exist with little to no government?. In Chile millions of people took to the streets to peacefully protest economic inequality, such actions were welcomed by citizens and the mayor of Santiago (bbc.com, 2019). The people of Chile not only support freedom of expression but also believe there should be equality. This is shown by their willingness to support peaceful protest and their leaders taking action towards creating a more equal society.

Under the leadership of Augusto Pinochet, neoliberal reforms eliminate the egalitarian policies of the democratically elected president Salvador Allende. It is clear that policies such as privatizing industries and social services eliminated social freedom, therefore, making Chile less free (Juan Pablo, 2020). The people of Chile under neoliberalism may be free from the government but not from the corporations. Policies

influenced by liberalism do not always make society freer, as is the case for Chile economic freedoms came at the cost of social freedoms and civil rights. Privatization of healthcare under neoliberalism increased inequality in Chile but did not undermine public healthcare because of improvements to health care services, this shows that liberalism is not the only main cause of healthcare disparities. Health care insurance does not have an incentive to provide services to low-income citizens and this increases inequality however if healthcare services become cheaper and more efficient inequality may not occur. Under this government many people lived in fear, oppression, and censorship, they were not free from the government. Students in Chile began to protest the lack of resources and organized in opposition to Pinochet's and Sebastián Piñera's regime, doing so resulted in the marginalization and police brutality. In Chile, there exists no negative liberty or positive liberty because there exists no social or economic equality.

There is a tradeoff when using the principles of egalitarianism or liberalism to create policy. For example, the government of Chile under Sebastián Piñera's approach was to give financial freedom to markets at the cost of reducing inequality (heritage.org). This made the citizens disillusioned about their government and therefore exercised their freedom to protest and the freedom to protest came at the cost of human life. Chile's economy is considered to be free meaning that the government has taken a hands-off approach this reduced the government's ability to regulate how resources are allocated which leads to economic inequality.

The election of the 1970's Salvador Allende is important because it shows that the people of Chile have a history of supporting governments that values the principles of egalitarianism. The demise of Allende is an example of the clash between freedom and equality. Augusto Pinochet took control of Chile with the backing of the military and United States influence in order to protect the economic freedoms of the elites at the cost of political freedoms and social freedoms.

In conclusion, if we consider egalitarianism and liberalism as not absolute then they are not fundamentally contradictory views. There are different types of freedoms such as political, economic, and social freedom that may lead to a more equal society. The government and people of Chile have shown that economic freedom may lead to economic inequality and that political freedoms may lead to equality after all president Sebastián Piñera's apologized for not taking action after he faced peaceful and not so peaceful protests. In this analysis, we find that economic freedom is the main reason why egalitarianism and liberalism appear to be fundamentally opposing worldviews. If economic freedom can lead to equality then egalitarianism and liberalism fundamentally different.

"Chile." *Chile Economy: Population, GDP, Inflation, Business, Trade, FDI, Corruption*, www.heritage.org/index/country/chile.

Rodríguez Juan Pablo.

Resisting Neoliberal Capitalism in Chile: the Possibility of Social Critique. Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

