

ABSTRACT

Liberal thoughts has always experienced dynamic movements by giving birth to varieties of thoughts within the liberal thought itself. This is expressed on the development of this thought from the idea of classical liberalism, Keynesian political economy, and also the neo-liberal idea which remains the dominant idea until this current time. However, in the development of the contemporary global political economy, the neo-liberal thought has started to receive a strong criticism which evokes alternative ideas beyond this idea. One of the ideas which has the opportunity to be the dominant idea is the neo-Keynesianism.

Departing from this background, this thesis tries to perform a study focusing on two analytical focuses. First is to map the shift of ideas from one liberal variant to another. Second is to observe the opportunity of the spread of the neo-Keynesianism idea in the contemporary era. From the mapping the important points which are influential toward the shift and spread of an idea can be known. These points will then be the tools to analyze the opportunity of the spread of the neo-Keynesianism idea.

From the analysis it can be known that the liberal thought has always experienced a dynamic with a pattern that tends to be regular. This pattern describes the ongoing competition between country and market to achieve the strategic and dominant position in the international political economy. To achieve the dominant position, there are several important points required which can enhance an idea in becoming dominant. First is the existence of momentum which can either be the change in global constellation, economic crisis, or political crisis. Second is the existence of an intellectual actor or agent who puts forward or socialize an idea. The last point is the existence of a political strength in the form of a support or a political legitimacy.

In the contemporary era, the Keynesianism idea is being brought back to the surface in order to answer various global challenges which are difficult to be solved through neo-liberal schemes. This idea is considered "easy" bearing in mind how the world is currently at a massive economic crisis which requires the people to have alternative ideas in order to solve the problems within the economic crisis. This development depends also on the part of the actors/agents who represent those who are pro-Keynesianism who have always made efforts in order to have this idea accepted in various fields, such as Joseph Stiglitz and Paul Krugman. This effort will keep on being continued up to a point where the neo-Keynesianism ideas gain the political support and legitimacy to be implemented in the practical fields. By paying attention to this development, the opportunity for the neo-Keynesian idea to be the dominant idea is actually quite immense. However, this opportunity still requires a long process due to various factors such as the weak movement that the agents are putting an effort on, the limited supporting political power and the people's acceptance which can still be considered very weak.