Introduction

Since the presidency of Fernando Collor de Mello (1990 - 1992), the Brazilian State lost its developmental character by aligning itself with the neoliberal paradigm (Cervo, 2000). In this way, its guidelines have begun to turn to economic reforms that forced the State to disconnect from its action on the economy. So, in addition to financial deregulation and market liberalization, the privatizations were the vectors used in the construction of the minimum state in Brazil during the Collor administration (Almeida, 2010). In this context of changes, the speech started to incorporate the idea that sales by state-owned companies would attract foreign capital to the country, modernize the national economy and avoid unnecessary investments and expenses by the Brazilian government (Batista, 2009).

Aim

To understand the role of privatizations in the discourse of the minimal state in Fernando Collor de Mello administration.

• To analyze the political-economic ideas that underlie the neoliberal doctrine;
• To investigate the role of the state companies in Brazilian economic and social development throughout the second half of the twentieth century;
• To understand the process of influence of neoliberal ideas on Brazilian economic policy in the 1990s; and
• To interpret some of the effects of the privatizations carried out by the Collor government on the Brazilian economy.

Methodology

This research had a qualitative approach and was based on documentary research method (Godoy, 1995). Thus, we searched for information in the Presidency of the Federative Republic of Brazil's official documents collection available on the internet on the main measures – Laws, Presidential Decrees and Provisional Measures – derived from the Collor administration's action in the implementation of the National Privatization Program. After selecting the documents, we used the discourse analysis (Gregolin, 1995) to understand the relationship between the decisions made by the Collor administration and the national and international contexts of its time, as well as the ideological perspectives and interests that informed its decisions.

Discussion

With the discourse analysis of the selected documents, we verified that the privatization process studied in this investigation was the result of the Brazilian government's adherence to the predominant neoliberal mentality of the 1990s and it did not seek to solve the real problems of the country's economy. In this way, the privatizations did not bring capital to the government's coffers, and they did not attract enough interest from foreign capital. They just contributed to the reversal of the industrialization process in Brazil (Bandeira, 2002; Cervo, 2000; Almeida, 2010; Cano, 2017; Batista, 2009).

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be said that the National Privatization Program only contributed to crystallize an old mentality that advocated Brazil's position as a mere provider of primary products and cheap labor to the rich countries. From this perspective, neoliberalism could not be considered something completely new for Brazil and other countries in Latin America. The privatizations, as well as the rest of the neoliberal program, would represent only a new stage in the old situation of domination imposed on that region since the beginning of its exploitation process in the 16th century.

References


