



Environmental concerns in Brazil and China (Environmental issues in transitional societies)

Leila da Costa Ferreira¹, Fabiana Barbi²

Abstract

The environmental issue has assumed the status of global problem, not only mobilizing civil society and media sectors, but governments from all regions of the planet. This paper aims at analyzing the institutionalization processes of environmental issues in Brazil and China. To achieve this goal, we explore some of the major events and trends of environmental policies in these two countries. The methodological aspects regard the development of sociological investigations through the elaboration of a “historical reconstruction”, with emphasis on political and institutional changes that occurred from 1970 to 2010, about the environmental issue internalization process in these two societies. Our results showed that both Brazil and China have advanced environmental regulations. They also count on important political-institutional framework regarding environmental issues. However, both countries still have many challenges to be addressed with respect to the set of problems that compose the environmental issue in a world characterized by high modernity, by the risk society and by the context of global environmental changes.

Keywords: environmental policy; China; Brazil.

1. Introduction

From the last two decades of the twentieth century, the environmental issue has assumed the status of global problem, not only mobilizing civil society and media sectors, but governments from all regions of the planet. In this scenario, it is observed, especially in the last two decades highlighted here, an interesting global institutionalization process of environmental concerns, which has increasingly drawn attention from the scientific community.

Beck (1992, 1995, 2009) suggests the need of reconsidering the nature

¹ State University of Campinas – UNICAMP, Brazil.

² State University of Campinas – UNICAMP, Brazil