ABSTRACT

South Africa spent 46 years in an Apartheid regime. Such fact has determined a socioeconomic gap between the ethnic groups of the country, especially in the labor market. At the end of this era of strong racial segregation, South African society received promises of lower levels of unemployment and greater integration of native people into society. However, the end of Apartheid did not result in gains for the labor market. Currently, more than 30% of the population is unemployed or allocated in the informal market, affecting predominantly the native descendents.

What can be seen is that even with the exclusion of legal barriers, the State of South Africa was not aligned with the dynamics of welfare state, their main focus was to integrate South Africa to the current international juncture, making an attempt to adapt to the new order imposed by liberalism.

This article seeks to understand the transformations of labor market in a post-apartheid era and the neoliberal influence in these matters. The method of analysis defined as historical-structural (or historical materialism) was used, whose search is circumscribed in the attempt to understand the capitalist mode of production, associating intrinsically with the Political Economy view. The historical-structural method has been commonly associated with the evaluation criteria based on the inductive method.