The Responsibility of Governing and the Changes in the Workers’ Party of Brazil

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This article analyzes the trajectory of the Workers’ Party (PT – Partido dos Trabalhadores) in Brazil, emphasizing the three points in time that most marked its history: its origin and initial proposals as an ideological oriented socialist party, the changes that occurred when it began to administrate several medium-sized and large cities and implanted the Participatory Budget (Orçamento Participativo), and finally, its victory in the presidential elections and the main lines of the policy implemented.

Key words: Workers’ party, political parties, participation, democracy, Brazil

The Workers’ Party (PT – Partido dos Trabalhadores) is currently the subject of discussions in the everyday world of politics and also in the academic world. Established in 1980, in the wake of the movements for union renewal, resistance to the military regime and redemocratization of Brazil, for years it had radical proposals and political practice as its distinctive mark. Initially it participated in the elections rather to polarize public discussion on social conflicts than to come to office. Over time it took on the responsibility of being the government in several cities and began to be known for its local government practices – with the implementation of the Participatory Budget, the prioritization of policies for the lower income population, and advocating a radical democracy. The wide dissemination of these practices, the World Social Forum that was held in Porto Alegre, a showcase of the PT administration, and the election of Luis Inácio Lula da Silva as president of Brazil in