

NHS liberalization 1979-2012



a threat to the right to health in England

Jonathan Philippon

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1948

National Health Service - NHS is enacted

- **Part of a major socioeconomic recovery plan based on social welfare, was favoured by the post World War II historical moment**
- **The NHS was enacted in England, Scotland and Wales. Named in Northern Ireland as Health and Social Care System (HSC)**
- **Between 1948 until 1979 no major changes to the NHS public service 'ethos'**

The United Kingdom



STAGE I
1979 - 1990
**gradual ideological and
theoretical substitution**

- transition from a public health perspective to a management and commercial rationale (1980s)
- the 'Market Reform' introduces the internal market in the NHS (1990)

STAGE II
1991 - 2004
public regulation
and incipient market

- structuring a bureaucratic system focussed on administration and management of the internal market
- expansion of pro-market policies

1999

UK Devolution process

UK member countries are granted powers regarding national policies, including health and social care

National Assembly for Wales - NHS Wales

Northern Ireland Assembly - HSC Northern Ireland

Scottish Parliament - NHS Scotland

Greater London and combined authorities - NHS England

STAGE III
2005-2012
**opening to the market,
fragmentation and discontinuity
of services**

- **weakening of the territorial health model,
consolidation of healthcare as an open market of
public and private providers competing for
customers**

**The beginning
of
the end for
the right to
health in England?**