World Crisis Essays In Revolutionary Socialism

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The immediate causes of the current crisis in socialism are the highly authoritarian and extremely hierarchical political and economic structures created by Leninism. Yet the collapse of state socialism also appears to be part of a more general crisis of socialism, a crisis that includes even its potentially more democratic variants. It is important to note here that success in becoming a socialist party in terms of internal organization and programmatic commitments is by no means equivalent to achieving electoral victory as one. Twentieth century socialism is moribund. In the Americas, socialist-oriented movements were dealt severe blows by the electoral defeat of the Sandinistas in 1990, the general impasse of Central American revolutionary movements and the crisis of Cuban Communism with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Radical grassroots movements as Judith Hellman noted in a previous anniversary essay, have by no means disappeared in the Americas, but those that enunciate socialist goals are few and far between. Can socialism be reborn? And if so, what might it look like?