

DEATH OF THE LEFT

Virgil Hammock

P.O.Box 1780. Sackville, New Brunswick Canada E0A 3C0

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The left is in a serious retreat from the forces of market capitalism throughout the world. Granted there is the exception of China, but other pockets Marxist ideology are few and far between and minor players at best. What is more troubling than the total collapse of Eastern European communist states - they were a poor excuse for socialism, as far as I was concerned - is the increasing right wing conservatism of western democratic nations based on the sorry model of the United States. The role that art plays, or doesn't play, in this debacle is interesting in a morbid sort of way.

Post Modernism, Deconstructionism and other attempts to decentralize the artifice of art have failed miserably to change the basic premise of the fine arts. Why? Because "successful" art - that is art that is seen and promotes further art in its own image - remains a market commodity like wheat or oil futures. The good intention of artists to address important social issues seem to go astray. Centre or periphery is not the issue. The issue is simply money. Perhaps the best future for the visual arts would be a collapse of the over-extended and bloated art market. Art might possibly then find a voice that society would listen to, or rather see for the first time in a new light. Art should be a true voice of the new world "order".