

Nihilism: Expanded Framework V1

- Longer Version

8/18/24 [#outline](#) , [#markmap](#)

[Nihilism: Expanded Framework V2](#)

- Traditional Nihilism
- Absence of Intrinsic Meaning,

Meaning, Value, and Purpose

- Existential Nihilism
- Traditional nihilism posits

Epistemological Nihilism

- Skepticism & Doubt towards Regarding True knowledge may be impossible to attain or inherently unreliable.

- Skepticism towards Knowledge Claims: Epistemological nihilists question whether it's possible for humans to truly know anything with certainty, including basic facts about reality and the nature of existence.
- Ethical Nihilism
- Nihiltheism: Expanded

Framework

- Dissolution of Subjective

Justifications

- Absence of Inherent Meaning: The central tenet of nihiltheism which posits that there is no predetermined or universal significance to human existence or the universe as a whole.
- Non-Movement (Can be mistaken for pacifism)
- Dissolution of Subjective Justifications: The rejection of subjective reasoning and justification for ethical beliefs, emphasizing the lack of objective foundation for moral systems within nihiltheistic thought.
- Consciousness as an evolutionary mishap
- Ligotti
- The Absurdity of Life Without God
- Existential Despair
- Sartre's Bad Faith
- Camus' Absurdism
- Nietzsche's Will to Power
- Kierkegaard's Leap of Faith
- Schopenhauer's Pessimism
- Ligotti's Cosmic Nightmare
- Tillich's Courage
- Buddhism's Emptiness

- Postmodernist Nihilism
- Prominent Thinkers
- Friedrich Nietzsche
- Jean-Paul Sartre
- Albert Camus
- Theism
- Transcendent/Divine
- Monotheism
- Monotheism: Monotheism is a specific form of theistic belief characterized by the worship of only one god. This contrasts with polytheistic religions which believe in multiple gods/goddesses.
- Polytheism
- Pantheism
- Traditional Assumption: Purpose
- Teleological Arguments
- Traditional assumption in theism is the concept of purpose, which suggests that there is a specific reason or intention behind the creation and existence of the universe.
- Teleological arguments are philosophical arguments that attempt to prove the existence of God based on perceived evidence of design or purpose in nature.
- These arguments often point to complex biological structures, natural laws, and order in the universe as indications of a divine creator or intelligent designer.
- Divine Command Theory
- Objective Morality
- Possibility of a 'Right' and 'Wrong', Making Sense of Human Actions.
- The Reality of Abstract Objects, i.e. values, truths, propositions, etc.
- Prominent Thinkers
- Pascal
- Miguel Molinos
- St. Augustine
- Nihiltheism
- Philosophical and Religious Traditions
- Existentialists
- Philosophical and Religious Traditions
- Christian Mystics/Saints
- Eckhart
- St. Teresa of Avila
- Therese of Lisieux
- Thomas Kempus
- Prominent Thinkers

E.M. Cioran

- God as Nothingness
- The "Void" of Existence as 'Teacher', Nothing else to Learn
- Cioran's language is the Apotheosis of Worshiping the Transcendent, Filled with Doubt and True

Despair over God. This is what 'Belief' is

- Great Admiration for Bach, perceives a sense of the Divine through Bach
- Best Books: On the Heights of Despair, Tears and Saints

Heidegger (I don't read him as atheistic, Quite the Contrary)

- Being-Towards-Death
- Utter Insignificance of Existence
- Anxiety
- Uncanniness
- The Nothing of the World
- The 'Call' of Conscious
- Being Guilty
- The 'They
- Thrownness
- The possibility of the impossibility- "It is the possibility of the impossibility of every way of comporting oneself towards anything, of every way of existing."

Swami Vivekananda

- Atman and Brahman, self and True Self
- Maya, Illusion of Material World/Ultimate Reality
- Jnana Yoga
- Would Rather Commit

Suicide than Exist in a Purely

Scientific/Naturalistic World

- Paul Tillich
- The Unbridgeable Finite/Infinite Gap
- Symbolism
- Ultimate Concern- Can Heal or Destroy
- People Attempt to Elevate the finite to the Ultimate, Attempting to Escape Anxiety/Despair/Meaninglessness
- Meaning of Life = Despairing Over the Meaninglessness of Life (Tillich, Courage to Be)
- Nihilistic Philosophers

Nietzsche

- Beyond 'Good' and 'Evil'
- Experiential Realization of the Utter Lack of One's Own Subjectivity
- The "Absurd Perspective"
- Eastern Philosophies

Hinduism/Vedanta

- Brahman/Atman, Maya, Illusion of Material Reality

Buddhism

- 'The Life of Buddha'
- The Four Noble Truths

Taoism

- Tao Te Ching

- Non-Action
- Tao as Nothingness
- The Worldly/Temporal Experience of Nihilism
- Psychological Effects of Embracing Nihiltheism
- Decreased reliance on external validation or societal expectations.
- Heightened sense of the absurdity of societal norms and expectations, allowing for more authentic self-expression
- Enhanced ability to detach from societal expectations and pressures.
- Enhanced freedom from the pressure to conform to societal norms.
- Reduced attachment to material possessions or worldly desires, leading to a simpler and more minimalist lifestyle.
- Improved ability to let go of attachments and desires for material possessions or achievements
- Increased focus on personal exploration and self-reflection rather than external validation or societal expectations
- A dominating presence of uncertainty, existential questioning, and the inherent meaninglessness of existence
- Elimination of ambition associated with striving for external accomplishments or material wealth
- Enhanced critical thinking skills as one questions traditional beliefs, values, and societal norms.
- Expanded capacity for introspection and self-reflection
- Heightened awareness of the subjective nature of reality
- Cultivation of a sense of awe ,wonder, and terror in the face of the unknown
- A unique, nuanced understanding of the complete lack of justification for personal values and beliefs
- Increased contemplation of existential questions and the inherent lack of meaning, value, and purpose of existence.
- Complete Lack of Value
- Valueless Human Action/Endeavors Equal Absurdity
- Renounce the finite
- Turn Focus/Seek the Infinite
- Morality
- Non-Movement
- Existence's Complete Lack of Intrinsic Value Reduces all Human Movement to Absurdity
- Renunciation of Physical World
- Potential for development of a more compassionate, empathetic worldview due to recognition of shared human experiences in the face of existential meaninglessness.
- Reduces Human Existence to Nightmare
- The Absurdity of Life Without God
- Complete Lack of Meaning
- Evasion of Nihilism
- Distractions
- Elevating the Meaningless to the Meaningful
- Existential Implications
- Philosophical Insights

- Inauthentic Life
- Kierkegaard®Double-Mindedness
- Heidegger- Always Falling
- James- Divided-Self
- Existential Boredom
- No Ambition Christian Mystics/Saints

Eckhart

St. Teresa of Avila

Therese of Lisieux

Thomas Kempus

Prominent Thinkers

E.M. Cioran

God as Nothingness

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