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| **Nihilism** |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Most broadly, nihilism is the rejection of meaningful moral or religious values. Nihilism is often associated with moral relativism, extreme skepticism or pessimism. First used by the novelist Ivan Turgenev in *Fathers and Sons* to describe the view of his iconoclastic hero, Bazarov, the term commonly suggests, especially within later existentialism, that existence is without objective meaning or value. Values are ‘devalued’ due to their lack of objective standing. The word is also considered a blanket term used to characterize those who reject predominant cultural norms, or a specific label for those engaged in such a practice. |
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| Further reading:  (Cunningham) |