



✦ AI Overview

"Nihilism is the philosophical viewpoint that life, the universe, and human existence are devoid of intrinsic meaning, purpose, or objective value. Derived from the Latin *nihil* (meaning "nothing"), it posits that traditional values, moral codes, and beliefs are unfounded, often leading to a pessimistic view of existence." So said left-leaning Google's artificial intelligence (AI) powered overview on nihilism, which is a key element in the commentary by Ben Shapiro via the right-leaning Daily Signal which is provided below with permission.

Key aspects and types of nihilism include:

- **Existential Nihilism**: The belief that life has no intrinsic purpose or value.
- **Moral/Ethical Nihilism**: The view that no actions are inherently moral or immoral, and objective morality does not exist.
- **Epistemological Nihilism**: The assertion that all knowledge is possibly false or unattainable.
- **Cosmic Nihilism**: The belief that the universe is vast, indifferent, and meaningless to human life.
- **Political Nihilism**: The desire to destroy existing social, political, and religious institutions.

Historical and Philosophical Context

- **Friedrich Nietzsche**: While not a nihilist himself, Nietzsche is closely associated with studying its implications, arguing that the decline of religious authority would lead to a crisis of meaning.
- **Origins**: The term was popularized in 19th-century Russia, notably in Ivan Turgenev's *Fathers and Sons*, to describe a rejection of traditional authority.
- **Optimistic/Positive Nihilism**: A modern interpretation suggesting that if life has no inherent meaning, one is free to create their own meaning and enjoy existence without the pressure of predetermined purpose.

Nihilism is often confused with existentialism; however, while both start with a meaningless world, existentialism emphasizes creating personal meaning, whereas classical nihilism stops at the belief in absolute meaninglessness.





define nihilism



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