

Nietzsche, Foucault, Postmodernism, and the Death of Humanity

Nietzsche, subsequent existentialists, Foucault, and other postmodernists have contributed to the secular assault on the Judeo-Christian sanctity-of-life ethic. Nietzsche had utter contempt for the masses of humanity and argued that Superman figures should oppress and even eradicate those deemed inferior. Foucault admitted that the Nietzschean death of God also meant the death of humanity, and Foucault glamorized suicide as a result. Both existentialists and postmodernists reject any human rights or objective morality.

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- I. Michel Foucault was probably the most influential philosopher of late 20th century
 - A. Followed Nietzsche by embracing the death of God
 - B. Explicitly claimed that death of God also means the death of humanity
 1. Promoted suicide (and attempted it more than once)
 2. Wanted to set up suicide clinic
- II. Nietzsche claimed to be advancing a life-affirming philosophy
 - A. But he denied human equality
 - B. Had contempt for masses, women, weak, and sick
 - C. Called for creative individuals to become elite Overman (Superman)
 1. They were to dominate, enslave, and if necessary even exterminate the masses
 2. "To sacrifice humanity as mass to the welfare of a single stronger human species would indeed constitute progress."
 - D. He rejected universal morality and human rights
 - E. He approved of suicide and infanticide and killing people with disabilities
- III. Violent men found Nietzsche congenial

- A. Gavrilo Princip, Serb nationalist who helped start World War I, loved Nietzsche
- B. Mussolini admired Nietzsche
- C. Hitler gave personal funds to Nietzsche archive

IV. Existentialist philosophers following Nietzsche contributed to devaluing human life

- A. Martin Heidegger rejected any fixed moral truth or human rights; he supported Hitler
- B. Jean-Paul Sartre claimed that his philosophy was completely atheistic
 - 1. Everything is permitted
 - 2. Embraced communism and approved of Stalin
 - 3. Expressed approval of murders of Red Army Faction

V. Foucault

- A. Was a sado-masochist who promoted Marquis de Sade's perverted philosophy
- B. Promoted use of mind-altering drugs
- C. Promoted suicide
- D. Espoused radical leftist, revolutionary, political views
- E. Debate with Chomsky
 - 1. Rejected idea of justice
 - 2. Promoted revolutionary and dictatorial violence

VI. Postmodernist Jean Baudrillard exulted in the death and destruction of 9-11 attack

VII. Getting beyond good and evil, as Nietzsche and his followers suggest, leads to death of humanity

- A. Rids the world of morality, human rights, and respect for human life
- B. We need to confront these dehumanizing philosophies with Christian love

Suggested Readings:

Richard Weikart, *The Death of Humanity: And the Case for Life*. Washington, DC: Regnery Faith, 2016.

Douglas Groothuis, *Truth Decay: Defending Christianity against the Challenges of Postmodernism*. InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Gene Edward Veith, *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*. Crossway, 1994.

Simon May, *Nietzsche's Ethics and His War on 'Morality'*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

James Miller, *The Passion of Michel Foucault*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993.