



# The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections)

By Donald A. Crosby

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

## **The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections)** By Donald A. Crosby

This book is our century's most comprehensive and wise treatment of nihilism in all of its guises, comparing favorably with Rosen, Cavell, and indeed with Spengler. Crosby argues that our culture is genuinely haunted by nihilism expressing itself in the fideism of fundamentalism as well as in the debilitating alienation from all orientation. This results from a one-sided development of Western culture.

Unlike most writers on this topic, Crosby acknowledges many sources colluding to frame the culture of nihilism, including "the death of God," the objectification of nature, the meaninglessness of suffering in a mechanical universe, the ephemerality of time in a world where value does not accumulate, the arbitrariness of historicized reason, the reduction of value to will, and the alienation of the Cartesian ego. These sources are reviewed in the first two parts of the book with the result that the phenomenon of nihilism becomes understandable.

In its third and fourth parts, Crosby provides a critical analysis of the religious and philosophical forces leading to nihilism by discussing authors from the early modern period through Dostoyevsky, Sartre, Russell, and Derrida. He shows that these forces are skewed and impoverished and should not be allowed to determine our situation. The comprehensive attention to detail and the multi-perspectival interpretation demonstrates as well as asserts the richness of the culture that puts nihilism in its place.

Part Five, finally, rephrases the criticism of the sources of nihilism in positive ways.

Part Four in particular is a tour de force of philosophical argument. Its richness of nuance, plurality of views examined, and adroitness of critical interpretation provide cumulatively a powerful, non-nihilistic reading of the philosophic tradition.

The force of the argument derives from its comprehensive, cumulative character. Crosby distinguishes and relates five areas of nihilism: political, moral, epistemological, cosmic, and existential. Throughout the book, he illustrates and examines these as they are expressed in literature and art, in daily life and practical affairs, and in philosophy. The book is richly erudite in its marshalling

of consciousness from so many domains.

 [Download The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticism ...pdf](#)

# **The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections)**

*By Donald A. Crosby*

## **The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby**

This book is our century's most comprehensive and wise treatment of nihilism in all of its guises, comparing favorably with Rosen, Cavell, and indeed with Spengler. Crosby argues that our culture is genuinely haunted by nihilism expressing itself in the fideism of fundamentalism as well as in the debilitating alienation from all orientation. This results from a one-sided development of Western culture.

Unlike most writers on this topic, Crosby acknowledges many sources colluding to frame the culture of nihilism, including "the death of God," the objectification of nature, the meaninglessness of suffering in a mechanical universe, the ephemerality of time in a world where value does not accumulate, the arbitrariness of historicized reason, the reduction of value to will, and the alienation of the Cartesian ego. These sources are reviewed in the first two parts of the book with the result that the phenomenon of nihilism becomes understandable.

In its third and fourth parts, Crosby provides a critical analysis of the religious and philosophical forces leading to nihilism by discussing authors from the early modern period through Dostoyevsky, Sartre, Russell, and Derrida. He shows that these forces are skewed and impoverished and should not be allowed to determine our situation. The comprehensive attention to detail and the multi-perspectival interpretation demonstrates as well as asserts the richness of the culture that puts nihilism in its place.

Part Five, finally, rephrases the criticism of the sources of nihilism in positive ways.

Part Four in particular is a tour de force of philosophical argument. Its richness of nuance, plurality of views examined, and adroitness of critical interpretation provide cumulatively a powerful, non-nihilistic reading of the philosophic tradition.

The force of the argument derives from its comprehensive, cumulative character. Crosby distinguishes and relates five areas of nihilism: political, moral, epistemological, cosmic, and existential. Throughout the book, he illustrates and examines these as they are expressed in literature and art, in daily life and practical affairs, and in philosophy. The book is richly erudite in its marshalling of consciousness from so many domains.

## **The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby Bibliography**

- Rank: #1368068 in Books
- Brand: State University of New York Press
- Published on: 1988-07-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.06" w x 6.00" l, 1.30 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 468 pages

 [\*\*Download\*\* The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms ...pdf](#)

 [\*\*Read Online\*\* The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticism ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby**

---

## **Editorial Review**

**About the Author**

Donald A. Crosby is Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

### **Jack Crawford:**

The book The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So why must we leave the great thing like a book The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections)? Some of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim in which book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you can give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) has simple shape however you know: it has great and large function for you. You can seem the enormous world by open up and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

### **Kathryn Patterson:**

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what kind you should start with. This The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

### **Robert Collado:**

This The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) is brand new way for you who has attention to look for some information since it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having little digest in reading this The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (SUNY Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) can be the light food for you personally because the information inside this book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books build itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in reserve form make them feel tired even

dizzy this guide is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a publication especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book variety for your better life and knowledge.

**James Garza:**

That guide can make you to feel relax. That book The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Sunny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) was colourful and of course has pictures around. As we know that book The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Sunny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and think that you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading in which.

**Download and Read Online The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Sunny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby #VMFD69UNT8H**

# **Read The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Suny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby for online ebook**

The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Suny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Suny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby books to read online.

## **Online The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Suny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby ebook PDF download**

**The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Suny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby Doc**

**The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Suny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby MobiPocket**

**The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism (Suny Series in Philosophy) (Intersections) By Donald A. Crosby EPub**