

- ii. Claim it comes from us/ we being totally evil!
- D. The Postmodern situation: the new Nihilism.
 - a. Truth is under attack from all sides.
 - b. What is said is said to forward a given agenda rather than to speak the truth.
 - c. On the one hand we demand accountability, we want to get at the truth of the matter
 - d. On the other hand we cynically deny that the real truth ever comes out.
 - e. Some philosophers deny there is even a real stable self which can be held accountable. We are all "a swirling mass of emotional impulses".
 - f. The postmodern world claims that evil is inescapable but you can't find anyone on whom to fix blame! Therefore, nothing will get better and there's nothing you can do about it.
 - g. The only plus side of all this is that it destroys the notion of automatic progress in history.
 - h. There are serious flaws to this approach to evil.
 - i. It strips man of any human moral dignity
 - ii. It gives no clue as to what to do about evil
- E. Towards a more nuanced view of evil
 - a. Buddhist idea: evil is an illusion that must be escaped through meditation
 - b. Hindu: the evils which afflict people in the present are a result of evils committed in a past life. One must be obedient to one's Karma in the present to reduce evil in the future.
 - c. Marxist: history is inevitably moving forward to the "dictatorship of the proletariat". Evil is part of the growing pains. Violent revolution will rid the world of evil as it moves towards its utopian future.

- d. Muslim view: The evil in the world is a result of the message of Allah given to Mohammed not being accepted by the entire world
 - i. Most Muslims say this message must be spread peacefully.
 - ii. Some say it must be spread violently if it is to take effect.
- e. The Judeo-Christian view will be laid out in the remainder of the book. Some preliminary points to make:
 - i. The spread of democracy as it is now in place in the US and Britain will not eradicate evil.
 - ii. There is a force of evil beyond that which lives in human beings. It is embedded in our corporate structures
 - iii. The line between good and evil passes through all of us. There are not "good people" and "evil people" "We all sin..." Paul Therefore evil will not be eliminated by eliminating certain people or groups of people.
 - iv. At the same time we must acknowledge that evil exists in petty and potent forms. Some evil is more destructive than others. Niebuhr spoke of sins of weakness and sins of strength.
 - v. We must on the one hand as Christians acknowledge the goodness of God and God's creation and at the same time not underestimate the power of evil in God's good creation.
 - vi. We affirm that God is dealing with evil and has been since the beginning.
 - vii. The question becomes how do we align ourselves with God's purposes and actions.