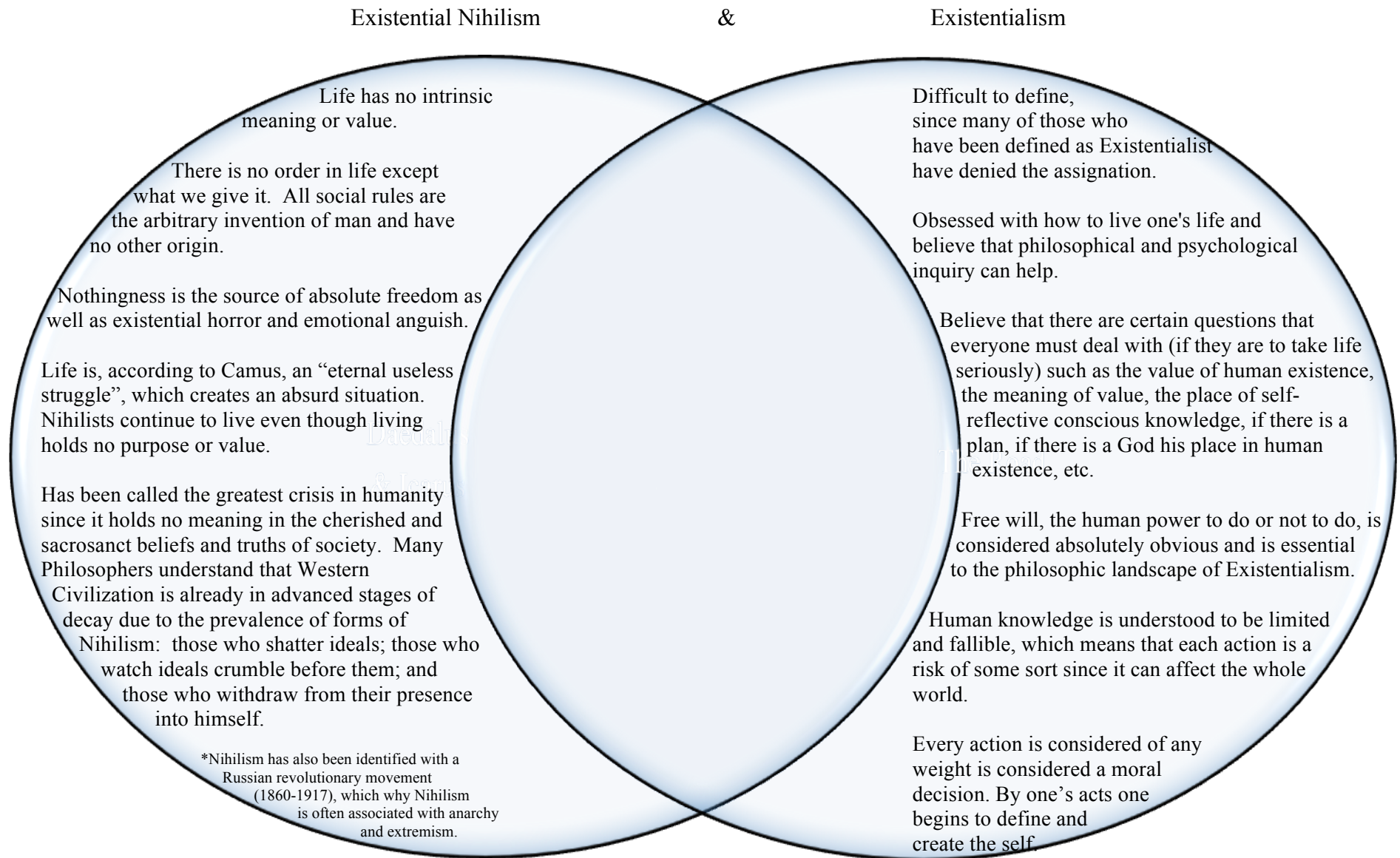


Nihilism & Existentialism



from “Nihilism” by Alan Pratt

from “What is Existentialism” by Bob Corbett

Various definitions of each appear on the reverse

Nihilism

from The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

1 a : a viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is senseless and useless **b :** a doctrine that denies any objective ground of truth and especially of moral truths

from Dictionary.com Unabridged; based on the Random House Dictionary

Philosophy.

- a. an extreme form of skepticism: the denial of all real existence or the possibility of an objective basis for truth.
- b. nothingness or nonexistence.

from The American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy

An approach to philosophy that holds that human life is meaningless and that all religions, laws, moral codes, and political systems are thoroughly empty and false. The term is from the Latin *nihil*, meaning “nothing.”

from The American Heritage College Dictionary:

A doctrine holding that all values are baseless and that nothing can be known or communicated.

adapted from The Philosophy Dictionary at ImportanceofPhilosophy.com

Nihilism holds that meaning and value do not exist.

Existentialism

from The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

a chiefly 20th century philosophical movement embracing diverse doctrines but centering on analysis of individual existence in an unfathomable universe and the plight of the individual who must assume ultimate responsibility for acts of free will without any certain knowledge of what is right or wrong or good or bad

adapted from The American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy

Existentialism stresses that people are entirely free and therefore responsible for what they make of themselves. With this responsibility comes a profound anguish or dread.

from The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of the individual experience in a hostile or indifferent universe, regards human existence as unexplainable, and stresses freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one's acts.

from The American Heritage College Dictionary:

A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of the individual in a hostile or indifferent universe, regards existence as unexplainable, and stresses free choice and responsibility for one's actions.

adapted from The Philosophy Dictionary at ImportanceofPhilosophy.com

Existentialism holds that there is no intrinsic meaning or purpose, therefore it is up to each individual to determine his own meaning and purpose and take responsibility for his actions. Views the world as "absurd".