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recent*

*neuroscience but
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that every human

being possesses

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the need to change
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Cartesianism, the
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The first part

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focuses on the various aspects of Descartes's biography (including his background, intellectual contexts, writings, and correspondence) and philosophy, with chapters on his epistemology,

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*method,
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devoted to the
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modern philosophy'. His*

*attempts to find
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*the very enactment of
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showing how they relate
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*tradition, the book also
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innocents suffer?
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Marquis de
Sade--eroded
belief in God's
benevolence,
power, and
relevance, until
Nietzsche claimed
He had been
murdered. They
also yielded the
distinction
between natural
and moral evil that

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we now take for granted. Neiman turns to consider philosophy's response to the Holocaust as a final moral evil, concluding that two basic stances run through modern thought. One, from

Rousseau to

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Arendt, insists
that morality
demands we make
evil intelligible.

The other, from
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religious
worldview is best
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an isolated set of
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live your life
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inhabitants
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that, in
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respects, the
future
existence of
people who are
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us than our own
continued
existence and
the continued
existence of
those we love.
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expectation
that humanity
has a future,
many of the
things that now
matter to us
would cease to
do so. By
contrast, the
prospect of our
own deaths does
little to
undermine our

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confidence in
the value of
our activities.
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terror we may
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imminent
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would pose a

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far greater
threat to our
ability to lead
lives of
wholehearted
engagement.
Scheffler
further
demonstrates
that, although
we are not
unreasonable to
fear death,

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personal
immortality,
like the
imminent
extinction of
humanity, would
also undermine
our confidence
in the values
we hold dear.
His arresting
conclusion is
that, in order

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for us to lead
value-laden
lives, what is
necessary is
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that others
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by which he so deftly
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necessary to
demolish everything
and start again right
from the
foundations, if I
wanted to establish
anything in the

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sciences that was
stable and likely to
last.' Ren Descartes

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exist,' and his

notorious and often
misunderstood
account of the
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