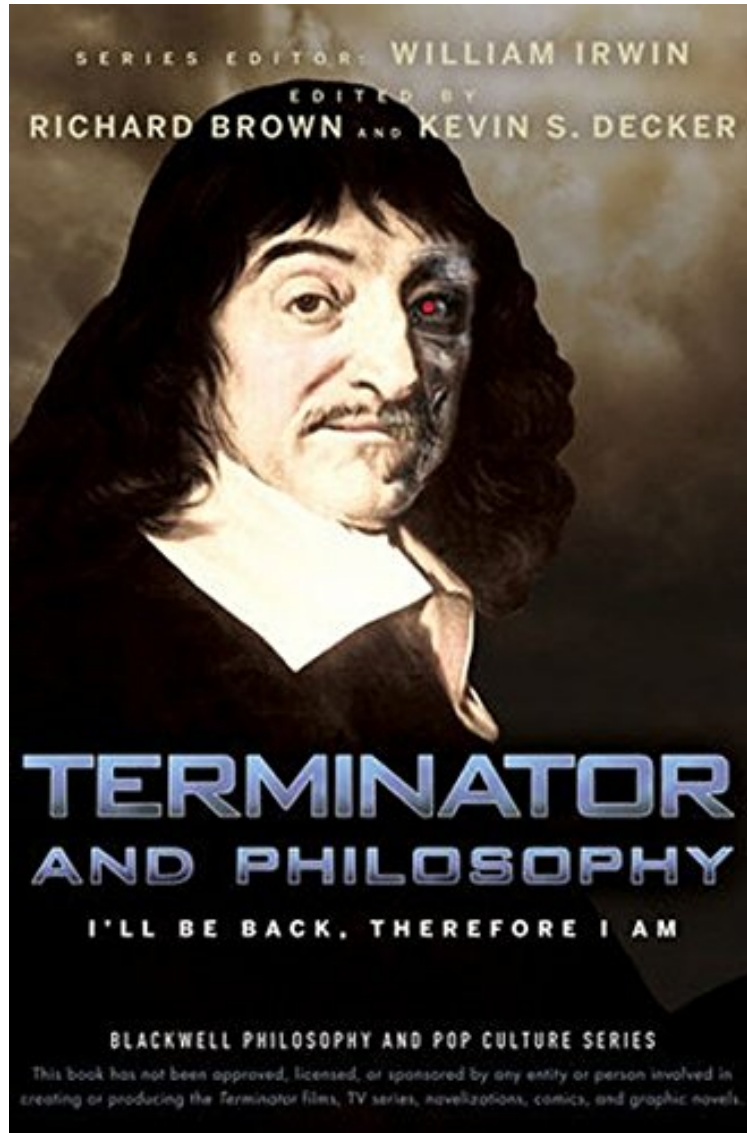


(Mobile ebook) Terminator and Philosophy: I'll Be Back, Therefore I Am

## Terminator and Philosophy: I'll Be Back, Therefore I Am

*William Irwin, Richard Brown, Kevin S. Decker*  
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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great exploration of a surprisingly rich universeBy EsseI've read  
several of the Pop Culture and Philosophy books and this is one of my favorites. The Terminator universe offers a rich

canvas for the application of philosophy and these essays make great use of that richness. Standouts include discussions of Judgment Day and Skynet's right to self-preservation, Sarah Connor as a feminist character, machines and natural language, an exploration of Terminators' inner experience, and the always popular time travel plot hole. Overall the essays were well written, interesting, and drew from both expected and unexpected topics. I was pleased with the way various authors were able to take small bits of the Terminator universe and turn them into much larger, relevant, thought-provoking questions. This is an excellent entry in the Pop Culture and Philosophy series. Kindle edition: The book was well formatted and had working footnotes although, like the other Pop Culture and Philosophy books, paragraph spacing is a bit excessive. 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. To be, or not to be terminated: that is the question. By Dave C. I purchased this book shortly after seeing Terminator: Salvation because I was looking for a stimulating examination of the time travel dilemma presented in the Terminator film narrative as well as a good philosophical discourse about machines and theories of conscious thought and artificial intelligence. This book is a compilation of essays written by several different authors that explore and debate several philosophical ideas as they are applicable to the Terminator films and provide several direct examples and quotes from the films as their basis of rational argument which are often very interesting, provocative and enjoyable to read. My biggest criticism with the text occurs in section 3 entitled "Changing The Past" in which the authors attempt to debate how the plot in the Terminator films simply could not have happened because of two main metaphysical arguments they conjecture. The first called "The Bad Timing Problem" which argues that Kyle Reese goes back in time through the Time Displacement device shortly after the Arnold T-800 Terminator and that he could not have stopped him because the T-800 would have gone back first, terminated Sarah Connor, and therefore instantaneously changed the future and Reese would no longer have existed to go back because of the so-called "Butterfly Effect" in which changes to the past are rippled throughout time. To demonstrate this they use an example of a shiny new nail which if dropped into a temporal displacement field and having traveled back 100 years into the past would instantaneously appear to be old and rusted (because of entropy and the second law of thermodynamics) using what they describe as "time compression" which is similar to Bill and Ted spontaneously willing an object to appear out of thin air as long as they remember to remind themselves to send the objects back to themselves at that precise moment in time later on. However, the mere fact that John Connor exists and Kyle Reese goes back is proof positive that Skynet had failed its objective. Similar to the Grandfather Paradox in Back to the Future in which Marty will be erased from existence and disappear from the photograph if he doesn't get his parents to meet which would not happen according to the Novikov self-consistency principle because even if his parents didn't meet, a divergence in the spacetime continuum would have occurred relative to the original timeline that Marty came from and he would continue exist, just not be born, in an alternate timeline and the photograph would remain unchanged. The second argument these authors conjecture is what they call the "Who Is Your Daddy?" argument. According to this argument, John Connor exists and sends Kyle Reese, his father, back to impregnate Sarah Connor so that he can exist. According to their argument this ontological paradox is an improbability that would require history to either repeat itself several times or require the convergence of 3 separate parallel timelines in which Kyle Reese, they argue, is not the original father of John Connor in the first, but rather, he has two different biological fathers and the first one is "overwritten" from existence when Kyle Reese goes back and becomes the father. What the authors here completely ignore is that the "chicken and the egg" argument for Connor's existence is resolved by Predestination Paradox which says that any changes made in the past by going back in time have already happened and become a self-fulfilling part of history because the laws of causality dictate that any precedent events that have already happened in the past have already occurred and that time is immutable because they are preordained to happen by way of direct contradiction to T2's predominant themes of "No fate but what we make" and "The future is not set." If, suppose, the Terminator had hypothetically succeeded and killed Sarah Connor it would not have changed the future relative to Kyle Reese because the timeline would have diverged at a point tangential to the one in which it was changed thus creating an alternate thread in the timeline and one in which John Connor would not have existed. Therefore the fundamental problem with the plot is a fatal miscalculation by Skynet in thinking that it could change the future by sending Terminators back to the past and had only succeeded in becoming the instrument of its own temporal causality loop by doing so. I enjoy the Terminator films, granted they are not Shakespeare, but they are entertaining and thought provoking and I do enjoy good time travel stories. If you are looking for some literature that examines some of the popular philosophical ideas on machine intelligence as they are demonstrated by these films, this should be an overall satisfying read. However, if you are looking for something a bit more sophisticated that explores even more challenging intellectual theories and hypothesis of time travel and its application to the Terminator films, I recommend picking up a good physics book instead. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very Interesting Read By Customer I found out about this series in my Philosophy class (the professor wrote a chapter in a different book), and I thought it looked interesting. It is. Very. The essays are divided into categories, like "Life After Humanity and Artificial Intelligence" and "The Ethics of Termination." Some of the essays are funny, some (not too many) almost require an advanced degree to understand (mostly the one on ambiguity). This book raised some interesting questions, that's for sure. Who knew that John Connor's entire existence was a paradox? Overall, great read.

A timely book that uses science fiction to provoke reflection and discussion on philosophical issues. From the nature of mind to the ethics of AI and neural enhancement, science fiction thought experiments fire the philosophical imagination, encouraging us to think outside of the box about classic philosophical problems and even to envision new ones. *Science Fiction and Philosophy* explores puzzles about virtual reality, transhumanism, whether time travel is possible, the nature of artificial intelligence, and topics in neuroethics, among other timely issues. This thought-provoking volume is suitable for students and general readers but also examines new and more advanced topics of interest to seasoned philosophers and scientists. Susan Schneider (Hometown TK) is Assistant Professor in the department of philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania and an Affiliated Faculty Member at the Institutes for Research in Cognitive Science and Center for Cognitive Neuroscience.

"Refreshingly jargon-free, these essays are essential reading for Terminator aficionados and philosophers alike. Lock and load." (Guardian.co.uk, May 23rd 2009) From the Back Cover: Are cyborgs our friends or our enemies? Was it morally right for Skynet to nuke us? Is John Connor free to choose to defend humanity, or not? Is Judgment Day inevitable? The Terminator series is one of the most popular sci-fi franchises ever created, captivating millions with its edgy depiction of the struggle of humankind for survival against its own creations. This book draws on some of history's philosophical heavy hitters: Descartes, Kant, Karl Marx, and many more. Nineteen leather-clad chapters target with extreme prejudice the mysteries surrounding intriguing philosophical issues raised by the Terminator series, including the morality of terminating other people for the sake of peace, whether we can really use time travel to protect our future resistance leaders in the past, and if Arnold's famous T-101 is a real person or not. You'll say "Hasta la vista, baby" to philosophical confusion as you develop a new appreciation for the complexities of John and Sarah Connor and the battles between Skynet and the human race. About the Author: RICHARD BROWN is an assistant professor at LaGuardia Community College's Philosophy and Critical Thinking Program in New York City. KEVIN S. DECKER is an assistant professor of philosophy at Eastern Washington University. He coedited *Star Wars and Philosophy* and *Star Trek and Philosophy*. WILLIAM IRWIN is a professor of philosophy at King's College. He originated the philosophy and popular culture genre of books as coeditor of the bestselling *The Simpsons and Philosophy* and has overseen recent titles including *Batman and Philosophy*, *House and Philosophy*, and *Watchmen and Philosophy*.