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Human extinction

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Should we *welcome* human extinction? I argue that the answer is *yes, but not yet*. Philosophers rooted in the pessimist tradition initiated by Arthur Schopenhauer in the 19th century argue that existence is always determined by suffering and endless strife. Given a choice, it is always better to not have been born. Ultimately, pessimist philosophers *favour* extinction. Our demise, however, must come about *voluntarily*, the result of a conscious decision - not something thrust upon us against our will. This is why pessimists agree that the existential threats humanity faces should be defeated. Contemporary existential risk philosophers have taken it upon themselves to understand these threats and propose ways of countering them. For these philosophers life is *good* and extinction should always be avoided. I show that pessimists and risk management philosophers can come together in order to save life on this planet, even though their motivations are different.