
**Term:** Necessitarianism  
**Quote:** ...the doctrine of the necessitarians is that when the time for action comes, we act under a necessity which we cannot *then* control. I dare say they may be substantially right. We cannot control the actions that are past. But our future actions we can determine in a measure. Knowing that, we deliberate and formulate an ideal of conduct and then, having formulated our ideal, we go through a process similar to that of impressing a lesson on our memory, whereby mere resolutions are converted into determinations which are acquired *dispositions*.

**References:** MS [R] 451:5-6  
**Date of Quote:** 1903  
**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-lecture-i-r-2