

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

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I've collected these quotes over the last 30+ years and they have had a big part of shaping my personal "world view". The wisdom of those who've gone before us is essential to the development of our puny little minds. Without knowing, or caring, about what others have said, we can so easily become pawns of extremists; or extremists ourselves.

"Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part." ~~ *anonymous*

"When powerless people suffer, those with power grow fat." ~~ *Sheldon Aubut*

"They that start by burning books, will end by burning men" ~~ *Heinrich Heine*

"Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"It would be a fine thing for the world if some of this goodwill could be bottled up at Christmas time and dealt out regularly wherever it was needed during the rest of the year. For instance, I'm sure the motorcycle world could stand some of it; for, even though we boast of our "good fellowship" spirit, there still seems to be a tendency among a good many motorcyclist to slight the fellow riding another kind of machine. Motorcyclist are all bound together by a brotherhood tie through their love of the sport, and what difference does it make what make of machine he rides as long as he belongs to the clan?" -- *Walter Davidson -- The December, 1920 edition of the H-D Enthusiast Magazine.*

"It is wonderful how much time good people spend fighting the devil. If they would only expend the same amount of energy loving their fellow men, the devil would die in his own tracks of ennui." ~~ *Helen Keller*

"We shall never make our republic what it should be until as a people we thoroughly understand and put in practice the doctrine that success is abhorrent if attained by the sacrifice of the fundamental principles of morality. The successful man, whether in business or in politics, who has risen by conscienceless swindling of his neighbors, by deceit and chicanery, by unscrupulous boldness and unscrupulous cunning, stands toward society as a dangerous wild beast." ~~ *Theodore Roosevelt*

"A determined soul will do more with a rusty monkey wrench than a loafer will accomplish with all the tools in a machine shop." ~~ *Robert Hughes*

"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"Racing is life. Anything that happens before, or after, is just waiting." ~~ *Steve McQueen in "Le Mans"*

"All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined could not by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reaches us, it must spring up amongst us. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher." ~~ *Abraham Lincoln*

"Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." ~~ *Benjamin Franklin - Historical Review of Pennsylvania*

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"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies." ~ Thomas Jefferson

"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered." ~ Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), in a letter to Albert Gallatin, Sec. of the Treasury, 1802)

"They (corporations) cannot commit trespass nor be outlawed, nor excommunicate, for they have no souls." ~ Sir Edward Coke, *Case of Sutton's Hospital*

"Property monopolized or in the possession of a few is a curse to mankind." ~ John Adams

"No man ought to own more property than needed for his livelihood; the rest, by right, belonged to the state." ~ Benjamin Franklin

"It's class warfare, my class is winning, but they shouldn't be." ~ Warren Buffett, *World's Richest Person 2007*

"Loyalty to the country always. Loyalty to the government when it deserves it." ~ Mark Twain

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." ~ Harry S Truman

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." ~ Albert Pine

"If at first you don't succeed, bomb disposal probably isn't for you." ~ Anonymous

"A generation which ignores history has no past and no future." ~ Robert Heinlein

"How often we make our history the story of the great conquerors, the men of violence, Alexander, Napoleon, Hitler; that's what we teach our children in their history books isn't it? But here is one man who sits under a tree thinking, (Buddha) and changes the world." ~ Michael Woods

"Religions create bonds, both physical and mental" ~ Michael Woods

"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." ~ Helen Keller

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." ~ Mark Twain

"A society of sheep must in time beget a government of wolves." ~ Bertrand de Jouvenal

"Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself." ~ Mark Twain

"A Conservative government is an organized hypocrisy." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Whenever you have an efficient government you have a dictatorship." ~ Harry S Truman

"A bureaucrat is a Democrat who holds some office that a Republican wants." ~ Harry S Truman

"Economics is extremely useful as a form of employment for economists." ~ John Kenneth Galbraith

"If all else fails, immortality can always be assured by spectacular error." ~ John Kenneth Galbraith

"More die in the United States of too much food than of too little." ~ John Kenneth Galbraith

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"The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness." ~~ *John Kenneth Galbraith*

"I never meant to say that the Conservatives are generally stupid. I meant to say that stupid people are generally Conservative. I believe that is so obviously and universally admitted a principle that I hardly think any gentleman will deny it." ~~ *John Stuart Mill, - Letter to the Conservative MP, Sir John Pakington (March 1866)*

"The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable." ~~ *John Kenneth Galbraith*

"The salary of the chief executive of a large corporation is not a market award for achievement. It is frequently in the nature of a warm personal gesture by the individual to himself." ~~ *John Kenneth Galbraith*

"Under capitalism, man exploits man. Under communism, it's just the opposite." ~~ *John Kenneth Galbraith*

"I never meant to say that the Conservatives are generally stupid. I meant to say that stupid people are generally Conservative. I believe that is so obviously and universally admitted a principle that I hardly think any gentleman will deny it." ~~ *John Stuart Mill, - Letter to the Conservative MP, Sir John Pakington (March 1866)*

A Christian Nation?

"Lighthouses are more useful than churches." -- *Benjamin Franklin*

"This would be the best of all possible worlds if there were no religion in it!" ~~ *John Adams*

"Christianity is the most perverted system that ever shone on man." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"As the Government of the United States... is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion-as it has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion, or tranquility of Musselmen-and as the said States never have entered into any war or act of hostility against any Mehomitan nation, it is declared by the parties that no pretext arising from religious opinions shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries." ~~ *Treaty of Tripoli. Article 11 – 1797*

"I believe in one God, and no more; and I hope for happiness beyond this life I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish church, by the Roman church, by the Greek church, by the Turkish church, by the Protestant church, nor by any church that I know of. My own mind is my own church." ~~ *Thomas Paine*

"A man compounded of law and gospel is able to cheat a whole country with his religion and then destroy them under color of law" ~~ *Benjamin Franklin*

"It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"My indiscreet disputations about religion began to make me pointed at with horror by good people as an infidel or atheist" ~~ *Benjamin Franklin - Autobiography*

"The government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." ~~ *George Washington (1796)*

"All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit." ~~ *Thomas Paine*

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"It is not a God, just and good, but a devil, under the name of God, that the Bible describes" ~~ *Thomas Paine*

"Of all the tyrannies that affect mankind, tyranny in religion is the worst." ~~ *Thomas Paine*

"There are matters in the Bible, said to be done by the express commandment of God, that are shocking to humanity and to every idea we have of moral justice." ~~ *Thomas Paine*

"One good schoolmaster is of more use than a hundred priests." ~~ *Thomas Paine*

"Arms discourage and keep the invader and plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property... Horrid mischief would ensue were the law-abiding deprived of the use of them." ~~ *Thomas Paine*

"A learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant one." ~~ *Benjamin Franklin*

"To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead." ~~ *Thomas Paine*

First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a communist;
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist;
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew;
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak out for me.
~~ *Pastor Martin Niemöller*

"If our democracy is to flourish, it must have criticism; if our government is to function it must have dissent." ~~ *Henry Commager*

"It cannot be wisdom to assert the truth of one faith over another. In our troubled world, so full of contradictions, the wise person makes justice his guide and learns from all." ~~ *Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar (Akbar the Great)*

"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"It is hard to interest those who have everything in those who have nothing." ~~ *Helen Keller*

"No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit." ~~ *Helen Keller*

"A politician is a man who understands government. A statesman is a politician who's been dead for 15 years." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"Always be sincere, even if you don't mean it." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"Anyway, no drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power." ~~ *P. J. O'Rourke*

"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." ~~ *John F. Kennedy*

"A long tradition of scholarship in the Catholic Church has argued that 'truth is one', that science and religion should ultimately be in harmony. But that doesn't make faith a scientific proposition... Faith and reason are both gifts from God. If God is real then faith and reason should compliment each other, rather than be in conflict." ~~ *Kenneth R. Miller, Brown University*

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"I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it." ~~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions, that I wish it always to be kept alive." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent." ~~ *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"American stuntmen are smart - they think about safety. When they do a jump in a car, they calculate everything: the speed, the distance... But in Hong Kong, we don't know how to count. Everything we do is a guess. If you've got the guts, you do it. All of my stuntmen have gotten hurt." ~~ *Jackie Chan*

"I've always found that the speed of the boss is the speed of the team." ~~ *Lee Iacocca*

"Computer: a million morons working at the speed of light." ~~ *David Ferrier*

"All great change in America begins at the dinner table." ~~ *Ronald Reagan*

"We must become the change we want to see in the world." ~~ *Mohandas Gandhi*

"America is a country that doesn't know where it is going but is determined to set a speed record getting there." ~~ *Laurence J. Peter*

"The spirit of democracy is not a mechanical thing to be adjusted by abolition of forms. It requires change of heart." ~~ *Mohandas Gandhi*

As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is, to use it as sparingly as possible; avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts, which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burthen, which we ourselves ought to bear. ~~ *George Washington's Farewell Address September 17, 1796*

"For having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged, by better information or fuller consideration, to change opinions, even on important subjects, which I once thought right but found to be otherwise." ~~ *Benjamin Franklin*

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." ~~ *Nelson Mandela*

"For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." ~~ *John F. Kennedy*

"Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be." ~~ *John Wooden*

"Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change." ~~ *Confucius*

"Change in all things is sweet." ~~ *Aristotle*

"If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading." ~~ *Lao Tzu*

"If you realize that all things change, there is nothing you will try to hold on to. If you are not afraid of dying, there is nothing you cannot achieve." ~~ *Lao Tzu*

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"You cannot control what happens to you, but you can control your attitude toward what happens to you, and in that, you will be mastering change rather than allowing it to master you." ~~ *Brian Tracy*

"Change your thoughts and you change your world." ~~ *Norman Vincent Peale*

"It doesn't matter who casts the votes, what matters is who counts them." ~~ *Josef Stalin*

"Carry the battle to them. Don't let them bring it to you. Put them on the defensive and don't ever apologize for anything." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"I remember when I first came to Washington. For the first six months you wonder how the hell you ever got here. For the next six months you wonder how the hell the rest of them ever got here." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"My choice early in life was either to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference.." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"Don't join the book burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book..." ~~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the size of the fight in the dog." ~~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron." ~~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Those who want the Government to regulate matters of the mind and spirit are like men who are so afraid of being murdered that they commit suicide to avoid assassination." ~~ *Harry S Truman*

"You do not lead by hitting people over the head-that's assault, not leadership." ~~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"We merely want to live in peace with all the world, to trade with them, to commune with them, to learn from their culture as they may learn from ours, so that the products of our toil may be used for our schools and our roads and our churches and not for guns and planes and tanks and ships of war." ~~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"You cannot win a War on Terrorism. It's like having a war on jealousy." ~~ *David Cross*

"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity." ~~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"How far can you go without destroying from within what you are trying to defend from without?" ~~ *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"A Patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government." ~~ *Ed Abbey*

"The old lady said she'd leave me if I bought another bike.
I still sometimes wonder what she's doing these days." ~~ *Anonymous*

"First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the Communists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist.

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Then they came for me
and there was no one left
to speak out for me".

~~ *Pastor Martin Niemöller – Germany 1946*

"To lay one's plans carefully, to wreak an implacable vengeance, and then to go to sleep, there is nothing sweeter in the world" ~~
Josef Stalin

"A little rebellion now and then... is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it." ~~ *Ronald Reagan*

"The snow doesn't give a soft white damn whom it touches." -- *E(dward) E(stlin) Cummings*

"There's simply no two ways about this fuel question. Gasoline is going – alcohol is coming. And we might as well get ready for it now. All the world is waiting for a substitute for gasoline." ~~ *Henry Ford, in an interview with The Detroit Free Press, December 1916*

"The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." ~~ *Plato*

"...those who propose such a thing (violating citizen privacy through illegal wiretaps) are more of a danger to the country than the ones they want to listen in on." ~~ *Harry Truman*

"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it." ~~
Michelangelo

"The erosion of freedom rarely comes as an all-out frontal assault. Rather, it is a gradual, noxious creeping cloaked in secrecy and glossed over by reassurances of greater security." ~~ *Senator Robert C. Byrd*

"What luck for rulers that men do not think." ~~ *Adolf Hitler*

"The great masses of the people... will more easily fall victims to a great lie than to a small one." ~~ *Adolf Hitler*

"I use emotion for the many and reserve reason for the few." ~~ *Adolf Hitler*

"By means of shrewd lies, unremittingly repeated, it is possible to make people believe that heaven is hell – and hell is heaven. The greater the lie, the more readily it will be believed." ~ *Adolf Hitler*

"Naturally, the common people don't want war, but after all, it is the leaders of a country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag people along whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. This is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country." ~~ *Herman Goering*

"Never eat more than you can lift." ~~ *Miss Piggy*

"If government were a product, selling it would be illegal." ~~ *P. J. O'Rourke*

"With or without religion, you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things. But for good people to do evil things, that takes religion." ~~ *Steven Weinberg*

"An idealist is a person who helps other people to be prosperous." ~~ *Henry Ford*

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"There is nothing so stable as change." ~ ~ *Bob Dylan*

"Willingness to change is a strength, even if it means plunging part of the company into total confusion for a while." ~ ~ *Jack Welch*

"You cannot expect to achieve new goals or move beyond your present circumstances unless you change." ~ ~ *Les Brown*

"We are taught you must blame your father, your sisters, your brothers, the school, the teachers - but never blame yourself. It's never your fault. But it's always your fault, because if you wanted to change you're the one who has got to change." ~ ~ *Katharine Hepburn*

"I have noticed even people who claim everything is predestined, and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road." ~ ~ *Stephen Hawking*

"Those Who Risk Nothing, Do, Achieve, & Become Nothing" ~ ~ *David Jefferies (motorcycle racer, paraphrasing Leo F. Buscaglia)*

"The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing, and becomes nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn and feel and change and grow and love and live." ~ ~ *Leo F. Buscaglia*

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." ~ ~ *T. S. Eliot*

"We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the Universe. That makes us something very special." ~ ~ *Stephen Hawking*

"No one knows what it is that he can do till he tries." ~ ~ *Publius Syrus*

"I never hurt nobody but myself and that's nobody's business but my own." ~ ~ *Billie Holiday*

"The man of character, in relation to his superiors, finds himself in a difficult position. Sure of his own judgment and conscious of his strengths, he makes no concessions to the desire to please. More than that, those who do great things must often ignore the conventions of a false discipline." ~ ~ *Charles DeGaulle*

"Natural abilities are like natural plants; they need pruning by study." ~ ~ *Francis Bacon*

"It rankles me when somebody tries to force somebody to do something." ~ ~ *John Wayne*

"Authors, like coins, grow dear as they grow old: It is the rust we value, not the gold." ~ ~ *Alexander Pope*

"Everything used in this book is from public sources. The stuff that's available publicly is far more frightening than a lot of people realize." ~ ~ *Tom Clancy*

"I was in prison and you came to visit me." ~ ~ *Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 25:36)*

"Perhaps the sentiments contained in the following pages, are not yet sufficiently fashionable to procure them general favor; a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defense of custom. But the tumult soon subsides." ~ ~ *Thomas Paine (Common Sense, Jan 1776)*

"The author who speaks about his own books is almost as bad as a mother who talks about her own children." ~ ~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"Why doesn't everybody leave everybody else the hell alone?" ~ ~ *Jimmy Durante*

"No loss by flood or lightning, no destruction of cities and temples by hostile forces of nature, has deprived man of so many noble lives and impulses as those which his intolerance has destroyed." ~ ~ *Helen Keller*

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"They can because they think they can." ~~ *Vergil*

"That which we call sin in others is experiment for us." ~~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"Citizenship? We have none! In place of it we teach patriotism which Samuel Johnson said a hundred and forty or a hundred and fifty years ago was the last refuge of the scoundrel -- and I believe that he was right. I remember when I was a boy and I heard repeated time and time again the phrase, 'My country, right or wrong, my country!' How absolutely absurd is such an idea. How absolutely absurd to teach this idea to the youth of the country." ~~ *Mark Twain, True Citizenship at the Children's Theater, 1907*

"Enlighten the people generally, and tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues." ~~ *Abraham Lincoln*

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder." ~~ *Thomas Haynes Bayly*

"My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular." ~~ *Adlai E. Stevenson*

"If we've learned anything in the past quarter century, it is that we cannot federalize virtue." ~~ *President George Bush 1991*

"Fools admire, but men of sense approve." ~~ *Alexander Pope*

"We are so concerned to flatter the majority that we lose sight of how very often it is necessary, in order to preserve freedom for the minority, let alone for the individual, to face that majority down." ~~ *William F. Buckley, Jr.*

"A fool always finds a greater fool to admire him." ~~ *Nicholas Boileau*

"All men are frauds. The only difference between them is that some admit it. I myself deny it." ~~ *H. L. Mencken*

"The first thing to learn in intercourse with others is non-interference with their own particular ways of being happy, provided those ways do not assume to interfere by violence with ours." ~~ *William James*

"Truth resides in every human heart, and one has to search for it there, and to be guided by truth as one sees it. But no one has a right to coerce others to act according to his own view of truth." ~~ *Mohandas K. Gandhi*

"As a human being, regardless if a believer or non-believer this inner human value, is very essential in order to have happier individuals, happier family, happier society or happier nation." ~~ *Dalai Lama*

"Resort to military force is a first sure sign that we are giving up the struggle for the democratic way of life, and that the Old World has conquered morally as well as geographically ~~ succeeding in imposing upon us its ideals and methods." ~~ *John Dewey (1939)*

"The worst men give oft the best advice." ~~ *Philip James Bailey*

"Nobody can be so amusingly arrogant as a young man who has just discovered an old idea and thinks it is his own." ~~ *Sydney J. Harris*

"A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson (1801)*

"Freedom is the right to choose: the right to create for oneself the alternatives of choice. Without the possibility of choice a man is not a man but a member, and instrument, a thing." ~~ *Archibald MacCleish*

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"A civilized society is one which tolerates eccentricity to the point of doubtful sanity." ~~ *Robert Frost*

"Liberty exists in proportion to wholesome restraint; the more restraint on others to keep off from us, the more liberty we have." ~~ *Daniel Webster (1847)*

"Every man desires to live long, but no man would be old." ~~ *Johnathan Swift*

"The United States ranks 13th on the Human Freedom Index. Twelve other countries are freer than the United States." ~~ *United Nations*

"Do what's right for you, as long as it don't hurt no one." ~~ *Elvis Presley*

"In framing a government, which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed, and in the next place, oblige it to control itself." ~~ *James Madison*

"Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others." ~~ *William Allen White*

"Life is a sexually transmitted terminal disease." ~~ *Peter McWilliams*

"Whether or not legislation is truly moral is often a question of who has the power to define morality." ~~ *Jerome H. Skolnick*

"In a free society, standards of public morality can be measured only by whether physical coercion ~~ violence against persons or property ~~ occurs. There is no right not to be offended by words, actions or symbols." ~~ *Richard E. Sincere, Jr.*

"Moral indignation is in most cases 2% moral, 48% indignation and 50% envy." ~~ *Vittorio De Sica*

"Give me chastity and self-restraint, but do not give it yet." ~~ *Saint Augustine*

"Without doubt the greatest injury of all was done by basing morals on myth. For, sooner or later, myth is recognized for what it is, and disappears. Then morality loses the foundation on which it has been built." ~~ *Lord Herbert Louis Samuel*

"My people and I have come to an agreement which satisfies us both. They are to say what they please, and I am to do what I please." ~~ *Frederick the Great (1712-1786)*

"I have never been able to conceive how any rational being could propose happiness to himself from the exercise of power over others." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"It is not only vain, but wicked, in a legislator to frame laws in opposition to the laws of nature, and to arm them with the terrors of death. This is truly creating crimes in order to punish them." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson (1779)*

"Every tyrant who has lived has believed in freedom ~~ for himself." ~~ *Elbert Hubbard*

"Civil laws against adultery and fornication have been on the books forever, in every country. That's not the law's business; that's God's business. He can handle it." ~~ *Justice Thomas G. Kavanagh*

"Republic. I like the sound of the word. It means people can live free, talk free, go or come, buy or sell, be drunk or sober, however they choose." ~~ *John Wayne*

"We are all tolerant enough of those who do not agree with us, provided only they are sufficiently miserable." ~~ *David Grayson*

"Youth is a blunder, manhood a struggle; old age a regret." ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"I hate the man who builds his name

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On ruins of another's fame." ~~ *John Gay*

"The policy of the American government is to leave their citizens free, neither restraining nor aiding them in their pursuits." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience?" ~~ *Paul (1 Corinthians 10:29)*

"In a civilized society, all crimes are likely to be sins, but most sins are not and ought not to be treated as crimes. Man's ultimate responsibility is to God alone." ~~ *Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury*

"To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." ~~ *George Washington*

"The people's government, made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people." ~~ *Daniel Webster*

"In the field of world policy, I would dedicate this nation to the policy of the good neighbor." ~~ *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." ~~ *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

"I admire men of character. And I judge character not by how men deal with their superiors, but mostly how they deal with their subordinates. And that, to me, is where you find out what the character of a man is." ~~ *Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf*

"We must be the great arsenal of democracy." ~~ *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

"Speak softly and carry a big stick: you will go far." ~~ *Theodore Roosevelt*

"We have met the enemy, and they are ours." ~~ *Oliver H. Perry*

"Freedom of religion; freedom of the press; freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus; and trial by juries impartially selected, -These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us, and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"It is not best to swap horses when crossing a stream." ~~ *Abraham Lincoln*

"The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson - Summary View of the Rights of British America*

"Nothing is certain but death and taxes." ~~ *Benjamin Franklin*

"Because of the diverse conditions of humans, it happens that some acts are virtuous to some people, as appropriate and suitable to them, while the same acts are immoral for others, as inappropriate to them." ~~ *Saint Thomas Aquinas*

"I like white trash cooking. Cheeseburgers. The greasier the better. Mashed potatoes served in a scoop, a little dent in the top for the gravy. Drake's Devel Dogs for dessert. Pure pleasure; no known nutrient." ~~ *Orson Bean*

"I have every sympathy with the American who was so horrified by what he had read of the effects of smoking that he gave up reading." ~~ *Lord Conesford*

"Fanaticism consists in redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim." ~~ *George Santayana*

"If we cannot end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity." ~~ *John F. Kennedy*

"If you say a modern celebrity is an adulterer, a pervert, and a drug addict, all it means is that you've read his autobiography." ~~ *P.J. O'Rourke*

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"I am an actor. Of COURSE I can play a heterosexual!" ~ ~ *Sir John Gielgud*

"Our relations with a good joke are direct and even divine relations." ~ ~ *G.K. Chesterton*

"There are more old drunkards than old doctors." ~ ~ *Benjamin Franklin*

"I once shook hands with Pat Boone and my whole right side sobered up." ~ ~ *Dean Martin*

There's something about me that makes a lot of people want to throw up." ~ ~ *Pat Boone*

"My dad was the town drunk. Usually that's not so bad, but New York City?" ~ ~ *Henny Youngman*

"Although man is already ninety per cent water, the Prohibitionists are not yet satisfied." ~ ~ *John Kendrick Bangs*

"Prohibition only drives drunkenness behind doors and into dark places and does not cure or even diminish it." ~ ~ *Mark Twain*

"They can never repeal it." ~ ~ *Senator Andrew J. Volstead of Minnesota speaking of the Prohibition Act*

"I'm only a beer teetotaler, not a champagne teetotaler; I don't like beer." ~ ~ *George Bernard Shaw*

"I see that you, too, put up monuments to your great dead." ~ ~ *A Frenchman on viewing the Statue of Liberty during prohibition*

"When I sell liquor, it's bootlegging. When my patrons serve it on a silver tray on Lakeshore Drive it's hospitality." ~ ~ *Al Capone*

"When a friend warned him that alcohol was slow poison, *Robert Benchley* replies, "So who's in a hurry?"

"I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me." ~ ~ *Winston Churchill*

"There should be asylums for habitual teetotalers, but they would probably relapse into teetotalism as soon as they got out." ~ ~ *Samuel Butler*

"In a generation, those who are now children will have lost their taste for alcohol." ~ ~ *John Fuller (1925)*

"We learn from history what we do not learn from history." ~ ~ *Hegel*

Jon Winokur: "How did you react to winning a Pulitzer?"

Dave Barry: "I figured it was just one more indication of the nation's drug problem."

"While Congress was snoozing, the American taxpayers were losing." ~ ~ *Senator Bob Dole*

"Any company executive who overcharges the government more than \$5,000,000 will be fined \$50 or have to go to traffic school three nights a week." ~ ~ *Art Buchwald*

"Even very young children need to be informed about dying. Explain the concept of death very carefully to your child. This will make threatening him with it much more effective." ~ ~ *P. J. O'Rourke*

"The mystery of government is not how Washington works but how to make it stop." ~ ~ *P. J. O'Rourke*

"Maybe a nation that consumes as much booze and dope as we do and has our kind of divorce statistics should pipe down about "character issues." Either that or just go ahead and determine the presidency with three-legged races and pie-eating contests. It would make better TV." ~ ~ *P. J. O'Rourke*

"Cleanliness becomes more important when godliness is unlikely." ~ ~ *P. J. O'Rourke*

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"There are a number of mechanical devices which increase sexual arousal, particularly in women. Chief among these is the Mercedes-Benz 380SL convertible." ~ P. J. O'Rourke

"After all, what is your host's purpose in having a party? Surely not for you to enjoy yourself; if that were their sole purpose, they'd have simply sent champagne and women over to your place by taxi." ~ P. J. O'Rourke

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." ~ P. J. O'Rourke

"The financial honor of this government is of too vast importance, is entirely too sacred to be the football of party politics." ~ William McKinley

"I am for America because America is for the common people." ~ William McKinley

"We go to war only to make peace. We never went to war with any other design. We carry the national conscience wherever we go." ~ William McKinley

"No material greatness, no wealth, no accumulation of splendor, is to be compared with those humble and homely virtues which have generally characterized our American homes." ~ Benjamin Harrison

"Performance should be made square with promise." ~ Theodore Roosevelt

"The country's honor must be upheld at home and abroad." ~ Theodore Roosevelt

"A man's disposition is never well known till he be crossed." ~ Francis Bacon

"Anger is short madness." ~ Horace

"He who conquers his wrath overcomes his greatest enemy." ~ Publilius Syrus

"The elephant is never won with Anger, Nor must that man who would reclaim a lion take him by the teeth." ~ Earl of Rochester

"Nothing is so good as it seems beforehand." ~ George Eliot, *Silas Marner*

"Apologies only account for that which they do not alter." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Great men are seldom over-scrupulous in the arrangement of their attire." ~ Charles Dickens, *Pickwick Papers*

"All that glisters is not gold, Gilded tombs do worms infold." ~ William Shakespeare

"By outward show let's not be cheated; An ass should like an ass be treated." ~ John Gay, *Fables*

"Things are seldom what they seem; Skim milk masquerades as cream." ~ Sir William Schwenck Gilbert, *H.M.S. Pinafore*

"Who, too deep for his hearers, still went on refining, And thought of convincing while they thought of dining." ~ Oliver Goldsmith, *Retaliation*

"Too low they build who build beneath the stars." ~ Edward Young, *Night Thoughts*

"Hitch your wagon to a star." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

"To know ourselves disease is half our cure." ~ Alexander Pope

"Beauty is but skin deep" ~ Proverb

"The saying that beauty is but skin deep is but a skin-deep saying." ~ Herbert Spencer, *Essays*

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever; Its loveliness increases; it will never Pass into nothingness." ~~ *John Keats, Endymion*

"If eyes were made for seeing,
Then Beauty is its own excuse for being." ~~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson, The Rhodora*

"A man lives by believing something;
Not by debating and arguing about many things." ~~ *Thomas Carlyle*

"Man prefers to believe what he prefers to be true." ~~ *Francis Bacon, Aphorisms*

"What we ardently wish, we believe." ~~ *Edward Young, Night Thoughts*

"Would you know the qualities in which a man is wanting? Examine those of which he boasts." ~~ *Segur, Poams*

"The empty vessel makes the greatest sound." ~~ *Proverb*

Notice, Hartford Courant, May 20, 1875:

"TWO HUNDRED & FIVE DOLLARS REWARD—At the great base ball match on Tuesday, while I was engaged in hurraing, a small boy walked off with an English-made brown silk UMBRELLA belonging to me, and forgot to bring it back. I will pay \$5 for the return of that umbrella in good condition to my house on Farmington avenue. I do not want the boy (in an active state) but will pay two hundred dollars for his remains." ~~ *Samuel L. Clemens*

"Who kills a man, kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a good book kills reason itself." ~~ *John Milton, Areopagitica*

"Books, like friends, should be few and well chosen." ~~ *Samuel Paterson, Joineriana*

"God be thanked for books. They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages." ~~ *William Ellery Channing*

"Books are the best things, well used; abused, among the worst." ~~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." ~~ *Francis Bacon, Essay on Studies*

"A good book is the precious lifeblood of a master-spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life." ~~ *John Milton, Areopagitica*

"Again I hear the creaking step!~--
He's rapping at the door!~--
Too well I know the boding sound
That ushers in a bore." ~~ *John Godfrey Saxe, My Familiar*

"We always get bored with those whom we bore." ~~ *La Rochefoucauld, Maximes*

"A man in debt is so far a slave." ~~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"The human species, according to the best theory I can form of it, is composed of two distinct races, The men who borrow and the men who lend." ~~ *Charles Lamb*

"Let us all be happy and live within our means, even if we have to borrow the money to do it with." ~~ *Artemus Ward, Natural History*

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"Neither a borrower nor a lender be:

For loan oft loses both itself and friend;

And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry." ~~ *William Shakespeare, Hamlet*

"Creditors have better memories than debtors." ~~ *Proverb*

"None but the brave deserves the fair." ~~ *John Dryden, Alexander's Feast*

"Brevity is the soul of wit." ~~ *William Shakespeare, Hamlet*

"Shallow men believe in luck, believe in circumstances.

Strong men believe in cause and effect." ~~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson, Conduct of Life*

"Great estates may venture more,

But little boars should keep near shore." ~~ *Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac*

"They that fear the adder's sting, will not come near his hissing." ~~ *George Chapman, Widow's Tears*

"In this world, nothing is certain but death and taxes." ~~ *Benjamin Franklin, Letter*

"There is nothing certain in man's life but that he must lose it." ~~ *Owen Meredith, Clytemnestra*

"The only thing that is certain is that nothing is certain." ~~ *Pliny the Elder, Historia Naturalis*

"Chance is the providence of adventurers." ~~ *Napoleon Bonaparte*

"A fool must now and then be right by chance." ~~ *William Cowper, Conversations*

"Life belongs to the living, and he who lives must be prepared for changes." ~~ *Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe*

"Character is simply a habit long continued." ~~ *Plutarch*

"The best investment I know of is charity: You git your principal back immediately, and draw a dividend every time you think of it."

~ ~ *Josh Billings (Henry Wheeler Shaw)*

"They serve God well

Who serve his creatures." ~~ *Caroline Elizabeth Norton, Lady of La Garaye*

"How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is

To have a thankless child!" ~~ *William Shakespeare, King Lear*

"A man is too apt to forget that in this world he cannot have everything. A choice is all that is left him." ~~ *H. Mathews, Diary of an Invalid*

"Everyone is as God has made him, and often-times a great deal worse." ~~ *Miguel De Cervantes, Don Quixote*

"Common sense is not so common." ~~ *Voltaire*

"They who complain most are most to be complained of." ~~ *Matthew Henry*

"All great alterations in human affairs are produced by compromise." ~~ *Sydney Smith, Catholic Question*

"Nothing is pleasant

Joined with a must." ~~ *Robert Bridges, Nero*

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"Who overcomes by force has overcome but half his foe." ~~ *John Milton, Paradise Lost*

"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." ~~ *Helen Keller*

"Conceit may puff a man up, but never prop him up." ~~ *John Ruskin*

"Confidence is a thing that cannot be produced by compulsion." ~~ *Daniel Webster*

"Confidence is a plant of slow growth in an aged bosom." ~~ *William Pitt*

"For they can conquer who believe they can." ~~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson, Society and Solitude*

"A burthen'd conscience
Will never need a hangman." ~~ *Beaumont and Fletcher, Laws of Comedy*

"Whatever creed be taught or land be trod,
Man's conscience is the oracle of God!" ~~ *Lord Byron, The Island*

"Let his tormentor, Conscience, find him out." ~~ *John Milton, Paradise Regained*

"The fond fantastic thing call'd conscience,
Which serves for nothing but to make men cowards." ~~ *Thomas Shadwell, The Libertine*

"Conscience, the bosom-hell of guilty man!" ~~ *James Montgomery, The Pelican Island*

"A guilty conscience needs no accuser." ~~ *Proverb*

"Conscience is the chamber of justice." ~~ *Origen*

"Show me a thoroughly contented person, and I will show you a useless one." ~~ *Josh Billings (Henry Wheeler Shaw)*

"Contentment consisteth not in adding more fuel, but in taking away some fire." ~~ *Thomas Fuller*

"He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper." ~~ *Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France*

"Silence and modesty are very valuable qualities in conversation." ~~ *Michel De Montaigne*

"Conversation is an art in which a man has all mankind for competitors." ~~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"Corruption is like a ball of snow, when once set a-rolling it must increase." ~~ *Charles Caleb Colton*

"They also serve who only stand and wait." ~~ *John Milton*

"I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson (1791)*

"A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul." ~~ *George Bernard Shaw (1944)*

"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery." ~~ *Winston Churchill*

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"There is only one basic human right, the right to do as you damn well please. And with it comes the only basic human duty, the duty to take the consequences." ~ P.J. O'Rourke (1993)

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it." ~ Ronald Reagan (1986)

"I was guilty of judging capitalism by its operations and socialism by its hopes and aspirations; capitalism by its works and socialism by its literature." ~ Sidney Hook

"America needs fewer laws, not more prisons." ~ James Bovard

"Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom." ~ Albert Einstein (1950)

"War is just one more big government program." ~ Joseph Sobran

"War is the health of the State." ~ Randolph Bourne (1917)

"Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." ~ John Adams (1814)

"Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries." ~ Douglas Casey (1992)

"Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none." ~ Thomas Jefferson (1801)

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." ~ The Bible, II Corinthians 3:17.

"If you want government to intervene domestically, you're a liberal. If you want government to intervene overseas, you're a conservative. If you want government to intervene everywhere, you're a moderate. If you don't want government to intervene anywhere, you're an extremist." ~ Joseph Sobran (1995)

"One of the greatest delusions in the world is the hope that the evils in this world are to be cured by legislation." ~ Thomas B. Reed (1886)

"In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other." ~ Voltaire (1764)

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." ~ Benjamin Franklin (1755)

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." ~ William Pitt (1783)

"If you are not free to choose wrongly and irresponsibly, you are not free at all." ~ Jacob Hornberger (1995)

"I heartily accept the motto, 'That government is best which governs least.'" ~ Henry David Thoreau

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master." ~ Attributed to George Washington

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." ~ P.J. O'Rourke

"When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators." ~ P.J. O'Rourke

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"A government that is big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take it all away." ~~ *Barry Goldwater (1964)*

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." ~~ *Will Rogers*

"Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program." ~~ *Milton Friedman*

"Politicians are the same all over: they promise to build a bridge even where there is no river." ~~ *Nikita Khrushchev (1960)*

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed ~~ and hence clamorous to be led to safety ~~ by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." ~~ *H.L. Mencken*

"Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." ~~ *John Bradshaw*

"There are just two rules of governance in a free society: Mind your own business. Keep your hands to yourself." ~~ *P.J. O'Rourke (1993)*

"The human race divides politically into those who want people to be controlled and those who have no such desire." ~~ *Robert A. Heinlein*

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you." ~~ *Pericles (430 BC)*

"The more corrupt the state, the more it legislates." ~~ *Tacitus*

"There is no virtue in compulsory government charity, and there is no virtue in advocating it. A politician who portrays himself as "caring" and "sensitive" because he wants to expand the government's charitable programs is merely saying that he's willing to try to do good with other people's money. Well, who isn't? And a voter who takes pride in supporting such programs is telling us that he'll do good with his own money ~~ if a gun is held to his head." ~~ *P.J. O'Rourke*

"The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools." ~~ *Herbert Spencer (1891)*

"More laws, less justice." ~~ *Marcus Tullius Cicero (42 BC)*

"No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session." ~~ *Mark Twain (1866)*

"The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson*

"There is no worse tyranny than to force a man to pay for what he does not want merely because you think it would be good for him." ~~ *Robert Heinlein*

"Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others." ~~ *William Allen White*

"The true danger is when Liberty is nibbled away, for expedients." ~~ *Edmund Burke (1899)*

"I have ever deemed it fundamental for the United States never to take active part in the quarrels of Europe. Their political interests are entirely distinct from ours. Their mutual jealousies, their balance of power, their complicated alliances, their forms and principles of government, are all foreign to us. They are nations of eternal war." ~~ *Thomas Jefferson (1823)*

"America does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She well knows that by enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standards of freedom." ~~ *John Quincy Adams (1821)*

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression." ~ Thomas Paine (1795)

"Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else." ~ Frederic Bastiat

"Ask not what you can do for your country; ask what your government is doing to you." ~ Joseph Sobran (1990)

"God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it." ~ Daniel Webster (1834)

"The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding." ~ Justice Louis Brandeis (1928)

"The saddest epitaph which can be carved in memory of a vanished liberty is that it was lost because its possessors failed to stretch forth a saving hand while yet there was time." ~ Justice George Sutherland (1938)

"The era of resisting big government is never over." ~ Paul Gigot (1998)

"Not a place upon earth might be so happy as America. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world, and she has nothing to do but to trade with them." ~ Thomas Paine (1776)

"Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmies." ~ Honore de Balzac

"Whoever prefers life to death, happiness to suffering, well-being to misery must defend without compromise private ownership in the means of production." ~ Ludwig von Mises (1920)

"The triumph of persuasion over force is the sign of a civilized society." ~ Mark Skousen

"Good intentions will always be pleaded for any assumption of power. The Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters." ~ Daniel Webster

"If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government that is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself." ~ James Madison

"Let the people think they govern and they will be governed." ~ William Penn (1693)

"In 1940, teachers were asked what they regarded as the three major problems in American schools. They identified the three major problems as: Littering, noise, and chewing gum. Teachers last year were asked what the three major problems in American schools were, and they defined them as: Rape, assault, and suicide." ~ William Bennett (1993)

"The threat posed by humans to the natural environment is nothing compared to the threat to humans posed by global environmental policy." ~ Fred L. Smith (1992)

"The great virtue of a free market system is that it does not care what color people are; it does not care what their religion is; it only cares whether they can produce something you want to buy. It is the most effective system we have discovered to enable people who hate one another to deal with one another and help one another." ~ Milton Friedman

"The spirit of truth and the spirit of freedom ~ they are the pillars of society." ~ Henrik Ibsen (1877)

"Government is actually the worst failure of civilized man. There has never been a really good one, and even those that are most tolerable are arbitrary, cruel, grasping, and unintelligent." ~ H. L. Mencken

"Government cannot make man richer, but it can make him poorer." ~ Ludwig von Mises

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others?" ~ Thomas Jefferson (1801)

"A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government." ~ Thomas Jefferson (1801)

"This country is a one-party country. Half of it is called Republican and half is called Democrat. It doesn't make any difference. All the really good ideas belong to the Libertarians." ~ Hugh Downs (1997)

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." ~ Lord Acton (1887)

"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." ~ Mao Zedong (1938)

"The difference between libertarianism and socialism is that libertarians will tolerate the existence of a socialist community, but socialists can't tolerate a libertarian community." ~ David D. Boaz (1997)

"We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle." ~ Winston Churchill (1903)

"If you have been voting for politicians who promise to give you goodies at someone else's expense, then you have no right to complain when they take your money and give it to someone else, including themselves." ~ Thomas Sowell (1992)

"War has all the characteristics of socialism most conservatives hate: Centralized power, state planning, false rationalism, restricted liberties, foolish optimism about intended results, and blindness to unintended secondary results." ~ Joseph Sobran (1991)

"There never was a good war or a bad peace." ~ Benjamin Franklin (1773)

"The only thing that saves us from the bureaucracy is inefficiency. An efficient bureaucracy is the greatest threat to liberty." ~ Eugene McCarthy

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." ~ Benjamin Franklin

"All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit." ~ Thomas Paine

"I sincerely believe that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies, and that the principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale." ~ Thomas Jefferson

"He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself." ~ Thomas Paine

"I admire men of character. And I judge character not by how men deal with their superiors, but mostly how they deal with their subordinates. And that, to me, is where you find out what the character of a man is." ~ Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, *Commander of Forces in the Persian Gulf, in a television interview with David Frost*

"The power of the Executive to cast a man into prison without formulating any charge, and particularly to deny him the judgment of his peers, is in the highest degree odious and is the foundation of all totalitarian government whether Nazi or Communist." ~ Winston Churchill, *November 21, 1943*

"When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senators do not know whether to answer 'Present' or 'Not guilty.'" ~ Theodore Roosevelt

Sheldon's Book of Quotes

"Every man is guilty of all the good he didn't do." ~~ *Voltaire*

"If I had my way, any man guilty of golf would be ineligible for any office of trust in the United States." ~~ *H. L. Mencken*

"Now and then an innocent man is sent to the legislature." ~~ *Kin Hubbard*

"That we are to stand by the president, right or wrong is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public." ~~ *Theodore Roosevelt*

"Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in one pretty and well preserved piece, but to skid across the finish line broadside, thoroughly used up, worn out, leaking oil and shouting, 'GERONIMO!'" ~~ *Anonymous*

"It is the duty of every citizen according to his best capacities to give validity to his convictions in political affairs." ~~ *Albert Einstein, 'Treasury for the Free World,' 1946*

"Crime does not pay ... as well as politics." ~~ *Alfred E. Newman*

"Politics, n. Strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles." ~~ *Ambrose Bierce, The Devil's Dictionary*

"Man is by nature a political animal." ~~ *Aristotle*

"I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians." ~~ *Charles De Gaulle*

"Politics is made up largely of irrelevancies." ~~ *Dalton Camp*

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy." ~~ *Ernest Benn*

"Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game, and dumb enough to think it's important." ~~ *Eugene McCarthy*

"When the political columnists say 'Every thinking man' they mean themselves, and when candidates appeal to 'Every intelligent voter' they mean everybody who is going to vote for them." ~~ *Franklin P. Adams*

"The problem with political jokes is they get elected." ~~ *Henry Cate VII*

"Nothing is so admirable in politics as a short memory." ~~ *John Kenneth Galbraith*

"Politics is not the art of the possible. It consists in choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable." ~~ *John Kenneth Galbraith*

"The word 'politics' is derived from the word 'poly', meaning 'many', and the word 'ticks', meaning 'blood sucking parasites'." ~~ *Larry Hardiman*

"Politics is the skilled use of blunt objects." ~~ *Lester B. Pearson*

"Politics is war without bloodshed while war is politics with bloodshed." ~~ *Mao Tse-Tung*

"Nothing can so alienate a voter from the political system as backing a winning candidate." ~~ *Mark B. Cohen*

"Politics is the art of the possible." ~~ *Otto Von Bismarck*

"Politics is the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them." ~~ *Paul Valery*

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"In politics you must always keep running with the pack. The moment that you falter and they sense that you are injured, the rest will turn on you like wolves." ~~ *R. A. Butler*

"Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary." ~~ *Robert Louis Stevenson*

"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book." ~~ *Ronald Reagan*

"Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first." ~~ *Ronald Reagan*

"Politics is applesauce." ~~ *Will Rogers*

"The more you read and observe about this Politics thing, you got to admit that each party is worse than the other. The one that's out always looks the best." ~~ *Will Rogers*

"He who would travel happily must travel light." ~~ *Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

"Thanks to the Interstate Highway System, it is now possible to travel from coast to coast without seeing anything." ~~ *Charles Kuralt*

"When you travel, remember that a foreign country is not designed to make you comfortable. It is designed to make its own people comfortable." ~~ *Clifton Fadiman*

"Lawyers, I suppose, were children once." ~~ *Charles Lamb*

"The true traveler is he who goes on foot, and even then, he sits down a lot of the time." ~~ *Colette*

"A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it." ~~ *George Moore*

"Before he sets out, the traveler must possess fixed interests and facilities to be served by travel." ~~ *George Santayana*

"The saying 'Getting there is half the fun' became obsolete with the advent of commercial airlines." ~~ *Henry J. Tillman*

"Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living." ~~ *Miriam Beard*

"Travel is only glamorous in retrospect." ~~ *Paul Theroux*

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference." ~~ *Robert Frost*

"Everywhere I go I find a poet has been there before me." ~~ *Sigmund Freud*

"Travel only with thy equals or thy betters; if there are none, travel alone." ~~ *The Dhammapada*

"No one travelling on a business trip would be missed if he failed to arrive." ~~ *Thorstein Veblen*

"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." ~~ *Albert Camus*

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." ~~ *Anne Bradstreet, 'Meditations Divine and Moral,' 1655*

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"Perhaps I am a bear, or some hibernating animal underneath, for the instinct to be half asleep all winter is so strong in me." ~ ~
Anne Morrow Lindbergh

"Every winter, When the great sun has turned his face away, The earth goes down into a vale of grief, And fasts, and weeps, and shrouds herself in sables, Leaving her wedding-garlands to decay-- Then leaps in spring to his returning kisses." ~ ~ *Charles Kingsley*

"In the bleak midwinter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, Long ago." ~ ~ *Christina Rossetti*

"There's a certain Slant of light, Winter Afternoons-- That oppresses, like the Heft Of Cathedral Tunes--" ~ ~ *Emily Dickinson*

"Every mile is two in winter." ~ ~ *George Herbert*

"One kind word can warm three winter months." ~ ~ *Japanese proverb*

"The tendinous part of the mind, so to speak, is more developed in winter; the fleshy, in summer. I should say winter had given the bone and sinew to literature, summer the tissues and the blood." ~ ~ *John Burroughs*

"When you live in Texas, every single time you see snow it's magical." ~ ~ *Pamela Ribon, Why Girls Are Weird*

"Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart." ~ ~ *Victor Hugo*

"Winter lies too long in country towns; hangs on until it is stale and shabby, old and sullen." ~ ~ *Willa Cather, My Antonia*

"And for the season it was winter, and they that know the winters of that country know them to be sharp and violent, and subject to cruel and fierce storms." ~ ~ *William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation*

"O Winter! ruler of the inverted year, . . . I crown thee king of intimate delights, Fireside enjoyments, home-born happiness, And all the comforts that the lowly roof Of undisturb'd Retirement, and the hours Of long uninterrupted evening, know." ~ ~ *William Cowper*

"Blow, blow, thou winter wind
Thou art not so unkind,
As man's ingratitude." ~ ~ *William Shakespeare*

"Wisdom doesn't automatically come with old age. Nothing does - except wrinkles. It's true, some wines improve with age. But only if the grapes were good in the first place." ~ ~ *Abigail Van Buren*

"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts." ~ ~ *Bertrand Russell*

"Wisdom is what's left after we've run out of personal opinions." ~ ~ *Cullen Hightower*

"One's first step in wisdom is to question everything - and one's last is to come to terms with everything." ~ ~ *Georg Christoph Lichtenberg*

"The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom." ~ ~ *H. L. Mencken*

"Force without wisdom falls of its own weight." ~ ~ *Horace*

"Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life." ~ ~ *Immanuel Kant*

"Men are wise in proportion, not to their experience, but to their capacity for experience." ~ ~ *James Boswell*

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"It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err." ~~ *Mahatma Gandhi*

"We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us." ~~ *Marcel Proust*

"To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe." ~~ *Marilyn vos Savant*

"It is not white hair that engenders wisdom." ~~ *Menander*

"Those who wish to appear wise among fools, among the wise seem foolish." ~~ *Quintilian, De Institutione Oratoria*

"Like an ability or a muscle, hearing your inner wisdom is strengthened by doing it." ~~ *Robbie Gass*

"Wisdom outweighs any wealth." ~~ *Sophocles*

"No man is wise enough by himself." ~~ *Titus Maccius Plautus*

"Not by age but by capacity is wisdom acquired." ~~ *Titus Maccius Plautus*

"A wise man can see more from the bottom of a well than a fool can from a mountain top." ~~ *Unknown*

"Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure." ~~ *William Saroyan*

"The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool." ~~ *William Shakespeare*

"One is left with the horrible feeling now that war settles nothing; that to win a war is as disastrous as to lose one." ~~ *Agatha Christie*

"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." ~~ *Albert Einstein*

"You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war." ~~ *Albert Einstein*

"War is not nice." ~~ *Barbara Bush*

"Sometime they'll give a war and nobody will come." ~~ *Carl Sandburg*

"The quickest way of ending a war is to lose it." ~~ *George Orwell*

"War is a series of catastrophes that results in a victory." ~~ *Georges Clemenceau*

"War is much too serious a matter to be entrusted to the military." ~~ *Georges Clemenceau*

"The outcome of the war is in our hands; the outcome of words is in the council." ~~ *Homer, The Iliad*

"You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake." ~~ *Jeannette Rankin*

"War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children." ~~ *Jimmy Carter*

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important

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than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself." ~ ~ *John Stuart Mill*

"War is not its own end, except in some catastrophic slide into absolute damnation. It's peace that's wanted. Some better peace than the one you started with." ~ ~ *Lois McMaster Bujold*

"What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?" ~ ~ *Mahatma Gandhi*

"Politics is war without bloodshed while war is politics with bloodshed." ~ ~ *Mao Tse-Tung*

"The way to win an atomic war is to make certain it never starts." ~ ~ *Omar Bradley*

"Either war is obsolete or men are." ~ ~ *R. Buckminster Fuller*

"It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it." ~ ~ *Robert E. Lee*

"Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. The statesman who yields to war fever must realize that once the signal is given, he is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events." ~ ~ *Sir Winston Churchill*

"One day President Roosevelt told me that he was asking publicly for suggestions about what the war should be called. I said at once 'The Unnecessary War'." ~ ~ *Sir Winston Churchill*

"The only winner in the War of 1812 was Tchaikovsky." ~ ~ *Solomon Short*

"The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving." ~ ~ *Ulysses S. Grant*

"Wars teach us not to love our enemies, but to hate our allies." ~ ~ *W. L. George*

"The idea of all-out nuclear war is unsettling." ~ ~ *Walter Goodman*

"Take the diplomacy out of war and the thing would fall flat in a week." ~ ~ *Will Rogers*

"You can't say that civilization don't advance, however, for in every war they kill you in a new way." ~ ~ *Will Rogers*

"When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President. Now I'm beginning to believe it." ~ ~ *Clarence Darrow (1857 - 1938)*

"I have been thinking that I would make a proposition to my Republican friends... that if they will stop telling lies about the Democrats, we will stop telling the truth about them." ~ ~ *Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. (1900 - 1965), Speech during 1952 Presidential Campaign*

"In America any boy may become President and I suppose it's just one of the risks he takes." ~ ~ *Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. (1900 - 1965), Speech in Indianapolis, 26 Sept. 1952*

"Democracy means that anyone can grow up to be president, and anyone who doesn't grow up can be vice president." ~ ~ *Johnny Carson (1925 - 2005)*

"We need a president who's fluent in at least one language." ~ ~ *Buck Henry*

"Any American who is prepared to run for president should automatically, by definition, be disqualified from ever doing so." ~ ~ *Gore Vidal*

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"CNN is one of the participants in the war. I have a fantasy where Ted Turner is elected president but refuses because he doesn't want to give up power." ~~ *Arthur C. Clarke*

"Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half." ~~ *Gore Vidal*

"Men of shady character frequently try to cover their misconduct by fervent protestations of love of country." ~~ *Theodore Roosevelt*

"If we stand idly by, if we seek merely swollen, slothful ease and ignoble peace, if we shrink from the hard contests where men must win at hazard of their lives and at the risk of all they hold dear, then the bolder and stronger peoples will pass us by, and will win for themselves the domination of the world." ~~ *Theodore Roosevelt*

"Patriotism is the willingness to kill and be killed for trivial reasons." ~~ *Bertrand Russell*

"Patriotism is your conviction that this country is superior to all other countries because you were born in it." ~~ *George Bernard Shaw*

A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week." ~~ *George S. Patton*

"Battle is an orgy of disorder. " ~~ *George S. Patton*

"Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results. " ~~ *George S. Patton*

"I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs but how high he bounces when he hits bottom." ~~ *George S. Patton*

"If we take the generally accepted definition of bravery as a quality which knows no fear, I have never seen a brave man. All men are frightened. The more intelligent they are, the more they are frightened." ~~ *George S. Patton*

"Prepare for the unknown by studying how others in the past have coped with the unforeseeable and the unpredictable." ~~ *George S. Patton*

"Patriotism is often an arbitrary veneration of real estate above principles." ~~ *George Jean Nathan*

"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." ~~ *Samuel Johnson*

"In the United States, doing good has come to be, like patriotism, a favorite device of persons with something to sell." ~~ *H. L. Mencken*

"You're not to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it or says it." ~~ *Malcolm X*

"My country, right or wrong," is a thing that no patriot would think of saying except in a desperate case. It is like saying, "My mother, drunk or sober." ~~ *G. K. Chesterton*

"When a whole nation is roaring Patriotism at the top of its voice, I am fain to explore the cleanness of its hands and purity of its heart." ~~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"You'll never have a quiet world till you knock the patriotism out of the human race." ~~ *George Bernard Shaw*

"Patriotism having become one of our topicks, Johnson suddenly uttered, in a strong determined tone, an apophthegm, at which many will start: "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." But let it be considered that he did not mean a real and generous love

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of our country, but that pretended patriotism which so many, in all ages and countries, have made a cloak of self- interest." ~~
Samuel Johnson

"Patriotism is the willingness to kill and be killed for trivial reasons." ~~ *Bertrand Russell*

"I know [patriotism] exists, and I know it has done much in the present contest. But a great and lasting war can never be supported on this principle alone. It must be aided by a prospect of interest, or some reward." ~~ *George Washington*

"Patriotism is a pernicious, psychopathic form of idiocy." ~~ *George Bernard Shaw*

"...a man may be a patriot without risking his own life or sacrificing his health. There are plenty of lives less valuable." ~~ *James Mellon, who paid \$300 for a civil war Union army deferment*

"Speculations and loans in foreign fields are likely to bring us into war... The war-for-profit group has counterfeited patriotism." ~~
Charles Lindberg Sr.

"No, I don't know that atheists should be considered as citizens, nor should they be considered patriots. This is one nation under God." ~~ *President George Bush, to Robert Sherman of American Atheist Press, at the Chicago airport while announcing federal disaster relief for Illinois*

"Dachshunds are ideal dogs for small children, as they have already been stretched and pulled to such a length that the child cannot do much harm one way or the other," ~~ *Robert Benchley*

"Traditions are group efforts to keep the unexpected from happening." ~~ *Barbara Tober*

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." ~~ *George S. Patton, Jr*

"Typos are very important to all written form. It gives the reader something to look for so they aren't distracted by the total lack of content in your writing." ~~ *Randy K. Milholland*

"When the politicians complain that TV turns the proceedings into a circus, it should be made clear that the circus was already there, and that TV has merely demonstrated that not all the performers are well trained." ~~ *Edward R. Murrow*

"To my embarrassment I was born in bed with a lady." ~~ *Wilson Mizner*

"To be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge. " ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics. " ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"The best way to become acquainted with a subject is to write a book about it." ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"When men are pure, laws are useless; when men are corrupt, laws are broken." ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"What we anticipate seldom occurs; what we least expected generally happens." ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"The wisdom of the wise, and the experience of ages, may be preserved by quotation." ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"My idea of an agreeable person is a person who agrees with me." ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"The most dangerous strategy is to jump a chasm in two leaps." ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

"How much easier it is to be critical than to be correct." ~~ *Benjamin Disraeli*

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"The greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but to reveal to him his own." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Cleanliness and order are not matters of instinct; they are matters of education, and like most great things, you must cultivate a taste for them." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Never apologize for showing feeling. When you do so, you apologize for truth." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Nurture your mind with great thoughts; to believe in the heroic makes heroes." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"I am a Conservative to preserve all that is good in our constitution, a Radical to remove all that is bad. I seek to preserve property and to respect order, and I equally decry the appeal to the passions of the many or the prejudices of the few." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"How much easier it is to be critical than to be correct." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"The secret of success is constancy of purpose." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Next to knowing when to seize an opportunity, the most important thing in life is to know when to forego an advantage." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"No government can be long secure without formidable opposition." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"The difference of race is one of the reasons why I fear war may always exist; because race implies difference, difference implies superiority, and superiority leads to predominance." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"As a general rule the most successful man in life is the man who has the best information." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Individuals may form communities, but it is institutions alone that can create a nation." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"I repeat...that all power is a trust; that we are accountable for its exercise; that from the people, and for the people all springs, and all must exist." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"The hare-brained chatter of irresponsible frivolity." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Ignorance never settles a question. " ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"The magic of first love is our ignorance that it can ever end." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"It is knowledge that influences and equalizes the social condition of man; that gives to all, however different their political position, passions which are in common, and enjoyments which are universal." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"The more extensive a man's knowledge of what has been done, the greater will be his power of knowing what to do. " ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"When we would prepare the mind by a forcible appeal, an opening quotation is a symphony prelude on the chords those tones we are about to harmonize." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

"Seeing much, suffering much, and studying much, are the three pillars of learning." ~ Benjamin Disraeli

War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses.

I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we'll fight. The trouble with America is that when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get

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100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag.

I wouldn't go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers. There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its "finger men" to point out enemies, its "muscle men" to destroy enemies, its "brain men" to plan war preparations, and a "Big Boss" Super-Nationalistic-Capitalism.

It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to. I spent thirty- three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General. And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high class muscle- man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents

~~ Smedley Butler.

Great Insult Quotes:

"He had delusions of adequacy." ~~ *Walter Kerr*

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." ~~ *Winston Churchill*

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." ~~ *Clarence Darrow*

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." ~~ *William Faulkner* (about Ernest Hemingway).

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." ~~ *Moses Hadas*

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." ~~ *Mark Twain*

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." ~~ *Oscar Wilde*

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." ~~ *George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill*

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"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." ~~ *Winston Churchill, in response.*

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." ~~ *Stephen Bishop*

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." ~~ *John Bright*

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." ~~ *Irvin S. Cobb*

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." ~~ *Samuel Johnson*

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." ~~ *Paul Keating*

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." ~~ *Charles, Count Talleyrand*

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." ~~ *Forrest Tucker*

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" ~~ *Mark Twain*

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." ~~ *Mae West*

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." ~~ *Oscar Wilde*

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." ~~ *Andrew Lang*

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." ~~ *Groucho Marx*

"There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure." ~~ *Jack E. Leonard*

"He has the attention span of a lightning bolt." ~~ *Robert Redford*

"They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge." ~~ *Thomas Brackett Reed*

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." ~~ *Billy Wilder*

"He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." ~~ *Abraham Lincoln*

"Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?" ~~ *Ernest Hemingway (about William Faulkner)*

"A modest little person, with much to be modest about." ~~ *Winston Churchill*

She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison."

He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it." ~~ *an exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor*

"Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."

"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress." ~~ *A member of Parliament to Disraeli*

"All Congresses and Parliaments have a kindly feeling for idiots, and a compassion for them, on account of personal experience and heredity" ~~ *Mark Twain*

"The taxpayers are sending congressmen on expensive trips abroad.

It might be worth it except they keep coming back!" ~~ *Will Rogers*

"This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer." ~~ *Will Rogers*

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"The trouble with practical jokes is that very often they get elected [to Congress]." ~ Will Rogers

"The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets." ~ Will Rogers

"With Congress, every time they make a joke it's a law, and every time they make a law it's a joke." ~ Will Rogers