

1 Selected Quotes

“I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable.”

–Jeremiah 2:7 (NIV)

“If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.”

–Luke 3:12 (NLV)

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Truly I tell you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’”

–Matthew 19:23-24

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’”

–Luke 1:46-55

“The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants. Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.”

–Leviticus 25:23-24

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

–Matthew 5:1-11

“Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you.”

–James 5:1-6

“Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.”

–Edward Abbey, 1991, *The Journey Home: Some Words in Defense of the American West*

“This is the permanent tension that lies at the heart of a capitalist democracy and is exacerbated in times of crisis. In order to ensure the survival of the richest, it is democracy that has to be heavily regulated rather than capitalism.”

–Tariq Ali, *The Obama Syndrome: Surrender at Home, War Abroad*

“Quidquid latine dictum sit, altum sonatur.”

“Whatever is said in Latin sounds profound.”

–Anonymous

“Learning requires the humility to realize one has something to learn.”

–Anonymous

“If the penalty for a crime is a fine, then that law only exists for the lower class.”

–Anonymous

“Those who demand respect rarely deserve it, and those who deserve respect rarely demand it.”

–Anonymous

“One man’s freedom fighter is another man’s terrorist.”

–Anonymous

“Justice is blind but it can smell money.”

–Anonymous

“You can’t language your way out of a structural problem”

–Anonymous

“Unions are like condoms: if they tell you you don’t need one, you definitely need one.”

–Anonymous

“Familiarity breeds contempt”

–Anonymous

“There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that ‘my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.’”

–Isaac Asimov, 21 January 1980, *"A Cult of Ignorance"*, *Newsweek*

“When the people are being beaten with a stick, they are not much happier if it is called the People’s stick.”

–Mikhail Bakunin, 1873, *Statism and Anarchy*

“No dictatorship can have any other aim but that of self-perpetuation, and it can beget only slavery in the people tolerating it; freedom can be created only by freedom, that is, by a universal rebellion on the part of the people and free organization of the toiling masses from the bottom up.”

–Mikhail Bakunin, 1873, *Statism and Anarchy*

“We are convinced that liberty without socialism is privilege, injustice; and that socialism without liberty is slavery and brutality.”

–Mikhail Bakunin, September 1867, *"Federalism, Socialism, Anti-Theologism" presented by Bakunin as a Reasoned Proposal to the Central Committee of the League for Peace and Freedom, at the League's first congress held in Geneva*

“If there is a State, there must be domination of one class by another and, as a result, slavery; the State without slavery is unthinkable—and this is why we are the enemies of the State.”

–Mikhail Bakunin, 1873, *"Statism and Anarchy"*

“All exercise of authority perverts, and submission to authority humiliates.”

–Mikhail Bakunin

“The State, therefore, is the most flagrant, the most cynical, and the most complete negation of humanity. It shatters the universal solidarity of all men on the earth, and brings some of them into association only for the purpose of destroying, conquering, and enslaving all the rest.”

–Mikhail Bakunin

“We are firmly convinced that the most imperfect republic is a thousand times better than the most enlightened monarchy. In a republic, there are at least brief periods when the people, while continually exploited, is not oppressed; in the monarchies, oppression is constant. The democratic regime also lifts the masses up gradually to participation in public life—something the monarchy never does.”

–Mikhail Bakunin

“I bow before the authority of special men because it is imposed upon me by my own reason. I am conscious of my inability to grasp, in all its details and positive developments, any very large portion of human knowledge. The greatest intelligence would not be equal to a comprehension of the whole. Thence results, for science as well as for industry, the necessity of the division and association of labor. I receive and I give—such is human life. Each directs and is directed in his turn. Therefore, there is no fixed and constant authority, but a continual exchange of mutual, temporary, and, above all, voluntary authority and subordination. Of escape there are but three methods—two chimerical and a third real. The first two are the dram-shop and the church, debauchery of the body or debauchery of the mind; the third is social revolution. In a word, we reject all legislation, all authority, and all privileged, licensed, official, and legal influence, even though arising from universal suffrage, convinced that it can turn only to the advantage of a dominant minority of exploiters against the interest of the immense majority in subjection to them. This is the sense in which we are really Anarchists.”

—Mikhail Bakunin

“We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the road. They get run down.”

—Aneurin Bevan

“I don’t want my children to grow up in a jungle... a racial jungle.”

—Joe Biden, 1977, *Busing of schoolchildren: Hearing before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee*

“You and I believe, and many of us believe here, as long as Saddam is at the helm, there is no reasonable prospect you or any other inspector is ever going to be able to guarantee that we have rooted out, root and branch, the entirety of Saddam’s program relative to weapons of mass destruction. You and I both know, and all of us here really know, and it’s a thing we have to face, that the only way, the only way we’re going to get rid of Saddam Hussein is we’re going to end up having to start it alone—start it alone—and it’s going to require guys like you in uniform to be back on foot in the desert taking this son of a—taking Saddam down. You know it and I know it.”

—Joe Biden, *September 1998*

“Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.”

—W. E. B. Du Bois

“Either America will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States.”

—W. E. B. Du Bois

“An anarchist society, far from being a remote ideal, has become a precondition for the practice of ecological principles.”

—Murray Bookchin

“The American left today as I know it—and believe me, I am very familiar with the American left—is going toward authoritarianism, toward totalitarianism. It’s becoming the real right in the United States. We don’t have an appreciable American left any more in the United States. What I saw of the SDS in the ’60s was very abhorrent to me: Marxism, Leninism, almost the KGB mentality—a police politics that I found completely totalitarian in nature. And in Europe, I would say that today the real support for State power and totalitarianism comes from the Communist parties and the Socialist parties and, where they are sizable, the Trotskyist groups. They are the ones that really frighten me.”

—Murray Bookchin

“People who resist authority, who defend the rights of the individual, who try in a period of increasing totalitarianism and centralization to reclaim these rights—this is the true left in the United States. Whether they are anarcho-communists, anarcho-syndicalists, or libertarians who believe in free enterprise, I regard theirs as the real legacy of the left, and I feel much closer, ideologically, to such individuals than I do to the totalitarian liberals and Marxist-Leninists of today.”

—Murray Bookchin

“To speak of ‘limits to growth’ under a capitalistic market economy is as meaningless as to speak of limits of warfare under a warrior society. The moral pieties, that are voiced today by many well-meaning environmentalists, are as naive as the moral pieties of multinationals are manipulative. Capitalism can no more be ‘persuaded’ to limit growth than a human being can be ‘persuaded’ to stop breathing. Attempts to ‘green’ capitalism, to make it ‘ecological’, are doomed by the very nature of the system as a system of endless growth.”

—Murray Bookchin

“The assumption that what currently exists must necessarily exist is the acid that corrodes all visionary thinking.”

—Murray Bookchin

“Not only did Lenin oppose direct workers’ control within a matter of weeks after the decree of November 14, even union control came to an end shortly after it had been established. By the summer of 1918, almost all of Russian industry had been placed under bourgeois forms of management.”

—Murray Bookchin

“Nor do piecemeal steps however well intended, even partially resolve problems that have reached a universal, global and catastrophic character. If anything, partial ‘solutions’ serve merely as cosmetics to conceal the deep-seated nature of the ecological crisis. They thereby deflect public attention and theoretical insight from an adequate understanding of the depth and scope of the necessary changes.”

–Murray Bookchin

“Almost anyone, I suppose, can call himself or herself an anarchist, if he or she believed that the society could be managed without the state. And by the state—I don’t mean the absence of any institutions, the absence of any form of social organisation—the state really refers to a professional apparatus of people who are set aside to manage society, to preëempt the control of society from the people. So that would include the military, judges, politicians, representatives who are paid for the express purpose of legislating, and then an executive body that is also set aside from society. So anarchists generally believe that, whether as groups or individuals, people should directly run society.”

–Murray Bookchin

“I had entered the communist children’s movement, an organisation called the Young Pioneers of America, in 1930 in New York City; I was only nine years of age. And I’d gone through the entire ’30s as a–Stalinist–initially, and then increasingly as someone who was more and more sympathetic to Trotskyism. And by 1939, after having seen Hitler rise to power, the Austrian workers revolt of 1934 (an almost completely forgotten episode in labour history), the Spanish revolution by which I mean the so-called Spanish civil war—I finally became utterly disillusioned with Stalinism, and drifted increasingly toward Trotskyism. And by 1945, I, finally, also became disillusioned with Trotskyism; and I would say, now, increasingly with Marxism and Leninism.”

–Murray Bookchin

“Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist.”

–Kenneth E. Boulding, 1973

“For £3 million you could give everyone in Scotland a shovel, and we would dig a hole so deep we could hand her over to Satan in person.”

–Frankie Boyle, *On the cost of Margaret Thatcher’s funeral*

“Stalin is an unprincipled intriguer who subordinates everything to preservation of his own power. He has made concessions now, so that later he can cut our throats. The result of this will be a police state.”

–Nikolai Bukharin, *Executed in Stalin’s purges*

“We see now that infringement of freedom is necessary with regard to the opponents of the revolution. At a time of revolution we cannot allow freedom for the enemies of the people and of the revolution. That is a surely clear, irrefutable conclusion.”

–Nikolai Bukharin, *Executed in March 1938 after being charged with conspiring to overthrow the Soviet state*

“Men in general are quick to believe that which they wish to be true.”

–Julius Caesar

“It’s a big club and you ain’t in it.”

–George Carlin

“They talk about the failure of socialism but where is the success of capitalism in Africa, Asia and Latin America?”

–Fidel Castro

“The journalistic habit tends to present the public with the bleakest possible view of the world.”

–Ha-Joon Chang

“See, people with power understand exactly one thing: violence.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Wanton killing of innocent civilians is terrorism, not a war against terrorism.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Workers and their families may starve to death in the New World Order of economic rationality, but diamond necklaces are cheaper in elegant New York shops, thanks to the miracle of the market.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Libertarian socialism is properly to be regarded as the inheritor of the liberal ideals of the Enlightenment.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The internet could be a very positive step towards education, organisation and participation in a meaningful society.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The more you can increase fear of drugs and crime, welfare mothers, immigrants and aliens, the more you control all the people.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The public is not to see where power lies, how it shapes policy, and for what ends. Rather, people are to hate and fear one another.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Case by case, we find that conformity is the easy way, and the path to privilege and prestige; dissidence carries personal costs.”

–Noam Chomsky

“That’s the standard technique of privatization: defund, make sure things don’t work, people get angry, you hand it over to private capital.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Governments will use whatever technology is available to them to combat their primary enemy—their own population.”

–Noam Chomsky

“As long as the general population is passive, apathetic, diverted to consumerism or hatred of the vulnerable, then the powerful can do as they please, and those who survive will be left to contemplate the outcome.”

–Noam Chomsky

“If the Nuremberg laws were applied, then every post-war American president would have been hanged.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The United States is unusual among the industrial democracies in the rigidity of the system of ideological control—indoctrination, we might say—exercised through the mass media.”

–Noam Chomsky

“In this possibly terminal phase of human existence, democracy and freedom are more than just ideals to be valued—they may be essential to survival.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Nobody is ever involved in an aggressive war; it’s always a defensive war—on both sides.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Sports plays a societal role in engendering jingoist and chauvinist attitudes. They’re designed to organize a community to be committed to their gladiators.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The principles are clear and explicit. The free market is fine for the third world and its growing counterpart at home. Mothers with dependent children can be sternly lectured on the need for self-reliance, but not dependent executives and investors, please. For them, the welfare state must flourish.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Changes and progress very rarely are gifts from above. They come out of struggles from below.”

–Noam Chomsky

“We should not underestimate the capacity of well-run propaganda systems to drive people to irrational, murderous and suicidal behavior.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Education is a system of imposed ignorance.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The effort to try to present the Social Security program as if it’s a major problem, that’s just a hidden way of trying to undermine and destroy it.”

–Noam Chomsky

“You take my water, burn my olive trees, destroy my house, take my job, steal my land, imprison my father, kill my mother, bombard my country, starve us all, humiliate us all but I am to blame: I shot a rocket back.”

–Noam Chomsky

“I don’t join the New Atheists. So, for example, I wouldn’t have the arrogance to lecture some mother who hopes to see her dying child in Heaven—that’s none of my business, ultimately. I won’t lecture her on the philosophy of science.”

–Noam Chomsky

“If you’re worried about the deficit, pay attention to the fact that it’s almost all attributable to military spending and the totally dysfunctional health program.”

–Noam Chomsky

“We shouldn’t be looking for heroes, we should be looking for good ideas.”

–Noam Chomsky

“If we choose, we can live in a world of comforting illusion.”

–Noam Chomsky

“A democracy is a system in which you are free to do whatever you like as long as you do what we tell you.”

–Noam Chomsky

“He who controls the media controls the minds of the public.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Neoliberalism is the immediate and foremost enemy of genuine participatory democracy, not just in the United States but across the planet, and will be for the foreseeable future.”

–Noam Chomsky

“If you go to one demonstration and then go home, that’s something, but the people in power can live with that. What they can’t live with is sustained pressure that keeps building, organizations that keep doing things, people that keep learning lessons from the last time and doing it better the next time.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Nobody is going to pour truth into your brain. It’s something you have to find out for yourself.”

–Noam Chomsky

“We don’t use the term ‘working class’ here [in the US] because it’s a taboo term. You’re supposed to say ‘middle class’, because it helps diminish the understanding that there’s a class war going on.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The drug war is simply an instance of the illegitimate use of power by concentrations of power that shouldn’t exist in the first place.”

–Noam Chomsky

“If you are working 50 hours a week in a factory, you don’t have time to read 10 newspapers a day and go back to declassified government archives. But such people may have far-reaching insights into the way the world works.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Any dictator would admire the uniformity and obedience of the U.S. media.”

–Noam Chomsky

“States are not moral agents, people are, and can impose moral standards on powerful institutions.”

–Noam Chomsky

“If you abandon the political arena, somebody is going to be there. Corporations are not going to go home and join the PTA. They are going to run things.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Rational discussion is useful only when there is a significant base of shared assumptions.”

–Noam Chomsky

“It is ridiculous to talk about freedom in a society dominated by huge corporations. What kind of freedom is there inside a corporation? They’re totalitarian institutions—you take orders from above and maybe give them to people below you. There’s about as much freedom as under Stalinism.”

–Noam Chomsky

“I think it only makes sense to seek out and identify structures of authority, hierarchy, and domination in every aspect of life, and to challenge them; unless a justification for them can be given, they are illegitimate, and should be dismantled, to increase the scope of human freedom.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The most effective way to restrict democracy is to transfer decision-making from the public arena to unaccountable institutions: kings and princes, priestly castes, military juntas, party dictatorships, or modern corporations.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The United States invaded Iraq to gain control of one of the major sources of the world’s energy.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The death penalty can be tolerated only by extreme statist reactionaries who demand a state that is so powerful that it has the right to kill.”

–Noam Chomsky

“What is called ‘capitalism’ is basically a system of corporate mercantilism, with huge and large unaccountable private tyrannies exercising vast control over the economy, political systems, and social and cultural life, operating in close cooperation with powerful states that intervene massively in the domestic economy and international society.”

–Noam Chomsky

“The respected intellectuals are those who conform and serve power interests.”

–Noam Chomsky

“When Israelis in the occupied territories now claim that they have to defend themselves, they are defending themselves in the sense that any military occupier has to defend itself against the population they are crushing. You can’t defend yourself when you are militarily occupying someone else’s land. That’s not defense. Call it what you like, it’s not defense.”

–Noam Chomsky

“All over the place, from the popular culture to the propaganda system, there is constant pressure to make people feel that they are helpless, that the only role they can have is to ratify decisions and to consume.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Pick the topic you like: The Middle East, international terrorism, Central America, whatever it is—the picture of the world that’s presented to the public has only the remotest relation to reality. The truth of the matter is buried under edifice after edifice of lies upon lies. It’s all been a marvelous success from the point of view in deterring the threat of democracy, achieved under conditions of freedom, which is extremely interesting. It’s not like a totalitarian state, where it’s done by force. These achievements are under conditions of freedom.”

–Noam Chomsky

“If we don’t believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don’t believe in it at all.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Your ignorance is their power.”

–Noam Chomsky

“There’s a good reason why nobody studies history, it just teaches you too much.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Hundreds of billions of dollars are spent every year to control the public mind.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Libertarian in the United States has a meaning which is almost the opposite of what it has in the rest of the world, traditionally. Here, libertarian means ultra-right-wing capitalist. In the European tradition, libertarian means socialist. So, anarchism was sometimes called libertarian socialism, a large wing of anarchism, so we have to be a little careful about terminology. In America, libertarian means ‘extreme advocate of total tyranny.’ It means power ought to be given into the hands of private, unaccountable tyrannies—even worse than state tyrannies because [in them] the public has some kind of role.”

—Noam Chomsky

“There is no western concern for issues of aggression, atrocities, human rights abuses and so on if there’s a profit to be made from them.”

—Noam Chomsky

“This consumerism is based on the fact the we are a society dominated by business interests. There is massive propaganda for everyone to consume. Consumption is good for profits and consumption is good for the political establishment. Consumption distracts people. You cannot control your own population by force, but it can be distracted by consumption.”

—Noam Chomsky

“Anyone with eyes open knows that the gangsterism of Wall Street—financial institutions generally—has caused severe damage to the people of the United States (and the world) and should also know that it has been doing so increasingly for over 30 years, as their power in the economy has radically increased, and with it their political power. That has set in motion a vicious cycle that has concentrated immense wealth, and with it, political power in a tiny sector of the population, a fraction of 1%, while the rest increasingly become what is sometimes called ‘a precariat’—seeking to survive in a precarious existence. They also carry out these ugly activities with almost complete impunity—not only too big to fail, but also ‘too big to jail’”

—Noam Chomsky

“Globalization is the result of powerful governments, especially that of the United States, pushing trade deals and other accords down the throats of the world’s people to make it easier for corporations and the wealthy to dominate the economies of nations around the world without having obligations to the peoples of those nations.”

—Noam Chomsky

“The general population doesn’t know what’s happening, and it doesn’t even know that it doesn’t know.”

—Noam Chomsky

“Let’s clarify what it really means to say the media are liberal. Suppose 80% of all journalists vote Democratic. Does that mean they’re liberal in any meaningful sense of the word, or just that they’re at the left end of an extremely narrow, center-right spectrum? Most of my writing has been a criticism of the liberal end of the media, the ones who set the leftmost boundary for acceptable opinion.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Just as I’m opposed to political fascism, I’m opposed to economic fascism. I think that until major institutions of society are under the popular control of participants and communities, it’s pointless to talk about democracy.”

–Noam Chomsky

“Not to know what has been transacted in former times is to be always a child. If no use is made of the labours of past ages, the world must remain always in the infancy of knowledge.”

–Marcus Tullius Cicero

“Just as in a previous generation we had an organized effort against the mob. We need to take these people on. They are often connected to big drug cartels, they are not just gangs of kids anymore. They are often the kinds of kids that are called super-predators—no conscience, no empathy. We can talk about why they ended up that way, but first, we have to bring them to heel.”

–Hillary Clinton, 1996

“No, I don’t regret giving the president authority [to invade Iraq] because at the time it was in the context of weapons of mass destruction, grave threats to the United States, and clearly, Saddam Hussein had been a real problem for the international community for more than a decade.”

–Hillary Clinton, 21 April 2004

“If any of you in any way hate homosexuals, people of color, or women, please do this one favor for us... Don’t come to our shows and don’t buy our records.”

–Kurt Cobain

“As I have said on numerous occasions, we are not going to stand for this in Birmingham. And if necessary, we will fill the jail full and we don’t care whose toes we step on. I am saying now to these meddlers from out of our city the best thing for them to do is stay out if they don’t want to get slapped in jail. Our people of Birmingham are a peaceful people and we never have any trouble here unless some people come into our city looking for trouble. And I’ve never seen anyone yet look for trouble who wasn’t able to find it.”

–Theophilus Eugene "Bull" Connor

“Jerry, just remember—It’s not a lie... if you believe it.”

–George Costanza

“Radical simply means ‘grasping things at the root’”

–Angela Davis

“[Prison] relieves us of the responsibility of seriously engaging with the problems of our society, especially those produced by racism and, increasingly, global capitalism.”

—Angela Davis, 2003, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*

“I am opposing a social order in which it is possible for one man who does absolutely nothing that is useful to amass a fortune of hundreds of millions of dollars, while millions of men and women who work all the days of their lives secure barely enough for a wretched existence.”

—Eugene V. Debs

“In every age it has been the tyrant, the oppressor and the exploiter who has wrapped himself in the cloak of patriotism, or religion, or both to deceive and overawe the People.”

—Eugene V. Debs

“‘Law and order’ is a phrase mouthed by hypocrites to command the obedience of cowards. The capitalist class buys law, as it does labor, using one to fleece the other, and what it means by ‘law and order’ is cringing submission to slavery.”

—Eugene V. Debs

“Before our white brothers came to civilize us, we had no jails. Therefore we had no criminals. You can’t have criminals without a jail. We had no locks or keys, and so we had no thieves. If a man was so poor that he had no horse, tipi or blanket, someone gave him these things. We were too uncivilized to set much value on personal belongings. We wanted to have things only in order to give them away. We had no money, and therefore a man’s worth couldn’t be measured by it. We had no written law, no attorneys or politicians, therefore we couldn’t cheat. We really were in a bad way before the white men came, and I don’t know how we managed to get along without these basic things which, we are told, are absolutely necessary to make a civilized society.”

—John Lame Deer

“Men will never be free until the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest.”

—Denis Diderot

“This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

—Frederick Douglass

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress”

—Frederick Douglass

“Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation ... want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.”

–Frederick Douglass

“The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

–John Ehrlichman, *Domestic policy advisor for President Richard M. Nixon*

“The economic anarchy of capitalist society as it exists today is, in my opinion, the real source of evils. I am convinced there is only one way to eliminate these grave evils, namely through the establishment of a socialist economy, accompanied by an educational system which would be oriented toward social goals. In such an economy, the means of production are owned by society itself and are utilized in a planned fashion.”

–Albert Einstein

“This crippling of individuals I consider the worst evil of capitalism. Our whole educational system suffers from this evil. An exaggerated competitive attitude is inculcated into the student, who is trained to worship acquisitive success as a preparation for his future career.”

–Albert Einstein

“Private capital tends to become concentrated in few hands, partly because of competition among the capitalists, and partly because technological development and the increasing division of labor encourage the formation of larger units of production at the expense of smaller ones. The result of these developments is an oligarchy of private capital the enormous power of which cannot be effectively checked even by a democratically organized political society. This is true since the members of legislative bodies are selected by political parties, largely financed or otherwise influenced by private capitalists who, for all practical purposes, separate the electorate from the legislature. The consequence is that the representatives of the people do not in fact sufficiently protect the interests of the underprivileged sections of the population. Moreover, under existing conditions, private capitalists inevitably control, directly or indirectly, the main sources of information (press, radio, education). It is thus extremely difficult, and indeed in most cases quite impossible, for the individual citizen to come to objective conclusions and to make intelligent use of his political rights.”

–Albert Einstein

“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

“Some laws of state aimed at curbing crime are even more criminal.”

–Friedrich Engels

“Freedom is the recognition of necessity”

–Friedrich Engels

“Let us not deceive ourselves by our victories over nature. She avenges for each such victory.”

–Friedrich Engels

“All history has been a history of class struggles, of struggles between exploited and exploiting, between dominated and dominating classes at various stages of social development.”

–Friedrich Engels

“The only difference as compared with the old, outspoken slavery is this, that the worker of today seems to be free because he is not sold once for all, but piecemeal by the day, the week, the year, and because no one owner sells him to another, but he is forced to sell himself in this way instead, being the slave of no particular person, but of the whole property-holding class.”

–Friedrich Engels

“The state is nothing but an instrument of oppression of one class by another—no less so in a democratic republic than in a monarchy.”

–Friedrich Engels

“We don’t give a damn about no white man law if you attack what we love. And frankly, it ain’t none of your business. What do you got to say about it? Did you teach Malcolm? Did you make Malcolm? Did you clean up Malcolm? Did you put Malcolm out before the world? Was Malcolm your traitor or ours? And if we dealt with him like a nation deals with a traitor, what the hell business is it of yours? You just shut your mouth, and stay out of it. Because in the future, we gonna become a nation. And a nation gotta be able to deal with traitors and cutthroats and turncoats. The white man deals with his. The Jews deal with theirs.”

–Louis Farrakhan, 1993, *Seeming to confirm that the Nation of Islam was responsible for the assassination of Malcolm X*

“I may have been complicit in words that I spoke.”

–Louis Farrakhan, 2000, *Once again seeming to confirm that the Nation of Islam was responsible for the assassination of Malcolm X*

“And don’t you forget, when it’s God who puts you in the ovens, it’s forever!”

–Louis Farrakhan, *Once again confirming that he is an antisemitic, hateful, asshole*

« La majestueuse égalité des lois, qui interdit au riche comme au pauvre de coucher sous les ponts, de mendier dans les rues et de voler du pain. »

“In its majestic equality, the law forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, beg in the streets and steal bread.”

–Anatole France

“Any society that will give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“While we may not be able to control all that happens to us, we can control what happens inside us.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“Do you love life? Then do not squander time, for that’s the stuff life is made of.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“There never was a good war, or a bad peace.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“Well done is better than well said.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority.”

–Benjamin Franklin

“It is now highly feasible to take care of everybody on Earth at a higher standard of living than any have ever known. It no longer has to be you or me. Selfishness is unnecessary. War is obsolete. It is a matter of converting the high technology from weaponry to livingry.”

–R. Buckminster Fuller

“If I can’t dance to it, it’s not my revolution.”

–Emma Goldman

“People have only as much liberty as they have the intelligence to want and the courage to take.”

–Emma Goldman

“If voting changed anything, they’d make it illegal.”

–Emma Goldman

“Someone has said that it requires less mental effort to condemn than to think.”

–Emma Goldman

“I am, somehow, less interested in the weight and convolutions of Einstein’s brain than in the near certainty that people of equal talent have lived and died in cotton fields and sweatshops.”

–Stephen Jay Gould

“The challenge of modernity is to live without illusions and without becoming disillusioned.”

–Antonio Gramsci

“I am not a liberator. Liberators do not exist. It exists when people liberate themselves.”

–Ernesto Che Guevara

“Why does the guerrilla fighter fight? We must come to the inevitable conclusion that the guerilla fighter is a social reformer, that he takes up arms responding to the angry protest of the people against their oppressors, and that he fights in order to change the social system that keeps all his unarmed brothers in ignominy and misery.”

–Ernesto Che Guevara

“As I went walking, I saw a sign there And on the sign it said ‘No Trespassing’ But on the other side it didn’t say nothing, That side was made for you and me. This land is your land, this land is my land; From California to the New York island; From the Redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters; This land was made for you and me.”

–Woodie Guthrie

“Anyone who uses more than two chords is just showing off.”

–Woody Guthrie

“We don’t think you fight fire with fire best; we think you fight fire with water best. We’re going to fight racism not with racism, but we’re going to fight with solidarity. We say we’re not going to fight capitalism with black capitalism, but we’re going to fight it with socialism. We’ve stood up and said we’re not going to fight reactionary pigs and reactionary state’s attorneys like this and reactionary state’s attorneys like Hanrahan with any other reactions on our part. We’re going to fight their reactions with all of us people getting together and having an international proletarian revolution.”

–Fred Hampton

“If you walk through life and don’t help anybody, you haven’t had much of a life.”

–Fred Hampton

“The mine owners do not find the gold, they do not mine the gold, they do not mill the gold, but by some weird alchemy all the gold belongs to them.”

–William "Big Bill" Haywood

“If one man has a dollar he didn’t work for, some other man worked for a dollar he didn’t get.”

–William "Big Bill" Haywood

“And what I’m willing to do, which the mainstream church is not, is to denounce the Christian right as Christian heretics. You don’t have to, as I did, spend three years at Harvard Divinity School to realize that Jesus didn’t come to make us rich. And he certainly didn’t come to make Pat Robertson and Joel Osteen rich. And what they have done is acculturate the worst aspects of American imperialism, capitalism, chauvinism, violence and bigotry into the Christian religion.”

–Chris Hedges

“The ‘good/bad cop’ question can be disposed of decisively. We need only consider the following: i. Every cop has agreed, as part of his job, to enforce laws; all of them. ii. Many of the laws are manifestly unjust, or even cruel and wicked. iii. Therefore, every cop has agreed to act as an enforcer of laws that are manifestly unjust, or even cruel and wicked. There are no good cops.”

–Dr. Robert Higgs

“Divided we beg, united we bargain.”

–Joe Hill

“We were convinced that the people needs and requires this faith. We have therefore undertaken the fight against the atheistic movement, and that not merely with a few theoretical declarations: we have stamped it out.”

–Adolf Hitler, 24 October 1933, *Speech delivered in Berlin*

“Our adoption of the term ‘socialist’ has nothing to do with Marxian economics”

–Adolf Hitler

“Fascism is the iron hoop that holds together the collapsing barrel of capitalism. He has nothing useful to say about fascism who is unwilling to mention capitalism.”

–Max Horkheimer

“Let America know and ponder on this: there is something more frightening than Cain killing Abel, and that is Washington killing Spartacus.”

–Victor Hugo

“The surest way to work up a crusade in favor of some good cause is to promise people they will have a chance of maltreating someone. To be able to destroy with good conscience, to be able to behave badly and call your bad behavior ‘righteous indignation’—this is the height of psychological luxury, the most delicious of moral treats.”

–Aldous Huxley

“The end cannot justify the means, for the simple and obvious reason that the means employed determine the nature of the ends produced.”

–Aldous Huxley, 1937, *Ends and Means*

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

–Thomas Jefferson, *Slaveowner*

“I prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery.”

–Thomas Jefferson, *Slaveowner*

“Question with boldness even the existence of God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason, than that of blindfolded fear.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“Games played with the ball, and others of that nature, are too violent for the body and stamp no character on the mind. ... As to the species of exercise, I advise the gun. While this gives a moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. Already they have raised up a monied aristocracy that has set the government at defiance. The issuing power (of money) should be taken away from the banks and restored to the people to whom it properly belongs.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“Educate and inform the whole people. They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“When the speech condemns a free press, you are hearing the words of a tyrant.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“No Free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms. The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“Millions of innocent men, women, and children, since the introduction of Christianity, have been burnt, tortured, fined, imprisoned; yet we have not advanced one inch towards uniformity. What has been the effects of coercion? To make one half the world fools, and the other half hypocrites.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“Do you want to know who you are? Don’t ask. Act!
Action will delineate and define you.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“Hemp is of first necessity to the wealth and protection
of the country.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“When the people fear their government, there is
tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is
liberty.”

–Thomas Jefferson

“If you can convince the lowest white man he’s better
than the best colored man, he won’t notice you’re
picking his pocket. Hell, give him somebody to look
down on, and he’ll empty his pockets for you.”

–Lyndon B. Johnson

“Like the ideals of freedom and democracy, the right to
stand one’s ground was held to be an exclusively white
prerogative. Even when threatened by a mob, black
people were to back down or submit—never to stand up
for themselves.”

–Charles E. Cobb Jr.

“Genuine political resistance, to be effective, has to be
more creative than simply using lethal weapons.”

–Charles E. Cobb Jr.

“Mrs. (Fannie Lou) Hamer, like her mother, also kept
weapons nearby in case she needed them: ‘I keep a
shotgun in every corner of my bedroom & the first
cracker even looks like he wants to throw some
dynamite on my porch won’t write his mama again.’”

–Charles E. Cobb Jr.

“A man dies when he refuses to stand up for that which
is right. A man dies when he refuses to stand up for
justice. A man dies when he refuses to take a stand for
that which is true. So we’re going to stand up amid
horses. We’re going to stand up right here in Alabama,
amid the billy-clubs. We’re going to stand up right here
in Alabama amid police dogs, if they have them. We’re
going to stand up amid tear gas! We’re going to stand
up amid anything they can muster up, letting the world
know that we are determined to be free!”

–Martin Luther King Jr., 8 March 1965, *Speech from the
pulpit on courage*, Brown Chapel, Selma, Alabama, USA

“So today capitalism has outlived its usefulness. It has
brought about a system that takes necessities from the
masses to give luxuries to the classes.”

–Martin Luther King Jr.

“We must learn to live together as brothers or we will
perish together as fools.”

–Martin Luther King Jr.

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

“If you can’t fly, then run. If you can run, then walk. If you can walk, then crawl, but by all means, keep moving.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

“I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one with no thought to their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we bring into full realization the American dream—a dream yet unfulfilled.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

“The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old age pensions, government relief for the destitute, and above all new wage levels that meant not mere survival, but a tolerable life. The captains of industry did not lead this transformation; they resisted it until they were overcome,”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

“Now I wanted to say something about the fact that we have lived over these last two or three summers with agony and we have seen our cities going up in flames. And I would be the first to say that I am still committed to militant, powerful, massive, non violence as the most potent weapon in grappling with the problem from a direct action point of view. I’m absolutely convinced that a riot merely intensifies the fears of the white community while relieving the guilt. And I feel that we must always work with an effective, powerful weapon and method that brings about tangible results. But it is not enough for me to stand before you tonight and condemn riots. It would be morally irresponsible for me to do that without, at the same time, condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our society. These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention. And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the negro poor has worsened over the last twelve or fifteen years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice and humanity.”

–Martin Luther King Jr., 14 March 1968, *Excerpt from speech 'The Other America'*

“Thinking is difficult, that’s why most people judge.”
–Carl Jung

“Never lose hope, be persistent and stubborn and never give up. There are many instances in history where apparent losers suddenly turn out to be winners unexpectedly, so you should never conclude all hope is lost.”

–Theodore J. Kaczynski

“The concept of ‘mental health’ in our society is defined largely by the extent to which an individual behaves in accord with the needs of the system and does so without showing signs of stress.”

–Theodore J. Kaczynski

“Imagine a society that subjects people to conditions that make them terribly unhappy then gives them the drugs to take away their unhappiness. Science fiction? It is already happening to some extent in our own society. Instead of removing the conditions that make people depressed, modern society gives them antidepressant drugs. In effect antidepressants are a means of modifying an individual’s internal state in such a way as to enable him to tolerate social conditions that he would otherwise find intolerable.”

–Theodore J. Kaczynski

“Our society tends to regard as a sickness any mode of thought or behavior that is inconvenient for the system and this is plausible because when an individual doesn’t fit into the system it causes pain to the individual as well as problems for the system. Thus the manipulation of an individual to adjust him to the system is seen as a cure for a sickness and therefore as good.”

–Theodore J. Kaczynski

“The big problem is that people don’t believe a revolution is possible, and it is not possible precisely because they do not believe it is possible.”

–Theodore J. Kaczynski

“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 not safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.”

–Helen Keller

“The highest result of education is tolerance.”

–Helen Keller

“The few own the many because they possess the means of livelihood of all ... The country is governed for the richest, for the corporation, the bankers, the land speculators, and for the exploiter of labor. The majority of mankind are working people. So long as their fair demands—the ownership and control of their livelihoods—are set at naught, we can have neither men’s rights nor women’s rights. The majority of mankind is ground down by industrial oppression in order that the small remnant may live in ease.”

–Helen Keller

“The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.”

–John F. Kennedy, *This was stated by John F. Kennedy and attributed by him to Dante. However, in the Divine Comedy those who "non furon ribelli né fur fedeli" (neither rebelled against nor were faithful to God) are located directly inside the gate of Hell, a region neither hot nor cold (Inferno, canto 3); the lowest part of Hell, a frigid lake of ice, was for traitors.*

“You’ve got to remember that these are just simple farmers. These are people of the land. The common clay of the new West. You know... morons.”

–Jim, aka "The Waco Kid", 1974, *Blazing Saddles*

“Prisons are universities of crime, maintained by the state.”

–Peter Kropotkin

“Variety is life; uniformity is death.”

–Peter Kropotkin

“Don’t compete!—competition is always injurious to the species, and you have plenty of resources to avoid it!”

–Peter Kropotkin

“We cry shame on the feudal baron who forbade the peasant to turn a clod of earth unless he surrendered to his lord a fourth of his crop. We called those barbarous times. But if the forms have changed, the relations have remained the same, and the worker is forced, under the name of free contract, to accept feudal obligations. For, turn where he will, he can find no better conditions. Everything has become private property, and he must accept, or die of hunger. The result of this state of things is that all our production tends in a wrong direction. Enterprise takes no thought for the needs of the community. Its only aim is to increase the gains of the speculator. Hence the constant fluctuations of trade, the periodical industrial crises, each of which throws scores of thousands of workers on the streets.”
—Peter Kropotkin

“What is now happening to Marx’s theory has, in the course of history, happened repeatedly to the theories of revolutionary thinkers and leaders of oppressed classes fighting for emancipation. During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, the oppressing classes constantly hounded them, received their theories with the most savage malice, the most furious hatred and the most unscrupulous campaigns of lies and slander. After their death, attempts are made to convert them into harmless icons, to canonize them, so to say, and to hallow their names to a certain extent for the ‘consolation’ of the oppressed classes and with the object of duping the latter, while at the same time robbing the revolutionary theory of its substance, blunting its revolutionary edge and vulgarizing it.”
—Vladimir Lenin

“I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races, [applause]—that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race. I say upon this occasion I do not perceive that because the white man is to have the superior position the negro should be denied everything. I do not understand that because I do not want a negro woman for a slave, I must necessarily want her for a wife. [Cheers and laughter.] My understanding is that I can just let her alone. I am now in my fiftieth year, and I certainly never have had a black woman for either a slave or a wife. So it seems to me quite possible for us to get along without making either slaves or wives of negroes.”
—Abraham Lincoln, 18 September 1858, *Fourth Debate with Stephen Douglas*, Charleston, Illinois

“Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration.”
—Abraham Lincoln, 3 December 1861

“Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man’s appetite by legislation, and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes. A Prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government was founded.”

–Abraham Lincoln, 18 December 1840, *Speech to Illinois House of Representatives*

“Le vrai réalisme c’est de fermer la bourse, saisir les banques, et de ne pas payer la dette.”

“True realism is to close the stock exchange, seize the banks and not pay the debt.”

–Frédéric Lordon

“The most revolutionary thing one can do is always to proclaim loudly what is happening.”

–Rosa Luxemburg

“What presents itself to us as bourgeois legality is nothing but the violence of the ruling class, a violence raised to an obligatory norm from the outset.”

–Rosa Luxemburg

“Però la migliore fortezza che sia, è non essere odiato da’ popoli; perchè ancora che tu abbi le fortezze, ed il popolo ti abbi in odio, le non ti salvano; perchè non mancano mai a’ popoli, preso che egli hanno l’armi, forestieri che gli soccorrino.”

“Therefore the best fortress is to be found in the love of the people, for although you may have fortresses they will not save you if you are hated by the people. When once the people have taken arms against you, there will never be lacking foreigners to assist them.”

–Nikolai Machiavelli

“Anarchy is a word that comes from the Greek, and signifies, strictly speaking, ‘without government’: the state of a people without any constituted authority. Before such an organization had begun to be considered possible and desirable by a whole class of thinkers, so as to be taken as the aim of a movement (which has now become one of the most important factors in modern social warfare), the word ‘anarchy’ was used universally in the sense of disorder and confusion, and it is still adopted in that sense by the ignorant and by adversaries interested in distorting the truth.”

–Errico Malatesta

“We anarchists do not want to emancipate the people; we want the people to emancipate themselves.”

–Errico Malatesta

“If you say that you reject violence when it exceeds the limits imposed by the needs of defense, they accuse you of pacifism, without understanding that violence is the whole essence of authoritarianism, just as the repudiation of violence is the whole essence of anarchism.”

–Errico Malatesta

“As every form of government only serves to protect the privileged classes, so do police and judges only aim at repressing those crimes, often not considered criminal by the masses, which offend only the privileges of the rulers or property-owners.”

–Errico Malatesta

“Accumulation of wealth at one pole is at the same time accumulation of misery, agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation, at the opposite pole.”

–Karl Marx

“Democracy is the road to socialism.”

–Karl Marx

“I make friends with very few people but I highly value them.”

–Karl Marx

“Under no pretext should arms and ammunition be surrendered; any attempt to disarm the workers must be frustrated, by force if necessary”

–Karl Marx

“Landlords, like all other men, love to reap where they never sowed.”

–Karl Marx

“Necessity is blind until it becomes conscious. Freedom is the consciousness of necessity.”

–Karl Marx

“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.”

–Karl Marx

“Proudhon was the first to draw attention to the fact that the sum of the wages of the individual workers, even if each individual labour be paid for completely, does not pay for the collective power objectified in its product, that therefore the worker is not paid as a part of the collective labour power.”

–Karl Marx

“The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.”

–Karl Marx

“Hell hath no fury like the vindictiveness of those who are hurt by the truth being told to them.”

–John McElroy, 1879, *Andersonville: A Story of Rebel Military Prisons*

“If people do not believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is.”

—John von Neumann

“An unarmed people are slaves or are subject to slavery at any given moment.”

—Huey P. Newton

“There are two kinds of nationalism, revolutionary nationalism and reactionary nationalism. Revolutionary nationalism is first dependent upon a people’s revolution with the end goal being the people in power. Therefore, to be a revolutionary nationalist you would by necessity have to be a socialist. If you are a reactionary nationalist you are not a socialist and your end goal is the oppression of the people. Cultural nationalism, or pork chop nationalism, as I sometimes call it, is basically a problem of having the wrong political perspective. It seems to be a reaction instead of responding to political oppression. The cultural nationalists are concerned with returning to the old African culture and thereby regaining their identity and freedom. In other words, they feel that the African culture will automatically bring political freedom. Many times cultural nationalists fall into line as reactionary nationalists. Papa Doc in Haiti is an excellent example of reactionary nationalism. He oppresses the people but he does promote the African culture. He’s against anything other than black, which on the surface seems very good, but for him it is only to mislead the people. He merely kicked out the racists and replaced them with himself as the oppressor. Many of the nationalists in this country seem to desire the same ends. The Black Panther Party, which is a revolutionary group of black people, realizes that we have to have an identity. We have to realize our black heritage in order to give us strength to move on and progress. But as far as returning to the old African culture, it’s unnecessary and it’s not advantageous in many respects. We believe that culture itself will not liberate us. We’re going to need some stronger stuff.”

—Huey P. Newton, 1968, *Interview with The Movement*

“They muddy the water, to make it seem deep.”

–Friedrich Nietzsche

“I don’t know why any individual should have a right to have a revolver in his house”

–Richard M. Nixon

“The United States is also a one-party state but, with typical American extravagance, they have two of them.”

–Julius Nyerere, *First President of Tanzania*

“The detention facilities at Guantanamo for individuals covered by this order shall be closed as soon as practicable, and no later than one year from the date of this order.”

–Barack Obama, 22 January 2009, *Executive Order 13492 ‘Review and Disposition of Individuals Detained at the Guantánamo Bay Naval Base and Closure of Detention Facilities’*

“In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”

–George Orwell

“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.”

–George Orwell

“When I see an actual flesh-and-blood worker in conflict with his natural enemy, the policeman, I do not have to ask myself which side I am on.”

–George Orwell

“A people that elect corrupt politicians, imposters, thieves and traitors are not victims... but accomplices.”

–George Orwell

“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”

–George Orwell

“Football, beer, and above all gambling, filled up the horizon of their minds. To keep them in control was not difficult.”

–George Orwell

“That rifle hanging on the wall of the working-class flat or labourer’s cottage is the symbol of democracy. It is our job to see that it stays there.”

–George Orwell

“Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable.”

–George Orwell

“In our age there is no such thing as ‘keeping out of politics.’ All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.”

–George Orwell

“The duty of a true patriot is to protect his country from its government.”

–Thomas Paine

“To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead.”

–Thomas Paine

“We have it in our power to begin the world over again.”

–Thomas Paine

“Now, what do we mean when we say revolutionary Socialist? We mean that the land shall belong to the landless, the tools to the toiler, and the products to the producers. (Applause.) Now, let us analyze that for just a moment, before you applaud me. . . . We say, “The products belong to the producers.” It belongs to the capitalist class as their legal property. Do you think that they will allow you to vote them away from them by passing a law and saying, “Be it enacted that on and after a certain day Mr. Capitalist shall be dispossessed?” You may, but I do not believe it.”

–Lucy Parsons, 1905, *‘Speech of Lucy E. Parsons’, The Proceedings of the First Convention of the Industrial Workers of the World*, Chicago

“Fascism may be defined as a form of political behavior marked by obsessive preoccupation with community decline, humiliation, or victim-hood and by compensatory cults of unity, energy, and purity, in which a mass-based party of committed nationalist militants, working in uneasy but effective collaboration with traditional elites, abandons democratic liberties and pursues with redemptive violence and without ethical or legal restraints goals of internal cleansing and external expansion.”

–Robert Paxton, 2004, *"The Anatomy of Fascism"*

“Two types of people laugh at the law: those that break it and those that make it.”

–Terry Pratchett

« La propriété, c'est le vol ! »

“Property is theft!”

–Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

“To be governed is to be watched over, inspected, spied on, directed, legislated at, regulated, docketed, indoctrinated, preached at, controlled, assessed, weighed, censored, ordered about, by men who have neither the right, nor the knowledge, nor the virtue.”

–Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

“Laws: We know what they are, and what they are worth! They are spider webs for the rich and mighty, steel chains for the poor and weak, fishing nets in the hands of government.”

–Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

“If I were asked to answer the following question: what is slavery? and I should answer in one word, it is murder, my meaning would be understood at once. No extended argument would be required to show that the power to take from a man his thought, his will, his personality, is a power of life and death; and that to enslave a man is to kill him. why, then, to this other question: ‘what is property?’ may I not likewise answer, it is robbery, without the certainty of being misunderstood; the second proposition being no other than a transformation of the first?”

–Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

“Property is robbery! That is the war-cry of ’93! That is the signal of revolutions! Reader, calm yourself: I am no agent of discord, no firebrand of sedition. I anticipate history by a few days; I disclose a truth whose development we may try in vain to arrest; I write the preamble of our future constitution. This proposition which seems to you blasphemous—property is robbery—would, if our prejudices allowed us to consider it, be recognized as the lightning-rod to shield us from the coming thunderbolt; but too many interests stand in the way! ... Alas! philosophy will not change the course of events: destiny will fulfill itself regardless of prophecy. Besides, must not justice be done and our education be finished?”

—Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

“I build no system. I ask an end to privilege, the abolition of slavery, equality of rights, and the reign of law. Justice, nothing else; that is the alpha and omega of my argument: to others I leave the business of governing the world.”

—Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

“I have made every effort to obtain exact information, comparing doctrines, replying to objections, continually constructing equations and reductions from arguments, and weighing thousands of syllogisms in the scales of the most rigorous logic. In this laborious work, I have collected many interesting facts which I shall share with my friends and the public as soon as I have leisure. But I must say that I recognized at once that we had never understood the meaning of these words, so common and yet so sacred: Justice, equity, liberty; that concerning each of these principles our ideas have been utterly obscure; and, in fact, that this ignorance was the sole cause, both of the poverty that devours us, and of all the calamities that have ever afflicted the human race.”

—Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

“As man seeks justice in equality, so society seeks order in anarchy.”

—Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

“I believe in the idea of amnesty for those who have put down roots and lived here, even though sometime back they may have entered illegally.”

—Ronald Reagan, 21 October 1984, *Statement made during televised debate with Walter Mondale*

“The dealings between the landlord and the public are not like dealings in trade, whereby both the seller and buyer may equally be said to gain, but the loss is wholly on one side, and the gain wholly on the other”

—David Ricardo, 1817

“The secret of freedom lies in educating people, whereas the secret of tyranny is in keeping them ignorant.”
–Maximilien Robespierre

“One makes mistakes; that is life. But it is never a mistake to have loved.”
–Romain Rolland

“I find war detestable but those who praise it without participating in it even more so.”
–Romain Rolland, 30 October 1914, *Inter arma Caritas, Journal de Genève*

“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 to those who have too little.”
–Franklin D. Roosevelt, 20 January 1937, *Second Inaugural Address*

“Selfishness is the only real atheism; aspiration, unselfishness, the only real religion.”
–Franklin D. Roosevelt

“He [Somoza] may be a son of a bitch, but he’s our son of a bitch.”
–Franklin D. Roosevelt, *Speaking in regard to Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza García*

“To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or 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

“If there is one thing for which we stand in this country, it is for complete religious freedom, and it is an emphatic negation of this right to cross-examine a man on his religion before being willing to support him for office.”
–Theodore Roosevelt

“The demand for a statement of a candidate’s religious belief can have no meaning except that there may be discrimination for or against him because of that belief. Discrimination against the holder of one faith means retaliatory discrimination against men of other faiths. The inevitable result of entering upon such a practice would be an abandonment of our real freedom of conscience and a reversion to the dreadful conditions of religious dissension which in so many lands have proved fatal to true liberty, to true religion, and to all advance in civilization.”
–Theodore Roosevelt

« Quand un peuple ne défend plus ses libertés et ses droits, il devient mûr pour l’esclavage. »
“When a people no longer defend their liberties and rights, they become ripe for enslavement.”
–Jean-Jacques Rousseau

“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

“He who would travel happily must travel light.”
–Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

“Stalin killed Leninism by stifling the soviets and making all-powerful the Cheka (secret police), the military, and other repressive bodies.”

–Thomas Sankara

“He who feeds you, controls you.”

–Thomas Sankara

“No altar, no belief, no holy book, neither the Qur’an nor the Bible nor the others, have ever been able to reconcile the rich and the poor, the exploiter and the exploited. And if Jesus himself had to take the whip to chase them from his temple, it is indeed because that is the only language they hear.”

–Thomas Sankara

“If I have one message to give to the secular American people, it’s that the world is not divided into countries. The world is not divided between East and West. You are American, I am Iranian, we don’t know each other, but we talk together and we understand each other perfectly. The difference between you and your government is much bigger than the difference between you and me. And the difference between me and my government is much bigger than the difference between me and you. And our governments are very much the same.”

–Marjane Satrapi

“Whatever you see you gotta keep a sense of humor; you gotta be able to smile through all the bullshit.”

–Tupac Shakur

“A woman brought you into this world, so you have no right to disrespect one.”

–Tupac Shakur

“They got money for the war but can’t feed the poor.”

–Tupac Shakur

“Our laws make law impossible; our liberties destroy all freedom; our property is organized robbery; our morality an impudent hypocrisy; our wisdom is administered by inexperienced or mal-experienced dupes; our power wielded by cowards and weaklings; and our honour false in all its points. I am an enemy of the existing order for good reasons.”

–George Bernard Shaw

“Poverty is organized robbery.”

–George Bernard Shaw

“There is a strange duality in the human which makes for an ethical paradox. We have definitions of good qualities and of bad; not changing things, but generally considered good and bad throughout the ages and throughout the species. Of the good, we think always of wisdom, tolerance, kindness, generosity, humility; and the qualities of cruelty, greed, self-interest, graspingness, and rapacity are universally considered undesirable. And yet in our structure of society, the so-called and considered good qualities are invariable concomitants of failure, while the bad ones are the cornerstones of success...Perhaps no other animal is so torn between alternatives. Man might be described fairly adequately, if simply, as a two-legged paradox.”

–John Steinbeck

“A man who procrastinates in his choosing will inevitably have his choice made for him by circumstance.”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“Never turn your back on fear. It should always be in front of you, like a thing that might have to be killed.”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“Life has become immeasurably better since I have been forced to stop taking it seriously.”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming ‘Wow! What a Ride!’”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“We are all alone, born alone, die alone, and—in spite of True Romance magazines—we shall all someday look back on our lives and see that, in spite of our company, we were alone the whole way. I do not say lonely—at least, not all the time—but essentially, and finally, alone. This is what makes your self-respect so important, and I don’t see how you can respect yourself if you must look in the hearts and minds of others for your happiness.”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“So we shall let the reader answer this question for himself: who is the happier man, he who has braved the storm of life and lived or he who has stayed securely on shore and merely existed?”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they’ve always worked for me.”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“Music has always been a matter of Energy to me, a question of Fuel. Sentimental people call it Inspiration, but what they really mean is Fuel. I have always needed Fuel. I am a serious consumer. On some nights I still believe that a car with the gas needle on empty can run about fifty more miles if you have the right music very loud on the radio.”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“We cannot expect people to have respect for law and order until we teach respect to those we have entrusted to enforce those laws.”

–Hunter S. Thompson

“In a country where the sole employer is the State, opposition means death by slow starvation. The old principle: who does not work shall not eat, has been replaced by a new one: who does not obey shall not eat.”

–Leon Trotsky

“The party that leans upon the workers but serves the bourgeoisie, in the period of the greatest sharpening of the class struggle, cannot but sense the smells wafted from the waiting grave.”

–Leon Trotsky

“We can only be right with and by the Party, for history has provided no other way of being in the right... And if the Party adopts a decision which one or other of us thinks unjust, he will say, just or unjust, it is my party, and I shall support the consequences of the decision to the end.”

–Leon Trotsky

“The tactical, or if you will, ‘technical’ task was quite simple—grab every fascist or every isolated group of fascists by their collars, acquaint them with the pavement a few times, strip them of their fascist insignia and documents, and without carrying things any further, leave them with their fright and a few good black and blue marks.”

–Leon Trotsky

“Every man has a natural right to be stupid, but comrade Macdonald abuses the privilege.”

–Leon Trotsky, *In reference to American literary and social critic and political radical Dwight Macdonald (1906-1982), former editor of the Partisan Review*

“If you cannot convince a fascist, acquaint his head with the pavement.”

–Leon Trotsky

“Not believing in force is the same as not believing in gravity.”

–Leon Trotsky

“There are no absolute rules of conduct, either in peace or war. Everything depends on circumstances.”

–Leon Trotsky

“The Soviet bureaucracy is like all ruling classes in that it is ready to shut its eyes to the crudest mistakes of its leaders in the sphere of general politics, provided in return they show an unconditional fidelity in the defense of its privileges.”

–Leon Trotsky

“When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. [...] They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

–Donald Trump, *June 2015*

“I’d like to punch him [a protester] in the face, I’ll tell you. Get him out. Try not to hurt him. If you do, I’ll defend you in court. Don’t worry about it.”

–Donald Trump

“Stand back and stand by.”

–Donald Trump, 29 September 2020, *Addressing violent white-supremacist group Proud Boys*

“But you also had people that were very fine people on both sides.”

–Donald Trump, 12 August 2020, *Speaking of the white-supremacist 'Unite The Right' rally in Charlottesville, Virginia from*

“When you guys put somebody in the car and you’re protecting their head, you know, the way you put their hand over? Like, don’t hit their head, and they just killed somebody–don’t hit their head... I said, you can take the hand away, okay?”

–Donald Trump, *July 2017*

“If you hear the dogs, keep going. If you see the torches in the woods, keep going. If there’s shouting after you, keep going. Don’t ever stop. Keep going. If you want a taste of freedom, keep going.”

–Harriet Tubman

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor”

–Desmond Tutu

“A person who won’t read has no advantage over one who can read.”

–Mark Twain

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things 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

“Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.”

–Mark Twain

“If you love what you do, you’ll never work another day in your life.”

–Mark Twain

“Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.”

–Mark Twain

“All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure.”

–Mark Twain

“It’s easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled.”

–Mark Twain

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

–Mark Twain

“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.”

–Mark Twain

“Worrying is like paying a debt you don’t owe.”

–Mark Twain

“No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot.”

–Mark Twain

“Learn to ride a bike. You will not regret it if you live.”

–Mark Twain

“I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience for it.”

–Mark Twain

“A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval.”

–Mark Twain

“I don’t like to commit myself about heaven and hell—you see, I have friends in both places.”

–Mark Twain

“If voting made any difference, they wouldn’t let us do it.”

–Mark Twain

“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

–Mark Twain

“The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog.”

–Mark Twain

“Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection.”

–Mark Twain

“If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and man.”

–Mark Twain

“Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.”

–Mark Twain

“Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.”

–Mark Twain

“Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.”

–Mark Twain

“The very ink with which all history is written is merely fluid prejudice.”

–Mark Twain

“I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.”

–Mark Twain

“There are lies, there are damn lies and then there are statistics.”

–Mark Twain

“Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason.”

–Mark Twain

“Don’t wait. The time will never be just right.”

–Mark Twain

« Ceux qui peuvent vous faire croire en des absurdités pourront vous faire commettre des atrocités »

“Those who can make you believe absurdities, can make you commit atrocities.”

–Voltaire, *Questions sur les Miracles à M. Claparede, Professeur de Théologie à Genève, par un Proposant: Ou Extrait de Diverses Lettres de M. de Voltaire*

“It is far better to be alone, than to be in bad company.”

–George Washington

“A lie doesn’t become truth, wrong doesn’t become right, and evil doesn’t become good, just because it’s accepted by a majority.”

–Booker T. Washington

“Disobedience, in the eyes of anyone who has read history, is man’s original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made, through disobedience and through rebellion.”

–Oscar Wilde, *The Soul of Man under Socialism*

“The Afro-American militant is a ‘militant’ because he defends himself, his family, his home, and his dignity. He does not introduce violence into a racist social system—the violence is already there, and has always been there. It is precisely this unchallenged violence that allows a racist social system to perpetuate itself. When people say that they are opposed to Negroes ‘resorting to violence’ what they really mean is that they are opposed to Negroes defending themselves and challenging the exclusive monopoly of violence practiced by white racists.”

–Robert F. Williams

“It’s going to be a long row to hoe to bring the white South to any sense of shame, or to make them wake up to the brute fact that the golden age they hark back to and are fighting tooth and nail to perpetuate was a slave-holding, slave-breeding, slave-driving, slave-hunting hell on earth. The crime of the white South is centered in their racist unity of loyalty which blinds them to the real state of their society and its discontents.”

–Robert F. Williams

“Violence exercised in self-defense, which all societies from the most primitive to the most cultured and civilized, accept as moral and legal. The principle of self-defense, even involving weapons and bloodshed, has never been condemned, even by Gandhi, who sanctioned it for those unable to master pure nonviolence.”

–Robert F. Williams

“I have asserted the right of Negroes to meet the violence of the Ku Klux Klan by armed self-defense—and have acted on it. It has always been an accepted right of Americans, as the history of our Western states proves, that where the law is unable, or unwilling, to enforce order, the citizens can, and must act in self-defense against lawless violence.”

—Robert F. Williams

“The violence that we had in the 60’s was limited. The next time it will be unlimited because the violence in the 60’s was a struggle for human dignity and for human rights. The next struggle will be a struggle for survival and it will not just be limited to Black people or Black against white, but it will be the poor people, the masses of the people of the country, struggling for the right to live or the right to survive.”

—Robert F. Williams

“If I’m called a criminal for advocating that people have the right to defend themselves, for telling them to get off their asses and fight for what they deserve. If that’s criminal, then I hope that I’ll always be a criminal.”

—Robert F. Williams

“I don’t favor violence. If we could bring about recognition and respect of our people by peaceful means, well and good. Everybody would like to reach his objectives peacefully. But I’m also a realist. The only people in this country who are asked to be nonviolent are Black people. I’ve never heard anybody go to the Ku Klux Klan and teach them nonviolence, or to the [John] Birch Society and other right-wing elements. Nonviolence is only preached to Black Americans and I don’t go along with anyone who wants to teach our people nonviolence until, someone at the same time, is teaching our enemies to be nonviolent. I believe we should protect ourselves by any means necessary when we are attacked by racists.”

—Malcolm X, 18 January 1965, *From an interview with Jack Barnes and Barry Sheppard, of the Young Socialist Alliance*

“Don’t be in such a hurry to condemn a person because he doesn’t do what you do, or think as you think. There was a time when you didn’t know what you know today.”

—Malcolm X

“If you’re not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing.”

—Malcolm X

“The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.”

—W. B. Yeats

“Every Communist must grasp the truth—‘Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.’”
—Mao Zedong, 6 November 1938, *Problems of War and Strategy*, *Selected Works*, Vol. II, p.224.

“The first law of war is to preserve ourselves and destroy the enemy.”
—Mao Zedong

“What is the relationship of guerrilla warfare to the people? Without a political goal, guerilla warfare must fail, as it must if its political objectives do not coincide with the aspirations of the people and their sympathy, cooperation, and assistance cannot be gained.”
—Mao Zedong

“A revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture, or doing embroidery; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle, so temperate, kind, courteous, restrained and magnanimous. A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.”
—Mao Zedong

“To overcome our enemies we must have our own socialist militarism. We must carry along with us 90 million out of the 100 million of Soviet Russia’s population. As for the rest, we have nothing to say to them. They must be annihilated.”
—Grigory Zinoviev, *Executed alongside Lev Kamenev in 1936 following the Trotskyite-Zinovievite Terrorist Center Trial, or Zinoviev-Kamenev Trial, also known as the ‘Trial of the Sixteen’*