

Notable Political Quotes

“As long as the reason of man continues fallible, and he is at liberty to exercise it, different opinions will be formed.” --James Madison

"The thing that separates the American Christian from every other person on earth is the fact that he would rather die on his feet, than live on his knees!" -- George Washington

What we need now are champions of the libertarian Jefferson, who said in a very un-Hamiltonian way: ‘I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it’.—John Stossel

“[W]hen push comes to shove—when we have to make real-life decisions and not theoretical ones—we know that at least in America, the dominant Judeo-Christian values and the religions that adhere to them have generally made better people. This does not mean that all religious Jews and Christians in America have been, or are today, good people, and it certainly does not mean that all irreligious people are bad. It means simply that if our lives were hanging in the balance, we would be inexpressively happy to know that 10 men we did not know, walking toward us in a bad neighborhood, had just come out of a Bible class. But that is no small thing. And nothing has ever replaced that book and the American religious expressions based on it to make good people in the same numbers that it has.” —Dennis Prager

"The American Indians found out what happens when you don't control immigration" *TJ*

On government schools:

Democratic presidential candidate and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson opposes private-school vouchers because "They'd undermine the public schools, everyone would go to the, ...uh ..." All-day kindergarten is important; preschool is important, you've got to get the kids before they're 4."

"Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted." - Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

"Give us the child for 8 years and it will be a Bolshevik forever." --Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

"Government schools will teach children that government is wonderful." --Neal Boortz

"The constitutional right of parents to raise their children does not include the right to restrict what a public school may teach their children," Wolf unambiguously wrote in dismissing a suit by two Lexington couples who objected to lessons the local elementary school was teaching their children. "Under the Constitution public schools are entitled to teach anything that is reasonably related to the goals of preparing students to become engaged and productive citizens in our democracy." –U.S. District Judge Mark Wolf, *Parker v. Hurley*

"The aim of public education is not to spread enlightenment at all; it is simply to reduce as many individuals as possible to the same level, to breed a standard citizenry, to put down dissent and originality." --H. L. Menchen

"Some of these days they are going to remove so much of the 'hooey' and the thousands of things the schools have become clogged up with, and we will find that we can educate our broods for about one-tenth of the price and learn 'em something that they might accidentally use after they escape." --Will Rogers

"The European Union has just uncovered another dangerous threat to European social stability: home-schooling. Yes, German police recently arrested the mother of children who were being home-schooled. The father had to flee with the children to Austria. The European Court of Human Rights upheld the German ban on home-schooling, which dated back to 1938 in the Nazi era. ... Think about that at a time when Americans, even Supreme Court justices, are advocating the use of foreign legal precedents for American court rulings. Do we really want to start jailing home-schooling parents?"

--Patrick Henry College Professor David Aikman

"No free Government can stand without virtue in the people, and a lofty spirit of patriotism; and if the sordid feelings of mere selfishness shall usurp the place which ought to be filled by public spirit, the legislation of Congress will soon be converted into a scramble for personal and sectional advantages." —President Andrew Jackson

"History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster." —Douglas MacArthur

"Man will ultimately be governed by God or by tyrants." --Benjamin Franklin

"Be it or be it not true that Man is shapen in iniquity and conceived in sin, it is unquestionably true that Government is begotten of aggression, and by aggression." --Herbert Spencer

"Liberty is the prevention of control by others. This requires self-control and, therefore, religious and spiritual influences; education, knowledge, well-being." --Lord Acton

"The mania for giving the Government power to meddle with the private affairs of cities or citizens is likely to cause endless trouble, through the rivalry of schools and creeds that are anxious to obtain official recognition, and there is great danger that our people will lose our independence of thought and action which is the cause of much of our greatness, and sink into the helplessness of the Frenchman or German who expects his government to feed him when hungry, clothe him when naked, to prescribe when his child may be born and when he may die, and, in time, to regulate every act of humanity from the cradle to the tomb, including the manner in which he may seek future admission to paradise." —Mark Twain

“There are those in America today who have come to depend absolutely on government for their security. And when government fails they seek to rectify that failure in the form of granting government more power. So, as government has failed to control crime and violence with the means given it by the Constitution, they seek to give it more power at the expense of the Constitution. But in doing so, in their willingness to give up their arms in the name of safety, they are really giving up their protection from what has always been the chief source of despotism—government. Lord Acton said power corrupts. Surely then, if this is true, the more power we give the government the more corrupt it will become. And if we give it the power to confiscate our arms we also give up the ultimate means to combat that corrupt power. In doing so we can only assure that we will eventually be totally subject to it.” --Ronald Reagan

"Here is the Golden Rule of sound citizenship, the first and greatest lesson in the study of politics: You get the same order of criminality from any State to which you give power to exercise it; and whatever power you give the State to do things FOR you carries with it the equivalent power to do things TO you." --Albert Jay Nock

“What a glorious morning this is!” —Samuel Adams to John Hancock at the Battle of Lexington, Massachusetts, 19 April 1775

“It has been said that a child who is made to earn a toy most often takes better care of it than a child who was simply given the toy. Well, our nation has become a nation of children who have been given, not a toy, but the gifts of freedom and a Constitutional Republic with which to safeguard that freedom, and we are abusing these gifts with our relentless apathy and ignorance. Because it is impossible to understand the value of something without knowing its worth, our society has become estranged from the value of freedom. We toss around the saying ‘freedom isn’t free’ but we hardly understand the price of attaining and maintaining that freedom. The majority of us have never actually fought for our liberties and we most assuredly have never lived under the tyranny of oppression, although the delusional Progressive-Left would argue otherwise. We have become soft, self-centered and egotistical and our country is a worse place for it.” —Frank Salvation

“Laws are made for men of ordinary understanding and should, therefore, be construed by the ordinary rules of common sense. Their meaning is not to be sought for in metaphysical subtleties which may make anything mean everything, or nothing, at pleasure.” —Thomas Jefferson

“The difference between a welfare state and a totalitarian state is a matter of time.” —Ayn Rand

“I think we have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious.” —Thomas Jefferson

"It is impossible to introduce into society a greater change and a greater evil than this: the conversion of the law into an instrument of plunder." – Frederick Bastiat

“The only place communism works is in heaven, where they don't need it, or in hell, where they've already got it.” -- Ronald Reagan

"When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law. These two evils are of equal consequence, and it would be difficult for a person to choose between them. The nature of law is to maintain justice. This is so much the case that, in the minds of the people, law and justice are one and the same thing. There is in all of us a strong disposition to believe that anything lawful is also legitimate. This belief is so widespread that many persons have erroneously held that things are "just" because law makes them so. Thus, in order to make plunder appear just and sacred to many consciences, it is only necessary for the law to decree and sanction it." – Frederick Bastiat

"The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program." -- Ronald Reagan

"The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help." -- Ronald Reagan

"I consider all proposals for government action with an open mind before voting 'no'." -- Ronald Reagan

"The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination." -- Ronald Reagan

"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

"Government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other." —Ronald Reagan

"When a conservative states that the free market is the best mechanism ever devised by the mind of man to meet material needs, he is merely stating what a careful examination of the real world has told him is the truth. When a conservative says that totalitarian Communism is an absolute enemy of human freedom he is not theorizing—he is reporting the ugly reality captured so unforgettably in the writings of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. When a conservative says it is bad for the government to spend more than it takes in, he is simply showing the same common sense that tells him to come in out of the rain. When a conservative says that busing does not work, he is not appealing to some theory of education—he is merely reporting what he has seen down at the local school." —Ronald Reagan, "The New Republican Party" (1977)

"I cannot think of a single example at any time or any place where there was a large measure of political freedom without there also being something comparable to a private enterprise market form of economic organization for the bulk of economic activity." --Milton Friedman

"In the wake of New York City's ban on restaurant use of trans fat, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the ban is 'not going to take away anybody's ability to go out and have the kind of food they want, in the quantities they want... We are just trying to make food safer.' That, my friends, is tyrannical double-talk." --Walter Williams

“Most modern Americans have the impression that Americans of the revolutionary era were poor. On the contrary, they enjoyed the highest per-capita income of any people in the civilized world of their time.... About 40 percent of the people were independent farmers who lived in considerable comfort. A typical northern farmer owned ten head of cattle, sixteen sheep, six pigs, two horses and a team of oxen – and was usually able to sell two-fifths of his crops for cash. When artisans, shopkeepers and the like were added to this group, they made up a thriving middle class whose members typically owned property worth about 400 [pounds].” –Thomas Fleming

“The Hessians and British troops alike were astonished to find Americans blessed with such abundance – substantial farmhouses and fine furnishings. ‘In all the fields the finest fruit is to be found,’ Lieutenant von Bardeleben wrote after taking a walk on his own, away from the destruction. ‘The peach and apple trees are especially numerous.... The houses, in part, are made only of wood and the furnishings in them are excellent. Comfort, beauty, and cleanliness are readily apparent.’ To many of the English, such affluence as they saw on Long Island was proof that America had indeed grown rich at the expense of Great Britain. In fact, the Americans of 1776 enjoyed a higher standard of living than any people in the world. Their material wealth was considerably less than it would become in time, still it was a great deal more than others had elsewhere. How people with so much, living on their own land, would ever choose to rebel against the ruler God had put over them and thereby bring down such devastation upon themselves was for the invaders incomprehensible.” – David McCullough

“By 1750 the mainland American Colonies had become the fastest-growing elements in the empire, with 500 percent expansion in half a century. Britain, with the most modern economy in Europe, advanced by 25 percent in the same period. In 1700 the American mainland’s output was only 5 percent of Britain’s; by 1775 it was two-fifths. This was one of the highest growth-rates the world as ever witnessed.

“Living standards were high, especially in food consumption. Males ate over 200 pounds of meat a year, and this high-protein diet meant they grew to be over two inches taller than their British counterparts.... One-third of adult white males held no appreciable property, but these were under thirty.... The shortage of labor meant artisans did not need to form guilds to protect jobs. It was rare to find restriction on entry to any trade. Few skilled men remained hired employees beyond the age of twenty-five. If they did not acquire their own farm they ran their own business. In practice there were no real class barriers.” – Paul Johnson

“The fashionable concentration on democracy as the main value threatened is not without danger. It is largely responsible for the misleading and unfounded belief that, so long as the ultimate source of power is the will of the majority, the power cannot be arbitrary. The false assurance which many people derive from this belief is an important cause of the general unawareness of the dangers which we face. There is no justification for the belief that, so long as power is conferred by democratic procedure, it cannot be arbitrary; the contrast suggested by this statement is altogether false; it is not the source but the limitation of power which prevents it from being arbitrary.” –F. A. Hayek

“Nothing distinguishes more clearly conditions in a free country from those in a country under arbitrary government than the observance in the former of the great principle known as the Rule of Law. Stripped of all technicalities, this means that government in all its actions is bound by rules fixed and announced beforehand – rules which make it possible to foresee with fair certainty how the authority will use its coercive powers in given circumstances and to plan one’s individual affairs on the basis of this knowledge.” –F. A. Hayek

“While every law restricts individual freedom to some extent by altering the means which people may use in the pursuit of their aims, under the Rule of Law the government is prevented from stultifying individual efforts by *ad hoc* action.” –F. A. Hayek

"What has always made the state a hell on earth has been precisely that man has tried to make it his heaven." --F. Holderlin

"Freedom of men under government is to have a standing rule to live by, common to every one of that society and made by the legislative power vested in it and not to be subject to the inconstant, uncertain, arbitrary will of another man." --John Locke

"Those who have governed have been found in all ages ever active to enlarge their powers and abridge the public liberty." --Anti-Federalist Number 84

"On both sides of the Atlantic, it is only a little overstated to say that we preach individualism and competitive capitalism, and practice socialism." --Milton Friedman

And they vote...

“Just a hurried line... to tell a story which puts the contrast between our feast of the Nativity and all this ghastly ‘Xmas’ racket at its lowest. My brother heard a woman on a bus say, as the bus passed a church with a Crib outside it, ‘Oh Lor’! They bring religion into everything. Look they’re dragging it even into Christmas now!’” —C. S. Lewis

"The Jesus of the Bible did exactly what the Religious Left does not do today: preach eternal salvation and urge personal piety, self-denial and charity. He carefully avoided the political disputes of His day and never critiqued the Roman authorities. Neither He nor His apostles demanded that the Roman soldiers they encountered abandon their martial professions. “Traditional people of faith understand that in a fallen world, governments must sometimes fight extreme evil, domestic or foreign, with force. But the Religious Left, which has divorced itself from the historic faith in favor of modernist ideologies, prefers utopian visions to realism grounded in historic teaching. In the Bible, the state, properly functioning, exists primarily to restrain evil. But for the Religious Left, an endlessly expanding state must attempt to meet every human need except exercising its traditional police, judicial and military functions.” --Mark Tooley

“History, by apprising [citizens] of the past will enable them to judge of the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men; it will enable them to know ambition under every disguise it may assume; and knowing it, to defeat its views.” --Thomas Jefferson

“The possession of unlimited power will make a despot of almost any man. There is a possible Nero in the gentlest human creature that walks.” --Thomas Bailey Aldrich

“Now those who seek absolute power, even though they seek it to do what they regard as good, are simply demanding the right to enforce their own version of heaven on earth, and let me remind you they are the very ones who always create the most hellish tyranny.”
--Barry Goldwater

“Clearly, a civilization that feels guilty for everything it is and does will lack the energy and conviction to defend itself.” --Jean Francois Revel

“In the annals of American history, only a few events are so well-known and so deeply rooted in national remembrance that the mere mention of their date suffices to describe them. Of these occurrences, none could have had more significance for our Nation than December 7, 1941. On that Sunday morning... the Imperial Japanese Navy launched an unprovoked, surprise attack upon units of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This attack claimed the lives of 2,403 Americans, wounded 1,178 more, and damaged our naval capabilities in the Pacific. Such destruction seared the memory of a generation and galvanized the will of the American people in a fight to maintain our right to freedom without fear. Every honor is appropriate for the courageous Americans who made the supreme sacrifice for our Nation at Pearl Harbor and in the many battles that followed in World War II. Their sacrifice was for a cause, not for conquest; for a world that would be safe for future generations. Their devotion must never be forgotten.” --Ronald Reagan

"The unforgivable crime is soft hitting. Do not hit at all if it can be avoided; but never hit softly."
--Theodore Roosevelt

"There are some in government who have a very simple tax proposal in mind. There will be only two lines on the tax form: How much did you make last year? Send it." --Ronald Reagan

“I think we have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious.” --Thomas Jefferson

“Society in every state is a blessing, but government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one...” --Thomas Paine

"We love government because it enables us to accomplish things that if done privately would lead to arrest and imprisonment. For example, if I saw a person in need, and I took your money to help him, I'd be arrested and convicted of theft. If I get Congress to do the same thing, I am seen as compassionate. This vision ought to bother the Christians among us, for when God gave Moses the commandment "Thou shalt not steal," I'm sure He didn't mean thou shalt not steal unless you got a majority vote in Congress." --Walter E. Williams

"The only way that has ever been discovered to have a lot of people cooperate together voluntarily is through the free market. And that's why it's so essential to preserving individual freedom." --Milton Friedman

"If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in 5 years there'd be a shortage of sand." --Milton Friedman

“Given our monstrous, overgrown government structure, any three letters chosen at random would probably designate an agency or part of a department that could be profitably abolished.”
--Milton Friedman

"Who can seriously doubt that the power which a millionaire, who may be my employer, has over me is very much *less* than that which the smallest bureaucrat possesses who wields the coercive power of the state, and on whose discretion it depends how I am allowed to live and work?" --Friedrich August von Hayek

“[Milton Friedman was] able to thoroughly discredit the idea, common since the Great Depression, that capitalism is inherently flawed and requires the ‘fine tuning’ of government to avoid excess and disaster. This has been the central conceit of the Keynesian state, administered by educated elites, adjusting tax-and-spending policies to tame the business cycle... Friedman attacked these beliefs at their root. He ambitiously argued that the Great Depression was not caused by the ‘defects’ of capitalism but by government incompetence. Going back to the 1930s, he demonstrated that the one-third fall in GNP was due to a one-third cut in the money supply from 1929 to 1933. ‘The Great Depression in the United States, far from being a sign of the inherent instability of the private enterprise system, is a testament to how much harm can be done by mistakes on the part of a few men when they wield vast power over the monetary system of the country’.” --Ed Feulner, President, the Heritage Foundation

“Many people want the government to protect the consumer. A much more urgent problem is to protect the consumer from the government.”
--Milton Friedman (July 31, 1912 - November 16, 2006)

“In the end more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security. When the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society but for society to give to them, when the freedom they wished for was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free.” --Edward Gibbon

“Perhaps the fact that we have seen millions voting themselves into complete dependence on a tyrant has made our generation understand that to choose one’s government is not necessarily to secure freedom.” --Friedrich August von Hayek

The Challenge of Islam

"Once threatened, [Europe] will either react with a newly acquired Churchillian maturity to protect its civilization, or cave, in hopes that even more Chamberlain-type appeasement will satisfy the Islamists. It should be a fascinating spring ahead." —Victor Davis Hanson

"The left regularly charges America's conservative Christians with wanting to make America a 'theocracy,' being 'fascists' and/or being 'anti-Semites.' They are none of those things, and as a result, the battle against real theocrats (Muslim fundamentalists), real fascists and real anti-Semites is compromised. The tragedy of all this is that when evils are defined down, good people are left verbally unarmed when the real evils present themselves." —Dennis Prager

"Iraq is the excuse *du jour* for jihadists. But the important factor is that these are young men looking for an excuse. If you live your life calculating that it's a mistake to do anything that might prompt murderers and savages to act like murderers and savages, you've basically decided to live under their thumb and surrender your civilization in the process."

--Jonah Goldberg

In May 1786, Thomas Jefferson, then the U.S. ambassador to France, and John Adams, then the U.S. ambassador to Britain, met in London with Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adji, the resident Tripolitan ambassador, to negotiate a peace treaty to protect the United States from the threat of Barbary piracy. These future U.S. presidents questioned the ambassador as to why his government was so hostile to the new American Republic even though America had done nothing to provoke any animosity of any sort. Ambassador Adja answered them, as they reported to the Continental Congress, "that it is founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it is written in their Koran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as Prisoners, and that every Musselman (*Muslim*) who should be slain in Battle was sure to go to Paradise." -- Joshua E. London, *Victory in Tripoli*

"If America is ever to triumph in its war against Islamic terrorism, we must get past the idea that we are its root cause. Specifically, we must get past the idea that a suicide bomber is just a peace-loving Muslim who, if we hadn't set him off, would be growing figs and building sandcastles. Strapping explosives to your torso, marching yourself into a crowded marketplace and blowing yourself up in order to slaughter as many civilians, including women and children, as you can is a profoundly demented act, an act which undoes a dozen or so millennia in the moral evolution of the human species. Such an act is not triggered by America's sociopolitical landscape or by its foreign policy. Rather, it is nurtured by an intellectually degenerate culture, sponsored by sleazy kleptocratic regimes and authorized by a once-honorable religious tradition perverted to serve the pipedreams of an apocalyptic death cult. It's Muslim civilization, not America, that must change in order for Islamic terrorism to cease." --Mark Goldblatt

"I share the view of many Americans, French, and Europeans, who say that 9/11 could not have been carried out entirely from outside [the U.S.] - by Muslims or others. The confessions by some people could have been edited. But even if they were not edited, I believe that these people were used in a marginal role. The entire thing was of a large scale and was planned within the U.S., in order to enable the U.S. to control and terrorize the entire world, and to get American society to agree to the war declared on terrorism - the definition of which has not yet been determined." --Salah Sultan Sep, 2006

"Da'wah [conversion] work can never succeed unless Muslims embed themselves within the very marrow of American society." --Salah Sultan – *The US government might help Salah Sultan complete a crucial step towards his ultimate stated goal. In a few weeks Mr. Sultan will become an American citizen.*

"Individual Muslims may show splendid qualities. Thousands become brave and loyal soldiers of the Queen; all know how to die; but the influence of the religion paralyses the social development of those who follow it. ... Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith. It has already spread throughout Central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step." --Winston Churchill, in his 1899 book "The River War".

"The U.S. Supreme Court has now blown a hole in the animating principle behind the Geneva Conventions by choosing to elevate an enemy that disdains the laws of war in order to facilitate the bombing of civilian targets and the beheading of individuals. The argument made by Justice John Paul Stevens is an Alice-In-Jihadland ruling that stands the Conventions on their head in order to give words the precise opposite of their plain meaning and intent." —Mark Steyn

"Never has an article made me blink with astonishment as much as when I read in yesterday's *New York Times* magazine that Sayed Rahmatullah Hashemi, former ambassador-at-large for the Taliban, is now studying at Yale on a U.S. student visa. This is taking the obsession that U.S. universities have with promoting diversity a bit too far." —John Fund

"The people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation... it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces." --James A. Garfield

"Judges do not cease to be human beings when they go on the bench. In important cases, it is my humble opinion that finding the right *answer* is often the least difficult problem. Having the courage to assert that answer and stand firm in the face of the constant winds of protest and criticism is often much more difficult... The Founders warned us that freedom requires constant vigilance, and repeated action. It is said that, when asked what sort of government the Founders had created, Benjamin Franklin replied that they had given us 'A Republic, if you can keep it.' Today, as in the past, we will need a brave 'civic virtue,' not a timid civility, to keep our republic." --Justice Clarence Thomas

"The great object of my fear is the federal judiciary. That body, like gravity, ever acting, with noiseless foot, and unalarming advance, gaining ground step by step, and holding what it gains, is engulfing insidiously the special governments into the jaws of that which feeds them." --Thomas Jefferson

“This shooting [in Pennsylvania], and the ones last week in Colorado and Wisconsin, and every school shooting in the past 10 years all had one thing in common: They all happened in so-called ‘gun-free school zones,’ where students and adult staff are essentially helpless. Gun control extremism has disarmed the wrong people and created risk-free environments for those who would commit murder and mayhem. It is time to re-consider gun-free school zone laws and the zero-tolerance mentality such laws foster. We can no longer afford the empty-headed Utopian illusion that gun control and gun-free zones will keep children safe. Like all other gun control laws, this one has been a monumental failure, and it is literally killing our children. If it saves the life of just one child, abolishing such laws will be worth the effort.” --Alan Gottlieb

"Nothing will prevent me from eradicating totally, root and branch, all Christianity in Germany."
--Adolph Hitler, April 7, 1933

“My confidence is that there will for a long time be virtue and good sense enough in our countrymen to correct abuses.” --Thomas Jefferson

“[T]he line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either, but right through every human heart, and through all human hearts. This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. Even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained; and even in the best of all hearts, there remains a small corner of evil.” --Alexander Solzhenitsyn

"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... This is what makes America different from other nations, past and present; we recognize a greater, higher authority than the government as the source of our rights." --Mark Levin, "Men in Black"

"I want for our country enough laws to restrain me from injuring others, so that these laws will also restrain others from injuring me. I want enough government, with enough constitutional safeguards, so that this necessary minimum of laws will be applied equitably to everybody, and will be binding on the rulers as well as those ruled. Beyond that I want neither laws nor government to be imposed on our people as a means or with the excuse of protecting us from catching cold, or of seeing that we raise the right kind of crops, or of forcing us to live in the right kind of houses or neighborhoods, or of compelling us to save money or to spend it, or of telling us when or whether we can pray. I do not want government or laws designed for any other form of welfarism or paternalism, based on the premise that government knows best and can run our lives better than we can run them ourselves. And my concept of freedom, and of its overwhelming importance, is implicit in these aspirations and ideals."
– Robert Welch (John Birch Society)

“The real freedom of any individual can always be measured by the amount of responsibility which he must assume for his own welfare and security.” --Robert Welch

"The real problem is in the hearts and minds of men. It is not a problem of physics but of ethics. It is easier to denature plutonium than to denature the evil from the spirit of man."
—Albert Einstein

"The human mind is not capable of grasping the Universe. We are like a little child entering a huge library. The walls are covered to the ceilings with books in many different tongues. The child knows that someone must have written these books. It does not know who or how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. But the child notes a definite plan in the arrangement of the books -- a mysterious order which it does not comprehend, but only dimly suspects." --Albert Einstein

"We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light." —Plato

"A nation is not worthy to be saved if, in the hour of its fate, it will not gather up all its jewels of manhood and life, and go down into the conflict, however bloody and doubtful, resolved on measureless ruin or complete success." --James Garfield

"The nation's honor is dearer than the nation's comfort; yes, than the nation's life itself."
--Woodrow Wilson

"[I]f we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known, that we are at all times ready for War." --George Washington

"We need more Democrats in the Senate - like Custer needed more arrows." --Ronald Reagan

"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear." —Marcus Tullius Cicero

"We the General Assembly of Virginia do enact that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, or shall otherwise suffer, on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities." --*Virginia Bill of Rights*. Section 2.

"[R]eligion, or the duty which we owe to our creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence..."
--*Virginia Bill of Rights*. Article 16.

“The republic was not established by cowards, and cowards will not preserve it.” --Elmer Davis

"I am for socialism, disarmament, and ultimately for abolishing the state itself as an instrument of violence and compulsion. I seek social ownership of property, the abolition of the propertied class, and sole control by those who produce wealth. Communism is the goal."

-- ACLU founder Roger Baldwin

“[I]f Bush sneered that John Kerry and Ted Kennedy and Howard Dean and Nancy Pelosi’s constant companion is the white flag, they’d huff about how dare he question their patriotism. But, if you can’t question their patriotism when they want to lose a war, when can you?”

--Mark Steyn

“France backed off its pledge to send seventeen hundred troops to Lebanon Thursday and offered to send two hundred. No wonder we keep testing positive in their bicycle races. Everyone looks like they’re full of testosterone when they’re surrounded by Frenchmen.” --Argus Hamilton

“Many people who complain about the corrupting influence of money never seem to apply that to government money. If high government officials were serious about wanting to know the facts, they could set up an independent statistical agency, along the lines of the General Accounting Office, to do studies of the effects of the policies of the operating agencies. That would mean that the fox would no longer be in charge of the hen house, whether the fox was the Labor Department, the Commerce Department, or any of the other departments and agencies. It would also mean that various bright ideas originating in Congress or the White House would now be exposed to the risk of being shown to be costly failures or even counterproductive. Whole careers could be ruined among both elected officials and bureaucrats. Don't hold your breath waiting for it to happen. But do keep that in mind when someone says ‘studies prove...’”

--Thomas Sowell

“My greatest dream in life would be to go and argue that the Christian worldview is true and nothing else is—a case that I believe I could prove to the satisfaction of any objective court, if you can find one today. There is only one worldview that is rational and that makes sense, and it is the biblical worldview. All others are false, and I can prove they are.” --Chuck Colson

“Every collectivist revolution rides in on a Trojan horse of ‘emergency’. It was the tactic of Lenin, Hitler, and Mussolini. In the collectivist sweep over a dozen minor countries of Europe, it was the cry of men striving to get on horseback. And ‘emergency’ became the justification of the subsequent steps. This technique of creating emergency is the greatest achievement that demagoguery attains.” --Herbert Hoover

"You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. And what I mean by that is an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before." – Rahm Emanuel, Obama’s Chief of Staff

"If a drunken Mel Gibson did indeed call out, 'Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world,' then there can be only one possible place for a man who believes such things: as the next Secretary General of the United Nations." --David Frum

"If you are ever morally confused about a major world issue, here is a rule that is almost never violated: Whenever you hear that 'world opinion' holds a view, assume it is morally wrong." -- Dennis Prager

"It is vital to understand that while world opinion may be just the random collective judgment of mankind - it is usually not random, but rather, in part at least, a propaganda-manipulated opinion." --Tony Blankley

"Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that 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

"No matter how worthwhile an end may be, if there is no constitutional authority to pursue it, then the federal government must step aside and leave the matter to the states or to private parties. The president and Congress can proceed only from constitutional authority, not from good intentions alone. If Congress thinks it necessary to expand its powers, the Framers crafted an amendment process for that purpose. But too often, rather than follow that process, Congress has disregarded the limits set by the Constitution and gutted our frontline defense against overweening federal government." --Robert Levy

"We have never stopped sin by passing laws; and in the same way, we are not going to take a great moral ideal and achieve it merely by law." --Dwight D. Eisenhower

"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, U.S. Representative from Maine, 1877 – 1899

"If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin." --Samuel Adams

"It is not the business of government to make men virtuous or religious, or to preserve the fool from the consequences of his own folly. Government should be repressive no further than is necessary to secure liberty by protecting the equal rights of each from aggression on the part of others; and the moment governmental prohibitions extend beyond this line they are in danger of defeating the very ends they are intended to serve." --Henry George (1839-1897) American writer, politician and political economist.

"As nightfall does not come at once, neither does oppression. In both instances, there's a twilight where everything remains seemingly unchanged, and it is in such twilight that we must be aware of change in the air, however slight, lest we become unwitting victims of the darkness." —Supreme Court Justice William Douglas *It's ironic that Wm Douglas, the Socialist who helped craft FDR's social programs, would warn the rest of us about oppression sneaking up on us.*

"Now it doesn't require expropriation or confiscation of private property or business to impose socialism upon a people. What does it mean whether you hold the deed or the title to your business or property if the government holds the power of life and death over that business or property? Such machinery already exists. The government can find some charge to bring against any concern it chooses to prosecute. Every businessman has his own tale of harassment. Somewhere a perversion has taken place. Our natural, inalienable rights are now considered to be a dispensation from government, and freedom has never been so fragile, so close to slipping from our grasp as it is at this moment." --Ronald Reagan

Constitutional Construction:

"Our peculiar security is in the possession of a written Constitution. Let us not make it a blank paper by construction." --Thomas Jefferson

"The Constitution... is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the judiciary which they may twist and shape into any form they please."

--Thomas Jefferson, 1819 letter to Judge Spencer Roane

"The germ of dissolution of our federal government is in the constitution of the federal judiciary; an irresponsible body, (for impeachment is scarcely a scare-crow) working like gravity by night and by day, gaining a little today and a little tomorrow, and advancing its noiseless step like a thief, over the field of jurisdiction, until all shall be usurped from the States, and the government of all be consolidated into one."

--Thomas Jefferson, 1821 letter to Charles Hammond

"On every question of construction carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed." --Thomas Jefferson, 1823 letter to William Johnson

"I entirely concur in the propriety of resorting to the sense in which the Constitution was accepted and ratified by the nation. In that sense alone it is the legitimate Constitution. And if that is not the guide in expounding it, there may be no security."

--James Madison, 1824 letter to Henry Lee

"One single object...[will merit] the endless gratitude of the society: that of restraining the judges from usurping legislation." --Thomas Jefferson, 1825 letter to Edward Livingston

"That's the argument of flexibility and it goes something like this: The Constitution is over 200 years old and societies change. It has to change with society, like a living organism, or it will become brittle and break. *But you would have to be an idiot to believe that.* The Constitution is not a living organism, it is a legal document. It says something and doesn't say other things."

--Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

What is a moderate interpretation of [the Constitution]? Halfway between what it says and halfway between what you want it to say?" —Justice Antonin Scalia

"Once the justices depart, as most of them have, from the original understanding of the principles of the Constitution, they lack any guidance other than their own attempts at moral philosophy, a task for which they have not even minimal skills. Yet when it rules in the name of the Constitution, whether it rules truly or not, the Court is the most powerful branch of government in domestic policy. The combination of absolute power, disdain for the historic Constitution, and philosophical incompetence is lethal." —Robert Bork

"It is difficult to maintain the illusion that we are interpreting a Constitution, rather than inventing one."

-- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Scalia, minority dissent in Nebraska vs. Carhart

"Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. "America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its patriotism, its morality, and its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within."
--Josef Stalin

"A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within."
--Ariel Durant

"You can't hardly find a law school in the country that don't, through some inherent weakness, turn out a senator or congressman from time to time... and if their rating is real low, even a president." —Will Rogers

"If it weren't for lawyers, we wouldn't need them." —A. K. Griffin

"The minute you read something that you can't understand, you can almost be sure it was drawn up by a lawyer." —Will Rogers

"We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."
--Benjamin Franklin, at the signing of the Declaration of Independence

"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance." —Marcus Tullius Cicero

"There is no doubt that the government of this former republic is growing ever more tyrannical. The question remains: When, if ever, will there again arise a breed of patriots willing to step up to the plate?" —Lyn Nofziger

"Most people have still not learned... that attempts to change the world that do not place God and goodness at their center, will make this world worse. Is it not time to try ethical monotheism? It is the only truly effective answer to moral relativism, to racism, to nationalism, to worshipping art or law or success. All one needs to do is live by the simple and revolutionary message of Micah, 'to do justice, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God'." —Dennis Prager

"Most of the work of government does not need to be done. And, if you can remember that, if we could all remember that, this country would be better off." --Lyn Nofziger

"Once the government becomes the supplier of people's needs, there is no limit to the needs that will be claimed as a basic right." —Lawrence Auster

"As political philosophy derives its sanction from ethics, and ethics from the truth of religion, it is only by returning to the eternal source of truth that we can hope for any social organization which will not, to its ultimate destruction, ignore some essential aspect of reality. The term 'democracy,' as I have said again and again, does not contain enough positive content to stand alone against the forces you dislike - it can easily be transformed by them. If you will not have God (and He is a jealous God), you should pay your respects to Hitler and Stalin." --T. S. Eliot

"[T]he threat to liberty in the 21st century is the same as it has been throughout mankind's history. That threat is use of the coercive powers of government, under the color of law, to take the rightful property of some people and give to others, and the forcible imposition of the will of one group of people on another group. Such acts, most often done in the name of good, explain the ugliest portions of human history. The question is whether America will degenerate into what has been mankind's standard fare throughout history. We have yet to see the kind of arbitrary control, abuse and violation of basic human rights seen elsewhere. But if we ask ourselves which way are we heading, tiny steps at a time: toward more personal liberty or toward greater government control over our lives, the answer would unambiguously be the latter. We Americans face an awesome challenge and responsibility, because *if liberty dies here, it's probably dead for all places and all times.*" —Walter Williams

"An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good when one may have to back up his acts with his life." —Robert Heinlein, "Beyond this Horizon", 1942.

"The War between the States... produced the foundation for the kind of government we have today: consolidated and absolute, based on the unrestrained will of the majority, with force, threats, and intimidation being the order of the day. Today's federal government is considerably at odds with that envisioned by the framers of the Constitution. ... [The War] also laid to rest the great principle enunciated in the Declaration of Independence that 'Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed'." --Walter E. Williams

"Today, we need a nation of Minutemen, citizens who are not only prepared to take arms, but citizens who regard the preservation of freedom as the basic purpose of their daily life."
—John F. Kennedy

"These things I believe:

- That government should butt out.
- That freedom is our most precious commodity; and if we are not eternally vigilant, government will take it all away.
- That individual freedom demands individual responsibility.
- That government is not a necessary good but an unavoidable evil.
- That the executive branch has grown too strong, the judicial branch too arrogant, and the legislative branch too stupid.
- That political parties have become close to meaningless.
- That government should work to insure the rights of the individual, not plot to take them away.
- That government should provide for the national defense, and work to insure domestic tranquillity.
- That foreign trade should be fair rather than free.
- That America should be wary of foreign entanglements.
- That the tree of liberty needs to be watered from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.
- That guns do more than protect us from criminals; more importantly, they protect us from the ongoing threat of government.
- That states are the bulwark of our freedom.
- That states should have the right to secede from the Union.
- That once a year we should hang someone in government as an example to his fellows."

--Lyn Nofsinger

"It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood." —James Madison

"The reason this country continues its drift toward socialism and big nanny government is because too many people vote in the expectation of getting something for nothing, not because they have a concern for what is good for the country... If children were forced to learn about the Constitution, about how government works, about how this nation came into being, about taxes and about how government forever threatens the cause of liberty, perhaps we wouldn't see so many foolish ideas coming out of the mouths of silly old men." —Lyn Nofziger

"Immigrants in past centuries came here to become Americans, not to remain foreigners, much less to proclaim the rights of their homelands to reclaim American soil, as some of the Mexican activist groups have done... Today, immigrant spokesmen promote grievances, not gratitude, much less patriotism." —Thomas Sowell

"Any single man must judge for himself whether circumstances warrant obedience or resistance to the commands of the civil magistrate; we are all qualified, entitled, and morally obliged to evaluate the conduct of our rulers. This political judgment, moreover, is not simply or primarily a right, but like self-preservation, a duty to God. As such it is a judgment that men cannot part with according to the God of Nature. It is the first and foremost of our inalienable rights without which we can preserve no other." —John Locke

"Just think about the situation Christ's disciples were in after He left them. Here was a group of peasants, powerless, up against the most powerful empire in the world. Possible prison time was the very least of their worries. They knew that torture and execution could be in their future if they refused to stop preaching the name of Jesus Christ. But they couldn't stop. To a man, they kept talking about Christ's life, death, and resurrection to anyone who would listen. None of them would deny or retract their story. Eventually, just as the authorities had threatened, most of them were executed for it. But still, all of them maintained to the very end that Jesus had risen from the dead—that they had seen Him, touched Him, talked with Him. What would inspire men to suffer and die for a belief? Only one thing—the absolute certainty that their belief was true... Which leads me inescapably to one conclusion: Jesus' resurrection was not a lie. These apostles would have turned state's evidence in a heartbeat, copped a plea, unless they had seen the risen Christ in the flesh... Their courage, their steadfastness, proves that their story is the truth. And that makes it a truth worth living—and dying—for." —Chuck Colson

"The character that takes command in moments of crucial choices has already been determined by a thousand other choices made earlier in seemingly unimportant moments. It has been determined by all the 'little' choices of years past—by all those times when the voice of conscience was at war with the voice of temptation, [which was] whispering the lie that 'it really doesn't matter.' It has been determined by all the day-to-day decisions made when life seemed easy and crises seemed far away—the decision that, piece by piece, bit by bit, developed habits of discipline or of laziness; habits of self-sacrifice or self-indulgence; habits of duty and honor and integrity—or dishonor and shame." —Ronald Reagan

Ignorance of our roots will lead to the destruction of our roots

"Go back to Plymouth Rock, Pilgrims! Get out! We are the future. You are old and tired. Leave like beaten rats, you old white people. It is your duty to die... We are going to take over."
--Augustin Cebada, a Brown Beret protestor, demanding amnesty for illegal aliens

"The very idea of freedom presupposes some objective moral law which overarches rulers and ruled alike. Subjectivism about values is eternally incompatible with democracy. We and our rulers are of one kind only so long as we are subject to one law. But if there is no Law of Nature, the ethos of any society is the creation of its rulers, educators and conditioners; and every creator stands above and outside his own creation." —C.S. Lewis

"You and I know and do not believe that life is so dear and peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery. If nothing is worth dying for, when did this begin? Should Moses have told the children of Israel to live in slavery under the pharaohs? Should Christ have refused the cross? Should the patriots of Concord Bridge have thrown down their guns and refused to fire the shot heard round the world?" —Ronald Reagan (1964)

"[T]he more left one goes, the more one is likely to encounter people who substitute 'social justice' for personal morality." —Dennis Prager

"The line here is 'respect.' Everybody's busy professing their 'respect': We all 'respect' Islam; presidents and prime ministers and foreign ministers, lapsing so routinely into the deep-respect-for-the-religion-of-peace routine they forget that cumulatively it begins to sound less like 'Let's roll!' and too often like 'Let's roll over!' —Mark Steyn

"Atheism comes from, literally, the Greek word a-, 'the negative'; and theism, the word theos for 'god' —'negative God' or 'there is no God.' It is affirming the non-existence of God. It affirms a negative. Anyone with an introductory course in philosophy recognizes that it is a logical contradiction. It would be like me saying to you, 'There is no such thing as a white stone with black dots anywhere in all of the galaxies of this universe.' The only way I can affirm that, is if I have unlimited knowledge of this universe. So to affirm an absolute negative is self-defeating, because what you are saying is, 'I have infinite knowledge in order to say to you, "There is nobody with infinite knowledge".' Atheism, as a system, is self-defeating." —Dr. Ravi Zacharias

"No sooner do we believe that God loves us than there is an impulse to believe that He does so, not because He is Love, but because we are intrinsically lovable. The Pagans obeyed this impulse unabashed; a good man was 'dear to the gods' because he was good. We, being better taught, resort to subterfuge. Far be it from us to think that we have virtues for which God could love us. But then, how magnificently we have repented. As Bunyan says, describing his first and illusory conversation, 'I thought there was no man in England that pleased God better than I'." —C. S. Lewis

"In reality there is perhaps no one of our natural Passions so hard to subdue as Pride. Disguise it, struggle with it, beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as one pleases, it is still alive, and will now and then peek out and show itself." --Benjamin Franklin

"The Senate vote increased the debt ceiling for the fourth time in five years. The statutory debt limit has now risen by more than \$3 trillion since President Bush took office. That any Republican majority could preside over such fiscally irresponsible spending ought to be grounds for revoking their party membership." —Cal Thomas

"Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessing of heaven." —G. C. Lichtenberg

"You cannot add to the peace and good will of the world if you fail to create an atmosphere of harmony and love right where you live and work." —Thomas Dreier

"We have got but one life here. It pays, no matter what comes after it, to try and do things, to accomplish things in this life and not merely to have a soft and pleasant time." —Theodore Roosevelt

"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote." --Benjamin Franklin.

"The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie. One word of truth outweighs the world." —Alexander Solzhenitsyn

"David Riesman said that we are living in the cathedrals of learning, without the faith that built those cathedrals. We are also living in a free society without the faith that built that society -- and without the conviction and dedication needed to sustain it.... In crisis, some have to put their lives on the line, as fireman, policemen and people in the military still do. But, for that, you have to believe that the institution and the society are worthy of your sacrifices. We have now been through at least two generations of constant denigration of American society, two generations in which cheap glory could be gained by flouting rules and mocking values. Is it surprising that we seem to have dwindling numbers of people willing to take responsibility and make sacrifices to preserve the social framework that makes our survival and advancement possible?"
-- Thomas Sowell

"I hope the international community will be able to work together with Iran to negotiate an acceptable solution out of this. I don't think, given the situation in today's world, that anyone would want to see further military escalation in the region. And Iran should cooperate and cooperate fully. And I have urged them publicly to freeze the nuclear program to allow for negotiations to resolve this." —Kofi Annan *If that sounds familiar, maybe it's this quote:*

"We should seek by all means in our power to avoid war, by analyzing possible causes, by trying to remove them, by discussion in a spirit of collaboration and good will."
--Neville Chamberlain

"Like the Nazis in the 1930s and the Soviet communists in the Cold War, the Islamofascists are emboldened by appeasement and submissiveness. Give the rampagers and book-burners a veto over artistic and editorial decisions, and you end up not with heightened sensitivity and cultural respect, but with more rampages and more books burned. You betray ideals that generations of Americans have died to defend." —Jeff Jacoby

"The skeptic does not mean him who doubts, but him who investigates or researches, as opposed to him who asserts and thinks that he has found." --Miguel De Unamuno

"Modest doubt is called the beacon of the wise." --William Shakespeare

"Preaching is to much avail, but practice is far more effective. A godly life is the strongest argument you can offer the skeptic." --Hosea Ballou

"You vote yourselves salaries out of the public funds and care only for your own personal interests; hence the state limps along." —Aristophanes

"The deterioration of every government begins with the decay of the principles on which it was founded." —Charles-Louis De Secondat

"A man's liberties are none the less agressed upon because those who coerce him do so in the belief that he will be benefited." —Herbert Spencer

"If there is one thing upon this earth that mankind love and admire better than another, it is a brave man,—it is the man who dares to look the devil in the face and tell him he is a devil." — James Garfield

"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world, that they have become so ineffective in this." --C.S. Lewis

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior." --Max Lucado

"Economic ignorance, misconceptions and superstition drive us toward totalitarianism because they make us more willing to hand over greater control of our lives to politicians. *That diminishes our liberties.* Remember the gasoline price controls of the 1970s? The price controls caused shortages. To deal with the shortages, purchases were restricted. Then national highway speed limits were enacted. Then there were more calls for smaller and less-crashworthy cars. In the recent gasoline supply shocks, we didn't see the shortages, long lines and closed gas stations of the 1970s. Why? Prices were allowed to perform their allocative function—get people to use less gas and suppliers to provide more. Economic ignorance is to politicians what idle hands are to the devil. Both provide the workshop for the creation of evil." —Walter Williams

"Many politicians are in the habit of laying it down as a self-evident proposition, that no people ought to be free till they are fit to use their freedom. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story, who resolved not to go into the water till he had learned to swim. If men are to wait for liberty till they become wise and good in slavery, they may indeed wait forever." —Thomas B. Macaulay

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human liberty; it is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." — William Pitt

"To live in the presence of great truths and eternal laws, to be led by permanent ideals—that is what keeps a man patient when the world ignores him, and calm and unspoiled when the world praises him." —Honore De Balzac

"The essential characteristic of Western civilization that distinguishes it from the arrested and petrified civilizations of the East was and is its concern for freedom from the state. The history of the West, from the age of the Greek *polis* down to the present-day resistance to socialism, is essentially the history of the fight for liberty against the encroachments of the officeholders." —Ludwig Von Mises

"We stand today at a crossroads: One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other leads to total extinction. Let us hope we have the wisdom to make the right choice." --Woody Allen

"We do not need more intellectual power, we need more moral power. We do not need more knowledge, we need more character. We do not need more government, we need more culture. We do not need more law, we need more religion. We do not need more of the things that are seen, we need more of the things that are unseen. If the foundation be firm, the foundation will stand." —Calvin Coolidge

"Massachusetts politicians last week rose to new heights of holier-than-thou arrogance. House members on Thursday—just three days after the 80-page bill was introduced—voted overwhelmingly to tax businesses that do not provide health insurance for their employees, and to require all residents who can afford it to buy health insurance...

No doubt, buying health insurance is a good idea. But so is buying a car with a five-star safety rating, brushing after meals and not running with scissors. And yet government lets people decide whether to do these things...

If the state can order people to buy health insurance, then where does that authority stop? Why can't it order people to exercise a half-hour a day, quit smoking, and floss regularly?"

—*New Hampshire Union-Leader*

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot help small men by tearing down big men. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot lift the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer. You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred. You cannot establish security on borrowed money. You cannot build character and courage by taking away men's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves." --William Boetcker

"None can love freedom heartily, but good men; the rest love not freedom, but license." —John Milton

"While the people have property, arms in their hands, and only a spark of noble spirit, the most corrupt Congress must be mad to form any project of tyranny." —Rev. Nicholas Collin

"It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once." —David Hume

"A legislative act contrary to the Constitution is not law." —Justice John Marshall

"The more laws, the less justice." —Marcus Tullius Cicero

"When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law." —Frederic Bastiat

"If 'Thou shalt not covet' and 'Thou shalt not steal' were not commandments of Heaven, they must be made inviolable precepts in every society before it can be civilized or made free." --John Adams

"[T]he Left frequently defines 'social justice' differently than Judeo-Christian values do. For most on the Left, 'social justice' means social equality and social fairness. It is not fair that some people have more than others. This is why the Left believes that courts should be far more than umpires when adjudicating justice: they should be promoting fairness and equality. The other difference...is that leftist ideologies are so preoccupied with 'social justice' that they generally ignore personal character development. Judeo-Christian values believe the road to a just society is paved by individual character development; the Left believes it is paved with action on a macro level.

That is one reason the Left is far more interested than the Right (i.e., religious Jews and Christians and secular conservatives) in passing laws, whether through legislation or through the actions of judges. That is how the Left believes you make a better society. There is, incidentally, a second reason the Left passes so many laws: As the Left breaks down the self-discipline of Judeo-Christian religions, more and more laws are needed simply to keep people from devouring each other." —Dennis Prager

"At all times sincere friends of freedom have been rare, and its triumphs have been due to minorities." —Lord Acton

"Courage is the first of all the virtues because if you haven't courage, you may not have the opportunity to use any of the others." —Samuel Johnson

"We have not journeyed across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies, because we are made of sugar candy." —Winston Churchill

"If Congress can employ money indefinitely to the general welfare, and are the sole and supreme judges of the general welfare, they may take the care of religion into their own hands; they may appoint teachers in every State, county and parish and pay them out of their public treasury; they may take into their own hands the education of children, establishing in like manner schools throughout the Union; they may assume the provision of the poor; they may undertake the regulation of all roads other than post-roads; in short, everything, from the highest object of state legislation down to the most minute object of police, would be thrown under the power of Congress. ... Were the power of Congress to be established in the latitude contended for, it would subvert the very foundations, and transmute the very nature of the limited Government established by the people of America." --James Madison

"By calling attention to a well-regulated militia for the security of the Nation, and the right of each citizen to keep and bear arms, our Founding Fathers recognized the essentially civilian nature of our economy. Although it is extremely unlikely that the fears of governmental tyranny, which gave rise to the second amendment, will ever be a major danger to our Nation, the amendment still remains an important declaration of our basic military-civilian relationships, in which every citizen must be ready to participate in the defense of the country. For that reason I believe the second amendment will always be important." -- John F. Kennedy

"Tyranny is always better organized than freedom." -- Thomas Paine

"The great trouble with you Americans is that you are still under the influence of that second-rate -- shall I say third-rate? -- mind, Karl Marx." -- H. G. Wells

"The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scripture ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evil men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." – Noah Webster

"When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers, 'just men who will rule in the fear of God.' The preservation of [our] government depends on the faithful discharge of this Duty; if the citizens neglect their Duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the Laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizen will be violated or disregarded. If [our] government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine Commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the Laws."
– Noah Webster

"Another source of power in government is a military force. But this, to be efficient, must be superior to any force that exists among the people, or which they can command; for otherwise this force would be annihilated, on the first exercise of acts of oppression. Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States. A military force, at the command of Congress, can execute no laws, but such as the people perceive to be just and constitutional; for they will possess the power, and jealousy will instantly inspire the inclination, to resist the execution of a law which appears to them unjust and oppressive."
-- Noah Webster, *An Examination of the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution*, 1787

"Why not include a provision that everybody shall, in good weather, hunt on his own land and catch fish in rivers that are public property and that Congress shall never restrain any inhabitant of America from eating and drinking, at seasonable times, or prevent his lying on his left side, in a long winter's night, or even on his back, when he is fatigued by lying on his right."
– Noah Webster; during the debates on whether the Bill of Rights should be added to the Constitution, Webster opposed adoption as unnecessary.

"Every child in America should be acquainted with his own country. He should read books that furnish him with ideas that will be useful to him in life and practice. As soon as he opens his lips, he should rehearse the history of his own country." – Noah Webster

"The virtue of men are of more consequence to society than their abilities; and for this reason, the heart should be cultivated with more assiduity than the head." --Noah Webster

"We establish no religion in this country, nor will we ever. We command no worship. We mandate no belief. But we poison our society when we remove its theological underpinnings. We court corruption when we leave it bereft of belief. All are free to believe or not believe; all are free to practice a faith or not. But those who believe must be free to speak of and act on their belief...." --Ronald Reagan

"Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." --George Washington

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

"When men get in the habit of helping themselves to the property of others, they cannot easily be cured of it." -- *New York Times*, 1909 editorial opposing the very first income tax