

THE QUOTABLE DISSENTING HERETIC

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

A lot of people are not happy with politics. In many family gatherings, politics (and religion) are often frowned upon during conversation, and is usually the cause of much heated debate, incensed arguments, and possible disfellowshipping.

But even if the topic of politics is taboo, we all agree that it's an important part of our every day lives. Everything we do, everything we buy, everything we wish to avoid has to do with politics.

No one can say that they don't care about politics. They might not know a lot about the political landscape, but all of us are on some level or another concerned with how our country is ran, and how policies affect each of us corporately and individually.

No matter if you're a single parent, a family of eight, a small business owner, a wealthy entrepreneur, an immigrant, or a soldier in a military family, politics and policy has a role in what is allowed and not allowed by law. Sometimes, what is allowed and not allowed is decided in spite of what the law says.

These matters and concerns have bothered and encouraged many now, as they have since the birth of politics and government leadership. And it will do so far into the future.

Most people want to be left alone, as long as they're not harming anyone. Some want a just leadership that is not abusive. Some want to be their own leader. No matter where you stand politically, or what Party (or non-party) you show allegiance to, we all pretty much want the same thing: *Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

Some people stood up for themselves, and some people weren't allowed to stand at all, but all had a voice. Some were political, some were philosophical, but all were thought-provoking.

Here are some of their statements, in no particular order:

Secrecy, being an instrument of conspiracy, ought never to be the system of a regular government.

- Jeremy Bentham

Big Brother in the form of an increasingly powerful government and in an increasingly powerful private sector will pile the records high with reasons why privacy should give way to national security.

- William O. Douglas

Everybody knows that corruption thrives in secret places, and avoids public places, and we believe it a fair presumption that secrecy means impropriety.

- Woodrow Wilson

Relying on the government to protect your privacy is like asking a peeping tom to install your window blinds.

- John Perry Barlow

Over grown military establishments are under any form of government inauspicious to liberty, and are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty.

- George Washington

Whatever crushes individuality is despotism.

- John Stuart Mill

The spirit of this country is totally adverse to a large military force.

- Thomas Jefferson

If our forefathers had killed for freedom and democracy, what makes you think we also won't kill for our freedom and democracy?

- Steve Dustcircle

The military caste did not originate as a party of patriots, but as a party of bandits.

- Henry Louis Mencken

Imperialism is an institution under which one nation asserts the right to seize the land or at least to control the government or resources of another people.

- John T. Flynn

We can shape the national sentiment with our voices of compassion and reason. We can send the simple message that we must not kill innocent people in the name of justice.

- Fran Korten

I believe in liberty for all men: the space to stretch their arms and their souls; the right to breathe and the right to vote, the freedom to choose their friends, enjoy the sunshine, and ride on the railroads, uncursed by color; thinking, dreaming, working as they will in a kingdom of beauty and love.

- W. E. B. Du Bois

Let's be realists, let's dream the impossible.

- Che Guevara

An unconscious people, an indoctrinated people, a people fed only partisan information and opinion that confirm their own bias, a people made morbidly obese in mind and spirit by the junk food of propaganda, is less inclined to put up a fight, ask questions and be skeptical. That kind of orthodoxy can kill a democracy - or worse.

- Bill Moyers

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.

- Albert Einstein

If those who support aggressive war had seen a fraction of what I've seen, if they'd watched children fry to death from Napalm and bleed to death from a cluster bomb, they might not utter the claptrap they do.

- John Pilger

If you tremble with indignation at every injustice, then you are a comrade of mine.

- Che Guevara

Every war when it comes, or before it comes, is represented not as a war but as an act of self-defense against a homicidal maniac.

- George Orwell

All warfare is based on deception.

- Sun Tzu

If my soldiers were to begin to think, not one of them would remain in the army.

- Frederick the Great

When you invite people to think, you are inviting revolution.

- Ivana Gabara

I knew that the moment the great governing spirit strikes the blow to divide all humanity into just two opposing factions, I would be on the side of the common people.

-Che Guevara

I know you've come to kill me. Shoot, you are only going to kill a man.

- Che Guevara

It is the responsibility of the patriot to protect his country from its government.

- Thomas Paine

I am a mortal enemy to arbitrary government and unlimited power.

- Benjamin Franklin

The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite.

- Thomas Jefferson

One man with courage is a majority.

- Thomas Jefferson

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.

- Edmund Burke

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

- Alice Walker

Nothing strengthens authority so much as silence.

- Leonardo da Vinci

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

- George Orwell

This generation is burning the mass media to the ground. We are reclaiming our rights to world history.

- Julian Assange

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

It is not reasonable that those who gamble with men's lives should not stake their own.

- H.G. Wells

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

- Mahatma Gandhi

Both the democrats and republicans have betrayed the principles of the declaration of independence.

- John Lewis

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

- Noam Chomsky

I recoil with horror at the ferociousness of man. Will nations never devise a more rational umpire of differences than force?

- Thomas Jefferson

Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporatism because it is a merger of State and corporate power.

- Benito Mussolini

And if Bradley Manning really did as he is accused, he is a hero, an example to us all and one of the world's foremost political prisoners.

- Julian Assange

If Wars Can Be Started by Lies, They Can Be Stopped By Truth.
- Unknown

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

Secularism is spreading incredibly fast.
- Damian Thompson

Because religious belief, or non-belief, is such an important part of every person's life, freedom of religion affects every individual. Religious institutions that use government power in support of themselves and force their views on persons of other faiths, or of no faith, undermine all our civil rights. Moreover, state support of an established religion tends to make the clergy unresponsive to their own people, and leads to corruption within religion itself. Erecting the "wall of separation between church and state," therefore, is absolutely essential in a free society.
- Thomas Jefferson

Fascism is capitalism plus murder.
- Upton Sinclair

The Government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion.
- John Adams

We can have a democracy or we can have great wealth in the hands of a comparative few, but we cannot have both.
- Louis Brandeis

If you repeat a lie often enough, it becomes the truth.
- Joseph Goebbels

Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.

- Cesar Chavez

In a time of universal deceit - telling the truth is a revolutionary act.

- George Orwell

Those who are capable of tyranny are capable of perjury to sustain it.

- Lysander Spooner

The evils of tyranny are rarely seen but by him who resists it.

- John Hay

Of all the animosities which have existed among mankind, those which are caused by a difference of sentiments in religion appear to be the most inveterate and distressing, and ought to be deprecated.

- George Washington

The death of one is a tragedy; the death of a million is just a statistic.

- Marilyn Manson

How can you have a war on terrorism when war itself is terrorism?

- Howard Zinn

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

- Thomas Jefferson

As soon as we abandon our own reason, and are content to rely upon authority, there is no end to our troubles.

- Bertrand Russell

If you think of humanity as one large body, then war is like suicide, or at best, self mutilation.

- Jerome P. Crabb

The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.

- Winston Churchill

You can chain me, you can torture me, you can even destroy this body, but you will never imprison my mind.

- Mahatma Gandhi

To some degree it matters who's in office, but it matters more how much pressure they're under from the public.

- Noam Chomsky

Washington...has become an alien city-state that rules America, and much of the rest of the world, in the way that Rome ruled the Roman Empire.

- Richard Maybury

Assassination is the extreme form of censorship.

- George Bernard Shaw

There are, however, some potentates I would kill by any and all means at my disposal. They are Ignorance, Superstition, and Bigotry - the most sinister and tyrannical rulers on earth.

- Emma Goldman

I believe in human dignity as the source of national purpose, human liberty as the source of national action, the human heart as the source of national compassion, and in the human mind as the source of our invention and our ideas.

- John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Resistance is feasible even for those who are not heroes by nature, and it is an obligation, I believe, for those who fear the consequences and detest the reality of the attempt to impose American hegemony.

- Noam Chomsky

Dignity does not consist in possessing honors, but in deserving them.

- Aristotle

Freedom, morality, and the human dignity of the individual consists precisely in this; that he does good not because he is forced to do so, but because he freely conceives it, wants it, and loves it.

- Mikhail Bakunin

He who does not bellow the truth when he knows the truth makes himself the accomplice of liars and forgers.

- Charles Peguy

We who have a voice must speak for the voiceless.

- Oscar Romero

You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you mad.

- Aldous Huxley

Each of us can practice rights ourselves, treating each other without discrimination, respecting each other's dignity and rights.

- Carol Bellamy

All that is left of America is banality and self-delusion.

- Noam Chomsky

In every country and in every age, the priest has been hostile to liberty. He is always in alliance with the despot, abetting his abuses in return for protection to his own.

- Thomas Jefferson

Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty.

- Henry David Thoreau

Those who are capable of tyranny are capable of perjury to sustain it.

- Lysander Spooner

Do right and risk the consequences.

- Sam Houston

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

- Eli Wiesel

We who have a voice must speak for the voiceless.

- Archbishop Oscar Romero

I may be arrested, I may be tried and thrown into jail, but I never will be silent.

- Emma Goldman

The American people are free to do exactly what they are told.

- Ward Churchill

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Willful Ignorance is both a life and death sentence.

- James A. Zoppa

The illusion of freedom will continue as long as it's profitable to continue the illusion.

- Frank Zappa

Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all rights, is the dread of tyrants. It is the right which they first of all strike down.

- Frederick Douglass

The civil government ... functions with complete success ... by the total separation of the Church from the State.

- James Madison

To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle.

- George Orwell

I will not sleep until the whole world is awake.

- Anonymous

War is an absolute failure of imagination, scientific and political.

- Adrienne Rich

No religious doctrine shall be established by law.

- Elbridge Gerry

Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind.

- Albert Einstein

Patriot: the person who can holler the loudest without knowing what he is hollering about.

- Mark Twain

Patriotism is the virtue of the vicious.

- Oscar Wilde

Patriotism is your conviction that this country is superior to all others because you were born in it.

- George Bernard Shaw

When you invite people to think, you are inviting revolution.

- Ivana Gabara

When the people liberate their own minds and take a hard clear look at what the 1% is doing and what the 99% should be doing, then serious stuff begins to happen.

- Michael Parenti

The two greatest obstacles to democracy in the United States are, first, the widespread delusion among the poor that we have a democracy, and second, the chronic terror among the rich, lest we get it.

- Edward Dowling

It is in the nature of imperialism that citizens of the imperial power are always among the last to know--or care--about circumstances in the colonies.

- Bertrand Russell

It also gives us a very special, secret pleasure to see how unaware the people around us are of what is really happening to them.

- Adolph Hitler

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

- George Orwell

He who is not angry when there is just cause for anger is immoral. Why? Because anger looks to the good of justice. And if you can live amid injustice without anger, you are immoral as well as unjust.

- St. Thomas Aquinas

When men yield up the privilege of thinking, the last shadow of liberty quits the horizon.

- Thomas Paine

You are free to do what you want, but you are not free to want what you want.

- Arthur Schopenhauer

Until they become conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled cannot be conscious.

- George Orwell

It is well that the people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning.

- Henry Ford

Freedom without opportunity is a devil's gift, and the refusal to provide such opportunities is criminal.

- Noam Chomsky

Let me ask you this: Why were you happier when you were a kid? Because you didn't know anything. The more you know, the sadder you get.

- Stephen Colbert

You have freedom when you're easy in your harness.

- Robert Frost

Muslims do not 'hate our freedom,' but rather they hate our politics.

- 9/11 Commission Report, pg. 376

Give me a lever large enough, and I will move the world.

- Archimedes

A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it.

- Oscar Wilde

I do not pretend to know where many ignorant men are sure.

- Clarence Darrow

The mice will win in the end. But in the meantime, the cats will be well fed.

- Bruce Schneier

But a constitution of government, once changed from freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.

- John Adams (July 7, 1775)

The price of liberty, the generation that debated and created the Constitution understood, is eternal vigilance.

- Naomi Wolf

The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.

- Lesley P. Hartley

Seek to gain the respect of others by improving on our shortcomings.

- Martin Luther King

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