

Adam Smith

Quotes

Men, People, Government, Country, Economics, Invisible Hand, Hands, Real, Empathy, Mean, Liberty, Numbers, Animal, May, Order, Competition, Political, Reality, Violence, Purpose

No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable.

~Adam Smith

It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest.

~Adam Smith

The first thing you have to know is yourself. A man who knows himself can step outside himself and watch his own reactions like an observer.

~Adam Smith

Mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent.

~Adam Smith

The real price of everything, what everything really costs to the man who wants to acquire it, is the toil and trouble of acquiring it.

~Adam Smith

What can be added to the happiness of the man who is in health, who is out of debt, and has a clear conscience?

~Adam Smith

A nation is not made wealthy by the childish accumulation of shiny metals, but it is enriched by the economic prosperity of its people.

~Adam Smith

Man is an animal that makes bargains: no other animal does this - no dog exchanges bones with another.

~Adam Smith

On the road from the City of Skepticism, I had to pass through the Valley of Ambiguity.

~Adam Smith

The real and effectual discipline which is exercised over a workman is that of his customers. It is the fear of losing their employment which restrains his frauds and corrects his negligence.

~Adam Smith

People of the same trade seldom meet together, even for merriment and diversion, but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public, or in some contrivance to raise prices.

~Adam Smith

Happiness never lays its finger on its pulse.

~Adam Smith

To feel much for others and little for ourselves, that to restrain our selfish, and to indulge our benevolent affections, constitutes the perfection of human nature.

~Adam Smith

He is led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention

~Adam Smith

Nothing is more graceful than habitual cheerfulness.

~Adam Smith

Every man is rich or poor according to the degree in which he can afford to enjoy the necessaries, conveniences, and amusements of human life.

~Adam Smith

Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production.

~Adam Smith

I have never known much good done by those who affected to trade for

the public good.

~Adam Smith

Science is the great antidote to the poison of enthusiasm and superstition.

~Adam Smith

Individual Ambition Serves the Common Good.

~Adam Smith

No complaint... is more common than that of a scarcity of money.

~Adam Smith

Labour was the first price, the original purchase - money that was paid for all things. It was not by gold or by silver, but by labour, that all wealth of the world was originally purchased.

~Adam Smith

Virtue is more to be feared than vice, because its excesses are not subject to the regulation of conscience.

~Adam Smith

All money is a matter of belief.

~Adam Smith

Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production; and the interest of the producer ought to be attended to, only so far as it may be necessary for promoting that of the consumer.

~Adam Smith

Defense is superior to opulence.

~Adam Smith

A merchant, it has been said very properly, is not necessarily the citizen

of any particular country.

~Adam Smith

As soon as the land of any country has all become private property, the landlords, like all other men, love to reap where they never sowed, and demand a rent even for its natural produce.

~Adam Smith

Never complain of that of which it is at all times in your power to rid yourself.

~Adam Smith

There is no art which government sooner learns of another than that of draining money from the pockets of the people.

~Adam Smith

Corn is a necessary, silver is only a superfluity.

~Adam Smith

With the greater part of rich people, the chief enjoyment of riches consists in the parade of riches.

~Adam Smith

Wherever there is great property, there is great inequality.

~Adam Smith

The difference between the most dissimilar characters, between a philosopher and a common street porter, for example, seems to arise not so much from nature, as from habit, custom, and education.

~Adam Smith

The learned ignore the evidence of their senses to preserve the coherence of the ideas of their imagination.

~Adam Smith

Great nations are never impoverished by private, though they sometimes are by public prodigality and misconduct.

~Adam Smith

The world neither ever saw, nor ever will see, a perfectly fair lottery.

~Adam Smith

Every tax ought to be so contrived as both to take out and to keep out of the pockets of the people as little as possible, over and above what it brings into the public treasury of the State.

~Adam Smith

Every man lives by exchanging.

~Adam Smith

The problem with fiat money is that it rewards the minority that can handle money, but fools the generation that has worked and saved money.

~Adam Smith

We are but one of the multitude, in no respect better than any other in it.

~Adam Smith

It appears, accordingly, from the experience of all ages and nations, I believe, that the work done by freemen comes cheaper in the end than that performed by slaves.

~Adam Smith

Nobody but a beggar chooses to depend chiefly upon the benevolence of his fellow-citizens.

~Adam Smith

All for ourselves, and nothing for other people, seems, in every age of

the world, to have been the vile maxim of the masters of mankind.

~Adam Smith

Goods can serve many other purposes besides purchasing money, but money can serve no other purpose besides purchasing goods.

~Adam Smith

The propensity to truck, barter and exchange one thing for another is common to all men, and to be found in no other race of animals.

~Adam Smith

What is prudence in the conduct of every private family can scarce be folly in that of a great kingdom.

~Adam Smith

The property which every man has in his own labour, as it is the original foundation of all other property, so it is the most sacred and inviolable.

~Adam Smith

Sugar, rum and tobacco are commodities which are nowhere necessaries of life, which are become objects of almost universal consumption, and which are therefore extremely proper subjects of taxation.

~Adam Smith

The great secret of education is to direct vanity to proper objects.

~Adam Smith

It is not very unreasonable that the rich should contribute to the public expense, not only in proportion to their revenue, but something more than in that proportion.

~Adam Smith

The game women play is men.

~Adam Smith

The division of labour was limited by the extent of the market

~Adam Smith

Fear is in almost all cases a wretched instrument of government, and ought in particular never to be employed against any order of men who have the smallest pretensions to independency.

~Adam Smith

The rate of profit... is naturally low in rich and high in poor countries, and it is always highest in the countries which are going fastest to ruin.

~Adam Smith

Great ambition, the desire of real superiority, of leading and directing, seems to be altogether peculiar to man, and speech is the great instrument of ambition.

~Adam Smith

I am a beau in nothing but my books.

~Adam Smith

Resentment seems to have been given us by nature for a defense, and for a defense only! It is the safeguard of justice and the security of innocence.

~Adam Smith

It is unjust that the whole of society should contribute towards an expence of which the benefit is confined to a part of the society.

~Adam Smith

Adventure upon all the tickets in the lottery, and you lose for certain; and the greater the number of your tickets the nearer your approach to this certainty.

~Adam Smith

By nature a philosopher is not in genius and disposition half so different from a street porter, as a mastiff is from a greyhound

~Adam Smith

Nothing but the most exemplary morals can give dignity to a man of small fortune.

~Adam Smith

We are delighted to find a person who values us as we value ourselves, and distinguishes us from the rest of mankind, with an attention not unlike that with which we distinguish ourselves.

~Adam Smith

A sketch of a man facing to the right.

~Adam Smith

Labor was the first price, the original purchase - money that was paid for all things.

~Adam Smith

It must always be remembered, however, that it is the luxuries, and not the necessary expense of the inferior ranks of people, that ought ever to be taxed.

~Adam Smith

An instructed and intelligent people are always more decent and orderly than an ignorant and stupid one.

~Adam Smith

Whatever work he does, beyond what is sufficient to purchase his own maintenance, can be squeezed out of him by violence only, and not by any interest of his own.

~Adam Smith

It is not for its own sake that men desire money, but for the sake of what they can purchase with it.

~Adam Smith

This is one of those cases in which the imagination is baffled by the facts.

~Adam Smith

For a very small expence the public can facilitate, can encourage, and can even impose upon almost the whole body of the people, the necessity of acquiring those most essential parts of education.

~Adam Smith

The subjects of every state ought to contribute towards the support of the government, as nearly as possible, in proportion to their respective abilities.

~Adam Smith

The mob, when they are gazing at a dancer on the slack rope, naturally writhe and twist and balance their own bodies, as they see him do.

~Adam Smith

It seldom happens, however, that a great proprietor is a great improver.

~Adam Smith

A true party-man hates and despises candour.

~Adam Smith

The education of the common people requires, perhaps, in a civilized and commercial society, the attention of the public more than that of people of some rank and fortune.

~Adam Smith

Nobody ever saw a dog make a fair and deliberate exchange of one bone for another with another dog.

~Adam Smith

Secrets in manufactures are capable of being longer kept than secrets in trade.

~Adam Smith

The proprietor of stock is necessarily a citizen of the world, and is not necessarily attached to any particular country.

~Adam Smith

Men desire to have some share in the management of public affairs chiefly on account of the importance which it gives them.

~Adam Smith

Masters are always and everywhere in a sort of tacit, but constant and uniform combination, not to raise the wages of labor.

~Adam Smith

The natural price, therefore, is, as it were, the central price, to which the prices of all commodities are continually gravitating.

~Adam Smith

China is a much richer country than any part of Europe.

~Adam Smith

The retinue of a grandee in China or Indostan accordingly is, by all accounts, much more numerous and splendid than that of the richest subjects of Europe.

~Adam Smith

The ancient Egyptians had a superstitious antipathy to the sea; a superstition nearly of the same kind prevails among the Indians; and the Chinese have never excelled in foreign commerce.

~Adam Smith

That the chance of gain is naturally over-valued, we may learn from the universal success of lotteries.

~Adam Smith

I have no faith in political arithmetic.

~Adam Smith

In the long-run the workman may be as necessary to his master as his master is to him, but the necessity is not so immediate.

~Adam Smith

The theory that can absorb the greatest number of facts, and persist in doing so, generation after generation, through all changes of opinion and detail, is the one that must rule all observation.

~Adam Smith

In a militia, the character of the laborer, artificer, or tradesman, predominates over that of the soldier: in a standing army, that of the soldier predominates over every other character.

~Adam Smith

An English university is a sanctuary in which exploded systems and obsolete prejudices find shelter and protection after they have been . hunted out of every corner of the world.

~Adam Smith

But though empires, like all the other works of men, have all hitherto proved mortal, yet every empire aims at immortality.

~Adam Smith

Man, an animal that makes bargains.

~Adam Smith

The violence and injustice of the rulers of mankind is an ancient evil, for which, I am afraid, the nature of human affairs can scarce admit a remedy.

~Adam Smith

Man naturally desires, not only to be loved, but to be lovely; or to be that thing which is the natural and proper object of love.

~Adam Smith

Have lots of experiments, but make sure they're strategically focused.

~Adam Smith

Beneficence is always free, it cannot be extorted by force.

~Adam Smith

Though the profusion of Government must undoubtedly have retarded the natural progress of England to wealth and improvement, it has not been able to stop it.

~Adam Smith

Avarice and injustice are always shortsighted, and they did not foresee how much this regulation must obstruct improvement, and thereby hurt in the long-run the real interest of the landlord.

~Adam Smith

In public, as well as in private expences, great wealth may, perhaps, frequently be admitted as an apology for great folly.

~Adam Smith

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