

Alexander Hamilton Quotes

*Government, Men, People, Law, Rights, Liberty, Political, War, Passion,
Country, Mean, Principles, Character, Giving, May, Constitution, Human Nature,
Exercise, Mind, Long*

People sometimes attribute my success to my genius; all the genius I know anything about is hard work.

~Alexander Hamilton

Give all the power to the many, they will oppress the few. Give all the power to the few, they will oppress the many.

~Alexander Hamilton

When a government betrays the people by amassing too much power and becoming tyrannical, the people have no choice but to exercise their original right of self-defense "to fight the government.

~Alexander Hamilton

One great error is that we suppose mankind more honest than they are.

~Alexander Hamilton

There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism.

~Alexander Hamilton

Men often oppose a thing merely because they have had no agency in planning it, or because it may have been planned by those whom they dislike.

~Alexander Hamilton

A nation which can prefer disgrace to danger is prepared for a master, and deserves one.

~Alexander Hamilton

Foreign influence is truly the Grecian horse to a republic. We cannot be too careful to exclude its influence.

~Alexander Hamilton

It's not tyranny we desire; it's a just, limited, federal government.

~Alexander Hamilton

There are seasons in every country when noise and impudence pass current for worth; and in popular commotions especially, the clamors of interested and factious men are often mistaken for patriotism.

~Alexander Hamilton

The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed.

~Alexander Hamilton

A well adjusted person is one who makes the same mistake twice without getting nervous.

~Alexander Hamilton

This process of election affords a moral certainty that the office of President will seldom fall to the lot of any many who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications.

~Alexander Hamilton

[H]owever weak our country may be, I hope we shall never sacrifice our liberties.

~Alexander Hamilton

A sacred respect for the constitutional law is the vital principle, the sustaining energy of a free government.

~Alexander Hamilton

Ambition without principle never was long under the guidance of good sense.

~Alexander Hamilton

Our countrymen have all the folly of the ass and all the passiveness of

the sheep.

~Alexander Hamilton

I would die to preserve the law upon a solid foundation; but take away liberty, and the foundation is destroyed.

~Alexander Hamilton

It is the Press which has corrupted our political morals - and it is to the Press we must look for the means of our political regeneration.

~Alexander Hamilton

Remember civil and religious liberty always go together: if the foundation of the one be sapped, the other will fall of course.

~Alexander Hamilton

Learn to think continentally.

~Alexander Hamilton

The honor of a nation is its life. Deliberately to abandon it is to commit an act of political suicide.

~Alexander Hamilton

The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge right or make good decision.

~Alexander Hamilton

We are now forming a republican government. Real liberty is never found in despotism or the extremes of democracy, but in moderate governments.

~Alexander Hamilton

The natural cure for an ill-administration, in a popular or representative constitution, is a change of men.

~Alexander Hamilton

As riches increase and accumulate in few hands . . . the tendency of things will be to depart from the republican standard.

~Alexander Hamilton

When the sword is once drawn, the passions of men observe no bounds of moderation.

~Alexander Hamilton

Every nation ought to have a right to provide for its own happiness.

~Alexander Hamilton

No character, however upright, is a match for constantly reiterated attacks, however false.

~Alexander Hamilton

Hard words are very rarely useful. Real firmness is good for every thing. Strut is good for nothing.

~Alexander Hamilton

I have thought it my duty to exhibit things as they are, not as they ought to be.

~Alexander Hamilton

. . . [The Judicial Branch] may truly be said to have neither FORCE nor WILL, but merely judgment; and must ultimately depend upon the aid of the executive arm even for the efficacy of its judgments.

~Alexander Hamilton

Nothing could be more ill-judged than that intolerant spirit which has, at all times, characterized political parties.

~Alexander Hamilton

Constitutions should consist only of general provisions; the reason is that they must necessarily be permanent, and that they cannot

calculate for the possible change of things.

~Alexander Hamilton

The love for our native land strengthens our individual and national character.

~Alexander Hamilton

A fondness for power is implanted in most men, and it is natural to abuse it when acquired.

~Alexander Hamilton

Every individual of the community at large has an equal right to the protection of government.

~Alexander Hamilton

Of those men who have overturned the liberties of republics, the greatest number have begun their career by paying an obsequious court to the people, commencing demagogues and ending tyrants.

~Alexander Hamilton

Why has government been instituted at all? Because the passions of man will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice without constraint.

~Alexander Hamilton

The art of reading is to skip judiciously.

~Alexander Hamilton

We must make the best of those ills which cannot be avoided.

~Alexander Hamilton

And it is long since I have learned to hold popular opinion of no value.

~Alexander Hamilton

What is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of our security in a Republic? An inviolable respect for the Constitution and Laws.

~Alexander Hamilton

Americans rouse - be unanimous, be virtuous, be firm, exert your courage, trust in Heaven, and nobly defy the enemies both of God and man!

~Alexander Hamilton

Happy will it be for ourselves, and most honorable for human nature, if we have wisdom and virtue enough to set so glorious an example to mankind!

~Alexander Hamilton

You should not have taken advantage of my sensibility to steal into my affections without my consent.

~Alexander Hamilton

Experience is the oracle of truth; and where its responses are unequivocal, they ought to be conclusive and sacred.

~Alexander Hamilton

For my part, I sincerely esteem the Constitution, a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests.

~Alexander Hamilton

The inquiry constantly is what will please, not what will benefit the people. In such a government there can be nothing but temporary expedient, fickleness, and folly.

~Alexander Hamilton

Here sir, the people govern.

~Alexander Hamilton

A promise must never be broken.

~Alexander Hamilton

The truth is, after all the declamations we have heard, that the Constitution is itself, in every rational sense, and to every useful purpose, A BILL OF RIGHTS.

~Alexander Hamilton

Take mankind as they are, and what are they governed by? Their passions.

~Alexander Hamilton

A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing.

~Alexander Hamilton

In the main it will be found that a power over a man's support [salary] is a power over his will.

~Alexander Hamilton

The loss of liberty to a generous mind is worse than death.

~Alexander Hamilton

The powers contained in a constitution...ought to be construed liberally in advancement of the public good.

~Alexander Hamilton

Those who do not industrialize become hewers of wood and hawkers of water

~Alexander Hamilton

It is of the nature of war to increase the executive at the expense of the legislative authority.

~Alexander Hamilton

That experience is the parent of wisdom is an adage the truth of which is recognized by the wisest as well as the simplest of mankind.

~Alexander Hamilton

I have a tender reliance on the mercy of the Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy; pray for me.

~Alexander Hamilton

Nobody expects to trust his body overmuch after the age of fifty.

~Alexander Hamilton

I never expect to see a perfect work from an imperfect man.

~Alexander Hamilton

That there may happen cases in which the national government may be necessitated to resort to force, cannot be denied.

~Alexander Hamilton

No person that has enjoyed the sweets of liberty can be insensible of its infinite value, or can reflect on its reverse without horror and detestation

~Alexander Hamilton

Effective resistance to usurpers is possible only provided the citizens understand their rights and are disposed to defend them.

~Alexander Hamilton

Man is a reasoning rather than a reasonable animal.

~Alexander Hamilton

We are attempting, by this Constitution, to abolish factions, and to unite all parties for the general welfare.

~Alexander Hamilton

[T]here is not a syllable in the plan under consideration which directly empowers the national courts to construe the laws according to the spirit of the Constitution.

~Alexander Hamilton

Men are rather reasoning than reasonable animals for the most part governed by the impulse of passion.

~Alexander Hamilton

The genius of the people will ill brook the inquisitive and peremptory spirit of excise laws.

~Alexander Hamilton

Government is frequently and aptly classed under two descriptions-a government of force, and a government of laws; the first is the definition of despotism-the last, of liberty.

~Alexander Hamilton

Unless your government is respectable, foreigners will invade your rights; and to maintain tranquillity you must be respectable; even to observe neutrality you must have a strong government.

~Alexander Hamilton

If we are in earnest about giving the Union energy and duration we must abandon the vain project of legislating upon the States in their collective capacities.

~Alexander Hamilton

A garden, you know, is a very usual refuge of a disappointed politician. Accordingly, I have purchased a few acres about nine miles from town, have built a house, and am cultivating a garden.

~Alexander Hamilton

Opinion, whether well or ill-founded, is the governing principle of human

affairs

~Alexander Hamilton

Great Ambition, unchecked by principle, or the love of Glory, is an unruly Tyrant.

~Alexander Hamilton

Common interest may always be reckoned upon as the surest bond of sympathy.

~Alexander Hamilton

[T]hough individual oppression may now and then proceed from the courts of justice, the general liberty of the people can never be endangered from that quarter . . .

~Alexander Hamilton

To presume a want of motives for such contests . . . would be to forget that men are ambitious, vindictive, and rapacious.

~Alexander Hamilton

It is just observation that the people commonly intend the Public Good.

~Alexander Hamilton

No man in his senses can hesitate in choosing to be free, rather than a slave.

~Alexander Hamilton

Self-preservation is the first principle of our nature.

~Alexander Hamilton

Let experience, the least fallible guide of human opinion, be appealed to for an answer to these inquiries.

~Alexander Hamilton

There is one transcendent advantage belonging to the province of the State governments . . . -I mean the ordinary administration of criminal and civil justice.

~Alexander Hamilton

The Achaeans soon experienced, as often happens, that a victorious and powerful ally is but another name for a master.

~Alexander Hamilton

The means ought to be proportioned to the end; the persons from whose agency the attainment of any end is expected ought to possess the means by which it is to be attained.

~Alexander Hamilton

And it proves, in the last place, that liberty can have nothing to fear from the judiciary alone, but would have everything to fear from its union with either of the other departments.

~Alexander Hamilton

A habit of labor in the people is as essential to the health and rigor of their minds and bodies as it is conducive to the welfare of the state.

~Alexander Hamilton

When human laws contradict or discountenance the means, which are necessary to preserve the essential rights of any society, they defeat the proper end of all laws, and so become null and void.

~Alexander Hamilton

The fabric of American empire ought to rest on the solid basis of THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE. The streams of national power ought to flow from that pure, original fountain of all legitimate authority.

~Alexander Hamilton

Even to observe neutrality you must have a strong government.

~Alexander Hamilton

In the general course of human nature, A power over a man's subsistence amounts to a power over his will.

~Alexander Hamilton

The civil jury is a valuable safeguard to liberty.

~Alexander Hamilton

Little more can reasonably be aimed at with respect to the people at large than to have them properly armed.

~Alexander Hamilton

The Liberty of the press consists in the right to publish with impunity truth with good motives for justifiable ends, though reflecting on government, magistracy, or individuals.

~Alexander Hamilton

Laws are a dead letter without courts to expound and define their true meaning and operation.

~Alexander Hamilton

The laws of Congress are restricted to a certain sphere, and when they depart from this sphere, they are no longer supreme or binding.

~Alexander Hamilton

Divide et impera must be the motto of every nation that either hates or fears us.

~Alexander Hamilton

Industry is increased, commodities are multiplied, agriculture and manufacturers flourish: and herein consists the true wealth and prosperity of a state.

~Alexander Hamilton

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