

Alexander Herzen

Quotes

*Men, People, Believe, Political, Ideas, Development, World, Passion, Liberty,
Strong, Law, Order, Tears, Atheism, Civilization, Thinking, Way, Lying, Simple,
Feelings*

What breadth, what beauty and power of human nature and development there must be in a woman to get over all the palisades, all the fences, within which she is held captive!

~Alexander Herzen

History is the autobiography of a madman.

~Alexander Herzen

Life has taught me to think, but thinking has not taught me to live.

~Alexander Herzen

There is nothing in the world more stubborn than a corpse: you can hit it, you can knock it to pieces, but you cannot convince it.

~Alexander Herzen

To build a city where it is impossible to build a city is madness in itself, but to build there one of the most elegant and grandest of cities is the madness of genius.

~Alexander Herzen

It is possible to lead astray an entire generation, to strike it blind, to drive it insane, to direct it towards a false goal. Napoleon proved this.

~Alexander Herzen

The liberty of the individual is the greatest thing of all, it is on this and this alone that the true will of the people can develop.

~Alexander Herzen

The world will not know liberty until all that is religious and political is transformed into something simple and human and made susceptible to criticism and denial.

~Alexander Herzen

Science, which cuts its way through the muddy pond of daily life without

mingling with it, casts its wealth to right and left, but the puny boatmen do not know how to fish for it.

~Alexander Herzen

Would it be possible to stand still on one spot more majestically -- while simulating a triumphant march forward -- than it is done by the two English Houses of Parliament?

~Alexander Herzen

Liberalism, austere in political trifles, has learned ever more artfully to unite a constant protest against the government with a constant submission to it.

~Alexander Herzen

I have served one idea, marched under one banner - war against all imposed authority - against every kind of deprivation of freedom, in the name of the absolute independence of the individual.

~Alexander Herzen

I am truly horrified by modern man. Such absence of feeling, such narrowness of outlook, such lack of passion and information, such feebleness of thought.

~Alexander Herzen

The people is always expressive of the truth. The life of a people cannot be a lie.

~Alexander Herzen

One must open men's eyes, not tear them out.

~Alexander Herzen

False gods must be repudiated, but that is not all: The reasons for their existence must be sought beneath their masks.

~Alexander Herzen

Everything in Italy that is particularly elegant and grand borders upon insanity and absurdity or at least is reminiscent of childhood.

~Alexander Herzen

Human development is a form of chronological unfairness, since late-comers are able to profit by the labors of their predecessors without paying the same price.

~Alexander Herzen

Laws to suppress tend to strengthen what they would prohibit. This is the fine point on which all legal professions of history have based their job security.

~Alexander Herzen

You can no more bridle passions with logic than you can justify them in the law courts. Passions are facts and not dogmas.

~Alexander Herzen

We have wasted our spirit in the regions of the abstract and general just as the monks let it wither in the world of prayer and contemplation.

~Alexander Herzen

We could hardly believe that after so many ordeals, after all the trials of modern skepticism, there was still so much left in our souls to destroy.

~Alexander Herzen

Never was Catholicism, never were the ideas of chivalry, impressed on men so deeply, so multifariously, as the bourgeois ideas.

~Alexander Herzen

I believe in nothing here, except a handful of people, a few ideas, and the fact that one cannot arrest movement.

~Alexander Herzen

I believe what I write to be the truth...every man who is not indifferent to the truth has a weakness for spreading it about.

~Alexander Herzen

[T]he departing world leaves behind... not an heir, but a pregnant widow.

~Alexander Herzen

Compassionate love may be strong. It sobs, it burns, then it wipes away its tears - and it does nothing.

~Alexander Herzen

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