

Antonio Tabucchi

Quotes

People, Doubt, Jobs, Mean, Perfection, Literature, War, Country, Teacher, Thinking, World, Xenophobia, History, Insomnia, Grandfather, Contradiction, Character, Dream, Family, Able

I prefer insomnia to anaesthesia.

~Antonio Tabucchi

I vividly remember the stories my grandfather told me about the carnage of the First World War, which people tend to forget was one of the worst massacres in human history.

~Antonio Tabucchi

It's the job of intellectuals and writers to cast doubt on perfection.

~Antonio Tabucchi

I live quietly at home among my family and friends.

~Antonio Tabucchi

But democracy isn't a state of perfection. It has to be improved, and that means constant vigilance.

~Antonio Tabucchi

People with lots of doubts sometimes find life more oppressive and exhausting than others, but they're more energetic - they aren't robots.

~Antonio Tabucchi

But I don't think I have any particular talent for prediction, because when you have three or four elements in hand, you don't have to be a genius to reach certain conclusions.

~Antonio Tabucchi

I don't want to promote my own image either. I don't like going on television or mixing in literary circles.

~Antonio Tabucchi

There are some fundamental values it's impossible to be wrong about.

~Antonio Tabucchi

Eco sees the intellectual as an organizer of culture, someone who can run a magazine or a museum. An administrator, in fact. I think this is a melancholy situation for an intellectual.

~Antonio Tabucchi

Perfection spawns doctrines, dictators and totalitarian ideas.

~Antonio Tabucchi

No, I'm happy to go on living the life I've chosen. I'm a university teacher and I like my job.

~Antonio Tabucchi

Literature for me isn't a workaday job, but something which involves desires, dreams and fantasy.

~Antonio Tabucchi

Philosophy appears to concern itself only with the truth, but perhaps expresses only fantasies, while literature appears to concern itself only with fantasies, but perhaps it expresses the truth.

~Antonio Tabucchi

personally I don't trust literature that soothes people's consciences.

~Antonio Tabucchi

I've always been drawn to tormented people full of contradictions.

~Antonio Tabucchi

The salt of any interesting civilization is mixture.

~Antonio Tabucchi

I claim the right to take a stand once in a while.

~Antonio Tabucchi

It's very useful when politicians have doubts because there are so

many choices to be made in the world.

~Antonio Tabucchi

Literature is my life of course, but from an ontological point of view. From an existential point of view, I like being a teacher.

~Antonio Tabucchi

I don't have any doubts either about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Perhaps some more should be added to the list, but I don't have the slightest doubt about human rights.

~Antonio Tabucchi

I was born in the Second World War during the Nazi invasion of my country.

~Antonio Tabucchi

Doubts are like stains on a shirt. I like shirts with stains, because when I'm given a shirt that's too clean, one that's completely white, I immediately start having doubts.

~Antonio Tabucchi

The most important basis of any novel is wanting to be someone else, and this means creating a character.

~Antonio Tabucchi

History is a big word... History is not the sort of animal you can domesticate.

~Antonio Tabucchi

In a novel, my feelings and sense of outrage can find a broader means of expression which would be more symbolic and applicable to many European countries.

~Antonio Tabucchi

My books are about losers, about people who've lost their way and are engaged in a search.

~Antonio Tabucchi

I don't go for people who lead full and satisfying lives.

~Antonio Tabucchi

As a writer, I've always been interested in others.

~Antonio Tabucchi

Rather than regret for what I have written, I feel regret for what I shall never be able to read.

~Antonio Tabucchi

A l'intérieur de ce corps vivait l'âme d'une intellectuelle et poète dont personne n'avait le soupçon. Within this body lived the soul of an intellectual and poet, which nobody had suspected.

~Antonio Tabucchi

My job is to look at what politics is doing, not be a politician myself.

~Antonio Tabucchi

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