

Arundhati Roy

Quotes

*War, People, Thinking, Country, Government, Real, Fighting, Dream, Mean,
India, Writing, World, Ideas, Believe, Eye, America, Political, Men, Justice,
Rights*

That's what careless words do. They make people love you a little less.

~Arundhati Roy

Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.

~Arundhati Roy

There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard.

~Arundhati Roy

Wars are never fought for altruistic reasons. They're usually fought for hegemony, for business. And then of course there's the business of war.

~Arundhati Roy

He folded his fear into a perfect rose. He held it out in the palm of his hand. She took it from him and put it in her hair.

~Arundhati Roy

Ammu said that human beings were creatures of habit, and it was amazing the kind of things one could get used to.

~Arundhati Roy

...a political struggle that does not have women at the heart of it, above it, below it, and within it is no struggle at all.

~Arundhati Roy

She viewed ethnic cleansing, famine and genocide as direct threats to her furniture.

~Arundhati Roy

NGOs are dangerous. They do what the missionaries used to do in

Colonial times. They are Trojan Horses. The worse the situation, the more the NGOs.

~Arundhati Roy

Empathy may be the single most important quality that must be nurtured to give peace a fighting chance.

~Arundhati Roy

Railing against the past will not heal us. History has happened. It's over and done with. All we can do is to change its course by encouraging what we love instead of destroying what we don't.

~Arundhati Roy

The people who created the crisis in the first place will not be the ones that come up with a solution.

~Arundhati Roy

The only thing worth globalizing is dissent.

~Arundhati Roy

Sometimes there's truth in old cliches. There can be no real peace without justice. And without resistance there will be no justice.

~Arundhati Roy

If we were to lose the ability to be emotional, if we were to lose the ability to be angry, to be outraged, we would be robots. And I refuse that.

~Arundhati Roy

States have invested themselves with the right to legitimise violence - so who gets criminalised and delegitimised? Only - or well that's excessive - usually, the resistance.

~Arundhati Roy

Making bombs will only destroy us. It doesn't matter whether we use them or not. They will destroy us either way.

~Arundhati Roy

Nationalism of one kind or another was the cause of most of the genocide of the twentieth century.

~Arundhati Roy

Violating human rights is integral to the project of neoliberalism and global hegemony.

~Arundhati Roy

Fascism itself can only be turned away if all those who are outraged by it show a commitment to social justice that equals the intensity of their indignation.

~Arundhati Roy

Use your art to fight.

~Arundhati Roy

If you're happy in a dream, does that count?

~Arundhati Roy

If he touched her, he couldn't talk to her, if he loved her he couldn't leave, if he spoke he couldn't listen, if he fought he couldn't win.

~Arundhati Roy

Flags are bits of colored cloth used first to shrinkwrap people's brains and then as ceremonial shrouds to bury the dead.

~Arundhati Roy

Things can change in a day.

~Arundhati Roy

Some things come with their own punishments.

~Arundhati Roy

Either way, change will come. It could be bloody, or it could be beautiful. It depends on us.

~Arundhati Roy

I think many people were surprised by the victory of the Congress, because it was really hard to see beyond the sort of haze of hatred that the Hindu nationalists had been spreading.

~Arundhati Roy

It is such a supreme folly to believe that nuclear weapons are deadly only if they're used.

~Arundhati Roy

Little events, ordinary things, smashed and reconstituted. Suddenly, they become the bleached bones of a story.

~Arundhati Roy

As a woman who grew up in a village in India, I've spent my whole life fighting tradition. There's no way that I want to be a traditional Indian housewife.

~Arundhati Roy

Insanity hovered close at hand, like an eager waiter at an expensive restaurant.

~Arundhati Roy

When people say "the people" or "the public" as though it's the final repository of all morality, I sometimes flinch.

~Arundhati Roy

Even capitalists must surely admit, that intellectually at least, socialism

is a worthy opponent. It imparts intelligence even to its adversaries.

~Arundhati Roy

It was a time when the unthinkable became the thinkable and the impossible really happened

~Arundhati Roy

Many people have accused me of having a romantic view, whereas I personally I feel sorry for those who have lost romance in their lives.

~Arundhati Roy

Anything's possible in Human Nature ...Love. Madness. Hope. Infinite joy.

~Arundhati Roy

Literature is the opposite of a nuclear bomb.

~Arundhati Roy

What came for them? Not death. Just the end of living.

~Arundhati Roy

Excitement always leads to tears.

~Arundhati Roy

Acceptance spells death to a writer.

~Arundhati Roy

Sometimes I think the world is divided into those who have a comfortable relationship with power and those who have a naturally adversarial relationship with power.

~Arundhati Roy

It is true that success is the most boring thing, it is tinny and brittle, failure runs deeper. Success is dangerous. I have a very complicated

relationship with that word.

~Arundhati Roy

The American way of life is not sustainable. It doesn't acknowledge that there is a world beyond America.

~Arundhati Roy

Terrorism is the symptom, not the disease.

~Arundhati Roy

Change is one thing. Acceptance is another.

~Arundhati Roy

The mullahs of the Islamic world and the mullahs of the Hindu world and the mullahs of the Christian world are all on the same side. And we are against them all.

~Arundhati Roy

Is globalization about 'the eradication of world poverty,' or is it a mutant variety of colonialism, remote controlled and digitally operated?

~Arundhati Roy

The American people ought to know that it is not them, but their government's policies, that are so hated.

~Arundhati Roy

The way her body existed only where he touched her. The rest of her was smoke.

~Arundhati Roy

The world's 'freeest' country has the highest number in prison.

~Arundhati Roy

And the air was full of Thoughts and Things to Say. But at times like

these, only the Small Things are ever said. Big Things lurk unsaid inside.

~Arundhati Roy

Public support in the U.S. for the war against Iraq was founded on a multitiered edifice of falsehood and deceit, coordinated by the U.S. government and faithfully amplified by the corporate media.

~Arundhati Roy

To stay quiet is as political an act as speaking out.

~Arundhati Roy

Her grief grieved her. His devastated her.

~Arundhati Roy

That it really began in the days when the Love Laws were made. The laws that lay down who should be loved, and how. And how much.

~Arundhati Roy

Peace, Inc. is sometimes as worrying as War, Inc. It's a way of managing public anger. We're all being managed, and we don't even know it.

~Arundhati Roy

Your enemies are always manufactured to suit your purpose, right? How can you have a good enemy? You have to have an utterly evil enemy - and then the evilness has to progress.

~Arundhati Roy

He held her as though she was a gift. Given to him in love. Something still and small. Unbearably precious.

~Arundhati Roy

Money need not be our only reward.

~Arundhati Roy

Fiction is the most joyous, beautiful, sophisticated, wonderful thing in the world.

~Arundhati Roy

I am a Maoist sympathiser. I'm not a Maoist ideologue, because the communist movements in history have been just as destructive as capitalism.

~Arundhati Roy

Non-violence should be a tactic - not an ideology preached from the sidelines to victims of massive violence.

~Arundhati Roy

I don't want to be a victim. I don't want to disappear into the darkness.

~Arundhati Roy

People always loved best what they identified most with.

~Arundhati Roy

To call someone 'anti-American', indeed, to be anti-American, is not just racist, it's a failure of the imagination.

~Arundhati Roy

Of course, there's an alternative to terrorism: it's called justice.

~Arundhati Roy

And there it was again. Another religion turned against itself. Another edifice constructed by the human mind, decimated by human nature.

~Arundhati Roy

This was the trouble with families. Like invidious doctors, they knew just where it hurt.

~Arundhati Roy

The Congress has historically played covert communal politics in order to create what in India we call vote banks where you pit one community against another and so on in order to secure votes.

~Arundhati Roy

the truth is that it's far easier to make a bomb than to educate four hundred million people.

~Arundhati Roy

I never do anything because I'm a celebrity, as a rule. I do what I do as a citizen.

~Arundhati Roy

America is like some crazed, bewildered, rich giant bumbling around in a poor area with his pockets stuffed with money, and lots of weapons - just throwing stuff around.

~Arundhati Roy

If you want to control somebody, support them. Or marry them.

~Arundhati Roy

â€¦ he remained restrained and strangely composed. It was a composure born of extreme provocation. It stemmed from a lucidity that lies beyond rage.

~Arundhati Roy

India lives in several centuries at the same time.

~Arundhati Roy

There are things that you can't do - like writing letters to a part of yourself. To your feet or hair. Or heart.

~Arundhati Roy

The NGO-ization of politics threatens to turn resistance into a well-mannered, reasonable, salaried, 9-to-5 job. With a few perks thrown in. Real resistance has real consequences. And no salary.

~Arundhati Roy

I am completely a loner. In my head I want to feel I can be anywhere. There is a sort of recklessness that being a loner allows me.

~Arundhati Roy

Flat muscled and honey coloured. Sea secrets in his eyes. A silver raindrop in his ear.

~Arundhati Roy

By then Esthappen and Rahel had learned that the world had other ways of breaking men. They were already familiar with the smell. Sicksweet. Like old roses on a breeze.

~Arundhati Roy

India is still flinching from a cultural insult, still looking for its identity.

~Arundhati Roy

Non-violence is a piece of theatre. You need an audience. What can you do when you have no audience?

~Arundhati Roy

Sometimes the state and the constitution are more enlightened than society.

~Arundhati Roy

In a country like India, the British were only able to rule the country because it had completely co-opted the elite of the country, who did their work for them.

~Arundhati Roy

As Estha stirred the thick jam he thought Two Thoughts and the Two Thoughts he thought were these: a) Anything can happen to anyone. and b) It is best to be prepared.

~Arundhati Roy

There is a war that makes us adore our conquerors and despise ourselves.

~Arundhati Roy

Truly, there's no alternative to stupidity. Cretinism is the mother of fascism. I have no defence against it, really....

~Arundhati Roy

Ever since the Great Depression, we know that one of the key ways in which the US economy has stimulated growth is by manufacturing weapons and exporting war to other countries.

~Arundhati Roy

There's no division on my bookshelf between fiction and nonfiction. As far as I'm concerned, fiction is about the truth.

~Arundhati Roy

I am an artist and a writer, and I do think that one always places oneself in the picture to see where one fits.

~Arundhati Roy

In India, whichever language you write in, the possibility of people not understanding irony or not understanding [remains there]. This as a writer is most terrifying!

~Arundhati Roy

She wore flowers in her hair and carried magic secrets in her eyes. She spoke to no one. She spent hours on the riverbank. She smoked cigarettes and had midnight swims.

~Arundhati Roy

In India, the poverty is so vast that the state cannot control it. It can beat people, but it can't prevent the poor from flooding the roads, the cities, the parks and railway station platforms.

~Arundhati Roy

The revolution cannot be funded. It's not the imagination of trusts and foundations that's going to bring real change.

~Arundhati Roy

Snowden is the thoughtful, courageous saint of liberal reform. And Julian Assange is a sort of radical, feral prophet who has been prowling this wilderness since he was 16 years old.

~Arundhati Roy

I stand by what I write and follow through on what I write.

~Arundhati Roy

As I keep saying, fiction is truth. I think fiction is the truest thing there ever was.

~Arundhati Roy

corporate globalization is being relentlessly and arbitrarily imposed on an essentially feudal society, tearing through its complex, tiered social fabric, ripping it apart culturally and economically.

~Arundhati Roy

One beach-colored. One brown. One Loved. One Loved a Little Less.

~Arundhati Roy

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