

Benjamin Tucker

Quotes

*Men, Liberty, Government, Anarchy, Mean, Names, War, May, Anarchist,
Justice, School, Evil, Two, Essence, Eugenics, Perfection, Tyrants, Law,
Wages, Voting*

If the individual has a right to govern himself, all external government is tyranny. Hence the necessity of abolishing the State.

~Benjamin Tucker

Anarchists are simply unterrified Jeffersonian Democrats.

~Benjamin Tucker

Aggression is simply another name for government.

~Benjamin Tucker

To force a man to pay for the violation of his own liberty is indeed an addition of insult to injury.

~Benjamin Tucker

The shortest way to change a radical into a conservative, a liberal into a tyrant, a man into a beast, is to give him power over his fellows.

~Benjamin Tucker

But which is the State's essential function, aggression or defence, few seem to know or care.

~Benjamin Tucker

The cost of justice can be justly paid only by the invader.

~Benjamin Tucker

The State is said by some to be a necessary evil; it must be made unnecessary.

~Benjamin Tucker

War and Authority are companions; Peace and Liberty are companions.

~Benjamin Tucker

Is not the very beginning of privilege, monopoly and industrial slavery

this erecting of the ballot-box above the individual?

~Benjamin Tucker

The Anarchists never have claimed that liberty will bring perfection; they simply say that its results are vastly preferable to those that follow authority.

~Benjamin Tucker

The moment that justice must be paid for by the victim of injustice it becomes itself injustice.

~Benjamin Tucker

The right of the majority is absolute.

~Benjamin Tucker

This, then, is the Anarchistic definition of government: the subjection of the non-invasive individual to an external will.

~Benjamin Tucker

The Anarchists are simply unterrified Jeffersonian Democrats. They believe that 'the best government is that which governs least,' and that which governs least is no government at all.

~Benjamin Tucker

The main question ... is not what motive inspired the law, but what it will be possible for men of bad motive to do with the law.

~Benjamin Tucker

Laissez Faire was very good sauce for the goose, labor, but was very poor sauce for the gander, capital.

~Benjamin Tucker

The essence of government is control, or the attempt to control.

~Benjamin Tucker

Therefore coercion of the non-invasive, when justifiable at all, is to be justified on the ground that it secures, not a minimum of 'invasion, but a minimum of pain.

~Benjamin Tucker

[T]he State . . . gives idle capital the power of increase, and, through interest, rent, profit, and taxes, robs industrious labor of its products.

~Benjamin Tucker

First, then, State Socialism, which may be described as the doctrine that all the affairs of men should be managed by the government, regardless of individual choice.

~Benjamin Tucker

Capitalism is at least tolerable, which cannot be said of Socialism or Communism

~Benjamin Tucker

If I can go through life free and rich, I shall not cry because my neighbor, equally free, is richer. Liberty will ultimately make all men rich; it will not make all men equally rich.

~Benjamin Tucker

Such security is equal liberty. But it is not necessarily equality in the use of the earth.

~Benjamin Tucker

The exercise of authority over the same area by two States is a contradiction.

~Benjamin Tucker

And capital punishment, however ineffective it may be and through whatever ignorance it may be resorted to, is a strictly defensive act, - at least in theory.

~Benjamin Tucker

Socialism, on the contrary, extends its function to the description of society as it should be, and the discovery of the means of making it what it should be.

~Benjamin Tucker

We are here to let in the light of Liberty upon political superstition.

~Benjamin Tucker

For, just as it has been said that there is no half-way house between Rome and Reason, so it may be said that there is no half-way house between State Socialism and Anarchism.

~Benjamin Tucker

Commanded love of all men indiscriminately is an obliteration of distinction between love and hate, and therefore is not love at all.

~Benjamin Tucker

It is foolish in the extreme not only to resort to force before necessity compels, but especially to madly create the conditions that will lead to this necessity.

~Benjamin Tucker

Monopoly and privilege must be destroyed, opportunity afforded, and competition encouraged. This is Liberty's work, and Down with Authority her war-cry.

~Benjamin Tucker

The government is a tyrant living by theft, and therefore has no business to engage in any business.

~Benjamin Tucker

An Anarchist is anyone who denies the necessity and legitimacy of

government; the question of his methods of attacking it is foreign to the definition.

~Benjamin Tucker

Government is the assumption of authority over a given area and all within it, exercised generally for the double purpose of more complete oppression of its subjects and extension of its boundaries.

~Benjamin Tucker

We are here, on earth. Not one of us has any right to the earth.

~Benjamin Tucker

The student of Liberty must constantly endeavor to disassociate his imagination from sanguinary dramas of assassination and revolt.

~Benjamin Tucker

Murder is an offensive act. The term cannot be applied legitimately to any defensive act.

~Benjamin Tucker

Thus, the same blow that strikes interest down will send wages up.

~Benjamin Tucker

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