

# C. L. R. James

## Quotes

*Struggle, Government, War, World, People, Country, Social, Running, Long,  
Party, Profound, Slave, Firsts, Lasts, Movement, Men, Class, Revolution,  
Bleeding, Leadership*

In the last quarter of the eighteenth century bourgeois Europe needed to emancipate itself from that combination of feudalism and commercial capitalism which we know as mercantilism.

~C. L. R. James

The rich are only defeated when running for their lives.

~C. L. R. James

When history is written as it ought to be written, it is the moderation and long patience of the masses at which men will wonder, not their ferocity.

~C. L. R. James

If you are not their slaves, you are rebels.

~C. L. R. James

It is in revolutionary periods that the culmination of previous trends and the beginning of new ones appear.

~C. L. R. James

The home stands in contrast to all other capitalist institutions as the last stronghold of pre-capitalist isolation.

~C. L. R. James

The patience and forbearance of the poor are among the strongest bulwarks of the rich.

~C. L. R. James

All the world has been converted and Washington is the modern Mecca.

~C. L. R. James

Today, in American imperialism, the commodity has reached its most grandiose historical manifestation.

~C. L. R. James

As the class struggle sharpens in the U.S. Marxism will come into its own as a great popular study.

~C. L. R. James

The international proletariat first appeared on the scene in the early Thirties of the nineteenth century, and its first great action was the French Revolution of 1848.

~C. L. R. James

I was a Labour Party man but I found myself to the left of the Labour party in Nelson, militant as that was. I came to London and in a few months I was a Trotskyist.

~C. L. R. James

Dissimulation is the refuge of the slave.

~C. L. R. James

All peoples are entangled in the net of the world market.

~C. L. R. James

I had formed a black movement, so I would speak for the Trotskyist movement and then walk about a hundred yards to where the black movement was speaking.

~C. L. R. James

The most striking development of the great depression of 1929 is a profound skepticism of the future of contemporary society among large sections of the American people.

~C. L. R. James

Capitalism has socialized production. It has brought thousands of people together in the factory and involved them in new social

relationships.

~C. L. R. James

The Paris Commune was first and foremost a democracy. The government was a body elected by universal suffrage.

~C. L. R. James

The late development of mass industrial organization in the United States has both stimulated and retarded the political development of the American working class.

~C. L. R. James

It is not only that Germany has been defeated in the war, Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany was defeated.

~C. L. R. James

One of the surest signs of the estimated changes in the consciousness of the American proletariat is to be found in the character of the demands now being put forward by the leadership.

~C. L. R. James

My father was a teacher, and there were teachers all around, his friends, they were working for the Government and their behaviour was within strictly limited areas.

~C. L. R. James

The country has undergone a profound social upheaval, the greatest the proletariat has ever known.

~C. L. R. James

I had a national and international reputation. I had written the history and articles. So I brought to the Trotskyist movement some international reputation.

~C. L. R. James

After World War I the resentment of the working class against all that it had to suffer was directed more against Morgan, Wall Street and private capital than the government.

~C. L. R. James

Technological discoveries are the spermatozoa of social change.

~C. L. R. James

I must say the idea of a United Africa was nonsense.

~C. L. R. James

An army is a miniature of the society which produces it.

~C. L. R. James

First of all, Bolshevism represents revolution and the revolutionary struggle.

~C. L. R. James

Cricket is first and foremost a dramatic spectacle. It belongs with theatre, ballet, opera and the dance.

~C. L. R. James

There can be raw pain and bleeding where so many thousands see the inevitable ups and downs of only a game.

~C. L. R. James

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