

Charles de Gaulle

Quotes

*Men, Country, France, Leadership, Character, Inspirational, War, Politics,
Funny, Military, Greatness, Thinking, History, Government, Political, People,
Destiny, Witty, Judging, Strong*

Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first.

~Charles de Gaulle

How can anyone govern a nation that has two hundred and forty-six different kinds of cheese?

~Charles de Gaulle

Always choose the hardest way, on it you will not find opponents

~Charles de Gaulle

I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.

~Charles de Gaulle

Silence is the ultimate weapon of power.

~Charles de Gaulle

In politics it is necessary either to betray one's country or the electorate. I prefer to betray the electorate.

~Charles de Gaulle

Deliberation is the work of many men. Action, of one alone.

~Charles de Gaulle

The graveyards are full of indispensable men.

~Charles de Gaulle

He who laughs last didn't get the joke.

~Charles de Gaulle

You have to be fast on your feet and adaptive or else a strategy is useless.

~Charles de Gaulle

Belgium is a country invented by the British to annoy the French.

~Charles de Gaulle

When I am right, I get angry. Churchill gets angry when he is wrong. We are angry at each other much of the time.

~Charles de Gaulle

History does not teach fatalism. There are moments when the will of a handful of free men breaks through determinism and opens up new roads.

~Charles de Gaulle

We may go to the moon, but that's not very far. The greatest distance we have to cover still lies within us.

~Charles de Gaulle

You may be sure that the Americans will commit all the stupidities they can think of, plus some that are beyond imagination.

~Charles de Gaulle

No, I'm not talking about the Russians; I mean the Germans. In spite of everything, to have pushed so far!

~Charles de Gaulle

It will not be any European statesman who will unite Europe: Europe will be united by the Chinese.

~Charles de Gaulle

Nothing great will ever be achieved without great men, and men are great only if they are determined to be so.

~Charles de Gaulle

I have tried to lift France out of the mud. But she will return to her errors and vomitings. I cannot prevent the French from being French.

~Charles de Gaulle

Long live free Quebec!

~Charles de Gaulle

Faced with crisis, the man of character falls back upon himself.

~Charles de Gaulle

At the root of our civilization, there is the freedom of each person of thought, of belief, of opinion, of work, of leisure.

~Charles de Gaulle

A true leader always keeps an element of surprise up his sleeve, which others cannot grasp but which keeps his public excited and breathless.

~Charles de Gaulle

The better I get to know men, the more I find myself loving dogs.

~Charles de Gaulle

When I want to know what France thinks, I ask myself.

~Charles de Gaulle

One must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day was; one cannot judge life until death.

~Charles de Gaulle

The future does not belong to men.

~Charles de Gaulle

In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant.

~Charles de Gaulle

Treaties are like roses and young girls. They last while they last.

~Charles de Gaulle

Character is the virtue of hard times.

~Charles de Gaulle

France has no friends, only interests.

~Charles de Gaulle

I have heard your views. They do not harmonize with mine. The decision is taken unanimously.

~Charles de Gaulle

It is not tolerable, it is not possible, that from so much death, so much sacrifice and ruin, so much heroism, a greater and better humanity shall not emerge.

~Charles de Gaulle

You'll live. Only the best get killed.

~Charles de Gaulle

France cannot be France without greatness.

~Charles de Gaulle

The leader must aim high, see big, judge widely, thus setting himself apart from the ordinary people who debate in narrow confines.

~Charles de Gaulle

A man of character finds a special attractiveness in difficulty, since it is only by coming to grips with difficulty that he can realize his potentialities.

~Charles de Gaulle

Don't think of yourself as indispensable or infallible. The cemeteries of the world are full of indispensable men.

~Charles de Gaulle

Faced with crisis, the man of character falls back on himself. He imposes his own stamp of action, takes responsibility for it, makes it his own.

~Charles de Gaulle

You start out giving your hat, then you give your coat, then your shirt, then your skin and finally your soul.

~Charles de Gaulle

Politics, when it is an art and a service, not an exploitation, is about acting for an ideal through realities.

~Charles de Gaulle

Only by coming to grips with difficulty can you realize your full potential.

~Charles de Gaulle

Since a politician never believes what he says, he is quite surprised to be taken at his word.

~Charles de Gaulle

No country without an atom bomb could properly consider itself independent.

~Charles de Gaulle

The Jews remain what they have been at all times: an elite people, self-confident and domineering.

~Charles de Gaulle

The leader is always alone before bad fates.

~Charles de Gaulle

Gentlemen, I am ready for the questions to my answers.

~Charles de Gaulle

I respect only those who resist me, but I cannot tolerate them.

~Charles de Gaulle

The perfection preached in the gospels never yet built an empire. Every man of action has a strong dose of egotism, pride, hardness, and cunning.

~Charles de Gaulle

In the tumult of men and events, solitude was my temptation; now it is my friend. What other satisfaction can be sought once you have confronted History?

~Charles de Gaulle

There can be no prestige without mystery, for familiarity breeds contempt.

~Charles de Gaulle

Don't ask me who's influenced me. A lion is made up of the lambs he's digested, and I've been reading all my life.

~Charles de Gaulle

Difficulty attracts the man of character because it is in embracing it that he realizes himself

~Charles de Gaulle

To govern is always to choose among disadvantages.

~Charles de Gaulle

Adversity attracts the man of character. He seeks out the bitter joy of responsibility.

~Charles de Gaulle

Greatness is a road leading towards the unknown.

~Charles de Gaulle

China is a big country, inhabited by many Chinese.

~Charles de Gaulle

Yes, it is Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, it is Europe, it is the whole of Europe, that will decide the fate of the world.

~Charles de Gaulle

Authority doesn't work without prestige, or prestige without distance.

~Charles de Gaulle

Betting against gold is the same as betting on governments. He who bets on governments and government money bets against 6,000 years of recorded human history.

~Charles de Gaulle

Genius sometimes consists of knowing when to stop.

~Charles de Gaulle

Never relinquish the initiative.

~Charles de Gaulle

I myself have become a Gaullist only little by little.

~Charles de Gaulle

For glory gives herself only to those who have always dreamed of her.

~Charles de Gaulle

I am a man who belongs to no-one and who belongs to everyone.

~Charles de Gaulle

Old France, weighed down with history, prostrated by wars and revolutions, endlessly vacillating from greatness to decline, but revived, century after century, by the genius of renewal!

~Charles de Gaulle

Whereas ordinary officers must be content with behaving correctly in front of their men, the great leaders have always carefully stage-managed their effects.

~Charles de Gaulle

How can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?

~Charles de Gaulle

The desire of privilege and the taste of equality are the dominant and contradictory passions of the French of all times.

~Charles de Gaulle

I always thought I was Jeanne d'Arc and Bonaparte. How little one knows oneself.

~Charles de Gaulle

Victory often goes to the army that makes the least mistakes, not the most brilliant plans.

~Charles de Gaulle

I cannot prevent the French from being French

~Charles de Gaulle

Old age is a shipwreck.

~Charles de Gaulle

I grew up to always respect authority and respect those in charge.

~Charles de Gaulle

France was built with swords. The fleur-de-lis, symbol of national unity, is only the image of a spear with three pikes.

~Charles de Gaulle

What do you take me for, an idiot?

~Charles de Gaulle

Nothing builds authority up like silence, splendor of the strong and shelter of the weak.

~Charles de Gaulle

For all of us Frenchmen, the guiding rule of our epoch is to be faithful to France.

~Charles de Gaulle

Deliberation is a function of the many; action is the function of one.

~Charles de Gaulle

Hearing Mass is the ceremony I most favor during my travels. Church is the only place where someone speaks to me and I do not have to answer back.

~Charles de Gaulle

Men are of no importance. What counts is who commands.

~Charles de Gaulle

I have against me the bourgeois, the military and the diplomats, and for me, only the people who take the MÃ©tro.

~Charles de Gaulle

I'm not at all embarrassed to be a revolutionary.

~Charles de Gaulle

Men can have friends, statesmen cannot.

~Charles de Gaulle

Whatever happens, the flame of the French resistance must not be extinguished and will not be extinguished. Tomorrow, as today, I will speak on Radio London.

~Charles de Gaulle

I predict you will sink step by step into a bottomless quagmire, however much you spend in men and money." (On Vietnam War)

~Charles de Gaulle

Diplomats are useful only in fair weather. As soon as it rains they drown in every drop.

~Charles de Gaulle

Only peril can bring the French together. One can't impose unity out of the blue on a country that has 265 different kinds of cheese.

~Charles de Gaulle

Every Frenchman wants to enjoy one or more privileges; that's the way he shows his passion for equality

~Charles de Gaulle

Love is the strongest force the world possesses, and yet it is the Greatness is a road leading towards the unknown.

~Charles de Gaulle

Why do you think that at 67 I would start a career as a dictator?

~Charles de Gaulle

The cabinet has no propositions to make, but orders to give.

~Charles de Gaulle

A great country worthy of the name does not have any friends.

~Charles de Gaulle

The evolution toward Communism is inevitable.

~Charles de Gaulle

Once upon a time there was an old country, wrapped up in habit and caution. We have to transform our old France into a new country and marry it to its time.

~Charles de Gaulle

France has lost the battle but she has not lost the war.

~Charles de Gaulle

No policy is worth anything outside of reality.

~Charles de Gaulle

I feel not a person but an instrument of destiny.

~Charles de Gaulle

I might have had trouble saving France in 1946 - I didn't have television then.

~Charles de Gaulle

How can one conceive of a one-party system in a country that has over two hundred varieties of cheese?

~Charles de Gaulle

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