

# Colin Powell Quotes

*People, Thinking, Military, Leader, War, Country, Iraq, Organization,  
Leadership, Government, Moving, Mass Destruction, Jobs, United States, Army,  
Mean, Inspirational, Weapons, Decision, Men*

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

~Colin Powell

A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.

~Colin Powell

Pissing people off doesn't mean you're doing the right things, but doing the right things will almost inevitably piss people off.

~Colin Powell

None of us can change our yesterdays but all of us can change our tomorrows.

~Colin Powell

If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.

~Colin Powell

Effective leaders are made, not born. They learn from trial and error, and from experience.

~Colin Powell

The most important thing I learned is that soldiers watch what their leaders do. You can give them classes and lecture them forever, but it is your personal example they will follow.

~Colin Powell

Respect for leaders by followers can't be mandated; it must be earned. It has to be given to leaders by their followers.

~Colin Powell

Get mad, then get over it.

~Colin Powell

Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off.

~Colin Powell

Surround yourself with people who take their work seriously, but not themselves, those who work hard and play hard.

~Colin Powell

A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses.

~Colin Powell

Always be looking for that which you do well and that which you love doing, and when you find those two things together â€” man, you got it.

~Colin Powell

Don't be afraid to challenge the pros, even in their own backyard.

~Colin Powell

One of the greatest talents of all is the talent to recognize and to develop talent in others.

~Colin Powell

If it ain't broke, don't fix it' is the slogan of the complacent, the arrogant or the scared. It's an excuse for inaction, a call to non-arms.

~Colin Powell

Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers.

~Colin Powell

I think whether you're having setbacks or not, the role of a leader is to always display a winning attitude.

~Colin Powell

The healthiest competition occurs when average people win by putting above average effort.

~Colin Powell

Politics is not bean bags. It's serious, tough stuff.

~Colin Powell

If a leader doesn't convey passion and intensity then there will be no passion and intensity within the organization and they'll start to fall down and get depressed.

~Colin Powell

Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

~Colin Powell

The only bipartisanship you ever see is when they finally sign a bill and everybody says, 'Gee, isn't that wonderful?'

~Colin Powell

You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours.

~Colin Powell

Always show more kindness than seems necessary, because the person receiving it needs it more than you will ever know.

~Colin Powell

We know that Saddam Hussein is determined to keep his weapons of mass destruction, is determined to make more.

~Colin Powell

The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have

stopped leading them.

~Colin Powell

Don't let your ego get too close to your position, so that if your position gets shot down, your ego doesn't go with it.

~Colin Powell

Leadership is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible.

~Colin Powell

You know you're a good leader when people follow you out of curiosity.

~Colin Powell

As a leader you set the tone for your entire team. Communicate your vision.

~Colin Powell

Maybe we don't put our young people in situations often enough where they're allowed to fail. When you fail you gain experience, and with enough experience, you don't fail as often.

~Colin Powell

Don't just count your days, make your days count.

~Colin Powell

The essence of leadership is building bonds of trust in your organization.

~Colin Powell

I don't want to spend the rest of my life giving speeches.

~Colin Powell

Every organization should tolerate rebels who tell the emperor he has

no clothes

~Colin Powell

Trust is the essence of Leadership.

~Colin Powell

Be careful what you choose: You may get it.

~Colin Powell

Trying to get everyone to like you is a sign of mediocrity.

~Colin Powell

Always focus on the front windshield and not the review mirror.

~Colin Powell

Leaders honor their core values, but they are flexible in how they execute them.

~Colin Powell

Always do your best. Somebody is watching you.

~Colin Powell

Foe means enemy. Now, will we have differences of opinion with the Russians? Yes. Will they get mad at us from time to time, and we get mad at them? That's part of the normal diplomatic relations.

~Colin Powell

The freedom to do your best means nothing unless you are willing to do your best.

~Colin Powell

Never neglect details. When everyone's mind is dulled or distracted the leader must be doubly vigilant.

~Colin Powell

Endeavors succeed or fail because of the people involved.

~Colin Powell

I was born in Harlem, raised in the South Bronx, went to public school, got out of public college, went into the Army, and then I just stuck with it.

~Colin Powell

Today I can declare my hope and declare it from the bottom of my heart that we will eventually see the time when that number of nuclear weapons is down to zero and the world is a much better place.

~Colin Powell

Good leaders must know how to reward those who succeed and know when to retrain, move, or fire ineffective staff.

~Colin Powell

Some of the generals are saying, 'We're making progress. We are clearing an area.' But you really don't defeat the Taliban by clearing an area. They move.

~Colin Powell

Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude

~Colin Powell

If you get the dirty end of the stick, sharpen it and turn it into a useful tool.

~Colin Powell

Fit no stereotypes. Don't chase the latest management fads. The situation dictates which approach best accomplishes the team's mission.

~Colin Powell

You can be sure that the American spirit will prevail over this tragedy.

~Colin Powell

We can seldom get our children to do what we tell them, but they almost never fail to imitate us.

~Colin Powell

Don't bother people for help without first trying to solve the problem yourself.

~Colin Powell

Experts often possess more data than judgment.

~Colin Powell

What could be more important than equipping the next generation with the character and competence they need to become successful

~Colin Powell

Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.

~Colin Powell

All values are important, everyone who has ever touched my life in some way was a mentor for good or bad. Life is a blend, and a person is a blend of all the influences that have touched their lives.

~Colin Powell

The commander in the field is always right and the rear echelon is wrong, unless proved otherwise.

~Colin Powell

Bad news isn't wine. It doesn't improve with age.

~Colin Powell

Policies that emanate from ivory towers often have an adverse impact



on the people out in the field who are fighting the wars or bringing in the revenues.

~Colin Powell

It is not the role of the United States to dictate change, but to enter into discussions with our friends.

~Colin Powell

When you wrestle with a pig, he has fun, and you just end up dirty.

~Colin Powell

The best method of overcoming obstacles is the team method

~Colin Powell

We view Egypt as a good friend of America. We are in constant touch with them. We provide them economic and military assistance as part of our relationship.

~Colin Powell

It ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.

~Colin Powell

Keep looking below surface appearances. Don't shrink from doing so just because you might not like what you find.

~Colin Powell

Preferring members of any one group for no reason other than race or ethnic origin is discrimination for its own sake. This the Constitution forbids.

~Colin Powell

It is good if your enemy underestimates you. The dumber they think you are the more surprised they are when you kill them.

~Colin Powell

Ladies and gentlemen, these are not assertions. These are facts, corroborated by many sources, some of them sources of the intelligence services of other countries.

~Colin Powell

The chief condition on which, life, health and vigor depend on, is action. It is by action that an organism develops its faculties, increases its energy, and attains the fulfillment of its destiny.

~Colin Powell

Leaders have followers. The primary role of a leader is to convey to those followers a sense of purpose, vision, and mission.

~Colin Powell

Luck tends to come to people who are prepared.

~Colin Powell

Free speech is intended to protect the controversial and even outrageous word; and not just comforting platitudes too mundane to need protection.

~Colin Powell

Let's not forget that Congress bears a lot of responsibility for many of the problems we have now

~Colin Powell

Trust is the glue that holds an org together & the lubricant that moves it forward.

~Colin Powell

An organization that is not facing up to people who are not getting the job done, is going to have difficulties.

~Colin Powell

The root cause of poverty is social injustice and the bad government that abets it

~Colin Powell

We are not trapped in what the science of management says we can do. We are capable of doing what the art of leadership says is possible.

~Colin Powell

It takes more courage to send men into battle than to fight the battle yourself.

~Colin Powell

If everybody trusts one another, then the person who didn't prevail will faithfully execute the decision as if it was their idea.

~Colin Powell

You should never be so involved with your position/job that when the position is gone your entire self image is gone with it.

~Colin Powell

The media only report stupid or careless answers, not stupid or unfair questions.

~Colin Powell

First you train the followers to accomplish the mission. Second, you resource them: Make sure that they have the tools to do the job. Third, you reward them: You give them medals or bonuses.

~Colin Powell

No war on the face of the Earth is more destructive than the AIDS pandemic.

~Colin Powell

Is there something wrong with being a Muslim in this country? The answer is "no." That's not America.

~Colin Powell

There is only one China. Taiwan is not independent. It does not enjoy sovereignty as a nation.

~Colin Powell

We need to understand that we as citizens and as a government in any community throughout this country have no more important obligation than to educate those who are going to replace us.

~Colin Powell

It is the job of leaders to eliminate uncertainty.

~Colin Powell

My responsibility, our responsibility as lucky Americans, is to try to give back to this country as much as it has given us, as we continue our American journey together.

~Colin Powell

One of the fondest expressions around is that we can't be the world's policeman. But guess who gets called when suddenly someone needs a cop.

~Colin Powell

There is no such thing as an unimportant person in an organization.

~Colin Powell

I have never seen a good organization where the standards weren't high.

~Colin Powell

It's not just a matter of whether you support Obama or Romney. It's

who they have coming with them. I always keep my powder dry, as they say in the military.

~Colin Powell

Have fun in your command. Don't always run at a breakneck pace. Take leave when you've earned it, spend time with your families.

~Colin Powell

The greatest gifts my parents gave to me...were their unconditional love and a set of values.

~Colin Powell

Giving back involves a certain amount of giving up.

~Colin Powell

Being in charge sometimes means making people mad. Some days you have to overrule even the best advice, because you think it is not right.

~Colin Powell

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