

David Brooks

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Country, School, Party, President, Two, Trump, Self, Order,
Ideas, Republican, Want, Government, Views, Running, Giving, Way, Issues,
America*

Almost every successful person begins with two beliefs: the future can be better than the present, and I have the power to make it so.

~David Brooks

Much of life is about failure, whether we acknowledge it or not, and your destiny is profoundly shaped by how effectively you learn from and adapt to failure.

~David Brooks

One of the things this world is finding is that emotion is the basis of reason. We really have to trust our emotions, which are much smarter than our reason in some ways.

~David Brooks

The brain is not the mind. It is probably impossible to look at a map of brain activity and predict or even understand the emotions, reactions, hopes and desires of the mind.

~David Brooks

Civility is the natural state for people who know how limited their own individual powers are and know, too, that they need the conversation.

~David Brooks

It's only useful to ask, what wisdom have you learned from your misjudgments that will help you going forward?

~David Brooks

It is especially painful when narcissists suffer memory loss because they are losing parts of the person they love most.

~David Brooks

The daily activity that contributes most to happiness is having dinner with friends. The daily activity that detracts most from happiness is commuting. Eat more. Commute less.

~David Brooks

Our emotions tell us what to value. They're like a little GPS system: Go that way. Don't go that way.

~David Brooks

Friendship allows you to see your own life but with a second sympathetic self.

~David Brooks

Populists hate journalists, they hate teachers, they hate lawyers, but they tend to like rich people. There's something deeply consistent.

~David Brooks

To explain the unknown by the known is a logical procedure; to explain the known by the unknown is a form of theological lunacy.

~David Brooks

Marital happiness is far more important than anything else in determining personal well-being.

~David Brooks

America is not just a democracy, it represents a certain culture of competitive mobility and personality aspirations, politics is not merely a clash of interests, but a clash of dreams.

~David Brooks

Things that change history tend to be organized.

~David Brooks

Creativity is not a solitary process. It happens within networks... when talented people get together, when idea systems and mentalities merge.

~David Brooks

Palin is smart, politically skilled, courageous and likable. Her convention and debate performances were impressive.

~David Brooks

... trash talk ... Washington floats on a river of aspersion.

~David Brooks

Empathy makes you more aware of other people's suffering, but it's not clear it actually motivates you to take moral action or prevents you from taking immoral action.

~David Brooks

Jim Stavridis is the former NATO commander who is sometimes on people's lists, also very plausible, self-possessed, someone with sobriety.

~David Brooks

The policies of the Democratic Party have always been in cultural consonance with the culture of the working class. And, somehow, they missed that.

~David Brooks

I am not a Jew for Jesus but I am definitely a Jew for Christmas. Christmas is one of the best things you Christians have given us, along with mac and cheese, Bono, croquet and politeness.

~David Brooks

You have to have a plan, or else you're just creating a recipe for chaos.

~David Brooks

Through American history, we have had populist movements that often, often, often have this ugly racial element. But, often, there are warning signs of some deeper social and economic problem.

~David Brooks

The crossroads where government meets enterprise can be an exciting crossroads. It can also be a corrupt crossroads. It requires moral rectitude to separate public service from private gain.

~David Brooks

Memo to young journalists: Democratic victories are always ascribed to hope; Republican ones to rage.

~David Brooks

Donald Trump is so egregious in the way he talks about women, the way he allegedly treated women.

~David Brooks

The effectiveness of a group of people is not determined by their IQ but by how well they communicate.

~David Brooks

We are primarily the products of thinking that happens below the level of awareness.

~David Brooks

Donald Trump just needs the ego fed all the time.

~David Brooks

The prevailing view is that geniuses are largely built, not born.

~David Brooks

We are a democratic, egalitarian people who spend our days desperately trying to climb over each other.

~David Brooks

The rich don't exploit the poor, they just out-compete them.

~David Brooks

The legitimacy of a war is not established by how it is organized but by what it achieves.

~David Brooks

People want a reality that tells them they're right all of the time.

~David Brooks

People generally overestimate how distinct their lives are, so the commonalities seemed to them like a series of miracles.

~David Brooks

There is a virtue in shamelessness.

~David Brooks

It's hard to imagine a party that is not corrupted by hatred.

~David Brooks

Plunder is morally wrong. It ruins your credibility.

~David Brooks

Learning was a by-product of her search for pleasure

~David Brooks

Freedom without structure is its own slavery.

~David Brooks

Courage is the most important virtue because it is the hardest.

~David Brooks

I expect [Donald] Trump to do what he's done very successfully, which is, whether you like him or not, he will be the dominant player .

~David Brooks

You have got to be loyal to people beneath you.

~David Brooks

Live life as a series of revelations

~David Brooks

People want reality that tells them how right they are all the time.

~David Brooks

I wouldn't say philosophy and theology are dead. Brain science doesn't invent new philosophies but it helps remind us which of our existing philosophies are more true.

~David Brooks

It's a completely irrational decision to drop out of school.

~David Brooks

Those cultural wars, Sexual Revolution issues are fading from the scene, and the coming generation has basically settled them.

~David Brooks

If we're in some sort of Hobbesian state of nature, where you just want a strong man who has no compassion Donald Trump is going to do a little better. So, we will figure out what game we're playing.

~David Brooks

It's not that Egypt doesn't have a recipe for a democratic transition. It seems to lack even the basic mental ingredients.

~David Brooks

We have the choice to choose how we're going to educate our emotions.

~David Brooks

Hillary Clinton is still - she's such a private person.

~David Brooks

The more people doubt their own beliefs the more, paradoxically, they are inclined to proselytize in favor of them.

~David Brooks

I think Mitch Daniels, the former governor of Indiana was a case of that, who was an outstanding administrator.

~David Brooks

What family you were born into matters so much more than it did before in a perverse way.

~David Brooks

I really think of [Donald] Trump erratic. I think that was the big message that came out. The positive agenda for Hillary [Clinton] was a little less vibrant.

~David Brooks

For the Republican Convention, I think of Trump's speech and sort of the darkness, the fear of crime, the need for a strong arm really, and so that one core theme.

~David Brooks

Decision-making power, whether it's on foreign affairs or domestic affairs, is concentrated in the White House in a reasonably small circle.

~David Brooks

If you just rely on one model, you tend to amputate reality to make it fit your model.

~David Brooks

It's rare in an administration for a secretary of state and a secretary of

defense to get along really well.

~David Brooks

If you go in a confirmation process, you're going to be asked about the embarrassing or stupid things you said. You should have a view.

~David Brooks

The idea that a big country is going to go out and send troops into some country to take their resources, and then the rest of the world is going to somehow trust us is just a ridiculous notion.

~David Brooks

Donald Trump appalls me. I won't be shy about that.

~David Brooks

I've observed a few things about the few really great people I've had a chance to meet and cover...They need to be around people. You and I require sleep. They require people.

~David Brooks

Maybe you're willing to tolerate a lot of bigotry from Donald Trump if you say, just change things, just change things.

~David Brooks

I'm of course nostalgic for Barack Obama all of a sudden.

~David Brooks

I think Donald Trump is going to find it very hard to do the kind of massive change he wants.

~David Brooks

Emotion is the foundation of reason.

~David Brooks

I do think Donald Trump is a fundamentally unstabilizing force and that the people who swore to uphold the Constitution are going to have to take some measures at some point.

~David Brooks

Two terrible behaviors don't make a good behavior.

~David Brooks

You figure out, what is the crucial issue facing the country right now? And for Trump, it was that the global economy and the international world order were failing regular people.

~David Brooks

The question is whether Donald Trump recognizes that Vladimir Putin is a bad guy. And I guess there's no indication that he regards Putin as in any way a bad guy.

~David Brooks

Often, I go and see films where I can see the beats coming. So, if I read something where I don't see the beats coming and it takes me somewhere unexpected, that's a great thing to build upon.

~David Brooks

Would [Betsy DeVos] be my first pick? No. Is she someone who has dedicated her life to education policy? Yes, actually, she has.

~David Brooks

The brain writes the autobiography of our species at the conscious level.

~David Brooks

People ask, quite legitimately, why [Betsy] DeVos and why not a lot of the others? But it's because it has to do with the special interest groups that run a lot of Washington.

~David Brooks

My colleague Ross Douthat wrote that any time you give Donald Trump the benefit of the doubt, he always lets you down.

~David Brooks

Jeff Sessions has some problematic spots on his history, but he has been a pretty normal, respectable senator, more conservative than a lot of us, but a respectable senator for a long period of time.

~David Brooks

Politics really is a team sport. You really have to work the whole system to get somewhere down the road.

~David Brooks

Parties that are majority parties are incoherent parties.

~David Brooks

The moral foundation of the society, the way we interact with each other is more fundamental than the Supreme Court.

~David Brooks

Clearly, politics is a team sport. Trump is not so much of a team player.

~David Brooks

It's very hard to find an evangelical person under 45, let alone on some of the Christian college campuses, who has any tolerance for Donald Trump.

~David Brooks

Basically, less educated or high school-educated whites are going to Donald Trump. It doesn't matter what the guy does. And college-educated going to Hillary Clinton.

~David Brooks

Everyone is dividing based on demographic categories.

~David Brooks

I sort of feel we have to owe some respect to the process and owe some respect to the electorate and the people who voted Donald Trump, on the assumption that they have something to teach us.

~David Brooks

Hillary Clinton continues to say Donald Trump's unacceptable, he doesn't have the character to be president. He is saying - continues saying she needs to be in prison.

~David Brooks

People who don't like Trump really don't like Trump. And I guess I'm among them.

~David Brooks

I do think Hillary Clinton should have pivoted and say, I am change, I am change, because people do want some change.

~David Brooks

America has an important role to play as the world leader in creating a global order, free trade, free waterways, free commerce, free movement of people. That happens because of U.S. military might.

~David Brooks

I think globalization has been really good for America.

~David Brooks

For us going forward, it's to not reverse the dynamism of American society and the diversity. It's to pay attention to the people who are being ruined by it, and so this doesn't happen again.

~David Brooks

Donald Trump's world view is that it's a dangerous, miserable place, people are out to get him, and he needs to strike them first.

~David Brooks

We actually have to have a government. We have to have people confirmed and put into office.

~David Brooks

The three people who are most often talked about with Hillary Clinton, whether it's Tim Kaine or Vilsack or Cory Booker, they are three extremely nice people.

~David Brooks

If you thought Donald Trump was going to be swallowed up by the conventional Republican Party or by Washington, you were wrong.

~David Brooks

Donald Trump's being authentic to what he ran on and what got elected.

~David Brooks

I do think British and American politics rhyme. They go in cycles. They go in Thatcher-Reagan cycles, Blair-Clinton cycles.

~David Brooks

Trade agreements are a net benefit for the world, and a net benefit for our foreign policy, and in the long run, given the dislocations, are a net benefit for us, too.

~David Brooks

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