

Doris Kearns Goodwin Quotes

*Thinking, People, Country, Book, War, Writing, President, Dream, Important,
Leadership, Research, School, Past, Strong, Enemy, Kids, Kings, Ambition,
New Experiences, Giving*

Good leadership requires you to surround yourself with people of diverse perspectives who can disagree with you without fear of retaliation.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

The past is not simply the past, but a prism through which the subject filters his own changing self-image.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Once a president gets to the White House, the only audience that is left that really matters is history.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

As a historian, what I trust is my ability to take a mass of information and tell a story shaped around it.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

That is what leadership is all about: staking your ground ahead of where opinion is and convincing people, not simply following the popular opinion of the moment.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Go ahead, and fear not. You will have a full library at your service.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Better to have your enemies inside your tent pissing out, then to have them outside your tent pissing in.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

I still think about that one Jamiroquai video a lot.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Excitement about things became a habit, a part of my personality, and the expectation that I should enjoy new experiences often engendered

the enjoyment itself.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Whatever it is that you do, if you have that passion and desire for it, that's the most important thing.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Washington was a typical American. Napoleon was a typical Frenchman, but Lincoln was a humanitarian as broad as the world. He was bigger than his country - bigger than all the Presidents together.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

I am a historian. With the exception of being a wife and mother, it is who I am. And there is nothing I take more seriously.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Where's the progress that we're going to see in Afghanistan? You have to keep public support both on the economy and the war or these things will really become troubling.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

I think confidence comes from doing something well, working at it hard, and you build it up. It's not something you're born with. You have to build the confidence as you go along.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

An adult friend of Lincoln's: "Life was to him a school.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

He (William Howard Taft) had little patience with the unconscious arrogance of conscious wealth and financial success.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

People will love him (Theodore Roosevelt) for the enemies he has

made.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Those who knew Lincoln described him as an extraordinarily funny man. Humor was an essential aspect of his temperament. He laughed, he explained, so he did not weep.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

Ironically, the more intensive and far-reaching a historian's research, the greater the difficulty of citation. As the mountain of material grows, so does the possibility of error.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

If your ambition comes at the price of an unbalanced life, that there's nothing else that gives you comfort but success, it's not worth it.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

As much research as you think you're doing, you're going to mess up, without a question.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

My books are written with a strong chronological spine.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

I liked the thought that the book I was now holding had been held by dozens of others.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

People tease me about knowing somehow that Obama would put Clinton into the cabinet, and everybody would talk about a team of rivals.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

I now rely on a scanner, which reproduces the passages I want to cite,

and then I keep my own comments on those books in a separate file so that I will never confuse the two again.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

It took me five years on Lyndon Johnson, ten years on the Kennedys, six years on the Roosevelts. Inevitably, you get shaped by the people that you're thinking about during that period of time.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

A lot of times when people are on campaigns, it can be like a movie set.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

I've been to the White House a number of times.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

They all start competing against Lincoln as the greatest president. And the [library] building becomes the symbol, the memorial to that dream.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

We've got to figure out a way that we give a private sphere for our public leaders. We're not gonna get the best people in public life if we don't do that.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

As a consequence [of a closed economic circle], in 1912 there was not a single Irishman who sat on a single board of a major Boston bank.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

I wish we could go back to the time when the private lives of our public figures were relevant only if they directly affected their public responsibilities.

~Doris Kearns Goodwin

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