

# E. F. Schumacher

## Quotes

*Men, People, Technology, World, Real, Beautiful, Mean, Thinking, Spiritual, Views, Economic, Soul, Giving, Wind, Needs, Self, Doubt, Growth, Tasks, Life*

The system of nature, of which man is a part, tends to be self-balancing, self-adjusting, self-cleansing. Not so with technology.

~E. F. Schumacher

Never let an inventor run a company. You can never get him to stop tinkering and bring something to market

~E. F. Schumacher

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex... It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.

~E. F. Schumacher

Anyone who thinks consumption can expand forever on a finite planet is either insane or an economist.

~E. F. Schumacher

Wisdom demands a new orientation of science and technology toward the organic, the gentle, the elegant and beautiful.

~E. F. Schumacher

Development does not start with goods; it starts with people and their education, organization, and discipline. Without these three, all resources remain latent, untapped, potential.

~E. F. Schumacher

Eagles come in all shapes and sizes, but you will recognize them chiefly by their attitudes.

~E. F. Schumacher

An entirely new system of thought is needed, a system based on attention to people, and not primarily attention to goods. . . .

~E. F. Schumacher

Any intelligent fool can invent further complications, but it takes a genius to retain, or recapture, simplicity.

~E. F. Schumacher

Infinite growth of material consumption in a finite world is an impossibility.

~E. F. Schumacher

There is incredible generosity in the potentialities of Nature. We only have to discover how to utilize them.

~E. F. Schumacher

The real problems of our planet are not economic or technical, they are philosophical. The philosophy of unbridled materialism is being challenged by events.

~E. F. Schumacher

Modern man talks of a battle with nature, forgetting that, if he won the battle, he would find himself on the losing side

~E. F. Schumacher

Is there enough to go around? What is enough? Who can tell us? Certainly not the economist who pursues economic growth as the highest of all values, and therefore has no concept of enough.

~E. F. Schumacher

I cannot predict the wind but I can have my sail ready.

~E. F. Schumacher

Perhaps we cannot raise the winds. But each of us can put up the sail, so that when the wind comes we can catch it.

~E. F. Schumacher

The richer a society, the more impossible it becomes to do worthwhile

things without immediate pay-off.

~E. F. Schumacher

Many people love in themselves what they hate in others

~E. F. Schumacher

It is doubly chimerical to build peace on economic foundations which, in turn, rest on the systematic cultivation of greed and envy, the very forces which drive men into conflict.

~E. F. Schumacher

Man's needs are infinite, and infinitude can be achieved only in the spiritual realm, never in the material.

~E. F. Schumacher

We still have to learn how to live peacefully, not only with our fellow men but also with nature.

~E. F. Schumacher

Real life consists of the tensions produced by the incompatibility of opposites, each of which is needed

~E. F. Schumacher

There can be nothing sacred in something that has a price.

~E. F. Schumacher

There are poor societies which have too little; but where is the rich society that says: 'Halt! We have enough'? There is none.

~E. F. Schumacher

Our faith gives us knowledge of something better.

~E. F. Schumacher

No one is really working for peace unless he is working primarily for the

restoration of wisdom.

~E. F. Schumacher

Without ... the creative imagination rushing in where bureaucratic angels fear to tread - without this, life is a mockery and a disgrace.

~E. F. Schumacher

Work and leisure are complementary parts of the same living process and cannot be separated without destroying the joy of work and the bliss of leisure.

~E. F. Schumacher

A way of life that ever more rapidly depletes the power of the Earth to sustain it and piles up ever more insoluble problems for each succeeding generation can only be called violent.

~E. F. Schumacher

It is amazing how much theory we can do without when work actually begins.

~E. F. Schumacher

An ounce of practice is generally worth more than a ton of theory.

~E. F. Schumacher

The best aid to give is intellectual aid, a gift of useful knowledge. A gift of knowledge is infinitely preferable to a gift of material things.

~E. F. Schumacher

The fundamental task is to achieve smallness within large organisation.

~E. F. Schumacher

The printing press is either the greatest blessing or the greatest curse of modern times, sometimes one forgets which it is.

~E. F. Schumacher

Our task - and the task of all education - is to understand the present world, the world in which we live and make our choices.

~E. F. Schumacher

We think work with the brain is more worthy than work with the hands. Nobody who thinks with his hands could ever fall for this.

~E. F. Schumacher

It might be said that it is the ideal of the employer to have production without employees and the ideal of the employee is to have income without work.

~E. F. Schumacher

I'm not at all contemptuous of comforts, but they have their place and it is not first.

~E. F. Schumacher

There is no economic problem and, in a sense, there never has been.

~E. F. Schumacher

The disease having been caused by allowing cleverness to displace wisdom, no amount of clever research is likely to produce a cure.

~E. F. Schumacher

The art of living is always to make a good thing out of a bad thing.

~E. F. Schumacher

The modern world tends to be skeptical about everything that makes demands on man's higher faculties. But it is not at all skeptical about skepticism, which demands hardly anything.

~E. F. Schumacher

The technology of mass production is inherently violent, ecologically damaging, self-defeating in terms of non-renewable resources, and stultifying for the human person.

~E. F. Schumacher

Not mass production but production by the masses.

~E. F. Schumacher

Many of them had a better time than they ever had in their lives because they were discovering the new freedom - the less you need, the freer you become.

~E. F. Schumacher

I think I should not go far wrong if I asserted that the amount of genuine leisure available in a society is generally in inverse proportion to the amount of labor-saving machinery it employs.

~E. F. Schumacher

Anything that we can destroy, but are unable to make is, in a sense, sacred, and all our 'explanations' of it do not explain anything.

~E. F. Schumacher

Much of the economic decay of southeast Asia (as of many other parts of the world) is undoubtedly due to a heedless and shameful neglect of trees.

~E. F. Schumacher

Our task is to look at the world, and see it whole.

~E. F. Schumacher

Modern economic thinking...is peculiarly unable to consider the long term and to appreciate man's dependence on the natural world.

~E. F. Schumacher

Everything can be seen directly except the eye through which we see.

~E. F. Schumacher

Nobody really likes large-scale organizations; nobody likes to take orders from a superior who takes orders from a superior who takes orders.

~E. F. Schumacher

Every increase of needs tends to increase one's independence on outside forces over which one cannot have control and therefore increases existential fear

~E. F. Schumacher

I certainly never feel discouraged. I can't myself raise the winds that might blow us or this ship into a better world. But I can at least put up the sail so that when the winds come, I can catch it.

~E. F. Schumacher

It has been universally recognized, in all authentic teachings of mankind, that every being born into this world has to work, not merely to keep himself alive, but to strive towards perfection.

~E. F. Schumacher

True art is the intermediary between man's ordinary nature and his higher potentialities.

~E. F. Schumacher

After all, for mankind as a whole there are no exports. We did not start developing by obtaining foreign exchange from Mars or the moon. Mankind is a closed society.

~E. F. Schumacher

If, however, economic ambitions are good servants, they are bad masters

~E. F. Schumacher

Study how a society uses its land, and you can come to pretty reliable conclusions as to what its future will be.

~E. F. Schumacher

Man is small, and, therefore, small is beautiful.

~E. F. Schumacher

Modern industry seems to be inefficient to a degree that surpasses one's enduring powers of imagination. Its inefficiency therefore remains unnoticed.

~E. F. Schumacher

The most striking thing about modern industry is that it requires so much and accomplishes so little.

~E. F. Schumacher

The heart of the matter, as I see it, is the stark fact that world poverty is primarily a problem of two million villages, and thus a problem of two thousand million villagers.

~E. F. Schumacher

To describe an animal as a physico-chemical system of extreme complexity is no doubt perfectly correct, except that it misses out on the animalness of the animal.

~E. F. Schumacher

The substance of man cannot be measured by Gross National Product.

~E. F. Schumacher

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