

# Edmund Burke

## Quotes

*Men, Mind, People, Law, Government, Wisdom, May, Liberty, Political,  
Inspirational, Passion, Country, Power, Evil, War, Art, Mean, Freedom, Ideas,  
Thinking*

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

~Edmund Burke

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.

~Edmund Burke

Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it.

~Edmund Burke

The hottest fires in hell are reserved for those who remain neutral in times of moral crisis.

~Edmund Burke

Silence is golden but when it threatens your freedom it's yellow.

~Edmund Burke

In a democracy, the majority of the citizens is capable of exercising the most cruel oppressions upon the minority.

~Edmund Burke

It is a general popular error to suppose the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare.

~Edmund Burke

The Fate of good men who refuse to become involved in politics is to be ruled by evil men.

~Edmund Burke

When you fear something, learn as much about it as you can.  
Knowledge conquers fear.

~Edmund Burke

Mere parsimony is not economy. Expense, and great expense, may be an essential part in true economy.

~Edmund Burke

The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse.

~Edmund Burke

Hypocrisy can afford to be magnificent in its promises, for never intending to go beyond promise, it costs nothing.

~Edmund Burke

He that struggles with us strengthens our nerves, and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper.

~Edmund Burke

To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

~Edmund Burke

History is a pact between the dead, the living, and the yet unborn.

~Edmund Burke

But the age of chivalry is gone. That of sophisters, economists, and calculators has succeeded; and the glory of Europe is extinguished forever.

~Edmund Burke

To make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely.

~Edmund Burke

Passion for fame: A passion which is the instinct of all great souls.

~Edmund Burke

People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors.

~Edmund Burke

Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites.

~Edmund Burke

But what is liberty without wisdom, and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice, and madness, without tuition or restraint.

~Edmund Burke

Old religious factions are volcanoes burned out; on the lava and ashes and squalid scoriae of old eruptions grow the peaceful olive, the cheering vine and the sustaining corn.

~Edmund Burke

Nothing turns out to be so oppressive and unjust as a feeble government.

~Edmund Burke

I cannot help concurring with the opinion that an absolute democracy, no more than absolute monarchy, is to be reckoned among the legitimate forms of government.

~Edmund Burke

There is but one law for all, namely that law which governs all law, the law of our Creator, the law of humanity, justice, equity - the law of nature and of nations.

~Edmund Burke

There is no safety for honest men, but by believing all possible evil of evil men, and by acting with promptitude, decision, and steadiness on that belief.

~Edmund Burke

The essence of tyranny is the enforcement of stupid laws.

~Edmund Burke

The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion.

~Edmund Burke

People must be taken as they are, and we should never try make them or ourselves better by quarreling with them.

~Edmund Burke

People crushed by law, have no hopes but from power. If laws are their enemies, they will be enemies to laws; and those who have much hope and nothing to lose, will always be dangerous.

~Edmund Burke

Our patience will achieve more than our force.

~Edmund Burke

All men have equal rights, but not to equal things.

~Edmund Burke

The true danger is when liberty is nibbled away, for expedience, and by parts.

~Edmund Burke

Those who have been intoxicated with power... can never willingly abandon it.

~Edmund Burke

This sort of people are so taken up with their theories about the rights of man that they have totally forgotten his nature.

~Edmund Burke

No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and

reasoning as fear.

~Edmund Burke

Applause is the spur of noble minds, the end and aim of weak ones.

~Edmund Burke

Good order is the foundation of all things.

~Edmund Burke

You can never plan the future by the past.

~Edmund Burke

A great empire and little minds go ill together.

~Edmund Burke

Among a people generally corrupt liberty cannot long exist.

~Edmund Burke

All the forces of darkness need to succeed ... is for the people to do nothing.

~Edmund Burke

Society can overlook murder, adultery or swindling; it never forgives preaching of a new gospel.

~Edmund Burke

A State without the means of some change is without the means of its conservation.

~Edmund Burke

Whenever a separation is made between liberty and justice, neither, in my opinion, is safe.

~Edmund Burke

Bad laws are the worst sort of tyranny.

~Edmund Burke

In history, a great volume is unrolled for our instruction, drawing the materials of future wisdom from the past errors and infirmities of mankind.

~Edmund Burke

The arrogance of age must submit to be taught by youth.

~Edmund Burke

When ancient opinions and rules of life are taken away, the loss cannot possibly be estimated. From that moment, we have no compass to govern us, nor can we know distinctly to what port to steer.

~Edmund Burke

Evil prevails when good men fail to act.

~Edmund Burke

There is a boundary to men's passions when they act from feelings; but none when they are under the influence of imagination.

~Edmund Burke

All government, indeed every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue, and every prudent act, is founded on compromise and barter.

~Edmund Burke

We must all obey the great law of change. It is the most powerful law of nature.

~Edmund Burke

The religion most prevalent in our northern colonies is a refinement on the principles of resistance: it is the dissidence of dissent, and the protestantism of the Protestant religion.

~Edmund Burke

The first and simplest emotion which we discover in the human mind, is curiosity.

~Edmund Burke

And having looked to Government for bread, on the very first scarcity they will turn and bite the hand that fed them.

~Edmund Burke

If we command our wealth, we shall be rich and free; if our wealth commands us, we are poor indeed.

~Edmund Burke

Education is the cheap defense of nations.

~Edmund Burke

Nothing in progression can rest on its original plan. We may as well think of rocking a grown man in the cradle of an infant.

~Edmund Burke

Flattery corrupts both the receiver and the giver; and adulation is not of more service to the people than to kings.

~Edmund Burke

When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle.

~Edmund Burke

Religion is essentially the art and the theory of the remaking of man. Man is not a finished creation.

~Edmund Burke

Kings will be tyrants from policy, when subjects are rebels from



principle.

~Edmund Burke

Writers, especially when they act in a body and with one direction, have great influence on the public mind.

~Edmund Burke

He had no failings which were not owing to a noble cause; to an ardent, generous, perhaps an immoderate passion for fame; a passion which is the instinct of all great souls.

~Edmund Burke

Liberty does not exist in the absence of morality.

~Edmund Burke

The greatest sin is to do nothing because you can only do a little.

~Edmund Burke

There is nothing that God has judged good for us that He has not given us the means to accomplish, both in the natural and the moral world.

~Edmund Burke

I have not yet lost a feeling of wonder, and of delight, that the delicate motion should reside in all the things around us, revealing itself only to him who looks for it.

~Edmund Burke

Fraud is the ready minister of injustice.

~Edmund Burke

Superstition is the religion of feeble minds.

~Edmund Burke

True religion is the foundation of society. When that is once shaken by

contempt, the whole fabric cannot be stable nor lasting.

~Edmund Burke

Example is the school of mankind, and they will learn at no other.

~Edmund Burke

Free trade is not based on utility but on justice.

~Edmund Burke

They defend their errors as if they were defending their inheritance.

~Edmund Burke

Flattery corrupts both the receiver and the giver.

~Edmund Burke

Ambition can creep as well as soar.

~Edmund Burke

The superfluities of a rich nation furnish a better object of trade than the necessities of a poor one. It is the interest of the commercial world that wealth should be found everywhere.

~Edmund Burke

It is not what a lawyer tells me I may do; but what humanity, reason, and justice tell me I ought to do.

~Edmund Burke

Beauty is the promise of happiness.

~Edmund Burke

Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion.

~Edmund Burke

Parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation. You choose a Member indeed; but when you have chosen him, he is not the Member for Bristol, but he is a Member of Parliament.

~Edmund Burke

Good company, lively conversation, and the endearments of friendship fill the mind with great pleasure.

~Edmund Burke

Toleration is good for all, or it is good for none.

~Edmund Burke

Next to love, Sympathy is the divinest passion of the human heart.

~Edmund Burke

An event has happened, upon which it is difficult to speak, and impossible to be silent.

~Edmund Burke

God has sometimes converted wickedness into madness; and it is to the credit of human reason that men who are not in some degree mad are never capable of being in the highest degree wicked.

~Edmund Burke

We set ourselves to bite the hand that feeds us.

~Edmund Burke

Wars are just to those to whom they are necessary.

~Edmund Burke

Applaud us when we run, Console us when we fall, Cheer us when we recover.

~Edmund Burke

He only deserves to be remembered by posterity who treasures up and preserves the history of his ancestors.

~Edmund Burke

Nothing is so fatal to religion as indifference.

~Edmund Burke

It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.

~Edmund Burke

A coward's courage is in his tongue.

~Edmund Burke

By gnawing through a dike, even a rat may drown a nation.

~Edmund Burke

We must not always judge of the generality of the opinion by the noise of the acclamation.

~Edmund Burke

Circumspection and caution are part of wisdom.

~Edmund Burke

Prudence is not only the first in rank of the virtues political and moral, but she is the director and regulator, the standard of them all.

~Edmund Burke

It is the interest of the commercial world that wealth should be found everywhere.

~Edmund Burke

The greatest crimes do not arise from a want of feeling for others but from an over-sensibility for ourselves and an over-indulgence to our

own desires

~Edmund Burke

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