

# Edward Said

## Quotes

*People, Islamic, Thinking, Military, Country, Men, World, Views, War, Orientalism, Islam, United States, Events, Roots, Justice, Issues, Self, Ideas, Mind, Effort*

Every empire, however, tells itself and the world that it is unlike all other empires, that its mission is not to plunder and control but to educate and liberate.

~Edward Said

History is written by those who win and those who dominate.

~Edward Said

You cannot continue to victimize someone else just because you yourself were a victim onceâ€”there has to be a limit

~Edward Said

Humanism is the only - I would go so far as saying the final- resistance we have against the inhuman practices and injustices that disfigure human history.

~Edward Said

No cause, no God, no abstract idea can justify the mass slaughter of innocents.

~Edward Said

Ideas, cultures, and histories cannot seriously be understood or studied without their force, or more precisely their configurations of power, also being studied.

~Edward Said

We can not fight for our rights and our history as well as future until we are armed with weapons of criticism and dedicated consciousness.

~Edward Said

Since the time of Homer every European, in what he could say about the Orient, was a racist, an imperialist, and almost totally ethnocentric.

~Edward Said

The history of other cultures is non-existent until it erupts in confrontation with the United States.

~Edward Said

My argument is that history is made by men and women, just as it can also be unmade and rewritten, always with various silences and elisions, always with shapes imposed and disfigurements tolerated.

~Edward Said

Beginning is not only a kind of action. It is also a frame of mind, a kind of work, an attitude, a consciousness.

~Edward Said

Since when does a militarily occupied people have the responsibility for a peace movement?

~Edward Said

I am for peace. And I am for a negotiated peace. But this accord is not a just peace.

~Edward Said

I have been unable to live an uncommitted or suspended life. I have not hesitated to declare my affiliation with an extremely unpopular cause.

~Edward Said

I don't remember when exactly I read my first comic book, but I do remember exactly how liberated and subversive I felt as a result.

~Edward Said

But I do not know whether the photograph can, or does, say things as they really are. Something has been lost. But the representation is all we have.

~Edward Said

In the Islamic world, the U.S. is seen in two quite different ways. One view recognizes what an extraordinary country the U.S. is.

~Edward Said

Appeals to the past are among the commonest of strategies in interpretations of the present.

~Edward Said

Much as I have no wish to hurt anyone's feelings, my first obligation has not been to be nice but to be true to my perhaps peculiar memories, experiences and feelings.

~Edward Said

It's very hard, for example, to justify the thirty-four-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. It's very hard to justify 140 Israeli settlements and roughly 400,000 settlers.

~Edward Said

Osama bin Laden, who is a Saudi, feels himself to be a patriot because the U.S. has forces in Saudi Arabia, which is sacred because it is the land of the prophet Mohammed.

~Edward Said

We are at a point in our work when we can no longer ignore empires and the imperial context in our studies. (p. 5)

~Edward Said

It was thought that to rally Islam against godless communism would be doing the Soviet Union a very bad turn indeed, and that, in fact, transpired.

~Edward Said

There's been essentially the same analysis over and over again and very little allowance made for different views and interpretations and

reflections.

~Edward Said

Ironically, many of people, including Osama bin Laden and the mujahedeen, were, in fact, nourished by the United States in the early eighties in its efforts to drive the Soviets out of Afghanistan.

~Edward Said

And in this relentlessly unfolding series of interactions, the U.S. has played a very distinctive role, which most Americans have been either shielded from or simply unaware of.

~Edward Said

Note that there was no claim for these attacks [on 9/11]. There were no demands. There were no statements. It was a silent piece of terror.

~Edward Said

[9/11] was bloody-minded destruction for no other reason than to do it.

~Edward Said

Speaking as a New Yorker, I found [September 11] a shocking and terrifying event, particularly the scale of it.

~Edward Said

[9/11] was not meant to be argued with. It wasn't part of any negotiation. No message was intended with it. It spoke for itself, which is unusual.

~Edward Said

[Mujahedeen], by the way, don't represent Islam in any formal sense. They're not imams or sheiks. They are self-appointed warriors for Islam.

~Edward Said

Speaking as a New Yorker, I found it (9/11 event] a shocking and terrifying event, particularly the scale of it. At bottom, it was an implacable desire to do harm to innocent people.

~Edward Said

[One task of intellectuals is] to break down the stereotypes and reductive categories that are . . . limiting to human thought and communication.

~Edward Said

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