

# Edward Snowden

## Quotes

*Government, Nsa, People, Country, Thinking, Rights, Law, Communication,  
Real, World, Political, Believe, Government Spying, Mean, Issues, Agency,  
Needs, United States, Want, War*

There have been times throughout American history where what is right is not the same as what is legal. Sometimes to do the right thing you have to break the law.

~Edward Snowden

Arguing that you don't care about privacy because you have nothing to hide is no different than saying you don't care about free speech because you have nothing to say.

~Edward Snowden

Your rights matter, because you never know when you're going to need them.

~Edward Snowden

It is afraid of an informed, angry public demanding the constitutional government it was promised - and it should be.

~Edward Snowden

I don't want to live in a world where there's no privacy, and therefore no room for intellectual exploration and creativity.

~Edward Snowden

Truth is coming, and it cannot be stopped.

~Edward Snowden

Privacy matters; privacy is what allows us to determine who we are and who we want to be.

~Edward Snowden

We need to think about encryption not as this sort of arcane, black art. It's a basic protection.

~Edward Snowden

The US government still has no idea what documents I have because

encryption works

~Edward Snowden

The sad truth is that societies that demand whistleblowers be martyrs often find themselves without either, and always when it matters the most.

~Edward Snowden

Because, remember, I didn't want to change society. I wanted to give society a chance to determine if it should change itself.

~Edward Snowden

Bathtub falls and police officers kill more Americans than terrorism, yet we've been asked to sacrifice our most sacred rights for fear of falling victim to it.

~Edward Snowden

I don't want to live in a world where everything that I say, everything I do, everyone I talk to, every expression of creativity or love or friendship is recorded.

~Edward Snowden

I have been to the darkest corners of government, and what they fear is light.

~Edward Snowden

The NSA has built an infrastructure that allows it to intercept almost everything.

~Edward Snowden

If you're not acting on your beliefs, then they probably aren't real.

~Edward Snowden

I would rather be without a state than without a voice.

~Edward Snowden

It's really hard to take that step-not only do I believe in something, I believe in it enough that I'm willing to set my own life on fire and burn it to the ground.

~Edward Snowden

A child born today will grow up with no conception of privacy at all.

~Edward Snowden

Allowing the U.S. government to intimidate its people with threats of retaliation for revealing wrongdoing is contrary to the public interest.

~Edward Snowden

Properly implemented strong crypto systems are one of the few things that you can rely on.

~Edward Snowden

I had been looking for leaders, but I realized that leadership is about being the first to act.

~Edward Snowden

There can be no faith in government if our highest offices are excused from scrutiny - they should be setting the example of transparency.

~Edward Snowden

Privacy is a function of liberty.

~Edward Snowden

I'm neither traitor nor hero. I'm an American.

~Edward Snowden

We don't have to ask for our privacy, we can take it back.

~Edward Snowden

You can't come up against the world's most powerful intelligence agencies and not accept the risk.

~Edward Snowden

My perspective is if you're not willing to be called a few names to help out your country, you don't care enough.

~Edward Snowden

The people at the NSA aren't trying to ruin your life. They're not trying to put you in authoritarian dystopia. These are normal people trying to do good work in hard circumstances.

~Edward Snowden

What is right is not always the same as what is legal

~Edward Snowden

The US government is not going to be able to cover this up by jailing or murdering me. Truth is coming, and it cannot be stopped.

~Edward Snowden

As for labeling someone a whistleblower, I think it does them - it does all of us - a disservice, because it "otherizes" us.

~Edward Snowden

I went to St. Petersburg - St. Petersburg is awesome.

~Edward Snowden

These [NSA] programs were never about terrorism: they're about economic spying, social control, and diplomatic manipulation. They're about power.

~Edward Snowden

If I defected at all, I defected from the government to the public

~Edward Snowden

My sole motive is to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them.

~Edward Snowden

If we don't do anything, if we go along with the status quo, we are going to have a mass surveillance world.

~Edward Snowden

I will be satisfied if the federation of secret law, unequal pardon and irresistible executive powers that rule the world that I love are revealed even for an instant.

~Edward Snowden

If I had to guess what the future's going to look like for me - assuming it's not an orange jumpsuit in a hole - I think I'm going to alternate between tech and policy.

~Edward Snowden

Radicalism and extremism, while they are dangers, they exist in every society on some level.

~Edward Snowden

I'm saying we need to be aware of it, and we need to be able to distinguish when political developments are occurring that are contrary to the public interest.

~Edward Snowden

We are no longer citizens, we no longer have leaders. We're subjects, and we have rulers.

~Edward Snowden

The consent of the governed is not consent if it is not informed.

~Edward Snowden

All the governments just want to have more power when it comes to economic espionage, diplomatic manipulation and political influence.

~Edward Snowden

I have no intention of hiding who I am because I know I have done nothing wrong.

~Edward Snowden

The true measurement of a person's worth isn't what they say they believe in, but what they do in defense of those beliefs. If you're not acting on your beliefs, then they probably aren't real.

~Edward Snowden

You will never be completely free from risk if you're free. The only time you can be free from risk is when you're in prison.

~Edward Snowden

I told the government I'd volunteer for prison, as long as it served the right purpose.

~Edward Snowden

We have to be able to reject disproportionate and unjustified responses in the cyber domain just as we do in the physical domain.

~Edward Snowden

There are more important things than money. If I were motivated by money, I could have sold these documents to any number of countries and gotten very rich.

~Edward Snowden

A lot of people in 2008 voted for Obama. I did not vote for him. I voted for a third party. But I believed in Obama's promises.

~Edward Snowden

If I wanted to see your emails or your wife's phone, all I have to do is use intercepts. I can get your emails, passwords, phone records, credit cards.

~Edward Snowden

And that's not something I'm willing to support, it's not something I'm willing to build and it's not something I'm willing to live under.

~Edward Snowden

I don't want the stage. I'm terrified of giving these talking heads some distraction, some excuse to jeopardize, smear, and delegitimize a very important movement.

~Edward Snowden

You would be surprised how effective, at least for influencing low-information voters, negative propaganda about me is.

~Edward Snowden

Even if you're not doing anything wrong, you are being watched and recorded.

~Edward Snowden

I do not want to live in a world where everything I do and say is recorded. That is not something I am willing to support or live under.

~Edward Snowden

The only thing I fear is the harmful effects on my family, who I won't be able to help any more. That's what keeps me up at night.

~Edward Snowden

When we look at how, constitutionally, only Congress can declare war, and that is routinely ignored. Not NATO or the UN, but Congress has to authorize these endless wars, and it isn't.

~Edward Snowden



The greatest fear that I have regarding the outcome for America of these disclosures is that nothing will change.

~Edward Snowden

I know the media likes to personalize political debates, and I know the government will demonize me.

~Edward Snowden

I understand that I will be made to suffer for my actions, and that the return of this information to the public marks my end.

~Edward Snowden

The rule of law doesn't mean the police are in charge, but that we all answer to the same laws.

~Edward Snowden

Chelsea Manning got thirty-five years in prison, while I'm still free.

~Edward Snowden

It is interesting that so many people who become disenchanted, who protest against their own organizations, are people who contributed something to them and then saw how it was misused.

~Edward Snowden

They are intent on making every conversation and every form of behaviour in the world known to them.

~Edward Snowden

Getting inequality out there into the consciousness was important. All these political pundits now talking about the 2014 and 2016 elections are talking about inequality.

~Edward Snowden

You have to remember the way the internet works, when you

communicate with the server, it's very likely not in your country. It's somewhere else in the world.

~Edward Snowden

The government has granted itself power it is not entitled to. There is no public oversight. The result is people like myself have the latitude to go further than they are allowed to.

~Edward Snowden

I do not expect to see home again.

~Edward Snowden

I don't want to hide. If I get arrested, I get arrested.

~Edward Snowden

Under observation, we act less free, which means we effectively are less free.

~Edward Snowden

I don't want to live in a society that does these sort of things.

~Edward Snowden

The question for us is not what new story will come out next. The question is, what are we going to do about it?

~Edward Snowden

We need to put the security back in the National Security Agency. We can't have the national surveillance agency.

~Edward Snowden

I'm still alive, and I don't lose sleep because I have done what I feel I needed to do, it was the right thing to do and I am not going to be afraid.

~Edward Snowden

We do not live in a revolutionary time. People are not prepared to contest power.

~Edward Snowden

The only way I could be extradited is through the principle of what my lawyers call "politics trumps law."

~Edward Snowden

In liberal societies we don't typically require citizens to rearrange their activities, their lives, the way they go about their business, to make it easy for the police to do their work.

~Edward Snowden

As I said before, [patriotism] is distinct from acting to benefit the government - a distinction that's increasingly lost today.

~Edward Snowden

We have to be able to ask questions in order to answer them.

~Edward Snowden

Being confronted with the realization that work you intended to benefit people is being used against them has a radicalizing effect.

~Edward Snowden

I don't spend all day running hand-on-hat from shadowy figures - I'm in exile.

~Edward Snowden

I hope you have read the election programme of the Labour Party...this is not socialism. It is Bolshevism run mad.

~Edward Snowden

All I wanted was for the public to be able to have a say in how they are governed. That is a milestone we left a long time ago.

~Edward Snowden

[Our system of education ]not designed to create critical thinkers.

~Edward Snowden

I've been a spy for almost all of my adult life - I don't like being in the spotlight.

~Edward Snowden

I would argue that security and liberty, security and privacy are not actually opposing. The only place those can be oppositional is in the realm of rhetoric but not fact.

~Edward Snowden

There is a technical solution to every political problem...

~Edward Snowden

By putting these sort of lines around what ideas are proper or improper, we lose things.

~Edward Snowden

What I wanted to do was give society the information it needed to decide if it wanted to change the system.

~Edward Snowden

We have to recognise that rights are being violated. The United Nations actually filed a report that found that that was the case, that mass surveillance is a violation of rights.

~Edward Snowden

We have seen enough criminality on the part of government. It is hypocritical to make this allegation against me. They have narrowed the public sphere of influence.

~Edward Snowden

[Bill] Binney designed ThinThread, an NSA program that used encryption to try to make mass surveillance less objectionable. It would still have been unlawful and unconstitutional.

~Edward Snowden

It's becoming less and less the National Security Agency and more and more the national surveillance agency. It's gaining more offensive powers with each passing year.

~Edward Snowden

When the lights go out at a power plant sometime in the future, we're going to know that that's a consequence of deprioritizing defense for the sake of an advantage in terms of offense.

~Edward Snowden

When people say, "I have nothing to hide," what they're saying is, "My rights don't matter."

~Edward Snowden

When it comes to social policies, I believe women have the right to make their own choices, and inequality is a really important issue.

~Edward Snowden

The power of the presidency is important, but it is not determinative.

~Edward Snowden

The immoral cannot be made moral through the use of secret law.

~Edward Snowden

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