

Emma Goldman

Quotes

*Men, People, Government, Mean, Law, Political, Self, Ideas, Children, Mind,
Atheism, Philosophy, Sex, Real, Liberty, Love, America, Revolution, Army,
Believe*

The most violent element in society is ignorance.

~Emma Goldman

People have only as much liberty as they have the intelligence to want and the courage to take.

~Emma Goldman

Only when human sorrows are turned into a toy with glaring colors will baby people become interested - for a while at least. The people are a very fickle baby that must have new toys every day.

~Emma Goldman

The demand for equal rights in every vocation of life is just and fair; but, after all, the most vital right is the right to love and be loved.

~Emma Goldman

To the moralist prostitution does not consist so much in the fact that the woman sells her body, but rather that she sells it out of wedlock.

~Emma Goldman

I'd rather have roses on my table than diamonds on my neck.

~Emma Goldman

If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal.

~Emma Goldman

If love does not know how to give and take without restrictions, it is not love, but a transaction that never fails to lay stress on a plus and a minus.

~Emma Goldman

There's never been a good government.

~Emma Goldman

A revolution without dancing is not a revolution worth having.

~Emma Goldman

The history of progress is written in the blood of men and women who have dared to espouse an unpopular cause, as, for instance, the black man's right to his body, or woman's right to her soul.

~Emma Goldman

What a strange development of patriotism that turns a thinking being into a loyal machine!

~Emma Goldman

Before we can forgive one another, we have to understand one another.

~Emma Goldman

Politicians promise you heaven before election and give you hell after

~Emma Goldman

Ask for work. If they don't give you work, ask for bread. If they do not give you work or bread, then take bread.

~Emma Goldman

No one has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.

~Emma Goldman

Merely external emancipation has made of the modern woman an artificial being. Now, woman is confronted with the necessity of emancipating herself from emancipation, if she really desires to be free.

~Emma Goldman

Political violence is organized violence on the top which creates individual violence at the bottom.

~Emma Goldman

The ultimate end of all revolutionary social change is to establish the sanctity of human life, the dignity of man, the right of every human being to liberty and well-being.

~Emma Goldman

I want freedom, the right to self-expression , everybody's right to beautiful, radiant things.

~Emma Goldman

wealth means power: the power to subdue, to crush, to exploit, the power to enslave, to outrage, to degrade.

~Emma Goldman

The State is the altar of political freedom and, like the religious altar, it is maintained for the purpose of human sacrifice.

~Emma Goldman

Art is a part of the rebellion against the realities of its unfulfilled desire.

~Emma Goldman

Women need not always keep their mouths shut and their wombs open.

~Emma Goldman

...The greatest bulwark of capitalism is militarism.

~Emma Goldman

Life without an ideal is spiritual death.

~Emma Goldman

It is essential that we realize once and for all that man is much more of a sex creature than a moral creature. The former is inherent, the other is grafted on.

~Emma Goldman

Every society has the criminals it deserves.

~Emma Goldman

Someone has said that it requires less mental effort to condemn than to think.

~Emma Goldman

'What I believe' is a process rather than a finality. Finalities are for gods and governments, not for the human intellect.

~Emma Goldman

I do not believe in God, because I believe in man. Whatever his mistakes, man has for thousands of years been working to undo the botched job your god has made.

~Emma Goldman

The most unpardonable sin in society is independence of thought.

~Emma Goldman

Every daring attempt to make a great change in existing conditions, every lofty vision of new possibilities for the human race, has been labeled Utopian.

~Emma Goldman

How long would authority ... exist, if not for the willingness of the mass to become soldiers, policemen, jailers, and hangmen.

~Emma Goldman

Revolution is indeed a violent process. But if it is to result only in a

change of dictatorship, in a shifting of names and political personalities, then it is hardly worth while.

~Emma Goldman

Anarchism, then, really stands for the liberation of the human mind from the dominion of religion.

~Emma Goldman

If not for the direct action of a John Brown and his comrades, America would still trade in the flesh of the black man.

~Emma Goldman

Democracy must first be safe for America before it can be safe for the world.

~Emma Goldman

I may be arrested, I may be tried and thrown into jail, but I never will be silent.

~Emma Goldman

The people are urged to be patriotic ... by sacrificing their own children. Patriotism requires allegiance to the flag, which means obedience and readiness to kill father, mother, brother, sister.

~Emma Goldman

Lack of fairness to an opponent is essentially a sign of weakness.

~Emma Goldman

Conceit, arrogance, and egotism are the essentials of patriotism.

~Emma Goldman

true emancipation ... will have to do away with the absurd notion of the dualism of the sexes, or that man and woman represent two antagonistic worlds.

~Emma Goldman

In modern capitalism economic exploitation rather than political oppression is the real enemy of the people.

~Emma Goldman

Jealousy is the very reverse of understanding, of sympathy, and of generous feeling. Never has jealousy added to character, never does it make the individual big and fine.

~Emma Goldman

... nothing satisfies the craving of most women so much as scandal.

~Emma Goldman

The most vital right is the right to love and be loved.

~Emma Goldman

No real social change has ever been brought about without a revolution... revolution is but thought carried into action.

~Emma Goldman

On rare occasions one does hear of a miraculous case of a married couple falling in love after marriage, but on close examination it will be found that it is a mere adjustment to the inevitable.

~Emma Goldman

Prostitution, although hounded, imprisoned, and chained, is nevertheless the greatest triumph of Puritanism.

~Emma Goldman

Revolution is but thought carried into action.

~Emma Goldman

The individual is the true reality of life. A cosmos in himself, he does not

exist for the State, nor for that abstraction called "society," or the "nation," which is only a collection of individuals.

~Emma Goldman

The contention that a standing army and navy is the best security of peace is about as logical as the claim that the most peaceful citizen is he who goes about heavily armed.

~Emma Goldman

Public school - where the human mind is drilled and manipulated into submission to various social and moral spooks, and thus fitted to continue our system of exploitation and oppression.

~Emma Goldman

When we have undermined the patriotic lie, we shall have cleared the path for the great structure where all shall be united into a universal brotherhood â€” a truly free society.

~Emma Goldman

Poor human nature, what horrible crimes have been committed in thy name!

~Emma Goldman

Idealists foolish enough to throw caution to the winds have advanced mankind and have enriched the world.

~Emma Goldman

What I believe is a process rather than a finality.

~Emma Goldman

The individual whose vision encompasses the whole world often feels nowhere so hedged in and out of touch with his surroundings as in his native land.

~Emma Goldman

Jealousy is indeed a poor medium to secure love, but it is a secure medium to destroy one

~Emma Goldman

Politics is the reflex of the business and industrial world, the mottos of which are: 'To take is more blessed than to give'; 'buy cheap and sell dear'; 'one soiled hand washes the other.

~Emma Goldman

True, we have no conscription; that is, men are not usually forced to enlist in the army, but we have developed a far more exacting and rigid force-necessity.

~Emma Goldman

The triumph of the philosophy of Atheism is to free man from the nightmare of gods; it means the dissolution of the phantoms of the beyond.

~Emma Goldman

Give us what belongs to us in peace, and if you don't give it to us in peace, we will take it by force.

~Emma Goldman

Whether our reformers admit it or not, the economic and social inferiority of women is responsible for prostitution.

~Emma Goldman

Direct action is the logical, consistent method of Anarchism.

~Emma Goldman

Anarchism is the great liberator of man from the phantoms that have held him captive; it is the arbiter and pacifier of the two forces for individual and social harmony.

~Emma Goldman

Love is its own protection.

~Emma Goldman

Salvation lies in an energetic march onward towards a brighter and clearer future.

~Emma Goldman

Politics is the reflex of the business and industrial world.

~Emma Goldman

Heaven must be an awfully dull place if the poor in spirit live there.

~Emma Goldman

Puritanism, in whatever expression, is a poisonous germ. On the surface everything may look strong and vigorous; yet the poison works its way persistently, until the entire fabric is doomed.

~Emma Goldman

Crime is naught but misdirected energy.

~Emma Goldman

All claims of education notwithstanding, the pupil will accept only that which his mind craves.

~Emma Goldman

Out of the chaos, the future emerges in harmony and beauty.

~Emma Goldman

The political arena leaves one no alternative, one must either be a dunce or a rogue.

~Emma Goldman

Thus Dante's motto over Inferno applies with equal force to marriage:
"Ye who enter here leave all hope behind."

~Emma Goldman

No great idea in its beginning can ever be within the law. How can it be within the law?

~Emma Goldman

Methods and means cannot be separated from the ultimate aim.

~Emma Goldman

It is safe to say that no other superstition is so detrimental to growth, so enervating and paralyzing to the minds and hearts of the people, as the superstition of Morality.

~Emma Goldman

Free love? as if love is anything but free. Man has bought brains, but all the millions in the world have failed to buy love.

~Emma Goldman

The most disheartening tendency common among readers is to tear out one sentence from a work, as a criterion of the writer's ideas or personality.

~Emma Goldman

Social and economic well-being will become a reality only through the zeal, courage, the non-compromising determination of intelligent minorities, and not through the mass.

~Emma Goldman

Morality and its victim, the mother - what a terrible picture! Is there indeed anything more terrible, more criminal, than our glorified sacred function of motherhood?

~Emma Goldman

religion and morality are a much better whip to keep people in

submission than even the club and the gun.

~Emma Goldman

Leo Tolstoy ... defines patriotism as the principle that will justify the training of wholesale murderers.

~Emma Goldman

Woman, essentially a purist, is naturally bigoted and relentless in her effort to make others as good as she thinks they ought to be.

~Emma Goldman

The free expression of the hopes and aspirations of a people is the greatest and only safety in a sane society.

~Emma Goldman

all government, whatever its forms or pretenses, is a dead weight that paralyzes the free spirit and activities of the masses.

~Emma Goldman

Liberty will not descend to a people, a people must raise themselves to liberty...

~Emma Goldman

No, it is not because woman is lacking in responsibility, but because she has too much of the latter that she demands to know how to prevent conception.

~Emma Goldman

One cannot be too extreme in dealing with social ills; the extreme thing is generally the true thing.

~Emma Goldman

Patriotism is a menace to liberty.

~Emma Goldman

The pathos of it all is that the America which is to be protected by a huge military force is not the America of the people, but that of the privileged class.

~Emma Goldman

The American suffrage movement has been, until very recently, altogether a parlor affair, absolutely detached from the economic needs of the people.

~Emma Goldman

To-day is the parent of to-morrow. The present casts its shadow far into the future.

~Emma Goldman

Even were the workers able to have their own representatives, for which our good Socialist politicians are clamoring, what chances are there for their honesty and good faith?

~Emma Goldman

It is the absolutism of theism, its pernicious influence upon humanity, its paralyzing effect upon thought and action, which Atheism is fighting with all its power.

~Emma Goldman

Mankind has been punished long and heavily for having created its gods; nothing but pain and persecution have been man's lot since gods began.

~Emma Goldman

The powers know that the people at large are like children whose despair, sorrow, and tears can be turned into joy with a little toy. ... An army and navy represents the people's toys.

~Emma Goldman

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