

Eric Liu Quotes

*Country, America, People, Sacrifice, Mean, Citizens, White, Community, Law,
Self, Citizenship, Games, United States, Children, Ideas, Believe, Years,
Simple, Class, Profound*

True patriots measure themselves not by personal wealth or power but by the degree to which they contribute to the community.

~Eric Liu

The next time someone uses denial of citizenship as a weapon or brandishes the special status conferred upon him by the accident of birth, ask him this: What have you done lately to earn it?

~Eric Liu

Today's multiracial Americans are at greater liberty to choose how they'd like to be seen, and under less pressure to pass for white.

~Eric Liu

We're all better off...when we're all better off.

~Eric Liu

The Boomers have modeled a set of bad habits, and one grand gesture is not going to unwind all those bad habits.

~Eric Liu

Identity in America is complicated but it's also simple: it's about whom you identify with and who identifies with you.

~Eric Liu

The nativism behind the push to repeal or amend the Fourteenth is ugly and obvious.

~Eric Liu

As it stands now, those of us who are lucky enough to be citizens by birth don't have to do much. Very little is asked of us.

~Eric Liu

Throughout this country's history there have of course been systematic efforts to create an official underclass.

~Eric Liu

To be sure, the United States has profound problems, not least our faltering educational and physical infrastructure.

~Eric Liu

Society becomes how you behave.

~Eric Liu

'The Purpose-Driven Life' is not just a mega-bestselling work of Christian faith; it is the thing that every voter, secular or not, yearns for.

~Eric Liu

To love country means to rise above I am because I am. It is to recognize that I am because we are.

~Eric Liu

Conservatives forget that citizenship is more than a thing to withhold from immigrants. Progressives forget it's more than a set of rights.

~Eric Liu

Honest people know that the road to success and virtue always involves shared sacrifice, hard work, and gratification postponed. Telling people otherwise isn't leadership, it is pandering.

~Eric Liu

You want to defend citizenship? Don't persecute or isolate those without papers. Just live like a citizen. That'd be a first-class way to be American.

~Eric Liu

My grandfather was a general in the Nationalist Chinese Air Force during World War II, and I grew up hearing the pilot stories and seeing pictures of him in uniform.

~Eric Liu

America is exceptional: but because it yields the likes of Obama, not the likes of Bush.

~Eric Liu

I had heard so much negative talk about our generation, that we're slackers and young fogies, that I knew wasn't true of the people I know.

~Eric Liu

Much of our national debate proceeds as if China and America were locked in a zero-sum game in which one's loss is precisely the other's gain.

~Eric Liu

Sometimes when I listen to fellow progressives, I wonder if the only lesson we took away from the '04 elections is that politics is a word game.

~Eric Liu

Today, public understanding of our past and our system of government is pitifully low.

~Eric Liu

In the end no segregationist scheme has withstood the force of a simple idea: equality under law.

~Eric Liu

Great numbers of Asian Americans do not fit the model minority or 'tiger family' stereotypes, living instead in multigenerational poverty far from the mainstream.

~Eric Liu

The strongest streak in the American character is a fierce pragmatism that mistrusts blind ideology of every stripe and insists on finding what really works.

~Eric Liu

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