

Ernest Gellner Quotes

Philosophy, Men, People, Principles, Revolution, Mobility, Assessment, Political, Enlightenment, Problem, Consciousness, Tribalism, Categories, Doe, Sheep, Abandon, Care, Party, Calling, Way Forward

Tribalism never prospers, for when it does, everyone will respect it as a true nationalism, and no-one will dare call it tribalism.

~Ernest Gellner

Nationalism is not the awakening of nations to self-consciousness; it invents nations where they do not exist.

~Ernest Gellner

It is nationalism which engenders nations, and not the other way round.

~Ernest Gellner

The production of obscurity in Paris compares to the production of motor cars in Detroit in the great period of American industry.

~Ernest Gellner

Philosophy is explicitness, generality, orientation and assessment. That which one would insinuate, thereof one must speak.

~Ernest Gellner

A cleric who loses his faith abandons his calling; a philosopher who loses his redefines his subject.

~Ernest Gellner

Just as every girl should have a husband, preferably her own, so every culture must have its state, preferably its own.

~Ernest Gellner

People are even more reluctant to admit that man explains nothing, than they were to admit that God explains nothing.

~Ernest Gellner

Ideas, and even the detection of errors, require more than care and caution.

~Ernest Gellner

America was born modern; it did not have to achieve modernity, nor did it have modernity thrust upon it.

~Ernest Gellner

I am a humble adherent of...Enlightenment Rationalist Fundamentalism.

~Ernest Gellner

Capital, like capitalism, seems an overrated category.

~Ernest Gellner

Obstruction of mobility, where it occurs, is one of the most serious and intractable problems of industrial society.

~Ernest Gellner

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