

# Frederic Bastiat

## Quotes

*Law, Liberty, Men, Government, People, Political, Giving, Doe, Responsibility,  
Order, Self, Justice, Rights, Believe, Jobs, Evil, Two, Philosophy, Libertarian,  
Organization*

When plunder becomes a way of life, men create for themselves a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it.

~Frederic Bastiat

The most urgent necessity is, not that the State should teach, but that it should allow education. All monopolies are detestable, but the worst of all is the monopoly of education.

~Frederic Bastiat

The state is the great fictitious entity by which everyone seeks to live at the expense of everyone else.

~Frederic Bastiat

Everyone wants to live at the expense of the state. They forget that the state wants to live at the expense of everyone.

~Frederic Bastiat

If philanthropy is not voluntary, it destroys liberty and justice. The law can give nothing that has not first been taken from its owner.

~Frederic Bastiat

When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law.

~Frederic Bastiat

The worst thing that can happen to a good cause is not to be skillfully attacked, but to be ineptly defended.

~Frederic Bastiat

There are people who think that plunder loses all its immorality as soon as it becomes legal. Personally, I cannot imagine a more alarming situation.

~Frederic Bastiat

In short, is not liberty the freedom of every person to make full use of his faculties, so long as he does not harm other persons while doing so?

~Frederic Bastiat

Is not liberty the destruction of all despotism - including, of course, legal despotism?

~Frederic Bastiat

The law has been perverted through the influence of two very different causes-naked greed and misconceived philanthropy.

~Frederic Bastiat

Trade barriers constitute isolation; isolation gives rise to hatred, hatred to war, and war to invasion.

~Frederic Bastiat

Each of us has a natural right, from God, to defend his person, his liberty, and his property.

~Frederic Bastiat

If you wish to prosper, let your customer prosper.

~Frederic Bastiat

Often the masses are plundered and do not know it.

~Frederic Bastiat

If goods don't cross borders, armies will.

~Frederic Bastiat

Competition is merely the absence of oppression.

~Frederic Bastiat

Why don't you reform yourselves? That task would be sufficient

enough.

~Frederic Bastiat

It is impossible to introduce into society a greater change and a greater evil than this: the conversion of the law into an instrument of plunder.

~Frederic Bastiat

And this is what has taken place. The delusion of the day is to enrich all classes at the expense of each other; it is to generalize plunder under pretense of organizing it.

~Frederic Bastiat

Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.

~Frederic Bastiat

The solution of the social problem is in liberty.

~Frederic Bastiat

It's always tempting to do good at someone else's expense

~Frederic Bastiat

The politician attempts to remedy the evil by increasing the very thing that caused the evil in the first place: legal plunder.

~Frederic Bastiat

The mind never fully accepts any convictions that it does not owe to its own efforts.

~Frederic Bastiat

The law can be an instrument of equalization only as it takes from some persons and gives to other persons. When the law does this, it is an instrument of plunder.

~Frederic Bastiat

Finally, is not liberty the restricting of the law only to its rational sphere of organizing the right of the individual to lawful self-defense; of punishing injustice?

~Frederic Bastiat

The plans differ; the planners are all alike.

~Frederic Bastiat

Taking Five and Returning Four is not Giving

~Frederic Bastiat

The law commit legal plunder by violating liberty and property.

~Frederic Bastiat

Justice is achieved only when injustice is absent.

~Frederic Bastiat

People are beginning to realize that the apparatus of government is costly. But what they do not know is that the burden falls inevitably on them.

~Frederic Bastiat

Legal plunder has two roots: One, as we have just seen, is in human selfishness; the other is in false philanthropy.

~Frederic Bastiat

The balance of trade is an article of faith.

~Frederic Bastiat

Treat all economic questions from the viewpoint of the consumer, for the interests of the consumer are the interests of the human race.

~Frederic Bastiat

When goods do not cross borders, soldiers will.

~Frederic Bastiat

Repetition may not entertain, but it teaches.

~Frederic Bastiat

By virtue of exchange, one man's prosperity is beneficial to all others.

~Frederic Bastiat

When, then, does plunder stop? It stops when it becomes more painful and more dangerous than labor.

~Frederic Bastiat

Slavery, protection, and monopoly find defenders, not only in those who profit by them, but in those who suffer by them.

~Frederic Bastiat

Since the natural tendencies of mankind are so bad that it is not safe to allow them liberty, how comes it to pass that the tendencies of organizers are always good?

~Frederic Bastiat

Law cannot organize labor and industry without organizing injustice.

~Frederic Bastiat

Property does not exist because there are laws, but laws exist because there is property.

~Frederic Bastiat

They will come to learn in the end, at their own expense, that it is better to endure competition for rich customers than to be invested with monopoly over impoverished customers.

~Frederic Bastiat

Liberty is an acknowledgement of faith in God and his works.

~Frederic Bastiat

Let us first of all frugality in government-peace and freedom we will have as a bonus.

~Frederic Bastiat

No legal plunder: This is the principle of justice.

~Frederic Bastiat

Countries which enjoy the highest level of peace, happiness and prosperity are the ones where the law least interfered with private affairs.

~Frederic Bastiat

If everyone enjoyed the unrestricted use of his faculties and the free disposition of the fruits of his labor, social progress would be ceaseless, uninterrupted, and unending.

~Frederic Bastiat

Either fraternity is spontaneous, or it does not exist. To decree it is to annihilate it. The law can indeed force men to remain just; in vain would it try to force them to be self-sacrificing.

~Frederic Bastiat

What, then is law [government]? It is the collective organization of the individual right to lawful defense.

~Frederic Bastiat

The mission of law is not to oppress persons and plunder them of their property, even though the law may be acting in a philanthropic spirit. Its mission is to protect property.

~Frederic Bastiat

The creation of new capital always... releases... labor. Its actual effect

[though] is not to make jobs scarce, but to free men's labor for other jobs.

~Frederic Bastiat

It is easier to show the disorder that must accompany reform than the order that should follow it.

~Frederic Bastiat

[To learn] is to harness Nature; to spare man all that is most physical, backbreaking, and brutish in the work of production; to make mind master over matter.

~Frederic Bastiat

In war, the stronger overcomes the weaker. In business, the stronger imparts strength to the weaker.

~Frederic Bastiat

We hold from God the gift which includes all others. This gift is life - physical, intellectual, and moral life.

~Frederic Bastiat

The profit of the one is the profit of the other.

~Frederic Bastiat

Man acquires wealth in proportion as he puts his labor to better account.

~Frederic Bastiat



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