

# Frederick The Great Quotes

*Men, People, War, Prussia, Military, Kings, Country, Army, Christian,  
Government, Thinking, Beer, Enemy, Atheism, Imagination, Coffee, Drinking,  
Truth, Europe, Heaven*

Great things are achieved only when we take great risks.

~Frederick The Great

All religions must be tolerated ... every man must go to heaven in his own way. [Die Religionen müssen alle toleriert werden ... denn hier muss ein jeder nach seiner Fassung selig werden.]

~Frederick The Great

The more I see of men, the better I like my dog.

~Frederick The Great

Diplomacy without military might is like music without instruments.

~Frederick The Great

Great advantage is drawn from knowledge of your adversary, and when you know the measure of his intelligence and character, you can use it to play on his weakness.

~Frederick The Great

Every man has a wild beast within him.

~Frederick The Great

A man, who can, in cold blood, hunt and torture a poor, innocent animal, cannot feel much compassion for the distress of his own species.

~Frederick The Great

The greatest and noblest pleasure which we have in this world is to discover new truths, and the next is to shake off old prejudices.

~Frederick The Great

Many battles have been fought and won by soldiers nourished on beer, and the King does not believe that coffee-drinking soldiers can be relied upon to endure hardships in case of another war.

~Frederick The Great

No government can exist without taxation. The money must necessarily be levied on the people; and the grand art consists of levying so as not to oppress.

~Frederick The Great

A crown is merely a hat that lets the rain in.

~Frederick The Great

Be more than you seem to be.

~Frederick The Great

Artillery adds dignity, to what would otherwise be an ugly brawl.

~Frederick The Great

An educated people can be easily governed.

~Frederick The Great

Everybody is using coffee. If possible, this must be prevented. My people must drink beer.

~Frederick The Great

Always presume that the enemy has dangerous designs and always be forehanded with the remedy. But do not let these calculations make your timid.

~Frederick The Great

It is pardonable to be defeated, but never to be surprised.

~Frederick The Great

A man with his heart in his profession imagines and finds resources where the worthless and lazy despair.

~Frederick The Great

In trying to defend everything he defended nothing.

~Frederick The Great

Man is made for error; it enters his mind naturally, and he discovers a few truths only with the greatest effort.

~Frederick The Great

Our work is to present things that are as they are.

~Frederick The Great

The people say what they like and then I do what I like

~Frederick The Great

If I wished to punish a province, I would have it governed by philosophers.

~Frederick The Great

God is always with the strongest battalions.

~Frederick The Great

A German singer! I should as soon expect to get pleasure from the neighing of my horse.

~Frederick The Great

It is the fashion these days to make war, and presumably it will last a while yet.

~Frederick The Great

If soldiers were to begin to think, not one of them would remain in the army.

~Frederick The Great

Diplomacy without arms is like a concert without a score

~Frederick The Great

One should never despair too soon.

~Frederick The Great

I think it better to keep a profound silence with regard to the Christian fables, which are canonized by their antiquity and the credulity of absurd and insipid people.

~Frederick The Great

Many battles have been fought and won by soldiers nourished on beer.

~Frederick The Great

A king is the first servant and first magistrate of the state.

~Frederick The Great

Pleasure is the most real good in this life.

~Frederick The Great

I love opposition that has convictions.

~Frederick The Great

It is impossible to imitate Voltaire without being Voltaire.

~Frederick The Great

Every man must get to Heaven his own way.

~Frederick The Great

My people and I have come to an agreement which satisfies us both. They are to do what they please, and I am to do what I please.

~Frederick The Great

Though I may not be a king in my future life, so much the better: I shall nevertheless live an active life and, on top of it, earn less ingratitude.

~Frederick The Great

Neither antiquity nor any other nation has imagined a more atrocious and blasphemous absurdity than that of eating God. This is how Christians treat the autocrat of the universe.

~Frederick The Great

Books make up no small part of human happiness.

~Frederick The Great

Do not neglect the principles of foresight and know that often, puffed up with success, armies have lost the fruit of their heroism through a feeling of false security.

~Frederick The Great

It has been said by a certain general, that the first object in the establishment of an army ought to be making provision for the belly, that being the basis and foundation of all operations.

~Frederick The Great

To your care and recommendation am I indebted for having replaced a half-blind mathematician with a mathematician with both eyes, which will especially please the anatomical members of my Academy.

~Frederick The Great

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