

Friedrich August von Hayek

Quotes

*Men, Government, Mean, People, Liberty, Order, Law, Freedom, Justice, May,
Thinking, Civilization, Believe, Principles, Doe, Economics, Ideas, Differences,
Facts, Democracy*

The idea of social justice is that the state should treat different people unequally in order to make them equal.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

If socialists understood economics, they wouldn't be socialist.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

There is all the difference in the world between treating people equally and attempting to make them equal.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

'Emergencies' have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The curious task of economics is to demonstrate to men how little they really know about what they imagine they can design.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

[Socialistic] economic planning, regulation, and intervention pave the way to totalitarianism by building a power structure that will inevitably be seized by the most power-hungry and unscrupulous.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

In government, the scum rises to the top.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Social justice rests on the hate towards those that enjoy a comfortable position, namely, upon envy.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The more the state "plans" the more difficult planning becomes for the individual.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

It is indeed probable that more harm and misery have been caused by men determined to use coercion to stamp out a moral evil than by men intent on doing evil.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The chief evil is unlimited government, and nobody is qualified to wield unlimited power.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

By giving the government unlimited powers, the most arbitrary rule can be made legal; and in this way a democracy may set up the most complete despotism imaginable.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

I am certain, however, that nothing has done so much to destroy the juridical safeguards of individual freedom as the striving after this mirage of social justice.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

[T]hose who are willing to surrender their freedom for security have always demanded that if they give up their full freedom it should also be taken from those not prepared to do so.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

A claim for equality of material position can be met only by a government with totalitarian powers.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Nobody with open eyes can any longer doubt that the danger to personal freedom comes chiefly from the left.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Freedom can be preserved only if it is treated as a supreme principle which must not be sacrificed for particular advantages.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Few are ready to recognize that the rise of fascism and Nazism was not a reaction against the socialist trends of the preceding period but a necessary outcome of those tendencies.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Conservatism is only as good as what it conserves.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

It is when it is contended that "in a democracy right is what the majority makes it to be" that democracy degenerates into demagoguery.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

It seems to be almost a law of human nature that it is easier for people to agree on a negative program - on the hatred of an enemy, on the envy of those better off - than on any positive task.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The moral consequences of totalitarian propaganda...are destructive of all morals because they undermine one of the foundations of all morals: the sense of and respect for truth.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Socialism can only be put into practice only by methods which most socialists disapprove.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Liberty and responsibility are inseparable.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We must face the fact that the preservation of individual freedom is incompatible with a full satisfaction of our views of distributive justice.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We shall not grow wiser before we learn that much that we have done was very foolish.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The state itself becomes more and more identified with the interests of those who run things than with the interests of the people in general.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The conservative feels safe and content only if he is assured that some higher wisdom watches and supervises change, only if he knows that some authority is charged with keeping the change "orderly.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Through the inevitable mismanagement of resources and goods at the disposal of the state, all forms of collectivism lead eventually to tyranny.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The idea that human kind can shape the world according to wish is what I call the fatal conceit

~Friedrich August von Hayek

To be controlled in our economic pursuits means to be controlled in everything.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The principle that the end justifies the means is in individualist ethics regarded as the denial of all morals. In collectivist ethics it becomes necessarily the supreme rule.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

It seems to me that socialists today can preserve their position in academic economics merely by the pretense that the differences are entirely moral questions about which science cannot decide.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

I do not think it is an exaggeration to say history is largely a history of inflation, usually inflations engineered by governments for the gain of governments.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Fascism is the stage reached after communism has proved an illusion.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

No human mind can comprehend all the knowledge which guides the actions of society.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Wherever liberty as we understand it has been destroyed, this has almost always been done in the name of some new freedom promised to the people

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The [classical] liberal, of course, does not deny that there are some superior people -- he is not an egalitarian -- but he denies that anyone has authority to decide who these superior people are.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Any man who is only an economist is unlikely to be a good one.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

This means that to entrust to science - or to deliberate control according to scientific principles - more than scientific method can achieve may have deplorable effects.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Nothing is more securely lodged than the ignorance of the experts.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

By the time any view becomes a majority view, it is no longer the best view: somebody will already have advanced beyond the point which the majority have reached.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The ultimate decision about what is accepted as right and wrong will be made not by individual human wisdom but by the disappearance of the groups that have adhered to the "wrong" beliefs.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We must raise and train an army of fighters for freedom.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

And who will deny that a world in which the wealthy are powerful is still a better world than one in which only the already powerful can acquire wealth?

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We can either have a free Parliament or a free people. Personal freedom requires that all authority is restrained by long-run principles which the opinion of the people approves.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We shall never prevent the abuse of power if we are not prepared to limit power in a way which occasionally may prevent its use for desirable purposes.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Liberty is an opportunity for doing good, but this is only so when it is also an opportunity for doing wrong.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

A society that does not recognise that each individual has values of his own which he is entitled to follow can have no respect for the dignity of

the individual and cannot really know freedom.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Nothing distinguishes more clearly conditions in a free country from those in a country under arbitrary government than the observance in the former of the great principles known as the Rule of Law.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

I must confess that if I had been consulted whether to establish a Nobel Prize in economics, I should have decidedly advised against it.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Once you admit that the individual is merely a means to serve the ends of the higher entity called society or the nation, most of those features of totalitarianism which horrify us follow of necessity

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The Nobel Prize confers on an individual an authority which in economics no man ought to possess.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

It is of the essence of the demand for equality before the law that people should be treated alike in spite of the fact that they are different.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Once politics become a tug-of-war for shares in the income pie, decent government is impossible.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Socialism is simply a re-assertion of that tribal ethics whose gradual weakening had made an approach to the Great Society possible.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

It is because freedom means the renunciation of direct control of

individual efforts that a free society can make use of so much more knowledge than the mind of the wisest ruler could comprehend.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

With the exception only of the period of the gold standard, practically all governments of history have used their exclusive power to issue money to defraud and plunder the people.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

There is only one " principle that can preserve a free society: namely, the strict prevention of all coercion except in the enforcement of general abstract rules equally applicable to all.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Socialism has never and nowhere been at first a working-class movement.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Once wide coercive powers are given to governmental agencies for particular purposes, such powers cannot be effectively controlled by democratic assemblies.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The history of government management of money has, except for a few short happy periods, been one of incessant fraud and deception.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Capitalism created the possibility of employment.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

It is not the source but the limitation of power which prevents it from being arbitrary.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The guiding principle that a policy of freedom for the individual is the only truly progressive policy remains as true today as it was in the nineteenth century.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Why should we, however, in economics, have to plead ignorance of the sort of facts on which, in the case of a physical theory, a scientist would certainly be expected to give precise information?

~Friedrich August von Hayek

You can have economic freedom without political freedom, but you cannot have political freedom without economic freedom.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Nowhere has democracy ever worked well without a great measure of local self-government, providing a school of political training for the people at large as much as for their future leaders.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Competition means decentralized planning by many separate persons.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Human reason can neither predict nor deliberately shape its own future. Its advances consist in finding out where it has been wrong.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The credit which the apparent conformity with recognized scientific standards can gain for seemingly simple but false theories may, as the present instance shows, have grave consequences.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Justice, like liberty and coercion, is a concept which, for the sake of clarity, ought to be confined to the deliberate treatment of men by other men.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The mind cannot foresee its own advance.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

To combat the depression by a forced credit expansion is to attempt to cure the evil by the very means which brought it about.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

There is, in a competitive society, nobody who can exercise even a fraction of the power which a socialist planning board would possess.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Freedom granted only when it is known beforehand that its effects will be beneficial is not freedom.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The system of private property is the most important guaranty of freedom, not only for those who own property, but scarcely less for those who do not.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We must shed the illusion that we can deliberately 'create the future of mankind'

~Friedrich August von Hayek

When it becomes dominated by a collectivist creed, democracy will inevitably destroy itself.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Freedom necessarily means that many things will be done which we do not like.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

... I prefer true but imperfect knowledge, even if it leaves much undetermined and unpredictable, to a pretense of exact knowledge that is likely to be false.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We shall all be the gainers if we can create a world fit for small states to live in.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Liberty".that condition of man in which coercion of some by others is reduced as much as possible in society

~Friedrich August von Hayek

What a free society offers to the individual is much more than what he would be able to do if only he were free.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The freedom that will be used by only one man in a million may be more important to society and more beneficial to the majority than any freedom that we all use.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Without a theory the facts are silent.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The great aim of the struggle for liberty has been equality before the law.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

Never will man penetrate deeper into error than when he is continuing on a road which has led him to great success

~Friedrich August von Hayek

If democracy is a means rather than an end, its limits must be

determined in the light of the purpose we want it to serve.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

If we wish to preserve a free society, it is essential that we recognize that the desirability of a particular object is not sufficient justification for the use of coercion.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We must shed the illusion that we can deliberately "create the future of mankind." This is the final conclusion of the forty years which I have now devoted to the study of these problems

~Friedrich August von Hayek

We know: of course, with regard to the market and similar social structures, a great many facts which we cannot measure and on which indeed we have only some very imprecise and general information.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

It can hardly be denied that such a demand quite arbitrarily limits the facts which are to be admitted as possible causes of the events which occur in the real world.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

The more I learn about the evolution of ideas, the more I have become aware that I am simply an unrepentant Old Whig-with the stress on the "old.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

... that order generated without design can far outstrip plans men consciously contrive

~Friedrich August von Hayek

From the saintly and single-minded idealist to the fanatic is often but a step.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

As is true with respect to other great evils, the measures by which war might be made altogether impossible for the future may well be worse than even war itself.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

One need not be a prophet to be aware of impending dangers. An accidental combination of experience and interest will often reveal events to one man under aspects which few yet see.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

[The] impersonal process of the market ... can be neither just nor unjust, because the results are not intended or foreseen.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

If we can reduce the risk of friction likely to lead to war, this is probably all we can reasonably hope to achieve.

~Friedrich August von Hayek

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