

# Friedrich Durrenmatt

## Quotes

*Literature, World, Men, Thinking, Reality, War, Art, People, Political, Justice,  
Humanity, Doe, Murder, Writing, Worst, Stories, Problem, United States,  
Differences, Heaven*

A state always calls itself fatherland when it is ready for murder.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

For people who have no critical acumen, a state is a mythical entity, for those who think critically it is a rational fiction, created by man in order to facilitate human coexistence.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The world is bad but not without hope. It is only hopeless when you look at it from an ideal viewpoint.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Humor is the mask of wisdom.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Religion and political expediency go beautifully hand in hand

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

News reports don't change the world. Only facts change it, and those have already happened when we get the news.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The difference between humans and wild animals is that humans pray before they commit murder.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Above all, be suspicious of your fatherland. Nobody is more inclined to become a murderer than a fatherland.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Our science has become terrible, our research dangerous, our findings deadly. We physicists have to make peace with reality. Reality is not as strong as we are. We will ruin reality.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

It is surely easier to confess a murder over a cup of coffee than in front of a jury.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

That there is also freedom in captivity, only a prisoner can claim. Coming from a prison guard, this statement would be blasphemy.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

There are risks which are not acceptable: the destruction of humanity is one of them

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The content of physics is the concern of physicists, its effect the concern of all men.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The worst possible turn can not be programmed. It is caused by coincidence.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

So then learn to conquer your fear. This is the only art we have to master nowadays: to look at things without fear, and to fearlessly do right.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

One does not set fire to a world which is already lost

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The savages don't have atom bombs.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The art of the cuisine, when fully mastered, is the one human capability of which only good things can be said.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

It is only in love and murder that we still remain sincere.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

A writer doesn't solve problems. He allows them to emerge.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Without tolerance, our world turns into hell.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Resistance at all cost is the most senseless act there is.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

To not be afraid in our world is the message that doesn't derive from reason, but maybe from this mysterious capacity given to humans which we call--not without a little embarrassment--faith.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

In this country, you never pull the emergency brake, even when there is an emergency. It is imperative that the trains run on schedule.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Today's Communism can survive only if it abandons the myth of an infallible party, if it continues to think, and if it becomes democratic.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

He who confronts the paradoxical exposes himself to reality.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

For a person who is dying only eternity counts.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

What the world needs is not redemption from sin but redemption from hunger and oppression; it has no need to pin its hopes upon Heaven, it has everything to hope for from this earth.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Emotions have no place in business, unless you do business with them.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

It is bad luck for world history that of all people the Russians adopted Communism, because they are totally unfit for it.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Revolutions demand enormous sacrifices and, at the same time, create a new need to change the world again.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Truth is always a delusion.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

It is inhuman to continue a war which could easily be ended

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

This inhuman world has to become more humane. But how?

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

A story has been thought to its conclusion when it has taken its worst possible turn.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Human life is beyond comprehension.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

We do not consider patriotism desirable if it contradicts civilized behavior.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The rightful claim to dissent is an existential right of the individual.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

People like us who are on their last leg can only understand comedies.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The planet on which we live is poorly organized, many areas are overpopulated, others are reserved for a few, technology's potential is only in part realized, and most people are starving.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

There is a moment when nothing can be wiped out and left behind any more, when there is only reality and reality is horrifying.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

World history is tragic.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Someone who is about to die does not mourn the dead.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

A major power can afford a military debacle only when it looks like a political victory.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

When death has you by the throat, you don't mince words.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Communism is a proposition to structure the world more reasonably, a proposition for changing the world. As such, we have to analyze it and, if we deem it reasonable, act upon it.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Whoever is content with the world, and who profits from its lack of

justice, does not want to change it.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

In a society which is structured the wrong way, piety has no effect.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The only remedy against hunger is reasonable birth control.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Nothing that has been thought can ever be taken back

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Only the freedom of mind can prevent the state from becoming totalitarian and from issuing totalitarian demands.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

A story is not finished, until it took the worst turn.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Pretend to be dumb, that's the only way to reach old age.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The evolution of humans can not only be seen as the grand total of their wars; it is also defined by the evolution of the human mind and the development of the human consciousness.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Today's difference between Russia and the United States is that in Russia everybody takes everybody else for a spy, and in the United States everybody takes everybody else for a criminal.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

It is easy to kill when you don't see your victim

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Humans need justice in the here and now and grace in the thereafter. Justice in the here and now is possible only without freedom, and grace in the thereafter only through the freedom of God.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Then the American flag was saluted. In general, in the United States people always salute the American flag.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

There are thoughts we must not think

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Rome has betrayed itself. It knew the truth and chose violence, it knew humaneness and it chose tyranny.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

What concerns everyone can only be resolved by everyone.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Power is paradoxical.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Everything that is necessary is also easy. You just have to accept it. And the most necessary, the most natural matter on this planet is death.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The freedom of each individual can only be the freedom of all.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

The problems of all of humanity can only be solved by all of humanity

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

We can't afford the wrath of Heaven. We survived a deluge by the skin



of our teeth, but an economic crisis would be disastrous.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

A reasonable change of the world can not be instrumented by pure reason.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

I am a man, and God is hiding from us humans. We are unable to see Him, we can only search for Him

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Man is imperfect. The reality he creates is always endangered by man.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

To make the essence of man visible in the exposure is the highest art of photography.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

A world is in flames, and you are cracking silly jokes.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Prior to the meeting, there was a prayer. In general, in the United States there was always praying.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Do we still have the right to be more than victims?

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

You can't take back an act you were able to think.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

There is also a reasonable tolerance: reason tolerates the reasonable. It is, however, almost tautological to call this 'tolerance' any longer, as it becomes a matter of course.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Who sows fear, reaps weapons.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

Every work of art depicts an aspect of reality.

~Friedrich Durrenmatt

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