

# George Friedman Quotes

*War, Country, Thinking, Men, People, Army, Chinese, Technology, Mean,  
President, Reality, Europe, Sex, Littles, Real, Research, Debt, Simple, Goal,  
Needs*

Wars are times of intense technological transformation, because societies invest - sometimes with extensive borrowing - when and where matters of life and death are at stake.

~George Friedman

Conventional analysis suffers from a profound failure of imagination. It imagines passing clouds to be permanent and is blind to powerful, long-term shifts taking place in full view of the world.

~George Friedman

I think there are worse things than war. For example, injustice.

~George Friedman

Anger does not make history. Power does. And power may be supplemented by anger, but it derives from more fundamental realities; geography, demographics, technology, and culture.

~George Friedman

What is American strategy first of all? So American strategy is to command the seas, right? The foundation of our power is sea control. Nobody can invade us, but we can invade them.

~George Friedman

Well the most likely emerging countries are Japan, Turkey, and Poland. So I would say Eastern Europe, the Middle East and a maritime war by Japan with the United States enjoying its own pleasures.

~George Friedman

A century is about events. A decade is about people.

~George Friedman

Idealism is frequently another word for self-righteousness, a disease that can only be corrected by a profound understanding power in its complete sense.

~George Friedman

The poets think about war more than the social scientists.

~George Friedman

The tragedy of the human condition is that the thing that makes us most human - community - originates in the inhumanity of war.

~George Friedman

Europeans have always thought of U.S. presidents as either naive, as they did with Jimmy Carter, or as cowboys, as they did with Lyndon Johnson, and held them in contempt in either case.

~George Friedman

The Chinese have a long history of slaughtering each other without bothering their neighbors.

~George Friedman

I'm not a journalist. So I didn't down and let Assad charm me. I didn't walk away and say "my god he's got an Apple computer and he really likes Beyonce so he must be a liberal."

~George Friedman

The kind of president we need has little to do with ideology and more to do with a willingness to wield power to moral ends.

~George Friedman

Constraint theory defines for you what outcomes are possible and what outcomes are impossible. It also eliminates wishful thinking.

~George Friedman

So as soon as you want something to happen you begin skewing the data to support it. Our stuff is invaluable to decision-makers precisely because we have no ax to grind.

~George Friedman

When I went to war, I did not go making geopolitical calculations. I went to war with a lust.

~George Friedman

War and sex are what I call the two abysmal - by that I mean deep - parts of the human condition.

~George Friedman

The warrior must continue to make decisions in the face of extreme circumstances. He cannot afford to get angry or frightened.

~George Friedman

A research division develops marketing material for its deal makers. We have no policy position. If you have a policy position you can't possibly forecast.

~George Friedman

The most horrible sort of war is civil war.

~George Friedman

By the 20th century, war ceased to be an encounter between two armies. It became an encounter between two societies, because a factory worker producing a gun or a bomb is as deadly as a pilot.

~George Friedman

The important thing in war is that there is an element of rage, but you must remain very distant from it.

~George Friedman

I cannot understand how something as ubiquitous as war can simply be dismissed as pathological. It is not clear to me that it is an unspeakable evil. If it is, I need proof of it.

~George Friedman

The man who hates war more than he hates the Nazis is a wicked man.

~George Friedman

If you lose yourself to rage in the complexity of battle, you are going to be lost.

~George Friedman

We cannot anticipate the moral circumstances under which we will live. And therefore [I refuse] to say that I will not live in a moral circumstance that requires violence.

~George Friedman

In a way, we can have a much easier discussion about the future of technology than we can about why a young man kills another man in a war.

~George Friedman

Strategy is something that emerges from reality, while tactics might be chosen.

~George Friedman

Recent presidents have gone off on ad hoc adventures. They have set unattainable goal because they have framed the issue incorrectly, as they believed their own rhetoric.

~George Friedman

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