

# George Mikes

## Quotes

*Funny, Humorous, Humor, Country, People, Israel, Two, Cat, War, America, Groups, Strong, Japan, Soul, Sports, Mean, Gay, Average, Dog, Queues*

An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one.

~George Mikes

On the Continent people have good food; in England people have good table manners.

~George Mikes

The man who is not afraid of danger is not a hero, but a psychopath.

~George Mikes

You can keep a dog: but it is the cat who keeps people, because cats find humans useful domestic animals.

~George Mikes

In England only uneducated people show off their knowledge; nobody quotes Latin or Greek authors in the course of conversation, unless he has never read them.

~George Mikes

Many Continentals think life is a game; the English think cricket is a game.

~George Mikes

I asked many friends if Australian anti-intellectualism was still a living force and they all told me it was. If you are above average intelligence, hide this embarrassing fact.

~George Mikes

A dog will flatter you but you have to flatter the cat.

~George Mikes

The English are always ready to admire anything so long as they can queue up.

~George Mikes

The British suffer from a most unfortunate superiority complex - unjustified even under Victoria and most certainly hopelessly out-of-date today.

~George Mikes

THE British are brave people. They can face anything, except reality.

~George Mikes

It was decided almost two hundred years ago that English should be the language spoken in the United States. It is not known, however, why this decision has not been carried out.

~George Mikes

There are many non-intellectual countries; Australia is one of the few anti-intellectual ones.

~George Mikes

A foreign observer is struck by our gentleness: by the orderly behaviour of the English crowds, the lack of pushing and quarrelling, the willingness to form queues.

~George Mikes

In Moscow they do not pay much attention to the living but keep their cemeteries in a splendid state.

~George Mikes

When people say England, they sometimes mean Great Britain, sometimes the United Kingdom, sometimes the British Isles, - but never England.

~George Mikes

Humility is one of the most repulsive virtues, nearly always false.

~George Mikes

If it is gay, ribald and lascivious night-life you are after, Israel is not the place for you. The night clubs you do find are nearer in spirit to a YMCA than to dens of iniquity.

~George Mikes

The Americans are extremely gadget minded people and American gadgets have a peculiar characteristic: they work.

~George Mikes

Bad English was the second language of Israel and bad Hebrew, of course, remained the national language.

~George Mikes

Jokes are better than war. Even the most aggressive jokes are better than the least aggressive wars. Even the longest jokes are better than the shortest wars.

~George Mikes

Rich people (in Australia) have swimming pools in their gardens but, at least, they do swim in them.

~George Mikes

Nobody uses his car in New York, because so many people use it that traffic is congested and unbearably slow.

~George Mikes

The country has always been governed by a coalition but today it is governed by a so-called Grand Coalition which is a more polite word for all and sundry.

~George Mikes

'I don't say a Zionist must be insane,' said President Weizmann, 'but it helps if he is.'

~George Mikes

Tel-Aviv airport is still the only airport in the world where each passenger is met by ten relatives.

~George Mikes

The Art of Conversation could not die in Australia; it never lived. Television did not kill it; there was nothing there to kill.

~George Mikes

I said in my earlier book, and find no reason for retracting my statement, that the famous Jewish sense of humour got lost in transit to Israel.

~George Mikes

I have often thought that the aim of port is to give you a good and durable hangover, so that during the next day you should be reminded of the splendid occasion the night before.

~George Mikes

Israelis keep teaching you your own business. God knows everything but the Israelis know everything better.

~George Mikes

Israel also deprived the world of its chance of shedding tears of genuine sympathy over her destruction. The world resents this; it likes to feel noble and sympathetic.

~George Mikes

Continental people have a sex life; the English have hot-water bottles.

~George Mikes

The English take everything with an exquisite sense of humour. They are only offended if you tell them that they have no sense of humour.

~George Mikes

In England the boy pats his adored one on the back and says softly, "I don't object, you know." If he is quite mad with passion, he may add: "I rather fancy you, in fact.

~George Mikes

People on the Continent either tell you the truth or lie; in England they hardly ever lie, but they would not dream of telling you the truth.

~George Mikes

English humor resembles the Loch Ness Monster in that both are famous but there is a strong suspicion that neither exists.

~George Mikes

Prices in Italy are only slightly lower than in France, which means that Italy is a very expensive country for everyone, natives, visitors and tourists.

~George Mikes

Bargaining is a repulsive habit; compromise is one of the highest human virtues - the difference between the two being that the first is practised on the Continent, the latter in Great Britain.

~George Mikes

Foreigners have souls; the English haven't.

~George Mikes

Once you start buying first aid kits you start having accidents.

~George Mikes

Japan is, you often feel, an improved version of the United States.

~George Mikes

To have created a Welfare State was a great achievement; but we must go on to create a Welfare Planet.

~George Mikes

The Japanese are human beings like the rest of us, but they will strongly resent this insinuation.

~George Mikes

A criminal may improve and become a decent member of society. A foreigner cannot improve. Once a foreigner, always a foreigner. There is no way out for him.

~George Mikes

On the Continent stray cats are judged individually on their merit-some are loved, some are only respected; in England they are universally worshipped as in ancient Egypt.

~George Mikes

The English have no soul; they have the understatement instead.

~George Mikes

To be extravagant you need money. True. But you do not need your own money.

~George Mikes

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