

# George Orwell

## Quotes

*War, Men, Writing, People, Thinking, Book, Lying, Past, Party, Believe, Country,  
Animal, Long, Nineteen, Two, Real, Mind, Art, Fighting, Political*

The further a society drifts from truth the more it will hate those who speak it.

~George Orwell

The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.

~George Orwell

In a time of universal deceit - telling the truth is a revolutionary act.

~George Orwell

The people will believe what the media tells them they believe.

~George Orwell

The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth.

~George Orwell

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.

~George Orwell

All tyrannies rule through fraud and force, but once the fraud is exposed they must rely exclusively on force.

~George Orwell

Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations.

~George Orwell

So much of left-wing thought is a kind of playing with fire by people who don't even know that fire is hot.

~George Orwell

It's frightful that people who are so ignorant should have so much influence.

~George Orwell

That rifle hanging on the wall of the working-class flat or labourer's cottage is the symbol of democracy. It is our job to see that it stays there.

~George Orwell

A society becomes totalitarian when its structure becomes flagrantly artificial: that is, when its ruling class has lost its function but succeeds in clinging to power by force or fraud.

~George Orwell

Threats to freedom of speech, writing and action, though often trivial in isolation, are cumulative in their effect and, unless checked, lead to a general disrespect for the rights of the citizen.

~George Orwell

Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past.

~George Orwell

Political language... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.

~George Orwell

Free speech is my right to say what you don't want to hear.

~George Orwell

War against a foreign country only happens when the moneyed classes think they are going to profit from it.

~George Orwell

However much you deny the truth, the truth goes on existing.

~George Orwell

The very concept of objective truth is fading out of the world. Lies will pass into history.

~George Orwell

If you want a vision of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - forever.

~George Orwell

The real division is not between conservatives and revolutionaries but between authoritarians and libertarians.

~George Orwell

Doublethink means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.

~George Orwell

Under the spreading chestnut tree I sold you and you sold me--

~George Orwell

A dirty joke is a sort of mental rebellion.

~George Orwell

All the war-propaganda, all the screaming and lies and hatred, comes invariably from people who are not fighting.

~George Orwell

All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

~George Orwell

Freedom of the Press, if it means anything at all, means the freedom to criticize and oppose

~George Orwell

In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.' All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.

~George Orwell

Myths which are believed in tend to become true.

~George Orwell

If you loved someone, you loved him, and when you had nothing else to give, you still gave him love.

~George Orwell

There is no swifter route to the corruption of thought than through the corruption of language

~George Orwell

Under the spreading chestnut tree I sold you and you sold me: There lie they, and here lie we Under the spreading chestnut tree.

~George Orwell

All rulers in all ages have tried to impose a false view of the world upon their followers.

~George Orwell

We know that no one ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it.

~George Orwell

Windmill or no windmill, he said, life would go on as it had always gone on--that is, badly.

~George Orwell

The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them.

~George Orwell

Some ideas are so stupid that only intellectuals believe them.

~George Orwell

War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.

~George Orwell

He wears a mask, and his face grows to fit it.

~George Orwell

But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.

~George Orwell

One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes a revolution in order to establish a dictatorship.

~George Orwell

Whoever is winning at the moment will always seem to be invincible.

~George Orwell

The choice for mankind lies between freedom and happiness and for the great bulk of mankind, happiness is better.

~George Orwell

Politics is the choice between the lesser of two evils.

~George Orwell

We shall abolish the orgasm. Our neurologists are at work upon it now.

~George Orwell

The secret of rulership is to combine a belief in one's own infallibility with a power to learn from past mistakes.

~George Orwell

Good prose should be transparent, like a window pane.

~George Orwell

We are all capable of believing things which we know to be untrue, and then, when we are finally proved wrong, impudently twisting the facts so as to show that we were right.

~George Orwell

We have now sunk to a depth at which restatement of the obvious is the first duty of intelligent men.

~George Orwell

We may find in the long run that tinned food is a deadlier weapon than the machine-gun.

~George Orwell

Huge events like the Ukraine famine of 1933, involving the deaths of millions of people, have actually escaped the attention of the majority of English russophiles.

~George Orwell

We control matter because we control the mind. Reality is inside the skull.

~George Orwell

Patriotism has nothing to do with Conservatism. It is actually the opposite of Conservatism, since it is a devotion to something that is always changing and yet is felt to be mystically the same.

~George Orwell

The aim of a joke is not to degrade the human being, but to remind him that he is already degraded.

~George Orwell

It's not so much staying alive, it's staying human that's important. What counts is that we don't betray each other.

~George Orwell

The way to make a million dollars is to start a religion.

~George Orwell

The war is not meant to be won, it is meant to be continuous.

~George Orwell

From the totalitarian point of view, history is something to be created rather than learned.

~George Orwell

The real test of character is how you treat someone who has no possibility of doing you any good.

~George Orwell

Being in a minority, even in a minority of one, did not make you mad. There was truth and there was untruth, and if you clung to the truth even against the whole world, you were not mad.

~George Orwell

The modern writer who has influenced me most is W. Somerset Maugham .

~George Orwell

Until they became conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious.

~George Orwell



Now I will tell you the answer to my question. It is this. The Party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power, pure power.

~George Orwell

When I see a policeman with a club beating a man on the ground, I don't have to ask whose side I'm on.

~George Orwell

Nationalism is power hunger tempered by self-deception.

~George Orwell

On the whole, human beings want to be good, but not too good, and not quite all the time.

~George Orwell

There are some ideas so wrong that only a very intelligent person could believe in them.

~George Orwell

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.

~George Orwell

I doubt whether classical education ever has been or can be successfully carried out without corporal punishment.

~George Orwell

Anyone who challenges the prevailing orthodoxy finds himself silenced with surprising effectiveness. A genuinely unfashionable opinion is almost never given a fair hearing.

~George Orwell

Despotic governments can stand 'moral force' till the cows come home; what they fear is physical force.

~George Orwell

Real journalism is publishing something that somebody else does not want published - the rest is just public relations.

~George Orwell

If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought. A bad usage can spread by tradition and imitation even among people who should and do know better.

~George Orwell

Patriotism is usually stronger than class hatred, and always stronger than internationalism.

~George Orwell

By using stale metaphors, similes and idioms, you save much mental effort, at the cost of leaving your meaning vague, not only for your reader but for yourself.

~George Orwell

Men can only be happy when they do not assume that the object of life is happiness.

~George Orwell

Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it.

~George Orwell

True freedom is the right to say something that others don't want to hear.

~George Orwell

The best books... are those that tell you what you know already.

~George Orwell

One cannot really be a Catholic and grown up.

~George Orwell

To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle.

~George Orwell

In philosophy, or religion, or ethics, or politics, two and two might make five, but when one was designing a gun or an aeroplane they had to make four.

~George Orwell

I enjoy talking to you. Your mind appeals to me. It resembles my own mind except that you happen to be insane.

~George Orwell

Progress is not an illusion, it happens, but it is slow and invariably disappointing.

~George Orwell

It is curious how people take it for granted that they have a right to preach at you and pray over you as soon as your income falls below a certain level.

~George Orwell

Real power is achieved when the ruling class controls the material essentials of life, granting and withholding them from the masses as if they were privileges.

~George Orwell

To accept civilization as it is practically means accepting decay.

~George Orwell

If you kept the small rules, you could break the big ones.

~George Orwell

Pacifism is objectively pro-Fascist

~George Orwell

A man receiving charity always hates his benefactor- it is a fixed characteristic of human nature

~George Orwell

Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it.

~George Orwell

Reality is inside the skull.

~George Orwell

The atom bombs are piling up in the factories, the police are prowling through the cities, the lies are streaming from the loudspeakers, but the earth is still going round the sun.

~George Orwell

When the white man turns tyrant, it is his own freedom that he destroys

~George Orwell

It is the same in all wars; the soldiers do the fighting, the journalists do the shouting, and no true patriot ever gets near a front-line trench, except on the briefest of propaganda tours.

~George Orwell

In our time political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible.

~George Orwell

Every war, when it comes, or before it comes, is represented not as a war but as an act of self-defense against a homicidal maniac.

~George Orwell

Using clichés is a substitute for thinking

~George Orwell

If you want to keep a secret, you must also hide it from yourself.

~George Orwell

Of pain you could wish only one thing: that it should stop. Nothing in the world was so bad as physical pain. In the face of pain there are no heroes.

~George Orwell

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