

George Will Quotes

*Government, Political, Baseball, People, America, Thinking, Men, Sports, Years,
War, Law, Country, Mean, Politics, Long, Choices, Believe, Important, Jobs,
Mind*

Baseball, it is said, is only a game. True. And the Grand Canyon is only a hole in Arizona. Not all holes, or games, are created equal.

~George Will

Some parents say it is toy guns that make boys warlike. But give a boy a rubber duck and he will seize its neck like the butt of a pistol and shout 'Bang!'

~George Will

Americans are overreaching; overreaching is the most admirable and most American of the many American excesses.

~George Will

The pursuit of perfection often impedes improvement.

~George Will

Ronald Reagan has held the two most demeaning jobs in the country; President of the United States and radio broadcaster for the Chicago Cubs.

~George Will

The unpleasant sound Bush is emitting as he traipses from one conservative gathering to another is a thin, tinny "arf" - the sound of a lap dog.

~George Will

Sports is a moral undertaking because it requires of participants, and it schools spectators in the appreciation of, noble things - courage, grace under pressure, sportsmanship.

~George Will

A politician's words reveal less about what he thinks about his subject than what he thinks about his audience.

~George Will

A society that thinks the choice between ways of living is just a choice between equally eligible 'lifestyles' turns universities into academic cafeterias offering junk food for the mind.

~George Will

The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised.

~George Will

Donald Trump is redundant evidence that if your net worth is high enough, your IQ can be very low and you can still intrude into American politics.

~George Will

We are given children to test us and make us more spiritual.

~George Will

Nationalism is blamed for this century's wars, but nationalism need not mean militarism. And the nation-state has been the laboratory of liberty.

~George Will

Pettiness is the tendency of people without large purposes.

~George Will

All politics takes place on a slippery slope. The most important four words in politics are up to a point.

~George Will

If you seek Hamilton's monument, look around. You are living in it. We honor Jefferson, but live in Hamilton's country, a mighty industrial nation with a strong central government.

~George Will

Conservatives define themselves in terms of what they oppose.

~George Will

Canada has one great novelist (Robertson Davies), which means it has one for every twenty-five million citizens - the world's highest ratio.

~George Will

Civilization depends on, and civility often requires, the willingness to say, 'What you are doing is none of my business' and 'What I am doing is none of your business.'

~George Will

The phrase 'domestic cat' is an oxymoron.

~George Will

When a politician says the debate is over, you can be sure of two things; the debate is raging; and he's losing it.

~George Will

The future has a way of arriving unannounced.

~George Will

We are suffering from a kind of slow-motion barbarization from within.

~George Will

Well, you know, the definition of second marriage is the triumph of hope over experience.

~George Will

The proof of liberal virtue is generosity with other people's money.

~George Will

Hyperbole expands in societies where articulateness atrophies.

~George Will

Politics should share one purpose with religion: the steady emancipation of the individual through the education of his passions.

~George Will

Voters don't decide issues, they decide who will decide issues.

~George Will

Correct thinkers think that 'baseball trivia' is an oxymoron: nothing about baseball is trivial.

~George Will

Sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence.

~George Will

It is no longer enough to be lusty. One must be a sexual gourmet.

~George Will

Whatever right the Second Amendment protects is not as important as it was 200 years ago... The government should deconstitutionalize the subject by repealing the embarrassing Amendment.

~George Will

The First Amendment...begins with the five loveliest words in the English language: 'Congress shall make no law'.

~George Will

The business of America is not business. Neither is it war. The business of america is justice and securing the blessings of liberty.

~George Will

Being elected to Congress is regarded as being sent on a looting raid for one's friends.

~George Will

What is really shocking in America isn't what's done in and by Washington that is illegal by that what is done in and by Washington that's legal.

~George Will

The reformers' preferred metaphor is "leveling the playing field." They should listen to the logic of their language: fields are leveled by bulldozers.

~George Will

The Berlin Wall is the defining achievement of socialism.

~George Will

The Soviet Union tried for 70 years to plant Marxism with bayonets in Eastern Europe. Today there are more Marxists on the Harvard faculty than there are in Eastern Europe.

~George Will

As advertising blather becomes the nation's normal idiom, language becomes printed noise.

~George Will

Football combines the two worst things about America: it is violence punctuated by committee meetings.

~George Will

We have 3,141 counties in this country. That would be 20 per county. The idea that we can't assimilate these 8-year-old criminals with their teddy bears is preposterous.

~George Will

Pessimism is as American as apple pie - frozen apple pie with a slice of processed cheese.

~George Will

This is an age in which one cannot find common sense without a search warrant.

~George Will

No matter how deeply you distrust the government's judgment, you are too trusting.

~George Will

Liberalism is wrong because it doesn't work. If a company is too big to fail, it is too big to exist.

~George Will

Childhood is frequently a solemn business for those inside it.

~George Will

World War II was the last government program that really worked.

~George Will

The great task of life is transmission: the task of transmitting the essential tools and graces of life from our parents to our children

~George Will

Perhaps the soundest advice for parents is: Lighten up. People have been raising children for approximately as long as there have been people.

~George Will

It is extraordinary how extraordinary the ordinary person is.

~George Will

The strongest continuous thread in America's political tradition is skepticism about government.

~George Will

Modern Americans travel light, with little philosophic baggage other than a fervent belief in their right to the pursuit of happiness.

~George Will

What the federal government does basically is borrow money from people and mail it to people.

~George Will

All I remember about my wedding day in 1967 is that the Cubs lost a double-header.

~George Will

One radical free spirit nonconformist is pretty much like another.

~George Will

The cultivation - even celebration - of victimhood by intellectuals, tort lawyers, politicians and the media is both cause and effect of today's culture of complaint.

~George Will

Today more Americans are imprisoned for drug offenses than for property crimes

~George Will

Football brings out the sociologist that lurks in some otherwise respectable citizens. They say football is a metaphor for America's sinfulness.

~George Will

Capital punishment, like the rest of the criminal justice system, is a government program, so skepticism is in order.

~George Will

Like a snail crossing a sidewalk, the Clinton Administration leaves a

lengthening trail of slime, this time on America's national honor.

~George Will

Americans complain a lot about the government and they voice a generalized suspicion of the government, but they constantly clammer for more of it.

~George Will

They are supposed to be dispassionate dispensers of Pure Justice, icy islands of emotionless calculation. In short, umpires should be acute Republicans.

~George Will

There may be more poetry than justice in poetic justice.

~George Will

Actually, there is only one first question of government, and it is How should we live? or What kind of people do we want our citizens to be?

~George Will

Creative semantics is the key to contemporary government; it consists of talking in strange tongues lest the public learn the inevitable inconveniently early.

~George Will

It (baseball) has no clock, no ties and no Liberal intrusions into the organized progression.

~George Will

If your job is to leaven ordinary lives with elevating spectacle, be elevating or be gone.

~George Will

Politicians fascinate because they constitute such a paradox; they are

an elite that accomplishes mediocrity for the public good.

~George Will

For Conservatives, seeing is believing; for liberals, believing is seeing.

~George Will

I don't think anyone has ever announced running for president that they want to change the Bill of Rights.

~George Will

Since 1946, the Cubs have had two problems: They put too few runs on the scoreboard and the other guys put too many. So what is the new management improving? The scoreboard.

~George Will

I am opposed to term limits because if we did not have seasoned professionals, we would not have the good government that we have.

~George Will

All politicians are to some extent salesmen.

~George Will

Sports is the toy department of life.

~George Will

Freedom is not only the absence of external restraints. It is also the absence of irresistible internal compulsions, unmanageable passion, and uncensorable highlights.

~George Will

The pursuit of perfection prevents achievement of the satisfactory.

~George Will

Few things are as stimulating as other people's calamities observed

from a safe distance.

~George Will

Chicago Cubs fans are ninety percent scar tissue.

~George Will

As has been said, standards are always out of date - that is why we call them standards.

~George Will

Revisiting the Revolutionary War is a bracing reminder that the fate of a continent, and the shape of the modern world, turned on the free choices of remarkably few Americans defying an empire.

~George Will

Hart is still like that little tub of vaguely milklike gunk that comes with airline coffee. It is labeled a "nondairy" product. Fine: we know what is non, but what is it?

~George Will

Man is messy, but any creature that can create space vehicles can probably cope.

~George Will

Big government inevitably drives an upward distribution of wealth to those whose wealth, confidence and sophistication enable them to manipulate government.

~George Will

Semicolons . . . signal, rather than shout, a relationship. . . . A semicolon is a compliment from the writer to the reader. It says: "I don't have to draw you a picture; a hint will do."

~George Will

Hillary Clinton hasn't created a job.

~George Will

The Revolution's most important result was Napoleon, whose most important result (as France learned in 1871, and again in 1914, and again in 1940) was the invention of Germany

~George Will

We have far more to fear from swift than from torpid government.

~George Will

Commercial society regards people as bundles of appetites, a conception that turns human beings inside out, leaving nothing to be regarded as inherently private.

~George Will

Most presidents come to Washington bright as freshly minted dimes and leave much diminished.

~George Will

Freedom is the silence of the law.

~George Will

National security rests on the credible threat of a form of warfare universally condemned since the Dark Ages, the wholesale slaughter of noncombatants.

~George Will

[P]rogressivism is a top-down, continent-wide tissue of taxes, mandates, and other coercions.

~George Will

Overcriminalization has become a national plague.

~George Will

I think if you'd had television cameras at Gettysburg, this would be two nations today. People would not have put up with that carnage if they saw it up close. We'd have elected McClellan in 1864.

~George Will

Good biology without good philosophy will be a calamity.

~George Will

Wars do not always begin with an abrupt, cymbal-crash rupture of conditions properly characterized as peace. There can be almost seamlessly incremental transitions.

~George Will

The most important business of one generation is the raising of the next generation. Nothing else you do in life will be as deeply satisfying.

~George Will

Political nature abhors a vacuum, which is what often exists for a year or two in a party after it loses a presidential election.

~George Will

Baseball's rich in wonderful statistics, but it's hard to find one more beautiful than Stan Musial's hitting record. He didn't care where he was, he just hit.

~George Will

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