

# Gordon S. Wood Quotes

*Thinking, Order, People, Ideas, America, Massachusetts, Wife, Special,  
Independence, Europe, Independent, Writing, Heart, Government, Founders,  
Humility, Franklin, Revolution, United States, Tomas Jefferson*

History is the queen of the humanities. It teaches wisdom and humility, and it tells us how things change through time.

~Gordon S. Wood

The relationship between [John] Adams and [Tomas] Jefferson was extraordinary. They differed on every conceivable issue, except on the Revolution and the love of their country.

~Gordon S. Wood

[Benjamin] Franklin may be a great philosopher, [John Adams] told his diary in 1779, but "as a Legislator in America he has done very little."

~Gordon S. Wood

By 1782 [John Adams] had come to feel for [Benjamin] Franklin "no other sentiments than Contempt or Abhorrence."

~Gordon S. Wood

If history teaches anything, it teaches humility.

~Gordon S. Wood

Americans, [John Adams] wrote in 1780, believed that their "revolution is as much for the benefit of the generality of Mankind in Europe, as for their own."

~Gordon S. Wood

[Tomas] Jefferson believed that the United States was a chosen nation with a special responsibility to spread democracy around the world.

~Gordon S. Wood

More than any other figure in our history [Tomas] Jefferson is responsible for the idea of American exceptionalism.

~Gordon S. Wood

It was [John's Adams] Massachusetts constitution if anything that

influenced people.

~Gordon S. Wood

[John Adams' writings] had indicted the United States for slavishly copying the English constitution by erecting bicameral legislatures in their state constitutions, most drafted in 1776.

~Gordon S. Wood

[John Adams] is impressed with [Thomas] Jefferson's learning, but noted his silence during the debates in the Congress: "I never heard him utter three Sentences together."

~Gordon S. Wood

[John] Adams never hid his jealousy and resentment of the other Founders, especially Benjamin Franklin.

~Gordon S. Wood

I think [John] Adams was correct when he said that his May resolutions were "an Epocha, a decisive Event," and tantamount to a declaration of independence.

~Gordon S. Wood

By the time [John Adams] came to write his Defence of the Constitutions of the United States in 1787 he had as dark a view of the American character as that of any critic in our history.

~Gordon S. Wood

[John] Adams was the best and most colorful stylist among the Founders. Although [Thomas] Jefferson is widely regarded as the smoothest writer, Adams is by far the most engaging and imaginative.

~Gordon S. Wood

[John Adams] diary, of course, is even more revealing of his feelings. Both his letters to [his wife] Abigail and his diary tell us what he really

thinks about people and events.

~Gordon S. Wood

After [Tomas] Jefferson's defeat of [John] Adams in the presidential election of 1800, they didn't communicate with one another for more than a decade.

~Gordon S. Wood

**Related Links:**

- Thinking Quotes
- Order Quotes
- People Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- America Quotes
- Massachusetts Quotes
- Wife Quotes
- Special Quotes
- Independence Quotes
- Europe Quotes
- Independent Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- Government Quotes
- Founders Quotes
- Humility Quotes
- Franklin Quotes
- Revolution Quotes
- United States Quotes
- Tomas Jefferson Quotes