

# Gore Vidal Quotes

*People, Writing, Country, Thinking, Men, Sex, War, Two, Believe, Political,  
Book, Want, Literature, Father, Class, Art, Mean, Children, Government, United  
States*

Our form of democracy is bribery, on the highest scale.

~Gore Vidal

There's a lot to be said for being nouveau riche, and the Reagans mean to say it all.

~Gore Vidal

The unfed mind devours itself.

~Gore Vidal

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild.

~Gore Vidal

We are the United States of Amnesia, we learn nothing because we remember nothing.

~Gore Vidal

Democracy is supposed to give you the feeling of choice, like Painkiller X and Painkiller Y. But they're both just aspirin.

~Gore Vidal

Write something, even if it's just a suicide note.

~Gore Vidal

Persuading the people to vote against their own best interests has been the awesome genius of the American political elite from the beginning.

~Gore Vidal

There is no such thing as a homosexual or a heterosexual person. There are only homo- or heterosexual acts. Most people are a mixture of impulses if not practices.

~Gore Vidal

The four most beautiful words in our common language: I told you so.

~Gore Vidal

You know, I've been around the ruling class all my life, and I've been quite aware of their total contempt for the people of the country.

~Gore Vidal

That loyal retainer of the Chase Manhattan Bank, the American president.

~Gore Vidal

As societies grow decadent, the language grows decadent, too. Words are used to disguise, not to illuminate, action.

~Gore Vidal

Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half.

~Gore Vidal

We should stop going around babbling about how we're the greatest democracy on earth, when we're not even a democracy. We are a sort of militarised republic.

~Gore Vidal

At any given moment, public opinion is a chaos of superstition, misinformation, and prejudice.

~Gore Vidal

Reality is something the human race doesn't handle very well.

~Gore Vidal

My father had a deep and lifelong contempt for politicians in general ("They tell lies," he used to say with wonder, "even when they don't have to").

~Gore Vidal

For the average American, freedom of speech is simply the freedom to repeat what everyone else is saying and no more.

~Gore Vidal

Style is knowing who you are, what you want to say, and not giving a damn.

~Gore Vidal

Terrorism is a direct response to the crimes our government has committed against foreigners (besides which, the actual terrorists are within our own government)

~Gore Vidal

There is only one party in the United States, the Property Party €" and it has two right wings: Republican and Democrat.

~Gore Vidal

The greatest pleasure when I started making money was not buying cars or yachts but finding myself able to have as many freshly typed drafts as possible.

~Gore Vidal

It makes no difference who you vote for - the two parties are really one party representing four percent of the people.

~Gore Vidal

Think of the earth as a living organism that is being attacked by billions of bacteria whose numbers double every forty years. Either the host dies, or the virus dies, or both die.

~Gore Vidal

Today's public figures can no longer write their own speeches or books, and there is some evidence that they can't read them either.

~Gore Vidal

Apparently, a democracy is a place where numerous elections are held at great cost without issues and with interchangeable candidates.

~Gore Vidal

Most writers are middle-class and are the children of doctors or lawyers.

~Gore Vidal

Country is run by... financial powers & corporate interests [who] send their lawyers to Congress to make laws so that they don't have to pay taxes

~Gore Vidal

You hear all this whining going on, "Where are our great writers?" The thing I might feel doleful about is: Where are the readers?

~Gore Vidal

I suspect that our own faith in psychiatry will seem as touchingly quaint to the future as our grandparents' belief in phrenology seems now to us.

~Gore Vidal

A narcissist is someone better looking than you are.

~Gore Vidal

On 16 September 1985, when the Commerce Department announced that the United States had become a debtor nation, the American Empire died.

~Gore Vidal

There is something about the state putting the power to bully into the hands of subnormal, sadistic apes that makes my blood boil.

~Gore Vidal

Any American who is prepared to run for president should automatically, by definition, be disqualified from ever doing so.

~Gore Vidal

All children alarm their parents, if only because you are forever expecting to encounter yourself.

~Gore Vidal

Each writer is born with a repertory company in his head. Shakespeare has perhaps 20 players. ... I have 10 or so, and thats a lot. As you get older, you become more skillful at casting them.

~Gore Vidal

To justify and extol human greed and egotism is to my mind not only immoral, but evil.

~Gore Vidal

These people [Bush Administration] are for the most part rip-off artists. Notice that they're all gas and oil men from Cheney, to the two Bushes; I think Rumsfeld also.

~Gore Vidal

To bring into the world an unwanted human being is as antisocial an act as murder.

~Gore Vidal

The United States was founded by the brightest people in the country and we haven't seen them since.

~Gore Vidal

In America, the race goes to the loud, the solemn, the hustler. If you think you're a great writer, you must say that you are.

~Gore Vidal

He's a full-fledged housewife from Kansas with all the prejudices.

~Gore Vidal

First coffee, then a bowel movement. Then the Muse joins me.

~Gore Vidal

Sex is a continuum. You go through different phases along life's way... and if you don't, you've been sort of cheated.

~Gore Vidal

I'm a born - again atheist.

~Gore Vidal

True wisdom is to know the extent of what you don't know quite as well as you know what you do know.

~Gore Vidal

Fifty percent of people won't vote, and fifty percent don't read newspapers. I hope it's the same fifty percent.

~Gore Vidal

Nothing human is finally calculable; even to ourselves we are strange.

~Gore Vidal

In writing and politicking, it's best not to think about it, just do it.

~Gore Vidal

The important thing is not the object of love, but the emotion itself.

~Gore Vidal

I assume that the point of American democracy is you can express any point of view you want.

~Gore Vidal

Politics is made up of two words: "Poli," which is Greek for "many," and "tics," which are bloodsucking insects.

~Gore Vidal

I think the Chinese will say the hell with you and pull their money out of the United States. That's the end of our wars.

~Gore Vidal

It is not enough to succeed. Others must fail.

~Gore Vidal

The war against terror is like a war against dandruff. It's a metaphor. It's not about anything.

~Gore Vidal

The word 'radical' derives from the Latin word for root. Therefore, if you want to get to the root of anything you must be radical. It is no accident that the word has now been totally demonized.

~Gore Vidal

Congress no longer declares war or makes budgets. So that's the end of the constitution as a working machine.

~Gore Vidal

One is sorry one could not have taken both branches of the road. But we were not allotted multiple selves.

~Gore Vidal

Sex is. There is nothing more to be done about it. Sex builds no roads, writes no novels and sex certainly gives no meaning to anything in life but itself.

~Gore Vidal

No reform ever came from the bottom, and it was always people who



understood how the ruling class worked who turned out to be the reformers.

~Gore Vidal

Traitors who prevail are patriots; usurpers who succeed are divine emperors.

~Gore Vidal

There is no human problem which could not be solved if people would simply do as I advise.

~Gore Vidal

Every four years the naive half who vote are encouraged to believe that if we can elect a really nice man or woman President everything will be all right. But it won't be.

~Gore Vidal

Everybody has two legs, two lobes to the brain which is why we tend to be interested in symmetry, always balancing things.

~Gore Vidal

Can you imagine having a love affair going on and on decade after decade? Macabre.

~Gore Vidal

In fact, life itself is a contradiction if only because birth is the direct cause, in every single case, of death

~Gore Vidal

I'm all for bringing back the birch, but only between consenting adults.

~Gore Vidal

Commercialism is doing well that which should not be done at all.

~Gore Vidal

Television is now so desperately hungry for material that they're scraping the top of the barrel.

~Gore Vidal

Despite the warnings of other times, the impetuous and the confident continue their indiscriminate cultivation of weeds at the expense of occasional flowers.

~Gore Vidal

If satire is to be effective, the audience must be aware of the thing satirized.

~Gore Vidal

I'm not a conspiracy theorist - I'm a conspiracy analyst.

~Gore Vidal

The brain that doesn't feed itself, eats itself.

~Gore Vidal

I never miss a chance to have sex or appear on television.

~Gore Vidal

Each writer is born with a repertory company in his head.

~Gore Vidal

Next to "I win," "I told you so" are the sweetest words.

~Gore Vidal

We have a great deal to learn from Scandinavia and a great deal to be alarmed at from the Mediterranean.

~Gore Vidal

Write what you know will always be excellent advice for those who ought not to write at all. Write what you think, what you imagine, what

you suspect!

~Gore Vidal

Whenever a friend succeeds, a little something in me dies.

~Gore Vidal

The behaviour of President Bush on 11 September certainly gives rise to not unnatural suspicions.

~Gore Vidal

The most interesting thing about writing is the way that it obliterates time. Three hours seem like three minutes.

~Gore Vidal

A good deed never goes unpunished.

~Gore Vidal

By the time a man gets to be presidential material, he's been bought ten times over.

~Gore Vidal

There are a great many people who have a vested interest in maintaining the stupidity of the American public.

~Gore Vidal

Populists have never had a good press in Freedom's land.

~Gore Vidal

History is nothing but gossip about the past, with the hope that it might be true.

~Gore Vidal

Since no one can ever know for certain whether or not his own view of life is the correct one, it is absolutely impossible for him to know if

someone else's is the wrong one.

~Gore Vidal

Many writers who choose to be active in the world lose not virtue but time, and that stillness without which literature cannot be made.

~Gore Vidal

Some writers take to drink, others take to audiences.

~Gore Vidal

I might become an ascetic, live in India. A little rice is about the best I can do now.

~Gore Vidal

I can understand companionship. I can understand bought sex in the afternoon, but I cannot understand the love affair.

~Gore Vidal

As the age of television progresses the Reagans will be the rule, not the exception. To be perfect for television is all a President has to be these days.

~Gore Vidal

Every time a friend succeeds, I die a little.

~Gore Vidal

The more money an American accumulates, the less interesting he becomes.

~Gore Vidal

Litigation takes the place of sex at middle age.

~Gore Vidal

What is a political party but a conspiracy?

~Gore Vidal

The real writer learns nothing from life. He is more like an oyster or a sponge.

~Gore Vidal

Celebrities are invariably celebrity-mad, just as liars always believe liars.

~Gore Vidal

I am savage about what has been done to the United States by its rulers.

~Gore Vidal

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