

Herbert Marcuse

Quotes

*Men, Reality, Art, Doe, Order, Philosophy, Culture, People, Mean, Choices,
Needs, Expression, Intellectual, Consciousness, Struggle, Civilization,
Communication, Thinking, Law, Political*

The truth of art lies in its power to break the monopoly of established reality to define what is real.

~Herbert Marcuse

Under the rule of a repressive whole, liberty can be made into a powerful instrument of domination.

~Herbert Marcuse

Art cannot change the world, but it can contribute to changing the consciousness and drives of the men and women who could change the world.

~Herbert Marcuse

The spontaneous reproduction of superimposed needs by the individual does not establish autonomy; it only testifies to the efficacy of the control.

~Herbert Marcuse

The Superego, in censoring the unconscious and in implanting conscience, also censors the censor.

~Herbert Marcuse

Most people are afraid of freedom. They are conditioned to be afraid of it.

~Herbert Marcuse

There is no free society without silence, without the internal and external spaces of solitude in which the individual freedom can develop.

~Herbert Marcuse

The music of the soul is also the music of salesmanship. Exchange value, not truth value counts. On it centers the rationality of the status quo, and all alien rationality is bent to it.

~Herbert Marcuse

Free election of masters does not abolish the masters or the slaves.

~Herbert Marcuse

Entertainment and learning are not opposites; entertainment may be the most effective mode of learning.

~Herbert Marcuse

The people recognize themselves in their commodities; they find their soul in their automobile, hi-fi set, split-level home, kitchen equipment.

~Herbert Marcuse

Not every problem someone has with his girlfriend is necessarily due to the capitalist mode of production.

~Herbert Marcuse

Thought that accepts reality as given is no thought at all.

~Herbert Marcuse

The web of domination has become the web of Reason itself, and this society is fatally entangled in it.

~Herbert Marcuse

Liberating tolerance, then, would mean intolerance against movements from the Right, and toleration of movements from the Left.

~Herbert Marcuse

At the highest stage of capitalism, the most necessary revolution appears as the most unlikely one.

~Herbert Marcuse

Those who devote their lives to earning a living are incapable of living a human existence.

~Herbert Marcuse

The functional language is a radically anti-historical language: operational rationality has little room and little use for historical reason.

~Herbert Marcuse

If man has learned to see and know what really is, he will act in accordance with truth, Epistemology is in itself ethics, and ethics is epistemology.

~Herbert Marcuse

The world of immediate experience the world in which we find ourselves living must be comprehended, transformed, even subverted in order to become that which it really is.

~Herbert Marcuse

The apparatus defeats its own purpose if its purpose is to create a humane existence on the basis of a humanized nature.

~Herbert Marcuse

The sickness of the individual is ultimately caused by and sustained by the sickness of his civilization

~Herbert Marcuse

[Art] can speak its own language only as long as the images are alive which refuse and refute the established order.

~Herbert Marcuse

Preaching nonviolence on principle reproduces the existing institutionalized violence.

~Herbert Marcuse

Obscenity is a moral concept in the verbal arsenal of the establishment, which abuses the term by applying it, not to expressions of its own

morality but to those of another.

~Herbert Marcuse

To live one's love and hatred, to live that which one is means defeat, resignation, and death. The crimes of society, the hell that man has made or man become unconquerable cosmic forces.

~Herbert Marcuse

The tangible source of exploitation disappears behind the façade of objective rationality.

~Herbert Marcuse

One will only be free when one plays and one's society will become a piece of art.

~Herbert Marcuse

The closed language does not demonstrate and explain it communicates decision, dictum, command. Where it defines, the definition becomes "separation of good from evil;" it establishes unquestionable

~Herbert Marcuse

The precarious ontological link between Logos and Eros is broken, and scientific rationality emerges as essentially neutral.

~Herbert Marcuse

Contemporary industrial society is now characterised more than ever by "the need for stupefying work where it is no longer a real necessity."

~Herbert Marcuse

Coming to life as classics, they come to life as other than themselves; they are deprived of their antagonistic force, of the estrangement which was the very dimension of their truth.

~Herbert Marcuse

In conditions of private property ... "life-activity" stands in the service of property instead of property standing the service of free life-activity.

~Herbert Marcuse

The slaves of developed industrial civilization are sublimated slaves.

~Herbert Marcuse

Glorification of the 'natural' is part of the ideology which protects an unnatural society in its struggle against liberation.

~Herbert Marcuse

In the realm of culture, the new totalitarianism manifests itself precisely in a harmonizing pluralism, where the most contradictory works and truths peacefully coexist in indifference.

~Herbert Marcuse

Ideas, aspirations, and objectives that, by their content, transcend the established universe of discourse and action are either repelled or reduced to terms of this universe.

~Herbert Marcuse

Non-operational ideas are non-behavioral and subversive. The movement of thought is stopped at barriers which appear as the limits of Reason itself.

~Herbert Marcuse

This is the pure form of servitude: to exist as an instrument.

~Herbert Marcuse

Domination has its own aesthetics, and democratic domination has its democratic aesthetics.

~Herbert Marcuse

The liberating force of technology the instrumentalization of things turns

into ... the instrumentalization of man.

~Herbert Marcuse

The existing liberties and the existing gratifications are tied to the requirements of repression: they themselves become instruments of repression.

~Herbert Marcuse

Behind the aesthetic form lies the repressed harmony of sensuousness and reason

~Herbert Marcuse

The societal division of labor obtains the dignity of an ontological condition.

~Herbert Marcuse

The happy consciousness is shaky enough a thin surface over fear, frustration, and disgust.

~Herbert Marcuse

Society ... can afford to grant more than before because its interests have become the innermost drives of its citizens.

~Herbert Marcuse

The avant-garde and the beatniks share in the function of entertaining without endangering the good conscience of the men of good will.

~Herbert Marcuse

The range of choice open to the individual is not the decisive factor in determining the degree of human freedom, but what can be chosen and what is chosen by the individual.

~Herbert Marcuse

The strains and stresses suffered by the individual in society are

grounded in the normal functioning of that society (and of the individual!) rather than in its disturbances and diseases.

~Herbert Marcuse

While it [tolerance] is more or less quietly and constitutionally withdrawn from the opposition, it is made compulsory behavior with respect to established policies.

~Herbert Marcuse

That which is cannot be true.

~Herbert Marcuse

The present stage redefines the possibilities of man and nature in accordance with the new means available for their realization.

~Herbert Marcuse

This society turns everything it touches into a potential source of progress and exploitation, of drudgery and satisfaction, of freedom and of oppression.

~Herbert Marcuse

The criterion for free choice can never be an absolute one, but neither is it entirely relative.

~Herbert Marcuse

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