

Isabel Paterson

Quotes

People, Men, Race, Wish, Would Be, Omission, Political, School, Giving, Children, Government, Years, Numbers, Energy, Long, Law, Betrayal, Order, Octopus, Teaching

As freak legislation, the antitrust laws stand alone. Nobody knows what it is they forbid.

~Isabel Paterson

A tax-supported, compulsory educational system is the complete model of the totalitarian state.

~Isabel Paterson

The only way to prevent prostitution altogether would be to imprison one half of the human race.

~Isabel Paterson

People mostly do as they like, and that would be fine if they'd let other people do the same.

~Isabel Paterson

Freedom is dangerous. Possibly crawling on all fours might be safer than standing upright, but we like the view better up there.

~Isabel Paterson

The biggest pests are the people who use altruism as an alibi. What they passionately wish is to make themselves important.

~Isabel Paterson

The humanitarian in theory is the terrorist in action.

~Isabel Paterson

No law can give power to private persons; every law transfers power from private persons to government.

~Isabel Paterson

Do you think nobody would willingly entrust his children to you or pay you for teaching them? Why do you have to extort your fees and collect your pupils by compulsion?

~Isabel Paterson

The power to do things for people is also the power to do things to people.

~Isabel Paterson

The philanthropist, the politician, and the pimp are inevitably found in alliance because they have the same motives, they seek the same ends, to exist for, through, and by others.

~Isabel Paterson

The military state is the final form to which every planned economy tends rapidly.

~Isabel Paterson

It takes the best part of a lifetime to find out what you don't want.

~Isabel Paterson

Now the sole remedy for the abuse of political power is to limit it; but when politics corrupt business, modern reformers invariably demand the enlargement of the political power.

~Isabel Paterson

An abstraction will move a mountain: Nothing can withstand an idea.

~Isabel Paterson

Nothing increases the number of jobs so rapidly as labor-saving machinery, because it releases wants theretofore unknown, by permitting leisure.

~Isabel Paterson

An army is a diversion of energy from the productive life of a nation.

~Isabel Paterson

If there were just one gift you could choose, but nothing barred, what would it be? We wish you then your own wish; you name it. Ours is liberty, now and forever.

~Isabel Paterson

Leadership is obliged to justify itself daily.

~Isabel Paterson

The craving for power is in itself a sign of inferior abilities and unfitness for responsibility.

~Isabel Paterson

The great truth is that women actually like men, and men can never believe it.

~Isabel Paterson

Right now it is a terrible thing to be a rugged individualist; but we don't know what else to be except a feeble nonentity.

~Isabel Paterson

If you go back 150 years you are a reactionary; but if you go back 1000 years, you are in the foremost ranks of progress.

~Isabel Paterson

Most of the harm in the world is done by good people, and not by accident, lapse or omission.

~Isabel Paterson

One genius is about all a house will hold.

~Isabel Paterson

Trade and money, which go together in a stream of energy, inevitably wash away the enclosing walls of a society of status.

~Isabel Paterson

If Americans should now turn back, submit again to slavery, it would be a betrayal so base the human race might better perish.

~Isabel Paterson

Not uncommonly one hears some romantic young woman say, 'Oh, I would give anything to be a writer.' But she would not; and 'anything' is not enough. One must give everything.

~Isabel Paterson

As such, the least practicable measure of government must be the best. Anything beyond the minimum must be oppression.

~Isabel Paterson

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