

Jacob Burckhardt

Quotes

*Hands, History, Society, Evil, Tyranny, Might, Men, Change, Years, Vision, Life,
Individual, Past, May, Progress, Knowing, Eye, Ideas, Love, Movement*

Only the fairy tale equates changelessness with happiness...Permanence means paralysis and death. Only, in movement, with all its pain, is life.

~Jacob Burckhardt

History is on every occasion the record of that which one age finds worthy of note in another.

~Jacob Burckhardt

The essence of tyranny is the denial of complexity.

~Jacob Burckhardt

Great men are necessary for our life, in order that the movement of world history can free itself sporadically, by fits and starts, from obsolete ways of living and inconsequential talk.

~Jacob Burckhardt

In history the way of annihilation is invariably prepared by inward degeneration, by decrease of life. Only then can a shock from outside put an end to the whole.

~Jacob Burckhardt

Power is of its nature evil, whoever wields it.

~Jacob Burckhardt

Neither in the life of the individual nor in that of mankind is it desirable to know the future.

~Jacob Burckhardt

There might be a fact of the greatest significance reported by Thucydides which will only be recognized as such a hundred years from now.

~Jacob Burckhardt

History is still in large measure poetry to me.

~Jacob Burckhardt

True universality does not consist in knowing much but in loving much.

~Jacob Burckhardt

Only a fairy tale calls a constant condition 'happiness'.

~Jacob Burckhardt

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