

John C. Calhoun Quotes

*Government, Liberty, People, Community, Majority, Political, War, Law,
America, Slavery, Blessing, Party, Protection, Errors, Country, Thinking,
Exercise, Sovereign, Sacrifice, Politics*

There never has yet existed a wealthy and civilized society in which one portion of the community did not, in point of fact, live on the labor of the other.

~John C. Calhoun

I never use the word nation in speaking of the United States. I always use the word Union or Confederacy. We are not a nation but a union, a confederacy of equal and sovereign States.

~John C. Calhoun

Irresponsible power is inconsistent with liberty, and must corrupt those who exercise it.

~John C. Calhoun

In looking back, I see nothing to regret, and little to correct.

~John C. Calhoun

The Union next to our liberties the most dear. May we all remember that it can only be preserved by respecting the rights of the States, and distributing equally the benefits and burdens of the Union.

~John C. Calhoun

The defence of human liberty against the aggressions of despotic power have been always the most efficient in States where domestic slavery was to prevail.

~John C. Calhoun

The very essence of a free government consists in considering offices as public trusts, bestowed for the good of the country, and not for the benefit of an individual or a party.

~John C. Calhoun

It is harder to preserve than to obtain liberty.

~John C. Calhoun

Government has within it a tendency to abuse its powers.

~John C. Calhoun

Beware the wrath of a patient adversary.

~John C. Calhoun

The will of a majority is the will of a rabble. Progressive democracy is incompatible with liberty.

~John C. Calhoun

Learn from your mistakes and build on your successes.

~John C. Calhoun

True consistency, that of the prudent and the wise, is to act in conformity with circumstances, and not to act always the same way under a change of circumstances.

~John C. Calhoun

The surrender of life is nothing to sinking down into acknowledgment of inferiority.

~John C. Calhoun

Property is in its nature timid and seeks protection, and nothing is more gratifying to government than to become a protector.

~John C. Calhoun

Protection and patriotism are reciprocal.

~John C. Calhoun

Democracy, as I understand it, requires me to sacrifice myself for the masses, not to them. Who knows not that if you would save the people, you must often oppose them?

~John C. Calhoun

We are not a nation, but a union, a confederacy of equal and sovereign states.

~John C. Calhoun

The error is in the assumption that the General Government is a party to the constitutional compact. The States ... formed the compact, acting as sovereign and independent communities.

~John C. Calhoun

The object of a Constitution is to restrain the Government, as that of laws is to restrain individuals.

~John C. Calhoun

A revolution in itself is not a blessing.

~John C. Calhoun

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