

John Dos Passos

Quotes

*Men, People, Writing, Thinking, Art, Book, Mind, Mean, World, Lying, Political,
Country, Order, Years, Generations, Time, Past, Fall, Novelists, Records*

People don't choose their careers; they are engulfed by them.

~John Dos Passos

If there is a special Hades for writers it would be in the forced contemplation of their own works.

~John Dos Passos

Individuality is freedom lived.

~John Dos Passos

The creation of a world view is the work of a generation rather than of an individual, but we each of us, for better or for worse, add our brick to the edifice.

~John Dos Passos

The mind cannot support moral chaos for long. Men are under as strong a compulsion to invent an ethical setting for their behavior as spiders are to weave themselves webs

~John Dos Passos

Democracy evolves where freedom is able to determine its own policy.

~John Dos Passos

I've always thought you should concentrate on paddling your own canoe.

~John Dos Passos

I never see the dawn that I don't say to myself perhaps.

~John Dos Passos

Life is to be used, not just held in the hand like a box of bonbons that nobody eats.

~John Dos Passos

It's almost worth having been in the army for the joy your freedom gives you

~John Dos Passos

It's rather grisly, isn't it, how soon a living man becomes nothing more than a collection of stocks and bonds and debts and real estate?

~John Dos Passos

Breaking with old friends is one of the most painful of the changes in all that piling up of a multitude of small distasteful changes that constitutes growing older.

~John Dos Passos

Marxism has not only failed to promote human freedom, it has failed to produce food.

~John Dos Passos

Apathy is one of the characteristic responses of any living organism when it is subjected to stimuli too intense or too complicated to cope with. The cure for apathy is comprehension.

~John Dos Passos

Women is fine once you got em pinned down, boss, but when they ain't pinned down they're hell.

~John Dos Passos

A writer ... whittles at the words and phrases of today and makes of them forms to set the mind of tomorrow's generation.

~John Dos Passos

If I were sufficiently romantic I suppose I'd have killed myself long ago just to make people talk about me. I haven't even got the conviction to make a successful drunkard.

~John Dos Passos

Display advertising and the movies, though they may dull the wits, certainly stimulate the eyes.

~John Dos Passos

A satirist is a man whose flesh creeps so at the ugly and the savage and the incongruous aspects of society that he has to express them as brutally and nakedly as possible in order to get relief.

~John Dos Passos

The only way to find out anything about what kinds of lives people led in any given period is to tunnel into their records and to let them speak for themselves

~John Dos Passos

I do a lot of revising. Certain chapters six or seven times. Occasionally you can hit it right the first time. More often, you don't.

~John Dos Passos

Anything that happens to you has some bearing upon what you write.

~John Dos Passos

Talk is a pure art. Its only limits are the patience of listeners who, when they get tired, can always pay for their coffee or change it with a friendly waiter and walk out.

~John Dos Passos

Letters are largely written to get things out of your system.

~John Dos Passos

But what's the good of freedom? What can you do with it? What one wants is to live well and have a beautiful house and be respected by people.

~John Dos Passos

War is utter damn nonsense, a vast cancer fed by lies and self seeking malignity on the part of those who don't do the fighting.

~John Dos Passos

In the last twenty-five years a change has come over the visual habits of Americans . . . From being a wordminded people we are becoming an eyeminded people.

~John Dos Passos

Walt Whitman's a hell of a lot more revolutionary than any Russian poet I've ever heard of.

~John Dos Passos

U.S.A. is the speech of the people

~John Dos Passos

This ain't a war... It's a goddam whorehouse.

~John Dos Passos

When I was a kid I used to tell myself the moon was a silver gong and if I could climb high enough to beat on it with both hands all my wishes would come true.

~John Dos Passos

Shakespeare wouldn't have been any good if he'd stayed in Stratford. He had to go to London to be bathed in the full current of the Renaissance.

~John Dos Passos

It's easy to forget how central the French people are in everything we mean when we say Europe.

~John Dos Passos

When the typewriter stops in a New York office everybody's

embarrassed; men start to quarrel or to make love to the stenographer or drop lighted cigarettes in the wastebasket.

~John Dos Passos

Git an eyeful of cesspool alley the land of opportunity.

~John Dos Passos

People do not choose a career; the career envelopes them.

~John Dos Passos

Mealtime's the only time I get to devote to the things of the spirit.

~John Dos Passos

Women alone always order sole. It means something.

~John Dos Passos

What's the use, there never was a woman living who could understand political ideas.

~John Dos Passos

Sex is a slotmachine.

~John Dos Passos

The world's becoming a museum of socialist failures.

~John Dos Passos

A man is never more his single separate self than when he sets out on a journey.

~John Dos Passos

We work to eat to get the strength to work to eat to get the strength to work.

~John Dos Passos

In certain savage tribes in New Guinea, they put the old people up in the trees and shake them once a year in the spring; if they don't fall out they let them live another year.

~John Dos Passos

The terrible thing about having New York go stale on you is that there's nowhere else. It's the top of the world.

~John Dos Passos

There is a part of me in every character, naturally. That's why novelists rarely write good autobiographies. You start one and it becomes another novel.

~John Dos Passos

Love is cheap. You can buy it anywhere. Lives are cheap. It's money that's dear. You have to work days and sit up nights thinking how to make money.

~John Dos Passos

A man's got to work for more than himself and his kids to feel right

~John Dos Passos

Great works of the imagination are not produced quickly nor do they take quick effect on the popular mind.

~John Dos Passos

That's the great danger of sectarian opinions, they always accept the formulas of past events as useful for the measurement of future events and they never are, if you have high standards of accuracy.

~John Dos Passos

Eh Bien you like this sacred pig of a country?" asked Marco. "Why not? I like it anywhere. It's all the same, in France you are paid badly and live well; here you are paid well and live badly.

~John Dos Passos

Curiosity urges you on-driving force.

~John Dos Passos

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