

# John Gimlette

## Quotes

*People, Writing, Book, Thinking, Way, Different, War, Cuba, Country, America, Europe, Cities, Doe, Blood, Ideas, Upset, Successful, Real, Laughing, Years*

Originally I wanted to be a diplomat, and by attrition I started giving up that idea.

~John Gimlette

In both places [Paraguay and Newfoundland] people rise despite everything - both are pretty tough environments.

~John Gimlette

I tend to prefer traveling in the Third World countries. Like Ethiopia. Or Eritrea.

~John Gimlette

There are 60 million of us [britains] crammed into an area the size of a state. So you don't have that feeling of remoteness at all, ever. And that's reflected in the way our media works, and so on.

~John Gimlette

I have real fears for Cuba based on the South American experience. Where you have had such a stern regime, as Fidel's [Castro], there is no culture of politics.

~John Gimlette

I am no apologist for Fidel's [Castro] regime. It is, after all, a totalitarian regime. So I would like to see that change.

~John Gimlette

Argentina is really in a different category because they butchered all their Indian or indigenous people in the war of the desert in 1850s. Which sets them aside from their neighbors in a macabre way.

~John Gimlette

Paraguayans have no Italian blood and are half Guarani [Indian] blood. And the Chileans call themselves "the English of South America," which actually couldn't be further from the truth.

~John Gimlette

Buenos Aires is my favorite city. I think it's fantastic - but is a troubled, sort of psychologically troubled city.

~John Gimlette

Paraguay has had a U.S. supermarket boss as its ambassador for a while. He did the job well. He was there because he wanted to be there. Rather than the British diplomat who didn't want to be there.

~John Gimlette

I am certainly very pro-Europe.

~John Gimlette

The noise that we can expect in the future will only increase and we'll be wishing for rural Portugal or something like that.

~John Gimlette

If you see our best seller list, most of them are books that are given as gifts. They are books you give to flatter somebody.

~John Gimlette

A lot of books are sold and given away as presents. But who actually reads and enjoy reading?

~John Gimlette

It never stops me from saying what I want to say about Ethiopia, the fact that a tour company is paid for me to go there. Book reviewers don't pay for the books they review.

~John Gimlette

I don't want to sell other people trips! I want to be there!

~John Gimlette

I am sure you have met diplomats; they probably travel far less than you do. Okay, they get to know a place very intensely - sometimes only the capitol city.

~John Gimlette

Diplomacy was what I wanted to do. From really quite an early age and I think I had a false impression that diplomacy equals travel.

~John Gimlette

My parents don't think about Europe at all. The Continent is somewhere else. And they call it the Continent - to reflect, they are no real part of it.

~John Gimlette

People my age and younger do think much more towards Europe. We have to fill the gap sometime - we can't think we are an empire any longer after all.

~John Gimlette

Lawrence Millman is a favorite writer of mine. He did a travels on the trail of the Vikings.

~John Gimlette

I would love to write a book that opens people's eyes to the more interesting side.

~John Gimlette

I find the public reaction to writing - it's fascinating in this modern age. Of course people are able to interact with me and email me, and I get quite a few I suppose.

~John Gimlette

I am always surprised when people do get upset. Perhaps its just the nutty people who write to newspapers who get upset.

~John Gimlette

One does have to learn to travel with a degree of humility and that reflected in writing and personality.

~John Gimlette

I have dipped into Ian McEwan and so on. I tend not to stick with one writer. But I dip in here and there.

~John Gimlette

I think one should express opinions and these books are relatively opinionated. They would be a bit dry without it.

~John Gimlette

I feel better off doing what I know how to do. I feel a strong element of fictional style in travel writing anyway. Some call it creative nonfiction.

~John Gimlette

I'd like to write fiction. Perhaps at some stage.

~John Gimlette

American travel writing is very healthy. I'm always flicking through the reviews and I see plenty of travel writing - and an impressive line up and continual demand.

~John Gimlette

India, to some extent, courses through my blood. My father was brought up there, and my grandfather served there, and so on. We have a very strong family affinity for the place.

~John Gimlette

I was writing the Paraguay book, a Paraguayan told me that only five thousand people in Paraguay read.

~John Gimlette

I was talking to my publisher in Britain and was told here we are - we are sixty million people and we reckon only four hundred thousand people in Britain really read.

~John Gimlette

Radio is very popular [in Britain], but it doesn't connect us in the same way. It seems to have this community function.

~John Gimlette

I don't want to pay good money to hear ordinary people's lunatic views. Most of the people who phone in are [lunatics] - certainly in Britain.

~John Gimlette

This terrible frustration that we so often feel in the West in not being able to articulate and express ourselves.

~John Gimlette

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