

John Keegan Quotes

*People, Men, Thinking, Years, Fighting, War, Mean, Islam, Trying, Should,
Compromise, Situation, Wicked, Baby, West, Battle, Terrible, Scary, Warfare,
Dark*

I think that black Africa is extremely terrifying. Black Africa can become a maelstrom of warring tribes without the outside world needing to feel the need to do anything about it.

~John Keegan

I don't think that what's going on in Bosnia is political activity. It's partly political, but it's partly atavistic as well.

~John Keegan

It's a necessary quality of a diplomat or a politician that he will compromise. Uncompromising politicians or diplomats get you into the most terrible trouble.

~John Keegan

I don't look to find an educated person in the ranks of university graduates, necessarily. Some of the most educated people I know have never been near a university.

~John Keegan

Soldiers, when committed to a task, can't compromise. It's unrelenting devotion to the standards of duty and courage, absolute loyalty to others, not letting the task go until it's been done.

~John Keegan

The written history of the world is largely a history of warfare, because the states within which we live came into existence largely through conquest, civil strife, or struggles for independence.

~John Keegan

The great Chinese classics have always said that it's better not to fight; that the clever man achieves his ends without violence; that a battle delayed is better than a battle fought.

~John Keegan

The historian ought to be an educated person, writing for other educated people about something which they don't know about, but wish to know about in a way that they can understand.

~John Keegan

There are certain wicked people in the world that you can't deal with except by force

~John Keegan

The revival of Islam dates from the early years of the 20th century. It was brought about by their humiliation, by their sense of how low they'd fallen compared with the West.

~John Keegan

Some people are more terrorist than others

~John Keegan

I can't visualize the situation in which we nuke ourselves into extinction.

~John Keegan

Even a pacifist should admire the military virtues.

~John Keegan

A civilised man is someone who has discovered something more satisfying than combat.

~John Keegan

Well, if they are trying to kill you, on the whole they're the people you have to kill, aren't they?

~John Keegan

I think to be shot in a mountain valley somewhere or other is altogether less glorious than crashing an airliner into a skyscraper.

~John Keegan

If Wellington epitomizes the English gentleman, Eisenhower epitomizes the natural American gentleman.

~John Keegan

Nobody should teach anywhere for 25 years, but I did.

~John Keegan

I think Americans like the practical; they like the human. And I like both those things myself, and I try and put them into my books.

~John Keegan

The great men of power who seek to change the nations they belong to usually are pretty terrible people.

~John Keegan

Men killing other men really is an extraordinary phenomenon. Why does it happen? And how long has it gone on? And have the motives changed?

~John Keegan

Good men who exercise power are really the most fascinating of all people.

~John Keegan

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