

# John Quincy Adams Quotes

*Men, Government, Country, Years, America, People, Religious, Law, Believe,  
Powerful, War, Bible, World, Liberty, Heart, Independence, Life, Earth, Book,  
Political*

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

~John Quincy Adams

Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.

~John Quincy Adams

Try and fail, but don't fail to try.

~John Quincy Adams

The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.

~John Quincy Adams

Whoever tells the best story wins.

~John Quincy Adams

I inhabit a weak, frail, decayed tenement; battered by the winds and broken in on by the storms, and, from all I can learn, the landlord does not intend to repair.

~John Quincy Adams

America... goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all.

~John Quincy Adams

The Sermon on the Mount commands me to lay up for myself treasures, not upon earth, but in Heaven. My hopes of a future life are all founded upon the Gospel of Christ.

~John Quincy Adams

I have to study politics and war so that my sons can study mathematics,

commerce and agriculture, so their sons can study poetry, painting and music.

~John Quincy Adams

I am a warrior, so that my son may be a merchant, so that his son may be a poet.

~John Quincy Adams

All the public business in Congress now connects itself with intrigues, and there is great danger that the whole government will degenerate into a struggle of cabals.

~John Quincy Adams

America does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy.

~John Quincy Adams

The freedom of the press should be inviolate.

~John Quincy Adams

The art of making love, muffled up in furs, in the open air, with the thermometer at Zero, is a Yankee invention.

~John Quincy Adams

Duty is ours, results are God's.

~John Quincy Adams

[I believe in the] rebuilding of Judea as an independent nation.

~John Quincy Adams

Our Constitution rests on the good sense and the respect of the American people.

~John Quincy Adams

All men profess honesty as long as they can. To believe all men honest

would be folly. To believe none so is something worse.

~John Quincy Adams

America is a friend of freedom everywhere, but a custodian only of our own.

~John Quincy Adams

I would much rather be found guilty of making a serious mistake in judgment, than to be accused of being even a little bit insincere.

~John Quincy Adams

Slavery is the great and foul stain upon the North American Union.

~John Quincy Adams

From the experience of the past we derive instructive lessons for the future.

~John Quincy Adams

Civil liberty can be established on no foundation of human reason which will not at the same time demonstrate the right of religious freedom.

~John Quincy Adams

My stern chase after time is, to borrow a simile from Tom Paine, like the race of a man with a wooden leg after a horse.

~John Quincy Adams

The experience of all former ages had shown that of all human governments, democracy was the most unstable, fluctuating and short-lived.

~John Quincy Adams

The manners of women are the surest criterion by which to determine whether a republican government is practicable in a nation or not.

~John Quincy Adams

The Bible contains the revelation of the will of God. It contains the history of the creation of the world, and of mankind.

~John Quincy Adams

His face is livid, gaunt his whole body, his breath is green with gall; his tongue drips poison.

~John Quincy Adams

Not stones, nor wood, nor the art of artisans make a state; but where men are who know how to take care of themselves, these are cities and walls.

~John Quincy Adams

The influence of each human being on others in this life is a kind of immortality.

~John Quincy Adams

All that I am my mother made me.

~John Quincy Adams

No book in the world deserves to be so unceasingly studied, and so profoundly meditated upon as the Bible.

~John Quincy Adams

We understand now, we've been made to understand, and to embrace the understanding that who we are is who we were.

~John Quincy Adams

Idleness is sweet, and its consequences are cruel.

~John Quincy Adams

The four most miserable years of my life were my four years in the

presidency.

~John Quincy Adams

Those who take oaths to politically powerful secret societies cannot be depended on for loyalty to a democratic republic.

~John Quincy Adams

Nip the shoots of arbitrary power in the bud, is the only maxim which can ever preserve the liberties of any people.

~John Quincy Adams

There is such seduction in a library of good books that I cannot resist the temptation to luxuriate in reading.

~John Quincy Adams

May our country be always successful, but whether successful or otherwise, always right.

~John Quincy Adams

The Bible carries with it the history of the creation, the fall and redemption of man, and discloses to him, in the infant born at Bethlehem, the Legislator and Savior of the world.

~John Quincy Adams

Every temptation is an opportunity of our getting nearer to God.

~John Quincy Adams

The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth.

~John Quincy Adams

In charity to all mankind, bearing no malice or ill will to any human being, and even compassionating those who hold in bondage their

fellow men, not knowing what they do.

~John Quincy Adams

The will of the people is the source and the happiness of the people the end of all legitimate government upon earth.

~John Quincy Adams

Individual liberty is individual power.

~John Quincy Adams

Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will be America's heart, her benedictions and her prayers.

~John Quincy Adams

The magistrate is the servant not of his own desires, not even of the people, but of his God

~John Quincy Adams

I say women exhibit the most exalted virtue when they depart from the domestic circle and enter on the concerns of their country, of humanity, and of their G-d!

~John Quincy Adams

I told him that I thought it was law logic - an artificial system of reasoning, exclusively used in Courts of justice, but good for nothing anywhere else.

~John Quincy Adams

The firmest security of peace is the preparation during peace of the defenses of war.

~John Quincy Adams

This is the last of earth! I am content.

~John Quincy Adams

The Law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal as well as a moral and religious code.

~John Quincy Adams

Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Saviour?

~John Quincy Adams

The public history of all countries, and all ages, is but a sort of mask, richly colored. The interior working of the machinery must be foul.

~John Quincy Adams

The declaration that our People are hostile to a government made by themselves, for themselves, and conducted by themselves, is an insult.

~John Quincy Adams

Death fixes forever the relation existing between the departed spirit and the survivors upon earth.

~John Quincy Adams

We know the redemption must come. The time and the manner of its coming we know not: It may come in peace, or it may come in blood; but whether in peace or in blood, LET IT COME.

~John Quincy Adams

The laws of man may bind him in chains or may put him to death, but they never can make him wise, virtuous, or happy.

~John Quincy Adams

The extremes of opulence and of want are more remarkable, and more constantly obvious, in [Great Britain] than in any other place that I ever saw.



~John Quincy Adams

Where annual elections end where slavery begins.

~John Quincy Adams

A stout heart, a clear conscience, and never despair.

~John Quincy Adams

The best guarantee against the abuse of power consists in the freedom, the purity, and the frequency of popular elections.

~John Quincy Adams

The first and almost the only Book deserving of universal attention is the Bible.

~John Quincy Adams

The imagination of a eunuch dwells more and longer upon the material of love than that of man or woman ... supplying, so far as he can, by speculation, the place of pleasures he can no longer enjoy.

~John Quincy Adams

Among the sentiments of most powerful operation upon the human heart, and most highly honorable to the human character, are those of veneration for our forefathers and of love for our posterity.

~John Quincy Adams

Life is a problem; mortal man was made to solve the solemn problem right or wrong.

~John Quincy Adams

Westward the star of empire takes its way.

~John Quincy Adams

I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once

every year.

~John Quincy Adams

We know the redemption must come.

~John Quincy Adams

The gigantic intellect, the envious temper, the ravenous ambition and the rotten heart of Daniel Webster.

~John Quincy Adams

The law is an artificial human construct, quite arbitrary, and of absolutely no use anywhere else but in a court of law!

~John Quincy Adams

It is by a thorough knowledge of the whole subject that [people] are enabled to judge correctly of the past and to give a proper direction to the future.

~John Quincy Adams

To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind. It prolongs life itself, and enlarges the sphere of existence.

~John Quincy Adams

A man's diary is a record in youth of his sentiments, in middle age of his actions, in old age of his reflections.

~John Quincy Adams

To believe that everyone is honest is folly, but to believe that no one is honest is worse.

~John Quincy Adams

Roll, years of promise, rapidly roll round, till not a slave shall on this earth be found.

~John Quincy Adams

America, with the same voice which spoke herself into existence as a nation, proclaimed to mankind the inextinguishable rights of human nature, and the only lawful foundations of government.

~John Quincy Adams

In what light soever we regard the Bible, whether with reference to revelation, to history, or to morality, it is an invaluable and inexhaustible mine of knowledge and virtue.

~John Quincy Adams

It has been my custom for many years to read the Bible in its entirety once a year

~John Quincy Adams

To live without having a Cicero and a Tacitus at hand seems to me as if it was a privation of one of my limbs.

~John Quincy Adams

But America is a great, unwieldy Body. Its Progress must be slow... Like a Coach and six - the swiftest Horses must be slackened and the slowest quickened, that all may keep an even Pace.

~John Quincy Adams

Occasional war is one of the rigorous instruments in the hands of Providence to give tone to the character of nations.

~John Quincy Adams

A gentleman of one of the first fortunes upon the continent...sacrificing his ease, and hazarding all in the cause of his country.

~John Quincy Adams

Whether to the nation or to the state, no service can be or ever will be

rendered by a more able or a more faithful public servant.

~John Quincy Adams

About one-half of the members of Congress are seekers for office at the nomination of the President. Of the remainder, at least one-half have some appointment or favor to ask for their relatives.

~John Quincy Adams

Let us not be unmindful that liberty is power, that the nation blessed with the largest portion of liberty must in proportion to its numbers be the most powerful nation upon earth.

~John Quincy Adams

This hand, to tyrants ever sworn the foe, For Freedom only deals the deadly blow; Then sheathes in calm repose the vengeful blade, For gentle peace in Freedom's hallowed shade.

~John Quincy Adams

This mode of electioneering suited neither my taste nor my principles. I thought it equally unsuitable to my personal character and to the station in which I am placed.

~John Quincy Adams

A stranger would think that the people of the United States had no other occupation than electioneering.

~John Quincy Adams

The great problem of legislation is, so to organize the civil government of a community... that in the operation of human institutions upon social action, self-love and social may be made the same.

~John Quincy Adams

I cannot ask of heaven success, even for my country, in a cause where she should be in the wrong.

~John Quincy Adams

The mere title of lawyer is sufficient to deprive a man of the public confidence. ... The most innocent and irreproachable life cannot guard a lawyer against the hatred of his fellow citizens.

~John Quincy Adams

There is nothing so deep and nothing so shallow which political enmity will not turn to account.

~John Quincy Adams

Our Constitution professedly rests upon the good sense and attachment of the people. This basis, weak as it may appear, has not yet been found to fail.

~John Quincy Adams

The conflict between the principle of liberty and the fact of slavery is coming gradually to an issue. Slavery has now the power, and falls into convulsions at the approach of freedom.

~John Quincy Adams

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