

# John Ralston Saul Quotes

*Civilization, Government, Democracy, Self, Thinking, Ideas, Years, People,  
Needs, Exercise, Political, Believe, Men, Quality, Imagination, Reality,  
Creativity, Jobs, Teaching, Class*

Ten geographers who think the world is flat will tend to reinforce each other's errors ... Only a sailor can set them straight.

~John Ralston Saul

Whenever governments adopt a moral tone - as opposed to an ethical one - you know something is wrong.

~John Ralston Saul

The void in our society has been produced by the absence of values... we have no widespread belief in the value of participation. The rational system has made us fear standing out in any serious way.

~John Ralston Saul

Pessimism: A valuable protection against quackery.

~John Ralston Saul

The recession is over." This phrase has been used twice a year since 1973 by government leaders throughout the West. Its meaning is unclear. See: Depression.

~John Ralston Saul

Democracy is the only system capable of reflecting the humanist premise of equilibrium or balance. The key to its secret is the involvement of the citizen.

~John Ralston Saul

If allowed to run free of the social system, capitalism will attempt to corrupt and undermine democracy, which is after all not a natural state.

~John Ralston Saul

People cannot do what they cannot think, and they cannot think what they cannot say.

~John Ralston Saul

If economists were doctors, they would today be mired in malpractice suits.

~John Ralston Saul

Which is ideology? Which not? You shall know them by their assertion of truth, their contempt for considered reflection, and their fear of debate.

~John Ralston Saul

Unregulated competition is a naive metaphor for anarchy.

~John Ralston Saul

A Big Mac - the communion wafer of consumption.

~John Ralston Saul

Everyone has an equal right to inequality.

~John Ralston Saul

Bankers - pillars of society who are going to hell if there is a God and He has been accurately quoted.

~John Ralston Saul

Money is not real. It is a conscious agreement on measuring value.

~John Ralston Saul

There is something silly about grown men and women striving to reduce their vision of themselves and of civilization to bean counting.

~John Ralston Saul

Humanism: an exaltation of freedom, but one limited by our need to exercise it as an integral part of nature and society.

~John Ralston Saul

I have a theory of statistics: if you can double them or halve them and

they still work, they are really good statistics.

~John Ralston Saul

The citizen's job is to be rude - to pierce the comfort of professional intercourse by boorish expressions of doubt.

~John Ralston Saul

An individual who stands out, or disagrees or takes risks is a danger to such systems and is effortlessly and, unconsciously sidelined.

~John Ralston Saul

Armaments; extremely useful for fighting wars, a deadweight in any civil economy.

~John Ralston Saul

Only when God was said to have died did various leaders, professions and sectors risk pushing themselves forward as successors.

~John Ralston Saul

Canada is either an idea or it does not exist. It is either an intellectual undertaking or it is little more than a resource-rich vacuum lying in the buffer zone just north of a great empire.

~John Ralston Saul

Faith: The opposite of dogmatism.

~John Ralston Saul

Like all religions, Reason presents itself as the solution to the problems it has created

~John Ralston Saul

Governments produced by the most banal of electoral victories, like those produced by the crudest of coups d'État, will always feel obliged to dress themselves up linguistically in some way.

~John Ralston Saul

The undoubted sign of a society well under control or in decline is that language has ceased to be a means of communication and has become instead a shield for those who master it.

~John Ralston Saul

As an inclusive quality, imagination is thus our primary force for progress, whatever progress is.

~John Ralston Saul

In a society of ideological believers, nothing is more ridiculous than the individual who doubts and does not conform.

~John Ralston Saul

Capitalism was reasonably content under Hitler, happy under Mussolini, very happy under Franco and delirious under General Pinochet.

~John Ralston Saul

Management cannot solve problems. Nor can it stir creativity of any sort. It can only manage what it is given. If asked to do more, it will deform whatever is put into its hands.

~John Ralston Saul

Marx was fortunate to have been born eighty years before Walt Disney. Disney also promised a child's paradise and unlike Marx, delivered on his promise.

~John Ralston Saul

Rights are a protection from society. But only by fulfilling their obligations to society can the individual give meaning to that protection. (V - From Ideology Towards Equilibrium)

~John Ralston Saul

McDonald's is the ultimate symbol of passive conformity.

~John Ralston Saul

Freedom - an occupied space which must be reoccupied every day.

~John Ralston Saul

Happy Hour: a depressing comment on the rest of the day and a victory for the most limited Dionysian view of human nature.

~John Ralston Saul

Dictionary: Opinion presented as truth in alphabetical order.

~John Ralston Saul

It is undoubtedly easier to believe in absolutes, follow blindly, mouth received wisdom. But that is self-betrayal.

~John Ralston Saul

Educating the masses was intended only to improve the relationship between the top and the bottom of society. Not for changing the nature of the relationship.

~John Ralston Saul

We all need a bit of self-delusion. It gets us over the difficult spots.

~John Ralston Saul

Wordsmiths who serve established power...castrate the public imagination by subjecting language to a complexity which renders it private. Elitism is always their aim.

~John Ralston Saul

Love: A term which has no meaning if defined.

~John Ralston Saul

In all earlier civilizations, it should be remembered, commerce was

treated as a narrow activity and by no means the senior sector in society.

~John Ralston Saul

Content is an obstacle to the exercise of power.

~John Ralston Saul

United States: A nation given either to unjustified over-enthusiasms or infantile furies.

~John Ralston Saul

If the technocratic class often invokes technology, it is because these inanimate objects can take on a trajectory of their own and so cover for the manager's inability to give leadership.

~John Ralston Saul

There is no need to search for global solutions, apart from an absolute necessity to destroy the idea that such things exist.

~John Ralston Saul

Nothing is absolute, with the debatable exceptions of this statement and death.

~John Ralston Saul

It is the considered opinion of most members of our rational Ã©lites that, in any given difference of opinion with reality, reality is wrong.

~John Ralston Saul

Elites quite naturally define as the most important and admired qualities for a citizen those on which they themselves have concentrated.

~John Ralston Saul

Freud, Sigmund: A man so dissatisfied with his own mother and father that he devoted his life to convincing everyone who would listen â€” or

better still, talk â€” that their parents were just as bad.

~John Ralston Saul

We must discover how to ask simple questions of ourselves.

~John Ralston Saul



### **Related Links:**

- Civilization Quotes
- Government Quotes
- Democracy Quotes
- Self Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Years Quotes
- People Quotes
- Needs Quotes
- Exercise Quotes
- Political Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Quality Quotes
- Imagination Quotes
- Reality Quotes
- Creativity Quotes
- Jobs Quotes
- Teaching Quotes
- Class Quotes