

John Rawls

Quotes

Justice, Political, Principles, Religious, Reason, Would Be, Liberty, People, Citizens, Ideas, Views, Doctrine, Unjust, Way, Virtue, Suicide, Essentials, Expectations, Moral, May

A just society is a society that if you knew everything about it, you'd be willing to enter it in a random place.

~John Rawls

The fairest rules are those to which everyone would agree if they did not know how much power they would have.

~John Rawls

The bad man desires arbitrary power. What moves the evil man is the love of injustice.

~John Rawls

An injustice is tolerable only when it is necessary to avoid an even greater injustice.

~John Rawls

Justice is happiness according to virtue.

~John Rawls

A society regulated by a public sense of justice is inherently stable.

~John Rawls

The principles of justice are chosen behind a veil of ignorance.

~John Rawls

The sense of justice is continuous with the love of mankind.

~John Rawls

The intolerant can be viewed as free-riders, as persons who seek the advantages of just institutions while not doing their share to uphold them.

~John Rawls

Many of our most serious conflicts are conflicts within ourselves. Those

who suppose their judgements are always consistent are unreflective or dogmatic.

~John Rawls

Liberal constitutional democracy is supposed to ensure that each citizen is free and equal and protected by basic rights and liberties.

~John Rawls

In constant pursuit of money to finance campaigns, the political system is simply unable to function. Its deliberative powers are paralyzed.

~John Rawls

Properly understood, then, the desire to act justly derives in part from the desire to express most fully what we are or can be, namely free and equal rational beings with the liberty to choose.

~John Rawls

No one deserves his greater natural capacity nor merits a more favorable starting place in society.

~John Rawls

Justice as fairness provides what we want.

~John Rawls

[E]ach person is to have an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty compatible with a similar liberty for others.

~John Rawls

An intolerant sect has no right to complain when it is denied an equal liberty... A person's right to complain is limited to principles he acknowledges himself.

~John Rawls

We must choose for others as we have reason to believe they would

choose for themselves if they were at the age of reason and deciding rationally.

~John Rawls

Clearly when the liberties are left unrestricted they collide with one another.

~John Rawls

Thus I assume that to each according to his threat advantage is not a conception of justice.

~John Rawls

I'm concerned about the survival, historically, of constitutional democracy.

~John Rawls

It is of first importance that the military be subordinate to civilian government

~John Rawls

The idea of public reason isn't about the right answers to all these questions, but about the kinds of reasons that they ought to be answered by.

~John Rawls

The fault of the utilitarian doctrine is that it mistakes impersonality for impartiality.

~John Rawls

The strength of the claims of formal justice, of obedience to system, clearly depend upon the substantive justice of institutions and the possibilities of their reform.

~John Rawls

The fundamental criterion for judging any procedure is the justice of its likely results.

~John Rawls

The extreme nature of dominant-end views is often concealed by the vagueness and ambiguity of the end proposed.

~John Rawls

Justice is the first virtue of social institutions.

~John Rawls

The good of political life is the good of free and equal citizens recognizing the duty of civility to one another and supporting the institutions of a constitutional regime.

~John Rawls

If A were not allowed his better position, B would be even worse off than he is.

~John Rawls

Religious faith is an important aspect of American culture and a fact of American political life.

~John Rawls

There is a divergence between private and social accounting that the market fails to register. One essential task of law and government is to institute the necessary conditions.

~John Rawls

Ideal legislators do not vote their interests.

~John Rawls

The only thing that permits us to acquiesce in an erroneous theory is the lack of a better one, analogously, an injustice is tolerable only when

it is necessary to avoid an even greater injustice.

~John Rawls

The claims of existing social arrangements and of self interest have been duly allowed for. We cannot at the end count them a second time because we do not like the result.

~John Rawls

First of all, principles should be general. That is, it must be possible to formulate them without use of what would be intuitively recognized as proper names, or rigged definite descriptions.

~John Rawls

Intuitionism is not constructive, perfectionism is unacceptable.

~John Rawls

A political conception covers the right to vote, the political virtues, and the good of political life, but it doesn't intend to cover anything else.

~John Rawls

At best the principles that economists have supposed the choices of rational individuals to satisfy can be presented as guidelines for us to consider when we make our decisions.

~John Rawls

The circumstances of justice may be described as the normal conditions under which human cooperation is both possible and necessary.

~John Rawls

We may suppose that everyone has in himself the whole form of a moral conception.

~John Rawls

Peace surely is a good reason, yes. But there are other reasons too.

~John Rawls

A scheme is unjust when the higher expectations, one or more of them, are excessive. If these expectations were decreased, the situation of the less favored would be improved.

~John Rawls

The hazards of the generalized prisoner's dilemma are removed by the match between the right and the good.

~John Rawls

Of course, we know that not everyone agrees with assisted suicide, but people might agree that one has the right to it, even if they're not themselves going to exercise it.

~John Rawls

You hear that liberalism lacks an idea of the common good, but I think that's a mistake.

~John Rawls

There are infinitely many variations of the initial situation and therefore no doubt indefinitely many theorems of moral geometry.

~John Rawls

People can make arguments from the Bible if they want to. But I want them to see that they should also give arguments that all reasonable citizens might agree to.

~John Rawls

The idea of public reason has to do with how questions should be decided, but it doesn't tell you what are the good reasons or correct decisions.

~John Rawls

An intuitionist conception of justice is, one might say, but half a conception.

~John Rawls

Ideally a just constitution would be a just procedure arranged to insure a just outcome.

~John Rawls

A political conception just applies to the basic structure of a society, its institutions, constitutional essentials, matters of basic justice and property, and so on.

~John Rawls

There are various ways you might define the common good, but that would be one way you could do it.

~John Rawls

Citizens can have their own grounding in their comprehensive doctrines, whatever they happen to be.

~John Rawls

Public reason arguments can be good or bad just like other arguments.

~John Rawls

A just system must generate its own support.

~John Rawls

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