

John Stuart Mill

Quotes

*Men, People, Government, Science, Mean, Mind, Character, May, Liberty,
Ideas, Feelings, Opinion, Atheism, Thinking, Giving, Law, Real, Long, Truth,
Errors*

If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind.

~John Stuart Mill

Although it is not true that all conservatives are stupid people, it is true that most stupid people are conservative.

~John Stuart Mill

War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse.

~John Stuart Mill

A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but by his inaction, and in either case he is justly accountable to them for the injury.

~John Stuart Mill

To tax the larger incomes at a higher percentage than the smaller, is to lay a tax on industry and economy; to impose a penalty on people for having worked harder and saved more than their neighbors.

~John Stuart Mill

One person with a belief is equal to ninety-nine who have only interests.

~John Stuart Mill

The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good, in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it.

~John Stuart Mill

Originality is the one thing which unoriginal minds cannot feel the use

of.

~John Stuart Mill

I have learned to seek my happiness by limiting my desires, rather than in attempting to satisfy them.

~John Stuart Mill

The worth of the state, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it.

~John Stuart Mill

Liberty lies in the rights of that person whose views you find most odious.

~John Stuart Mill

A state which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands even for beneficial purposes--will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished.

~John Stuart Mill

We can never be sure that the opinion we are endeavoring to stifle is a false opinion; and if we were sure, stifling it would be an evil still.

~John Stuart Mill

How can great minds be produced in a country where the test of great minds is agreeing in the opinion of small minds?

~John Stuart Mill

The object of universities is not to make skillful lawyers, physicians or engineers. It is to make capable and cultivated human beings

~John Stuart Mill

The pupil who is never required to do what he cannot do, never does what he can do.

~John Stuart Mill

When the land is cultivated entirely by the spade and no horses are kept, a cow is kept for every three acres of land.

~John Stuart Mill

Actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness; wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness. By happiness is intended pleasure and the absence of pain.

~John Stuart Mill

Whatever crushes individuality is despotism.

~John Stuart Mill

It is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the day's toil of any human being.

~John Stuart Mill

All good things which exist are the fruits of originality.

~John Stuart Mill

The liberty of the individual must be thus far limited; he must not make himself a nuisance to other people.

~John Stuart Mill

It is not because men's desires are strong that they act ill; it is because their consciences are weak.

~John Stuart Mill

The general tendency of things throughout the world is to render mediocrity the ascendant power among mankind.

~John Stuart Mill

A person should be free to do as he likes in his own concerns; but he

ought not to be free to do as he likes in acting for another, under the pretext that the affairs of the other are his own affairs.

~John Stuart Mill

Ask yourself whether you are happy, and you cease to be so.

~John Stuart Mill

Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.

~John Stuart Mill

What distinguishes the majority of men from the few is their inability to act according to their beliefs.

~John Stuart Mill

The spirit of improvement is not always a spirit of liberty, for it may aim at forcing improvements on an unwilling people.

~John Stuart Mill

Every great movement must experience three stages: ridicule, discussion, adoption.

~John Stuart Mill

The individual is not accountable to society for his actions in so far as these concern the interests of no person but himself.

~John Stuart Mill

Liberty consists in doing what one desires.

~John Stuart Mill

All silencing of discussion is an assumption of infallibility.

~John Stuart Mill

In the long-run, the best proof of a good character is good actions.

~John Stuart Mill

When one's ideas are not challenged, one's ability to defend them weakens.

~John Stuart Mill

The moral influence of woman over man is almost always salutary.

~John Stuart Mill

In all intellectual debates, both sides tend to be correct in what they affirm, and wrong in what they deny.

~John Stuart Mill

The despotism of custom is everywhere the standing hindrance to human advancement.

~John Stuart Mill

That so few now dare to be eccentric, marks the chief danger of the time.

~John Stuart Mill

He who lets the world choose his plan of life for him has need of no other faculty than that of ape-like imitation.

~John Stuart Mill

The ne plus ultra of wickedness ... is embodied in what is commonly presented to mankind as the creed of Christianity.

~John Stuart Mill

Since the state must necessarily provide subsistence for the criminal poor while undergoing punishment, not to do the same for the poor who have not offended is to give a premium on crime.

~John Stuart Mill

There are many truths of which the full meaning cannot be realized until personal experience has brought it home.

~John Stuart Mill

A party of order or stability, and a party of progress or reform, are both necessary elements of a healthy state of political life.

~John Stuart Mill

The disease which inflicts bureaucracy and what they usually die from is routine.

~John Stuart Mill

The most cogent reason for restricting the interference of government is the great evil of adding unnecessarily to its power.

~John Stuart Mill

Those only are happy (I thought) who have their minds fixed on some object other than their own happiness.

~John Stuart Mill

The world would be astonished if it knew how great a proportion of its brightest ornaments, of those distinguished even in popular estimation for wisdom and virtue, are complete sceptics in religion.

~John Stuart Mill

Complete liberty of contradicting and disproving our opinion, is the very condition which justifies us in assuming its truth for purposes of action.

~John Stuart Mill

The application of algebra to geometry ... has immortalized the name of Descartes, and constitutes the greatest single step ever made in the progress of the exact sciences.

~John Stuart Mill

... the besetting danger is not so much of embracing falsehood for truth, as of mistaking a part of the truth for the whole.

~John Stuart Mill

The reasons for legal intervention in favour of children apply not less strongly to the case of those unfortunate slaves and victims of the most brutal part of mankind - the lower animals.

~John Stuart Mill

Solitude in the presence of natural beauty and grandeur is the cradle of thought and aspirations which are not only good for the individual, but which society can ill do without.

~John Stuart Mill

The fatal tendency of mankind to leave off thinking about a thing when it is no longer doubtful is the cause of half their errors.

~John Stuart Mill

As often as a study is cultivated by narrow minds, they will draw from it narrow conclusions.

~John Stuart Mill

Any participation, even in the smallest public function, is useful.

~John Stuart Mill

Persons of genius, it is true, are, and are always likely to be, a small minority; but in order to have them, it is necessary to preserve the soil in which they grow.

~John Stuart Mill

There is always hope when people are forced to listen to both sides.

~John Stuart Mill

Genius can only breathe freely in an atmosphere of freedom.

~John Stuart Mill

Every man who says frankly and fully what he thinks is so far doing a public service. We should be grateful to him for attacking most unsparingly our most cherished opinions.

~John Stuart Mill

We have a right, also, in various ways, to act upon our unfavorable opinion of anyone, not to the oppression of his individuality, but in the exercise of ours.

~John Stuart Mill

No slave is a slave to the same lengths, and in so full a sense of the word, as a wife is.

~John Stuart Mill

Men do not desire to be rich, but to be richer than other men.

~John Stuart Mill

Life has a certain flavor for those who have fought and risked all that the sheltered and protected can never experience.

~John Stuart Mill

Landlords grow rich in their sleep without working, risking or economising

~John Stuart Mill

The love of power and the love of liberty are in eternal antagonism.

~John Stuart Mill

In the human mind, one-sidedness has always been the rule, and many-sidedness the exception. Hence, even in revolutions of opinion, one part of the truth usually sets while another rises.

~John Stuart Mill

It is given to no human being to stereotype a set of truths, and walk safely by their guidance with his mind's eye closed.

~John Stuart Mill

The great creative individual . . . is capable of more wisdom and virtue than collective man ever can be.

~John Stuart Mill

It is as certain that many opinions, now general, will be rejected by future ages, as it is that many, once general, are rejected by the present.

~John Stuart Mill

There is an imaginary circle drawn around every human being, over which no government should be able to step.

~John Stuart Mill

To say that secular means irreligious implies that all the arts and sciences are irreligious, and is very like saying that all professions except that of the law are illegal.

~John Stuart Mill

The concessions of the privileged to the unprivileged are seldom brought about by any better motive than the power of the unprivileged to extort them.

~John Stuart Mill

But society has now fairly got the better of individuality; and the danger which threatens human nature is not the excess, but the deficiency, of personal impulses and preferences.

~John Stuart Mill

It would not be easy even for an unbeliever, to find a better translation of the rule of virtue from the abstract into the concrete, than to

endeavor so to live that Christ would approve our life.

~John Stuart Mill

No one can be a great thinker who does not recognize that as a thinker it is his first duty to follow his intellect to whatever conclusions it may lead.

~John Stuart Mill

All attempts by the State to bias the conclusions of its citizens on disputed subjects, are evil.

~John Stuart Mill

He who does anything because it is the custom, makes no choice.

~John Stuart Mill

All desirable things... are desirable either for the pleasure inherent in themselves, or as a means to the promotion of pleasure and the prevention of pain.

~John Stuart Mill

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' way to build an audience.

~John Stuart Mill

There is a tolerably general agreement about what a university is not. It is not a place of professional education.

~John Stuart Mill

Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seems good to themselves, than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest.

~John Stuart Mill

Whatever crushes individuality is despotism, by whatever name it may be called and whether it professes to be enforcing the will of God or the

injunctions of men.

~John Stuart Mill

The strongest of all arguments against the interference of the public with purely personal conduct, is that when it does interfere, the odds are that it interferes wrongly, and in the wrong place.

~John Stuart Mill

I am not aware that any community has a right to force another to be civilized.

~John Stuart Mill

The demand for commodities is not the demand for labor.

~John Stuart Mill

To mistake money for wealth, is the same sort of error as to mistake the highway which may be the easiest way of getting to your house or lands, for the house and lands themselves.

~John Stuart Mill

The price paid for intellectual pacification is the sacrifice of the entire moral courage of the human mind.

~John Stuart Mill

There is one plain rule of life. Try thyself unweariedly till thou findest the highest thing thou art capable of doing, faculties and outward circumstances being both duly considered, and then do it.

~John Stuart Mill

All the good of which humanity is capable is comprised in obedience.

~John Stuart Mill

Pleasure and freedom from pain, are the only things desirable as ends.

~John Stuart Mill

As for charity, it is a matter in which the immediate effect on the persons directly concerned, and the ultimate consequence to the general good, are apt to be at complete war with one another.

~John Stuart Mill

It is a law, that every event depends on some law.

~John Stuart Mill

So Long as we do not harm others we should be free to think, speak, act, & live as we see fit, without molestation from individuals, law, or gov't.

~John Stuart Mill

Everything must be free to be written and published without restraint.

~John Stuart Mill

Men and governments must act to the best of their ability. There is no such thing as absolute certainty but there is assurance sufficient for the purposes of human life.

~John Stuart Mill

A profound conviction raises a man above the feeling of ridicule.

~John Stuart Mill

Almost all rich veins of original and striking speculation have been opened by systematic half-thinkers.

~John Stuart Mill

The struggle between Liberty and Authority is the most conspicuous feature in the portions of history with which we are earliest familiar; particularly in that of Greece, Rome, and England

~John Stuart Mill

In this age, the man who dares to think for himself and to act

independently does a service to his race.

~John Stuart Mill

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