

Jose Ortega y Gasset Quotes

*Men, Life, Thinking, Hunting, Mean, Believe, Order, History, Giving,
Inspirational, Civilization, Reality, Two, Art, Truth, Life Is, Doe, Past, World,
People*

Rancor is an outpouring of a feeling of inferiority.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

We need to study the whole of history, not to fall back into it, but to see if we can escape from it.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The type of human being we prefer reveals the contours of our heart.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Effort is only effort when it begins to hurt.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Tell me to what you pay attention and I will tell you who you are.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Life is a series of collisions with the future.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Life is a series of collisions with the future; it is not the sum of what we have been, but what we yearn to be.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

I am I plus my circumstances.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

I am I plus my surroundings; and if I do not preserve the latter, I do not preserve myself.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

An 'unemployed' existence is a worse negation of life than death itself.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

To wonder is to begin to understand.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Living is a constant process of deciding what we are going to do.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

We distinguish the excellent man from the common man by saying that the former is the one who makes great demands on himself, and the latter who makes no demands on himself.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Being an artist means ceasing to take seriously that very serious person we are when we are not an artist.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The will to be oneself is heroism

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The past will not tell us what we ought to do, but... what we ought to avoid.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Thought is not a gift to man but a laborious, precarious and volatile acquisition.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

There are people who so arrange their lives that they feed themselves only on side dishes.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Excellence means when a man or woman asks of himself more than others do.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

We do not live to think, but, on the contrary, we think in order that we

may succeed in surviving.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Love is that splendid triggering of human vitality the supreme activity which nature affords anyone for going out of himself toward someone else.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

What makes a nation great is not primarily its great men, but the stature of its innumerable mediocre ones.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Nobility is defined by the demands it makes on us - by obligations, not by rights. Noblesse oblige. 'To live as one likes is plebeian; the noble man aspires to order and law.'

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Poetry is adolescence fermented, and thus preserved.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Man is a substantial emigrant on a pilgrimage of being, and it is accordingly meaningless to set limits to what he is capable of being.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Why write if this too easy activity of pushing a pen across paper is not given a certain bullfighting risk and we do not approach dangerous, agile and two-horned topics?

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Stupefaction, when it persists, becomes stupidity.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Hatred is a feeling which leads to the extinction of values.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

We fall in love when our imagination projects nonexistent perfection upon another person. One day, the fantasy evaporates and with it, love dies.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Civilization is nothing more than the effort to reduce the use of force to the last resort.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The well being of democracies regardless of their type and status is dependent on one small technical detail: The right to vote. Everything else is secondary.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Since love is the most delicate and total act of a soul, it will reflect the state and nature of the soul.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Love is exclusivity, selection.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

These are the only genuine ideas, the ideas of the shipwrecked. All the rest is rhetoric, posturing, farce.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

We cannot put off living until we are ready.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Man adapts himself to everything, to the best and the worst.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

For the person for whom small things do not exist, the great is not great.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

In order to master the unruly torrent of life the learned man meditates, the poet quivers, and the political hero erects the fortress of his will.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Abasement, degradation is simply the manner of life of the man who has refused to be what it is his duty to be.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

To be free means to be lacking in constitutive identity...

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The hunter is the alert man. But this itself-life as complete alertness-is the attitude in which the animal exists in the jungle.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Law is born from despair of human nature.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

We live at a time when man believes himself fabulously capable of creation, but he does not know what to create.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The individual point of view is the only point of view from which one is able to look at the world in its truth.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The poet begins where the man ends. The man's lot is to live his human life, the poet's to invent what is nonexistent.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

History is the science of people.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

There may be as much nobility in being last as in being first, because

the two positions are equally necessary in the world, the one to complement the other.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Biography - a system in which the contradictions of a human life are unified.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Revolution is not the uprising against preexisting order, but the setting up of a new order contradictory to the traditional one

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

To live is to feel oneself lost.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

By speaking, by thinking, we undertake to clarify things, and that forces us to exacerbate them, dislocate them, schematize them. Every concept is in itself an exaggeration.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The mass believes that it has the right to impose and to give force of law to notions born in the café.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The cynic, a parasite of civilization, lives by denying it, for the very reason that he is convinced that it will not fail.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Man's being is made of such strange stuff as to be partly akin to nature and partly not, at once natural and extranatural, a kind of ontological centaur, half immersed in nature, half transcending it.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The choice of a point of view is the initial act of a culture.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Life is a struggle with things to maintain itself among them. Concepts are the strategic plan we form in answer to the attack.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The essence of man is, discontent, divine discontent; a sort of love without a beloved, the ache we feel in a member we no longer have.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

An idea is a putting truth in check-mate.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The good is, like nature, an immense landscape in which man advances through centuries of exploration.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Life is an operation which is done in a forward direction. One lives toward the future, because to live consists inexorably in doing, in each individual life making itself.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The characteristic of the hour is that the commonplace mind, knowing itself to be commonplace, has the assurance to proclaim the rights of the commonplace and to impose them wherever it will.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

I am myself and what is around me, and if I do not save it, it shall not save me.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Civilization is nothing else but the attempt to reduce force to being the last resort.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The metaphor is probably the most fertile power possessed by man

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The real magic wand is the child's own mind.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Liberalism... is the noblest cry that has ever resounded in this planet.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The person portrayed and the portrait are two entirely different things.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Hating someone is feeling irritation by their mere existence.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Better beware of notions like genius and inspiration; they are a sort of magic wand and should be used sparingly by anybody who wants to see things clearly.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The form most contradictory to human life that can appear among the human species is the "self-satisfied man."

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

There are, above all, times in which the human reality, always mobile, accelerates, and bursts into vertiginous speeds. Our time is such a one, for it is made of descent and fall.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Commonplaces are the tramways of intellectual transportation.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Our firmest convictions are apt to be the most suspect; they mark our limitations and our bounds. Life is a petty thing unless it is moved by

the indomitable urge to extend its boundaries.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

A revolution only lasts fifteen years, a period which coincides with the effectiveness of a generation.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Man is a fugitive from nature.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The masses think that it is easy to flee from reality, when it is the most difficult thing in the world.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Life is fired at us point blank.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Every life is, more or less, a ruin among whose debris we have to discover what the person ought to have been.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Barbarism is the absence of standards to which appeal can be made.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The metaphor is perhaps one of man's most fruitful potentialities. Its efficacy verges on magic, and it seems a tool for creation which God forgot inside one of His creatures when He made him.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

In these years we are witnessing the gigantic spectacle of innumerable human lives wandering about lost in their own labyrinths, through not having anything to which to give themselves.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The struggle with the past is not a hand-to-hand fight. The future overcomes it by swallowing it. If it leaves anything outside it is lost.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Men play at tragedy because they do not believe in the reality of the tragedy which is actually being staged in the civilised world

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

tragedy in the theater opens our eyes so that we can discover and appreciate the heroic in reality.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

With morality we correct the mistakes of our instincts, and with love we correct the mistakes of our morals.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Living is nothing more or less than doing one thing instead of another.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The heart of man does not tolerate an absence of the excellent and supreme.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Life is the external text, the burning bush by the edge of the path from which God speaks.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Order is not pressure which is imposed on society from without, but an equilibrium which is set up from within.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Poetry has become the higher algebra of metaphors.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Man in a word has no nature; what he has... is history.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

And this is the simple truth - that to live is to feel oneself lost. He who accepts it has already begun to find himself to be on firm ground.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The difficulties which I meet with in order to realize my existence are precisely what awaken and mobilize my activities, my capacities.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

We cannot put off living until we are ready. The most salient characteristic of life is its urgency, 'here and now' without any possible postponement. Life is fired at us point-blank.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The hero's will is not that of his ancestors nor of his society, but his own. This will to be oneself is heroism.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

To rule is not so much a question of the heavy hand as the firm seat.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Triumph cannot help being cruel.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

The world is the sum-total of our vital possibilities.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Every intellectual effort sets us apart from the commonplace, and leads us by hidden and difficult paths to secluded spots where we find ourselves amid unaccustomed thoughts.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

Human vitality is so exuberant that in the sorriest desert it still finds a pretext for glowing and trembling.

~Jose Ortega y Gasset

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