

# Leon Trotsky

## Quotes

*Country, Party, Revolution, Men, Class, Struggle, Revolutionary, Victory, Mean, War, Years, Force, Fighting, Order, Powerful, Lying, People, Doe, Fall, Russia*

If you cannot convince a Fascist, acquaint his head with the pavement.

~Leon Trotsky

Tell me anyway--Maybe I can find the truth by comparing the lies.

~Leon Trotsky

Our planet is being turned into a filthy and evil-smelling imperialist barrack.

~Leon Trotsky

Everyone has a right to be stupid, but Comrade MacDonald abuses the privilege.

~Leon Trotsky

Religions are illogical primitive ignorance. There is nothing as ridiculous and tragic as a religious government.

~Leon Trotsky

There are no absolute rules of conduct, either in peace or war. Everything depends on circumstances.

~Leon Trotsky

Communism needs democracy like the human body needs oxygen.

~Leon Trotsky

Life is beautiful. Let the future generations cleanse it of all evil, oppression, and violence, and enjoy it to the full.

~Leon Trotsky

Abusive language and swearing are a legacy of slavery, humiliation, and disrespect for human dignity, one's own and that of other people.

~Leon Trotsky

Bureaucracy and social harmony are inversely proportional to each

other.

~Leon Trotsky

Root out the counterrevolutionaries without mercy, lock up suspicious characters in concentration camps... Shirkers will be shot, regardless of past service.

~Leon Trotsky

The United States is not only the strongest, but also the most terrified country.

~Leon Trotsky

Fascism is nothing but capitalist reaction...

~Leon Trotsky

One of the most surprising things in life is the sudden realization that one has become old

~Leon Trotsky

Not believing in force is the same as not believing in gravity.

~Leon Trotsky

The history of a revolution is for us first of all a history of the forcible entrance of the masses into the realm of rulership over their own destiny.

~Leon Trotsky

A means can be justified only by its end. But the end in its turn needs to be justified.

~Leon Trotsky

The end may justify the means as long as there is something that justifies the end.

~Leon Trotsky

You are pitiful isolated individuals; you are bankrupts; your role is played out. Go where you belong from now on - into the dustbin of history!

~Leon Trotsky

â€žThe party that leans upon the workers but serves the bourgeoisie, in the period of the greatest sharpening of the class struggle, cannot but sense the smells wafted from the waiting grave.

~Leon Trotsky

Revolutions are always verbose.

~Leon Trotsky

When one runs with the wolves, one must howl with the pack.

~Leon Trotsky

Learning carries within itself certain dangers because out of necessity one has to learn from one's enemies.

~Leon Trotsky

...capitalism does live by crises and booms, just as a human being lives by inhaling and exhaling.

~Leon Trotsky

The revolution has its own laws: in the period of its culmination it pushes the most highly developed, determined and far-seeing stratum of the revolutionary class to the most advanced positions.

~Leon Trotsky

The historic ascent of humanity, taken as a whole, may be summarized as a succession of victories of consciousness over blind forces - in nature, in society, in man himself.

~Leon Trotsky

The pillars of Hercules of the United States are vulgarity and stupidity.

~Leon Trotsky

Where force is necessary, there it must be applied boldly, decisively and completely.

~Leon Trotsky

Technique is noticed most markedly in the case of those who have not mastered it.

~Leon Trotsky

He who slanders the victim aids the executioner.

~Leon Trotsky

The motive force of history is truth and not lies.

~Leon Trotsky

Old age is the most unexpected of all things that happen to a man.

~Leon Trotsky

In a serious struggle there is no worse cruelty than to be magnanimous at an inopportune time.

~Leon Trotsky

Workers - men and women - of all countries, place yourselves under the banner of the Fourth International. It is the banner of your approaching victory!

~Leon Trotsky

Everything is relative in this world, where change alone endures.

~Leon Trotsky

Ideas that enter the mind under fire remain there securely and for ever.

~Leon Trotsky

The dictatorship of the Communist Party is maintained by recourse to every form of violence.

~Leon Trotsky

I emphasized the significance of revolutionary strategy.

~Leon Trotsky

If we close our eyes to the dark sides of the workers' State which we have helped to create, we shall never reach socialism.

~Leon Trotsky

There is no justice in bureaucracy for the individual, for bureaucracy caters only to itself. One cannot practice the same bureaucracy as one is fighting against.

~Leon Trotsky

Under all conditions, well-organized violence seems to him the shortest distance between two points.

~Leon Trotsky

Our differences with [Joseph] Stalin are entirely of a strategical character.

~Leon Trotsky

You may not be interested in strategy, but strategy is interested in you.

~Leon Trotsky

The fundamental flaw of vulgar thought lies in the fact that it wishes to content itself with motionless imprints of a reality which consists of eternal motion.

~Leon Trotsky

From being a patriotic myth, the Russian people have become an awful reality.

~Leon Trotsky

Look back at history - those who guided the revolution in the time of its culmination never kept their leading positions long after the turning point.

~Leon Trotsky

The creative union of the conscious with the unconscious is what one usually calls 'inspiration.'

~Leon Trotsky

The revenge of history is more powerful than the revenge of the most powerful General Secretary.

~Leon Trotsky

If we had more time for discussion we should probably have made a great many more mistakes.

~Leon Trotsky

Insurrection is an art, and like all arts has its own laws.

~Leon Trotsky

Where the sole employer is the state, [opposition] means death by slow starvation.

~Leon Trotsky

[Vladimir] Lenin died in January, 1924; three months later [Joseph] Stalin expounded in writing Lenin's conception of the proletarian revolution.

~Leon Trotsky

The theory of the permanent revolution, in contradiction to the theory of socialism in one country, was recognized by the entire Bolshevik party during the period from 1917 to 1923.

~Leon Trotsky

In 1917 there was not a single Bolshevik who considered possible the realization of a socialist society in a single country, and least of all in Russia.

~Leon Trotsky

Let us not forget that revolutions are accomplished through people, although they be nameless. Materialism does not ignore the feeling, thinking, and acting man, but explains him.

~Leon Trotsky

The people will have the right to elect their representatives from a list of candidates [who have been approved by the Party].

~Leon Trotsky

As for us, we were never concerned with the Kantian-priestly and vegetarian-Quaker prattle about the sacredness of human life.

~Leon Trotsky

England is nothing but the last ward of the European madhouse, and quite possibly it will prove to be the ward for particularly violent cases.

~Leon Trotsky

Without a correct strategy the victory is impossible. But even the most correct strategy cannot give the victory under unfavorable objective conditions.

~Leon Trotsky

[Joseph] Stalin closes the exposition of these [Leon Trotsky] ideas with the words, "Such are in general the characteristic features of [Vladimir] Lenin's conception of the proletarian revolution."

~Leon Trotsky

Only in the Fall of 1924 did [Joseph] Stalin discover that it is especially Russia, as distinguished from other countries, which can by its own forces build up a socialist society.

~Leon Trotsky

Against my protests a mausoleum was built on the Red Square, a monument unbecoming and offensive to the revolutionary consciousness.

~Leon Trotsky

Our party's most outstanding mediocrity.

~Leon Trotsky

It is therefore not true that the mere existence of the Soviet Union is capable of assuring the victory of the revolution in other countries.

~Leon Trotsky

If one cannot get along without a mirror, even in shaving oneself, how can one reconstruct oneself or one's life, without seeing oneself in the "mirror" of literature?

~Leon Trotsky

It is quite clear that the German and Chinese revolutions in case of victory would have changed the face of Europe and Asia, and perhaps of the whole world.

~Leon Trotsky

National self-sufficiency or "autarchy" is the ideal of [Adolf] Hitler, not of [Karl] Marx and [Vladimir] Lenin.

~Leon Trotsky

Simultaneously the Left Opposition in the course of several years carried on a struggle against the Stalinists in favor of collectivization.

~Leon Trotsky

The Soviet State does not need either illusions or camouflage. It can claim only that world authority which is confirmed by the facts.

~Leon Trotsky

Yet the proletariat has not only a vanguard, but also a rearguard, and besides the proletariat there are the peasantry and the bureaucracy.

~Leon Trotsky

What shall we call an "immediate possibility"? In 1923 the situation in Germany was profoundly revolutionary, but what was lacking for a victorious revolution was a correct strategy.

~Leon Trotsky

That the existence of the Soviet Union has an international revolutionary significance is a commonplace equally recognized by friends and foes.

~Leon Trotsky

I wrote a study about this question, *The Lessons of October*, which served as a pretext for my elimination from the government.

~Leon Trotsky

In spite of the existence of the Soviet Union, however, the proletarian revolution during the past years has not recorded a victory in any other country.

~Leon Trotsky

To overthrow the power of the bourgeoisie and to establish the power of the proletariat in one country still does not signify the full victory of Socialism.

~Leon Trotsky

It is also false that the revolution ripens and comes to development only in the national soil.

~Leon Trotsky

The Soviet Union needs thinking and critical friends, such as are capable not only of singing hymns in the hours of success, but of not shrinking in the hour of defeat and danger.

~Leon Trotsky

I feel here that this time they have succeeded.

~Leon Trotsky

The usages and methods of warfare are thus determined by changing circumstances and, therefore, they themselves can in nowise be eternal.

~Leon Trotsky

Once again, he who ignores the problems of revolutionary strategy would do better not to talk about revolutions at all.

~Leon Trotsky

The main task of Socialism - the organization of Socialist production - remains still in the future.

~Leon Trotsky

Fascism is a caricature of Jacobinism.

~Leon Trotsky

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