

# Leonard Read Quotes

*Men, Government, Responsibility, Liberty, People, Political, Thinking, Moral,  
Mean, Names, Income, Differences, Needs, Creative, Believe, Socialism, Self,  
Country, Essence, Distinction*

Socialism takes and redistributes wealth, but it is utterly incapable of creating wealth.

~Leonard Read

...the greatest political problem facing the world today is...how to curb the oppressive power of government, how to keep it within reasonable bounds.

~Leonard Read

In market terms, one is entitled to what others will offer in willing exchange. That is all!

~Leonard Read

What precisely is this disease that causes inflation and all these other troubles? It has many popular names, such as socialism, communism, state interventionism, and welfare statism.

~Leonard Read

The American people are becoming more and more afraid of, and are running away from, their own revolution.

~Leonard Read

There is no moral distinction between the act of a pickpocket and the progressive income tax.

~Leonard Read

There is no moral distinction between petty thievery and 'from each according to ability, to each according to need.'

~Leonard Read

There could be no greater error than to conclude that statism caused prosperity.

~Leonard Read

Statism, which forces all of us within its orbit, is nothing but a political system of organized plunder, managed by every conceivable type of pressure group.

~Leonard Read

The advancement of freedom is not a matter of who wields political power over creative actions; rather, it depends upon the disassembling of such power.

~Leonard Read

The proper and limited use of government is to invoke a common justice and keep the peace - and that is all.

~Leonard Read

The system of plunder derives much of its support from individuals who do not subscribe to socialism but who say, 'We're paying for it, so we might as well get our share'

~Leonard Read

If we remove the hope of profit as a means to alleviate misfortune - poverty, illness, misery, disaster - we shall increase our misfortunes and make them permanent.

~Leonard Read

No one has more than scratched the surface when it comes to understanding and explaining the miracle of the market.

~Leonard Read

Governments resort to inflation with popular support because the people apparently are naïve enough to believe that they can have their cake and eat it, too.

~Leonard Read

True, the free market ignores the poor precisely as it does not

recognize the wealthy - it is 'no respecter of persons'

~Leonard Read

There is no greater dishonesty than man effecting his own private gains at the expense of others.

~Leonard Read

Under both the welfare state and communism, the responsibility for the welfare, security, and prosperity of the people is presumed to rest with the central government.

~Leonard Read

Is it not obvious that the more complex an economy, the more certainly will governmental control of productive effort exert a retarding influence?

~Leonard Read

Socialistic practices are now so ingrained in our thinking, so customary, so much a part of our mores, that we take them for granted.

~Leonard Read

The libertarian can have no truck with 'left' or 'right' because he regrets any form of authoritarianism - the use of police force to control the creative life of man.

~Leonard Read

The solution to this problem [welfare-statism] must take a positive form: the restoration of a faith in what free men can accomplish.

~Leonard Read

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