

# Ludwig von Mises

## Quotes

*Men, Government, People, Mean, Liberty, War, Ideas, Freedom, Peace,  
Entrepreneur, Political, Law, Order, Philosophy, Civilization, Doe, Socialism,  
Needs, Progress, Thinking*

Innovators and creative geniuses cannot be reared in schools. They are precisely the men who defy what the school has taught them.

~Ludwig von Mises

The worst evils which mankind has ever had to endure were inflicted by bad governments.

~Ludwig von Mises

[E]conomic history is a long record of government policies that failed because they were designed with a bold disregard for the laws of economics

~Ludwig von Mises

The real bosses, in the capitalist system of market economy, are the consumers.

~Ludwig von Mises

Government cannot make man richer, but it can make him poorer.

~Ludwig von Mises

The root of the evil is not the construction of new, more dreadful weapons. It is the spirit of conquest.

~Ludwig von Mises

If one rejects laissez faire on account of mans fallibility and moral weakness, one must for the same reason also reject every kind of government action.

~Ludwig von Mises

The main political problem is how to prevent the police power from becoming tyrannical. This is the meaning of all the struggles for liberty.

~Ludwig von Mises

Manufacturing and commercial monopolies owe their origin not to a

tendency imminent in a capitalist economy but to governmental interventionist policy directed against free trade and laissez faire.

~Ludwig von Mises

Capitalism needs neither propaganda nor apostles. Its achievements speak for themselves. Capitalism delivers the goods.

~Ludwig von Mises

The issue is always the same: the government or the market. There is no third solution.

~Ludwig von Mises

Economic progress is the work of the savers, who accumulate capital, and of the entrepreneurs, who turn capital to new uses.

~Ludwig von Mises

Depressions and mass unemployment are not caused by the free market but by government interference in the economy.

~Ludwig von Mises

He who serves the public best, makes the highest profits.

~Ludwig von Mises

Every socialist is a disguised dictator.

~Ludwig von Mises

The entrepreneur profits to the extent he has succeeded in serving the consumers better than other people have done.

~Ludwig von Mises

The only source from which an entrepreneurs profits stem is his ability to anticipate better than other people the future demand of the consumers.

~Ludwig von Mises

The fact is that, under a capitalistic system, the ultimate bosses are the consumers. The sovereign is not the state, it is the people.

~Ludwig von Mises

The fundamental law of the market is: the customer is always right.

~Ludwig von Mises

The standard of living of the common man is higher in those countries which have the greatest number of wealthy entrepreneurs.

~Ludwig von Mises

Freedom is indivisible. As soon as one starts to restrict it, one enters upon a decline on which it is difficult to stop.

~Ludwig von Mises

No people and no part of a people shall be held against its will in a political association that it does not want.

~Ludwig von Mises

Liberty is meaningless if it is only the liberty to agree with those in power.

~Ludwig von Mises

The market is a democracy in which every penny gives a right to vote.

~Ludwig von Mises

If some peoples pretend that history or geography gives them the right to subjugate other races, nations, or peoples, there can be no peace.

~Ludwig von Mises

Economics is not about things and tangible material objects; it is about men, their meanings and actions.

~Ludwig von Mises

Socialism is not an alternative to capitalism; it is an alternative to any system under which men can live as human beings.

~Ludwig von Mises

Liberty is always freedom from the government.

~Ludwig von Mises

The prerequisite for more economic equality in the world is industrialization. And this is possible only through increased capital investment, increased capital accumulation.

~Ludwig von Mises

Sovereignty must not be used for inflicting harm on anyone, whether citizen or foreigner.

~Ludwig von Mises

In a battle between force and an idea, the latter always prevails.

~Ludwig von Mises

Under capitalism everybody is the architect of his own fortune.

~Ludwig von Mises

The idea that political freedom can be preserved in the absence of economic freedom, and vice versa, is an illusion. Political freedom is the corollary of economic freedom.

~Ludwig von Mises

Those who are asking for more government interference are asking ultimately for more compulsion and less freedom.

~Ludwig von Mises

What mankind needs today is liberation from the rule of nonsensical slogans and a return to sound reasoning.

~Ludwig von Mises

Capitalism gave the world what it needed, a higher standard of living for a steadily increasing number of people.

~Ludwig von Mises

Both force and money are impotent against ideas.

~Ludwig von Mises

The philosophy of protectionism is a philosophy of war.

~Ludwig von Mises

The final outcome of the credit expansion is general impoverishment.

~Ludwig von Mises

Depression is the aftermath of credit expansion.

~Ludwig von Mises

Society is best served when the means of production are in the possession of those who know how to use them best.

~Ludwig von Mises

Whoever wishes peace among peoples must fight statism.

~Ludwig von Mises

Society has arisen out of the works of peace; the essence of society is peacemaking. Peace and not war is the father of all things.

~Ludwig von Mises

Taxing profits is tantamount to taxing success.

~Ludwig von Mises

All rational action is in the first place individual action. Only the individual thinks. Only the individual reasons. Only the individual acts.

~Ludwig von Mises

Every government intervention [in the marketplace] creates unintended consequences, which lead to calls for further government interventions.

~Ludwig von Mises

Progressive taxation of income and profits means that precisely those parts of the income which people would have saved and invested are taxed away

~Ludwig von Mises

What generates war is the economic philosophy of nationalism: embargoes, trade and foreign exchange controls, monetary devaluation, etc. The philosophy of protectionism is a philosophy of war.

~Ludwig von Mises

The program of liberalism if condensed into a single word, would have to read: property, that is, private ownership of the means of production.

~Ludwig von Mises

The essential feature of government is the enforcement of its decrees by beating, killing, and imprisoning.

~Ludwig von Mises

Profits are the driving force of the market economy. The greater the profits, the better the needs of the consumers are supplied... He who serves the public best, makes the highest profits.

~Ludwig von Mises

The elimination of profit, whatever methods may be resorted to for its execution, must transform society into a senseless jumble. It would create poverty for all.

~Ludwig von Mises

Some think that they will exercise power for the general good, but that is what all those with power have believed. Power is evil in itself, regardless of who exercises it.

~Ludwig von Mises

The most important thing to remember is that inflation is not an act of God, that inflation is not a catastrophe of the elements or a disease that comes like the plague. Inflation is a policy.

~Ludwig von Mises

Unemployment doles can have no other effect than the perpetuation of unemployment.

~Ludwig von Mises

Whoever prefers life to death, happiness to suffering, well-being to misery must defend without compromise private ownership in the means of production.

~Ludwig von Mises

The masses, in their capacity as consumers, ultimately determine everybody's revenues and wealth.

~Ludwig von Mises

It is impossible to understand the history of economic thought if one does not pay attention to the fact that economics as such is a challenge to the conceit of those in power.

~Ludwig von Mises

All this talk: the state should do this or that, ultimately means: the police should force consumers to behave otherwise than they would behave spontaneously.

~Ludwig von Mises

The struggle for freedom is ultimately not resistance to autocrats or



oligarchs but resistance to the despotism of public opinion.

~Ludwig von Mises

Many who are self-taught far excel the doctors, masters, and bachelors of the most renowned universities.

~Ludwig von Mises

If you increase the quantity of money, you bring about the lowering of the purchasing power of the monetary unit.

~Ludwig von Mises

A wealthy man can preserve his wealth only by continuing to serve the consumers in the most efficient way.

~Ludwig von Mises

Every step toward the elimination of profit is progress on the way toward social disintegration.

~Ludwig von Mises

Government is the only institution that can take a valuable commodity like paper, and make it worthless by applying ink.

~Ludwig von Mises

German Marxian's coined the dictum: If socialism is against human nature, then human nature must be changed.

~Ludwig von Mises

The state can be and has often been in the course of history the main source of mischief and disaster.

~Ludwig von Mises

The common man is the sovereign consumer whose buying or abstention from buying ultimately determines what should be produced and in what quantity and quality.

~Ludwig von Mises

Public works are not accomplished by the miraculous power of a magic wand. They are paid for by funds taken away from the citizens.

~Ludwig von Mises

There is no western, capitalistic country in which the conditions of the masses have not improved in an unprecedented way.

~Ludwig von Mises

What pays under capitalism is satisfying the common man, the customer. The more people you satisfy, the better for you.

~Ludwig von Mises

Big business always serve - directly or indirectly - the masses.

~Ludwig von Mises

Continued inflation inevitably leads to catastrophe.

~Ludwig von Mises

It is inherent in the nature of the capitalistic economy that, in the final analysis, the employment of the factors of production is aimed only toward serving the wishes of consumers.

~Ludwig von Mises

What is a loophole? If the law does not punish a definite action or does not tax a definite thing, this is not a loophole. It is simply the law.

~Ludwig von Mises

Neither the entrepreneurs nor the farmers nor the capitalists determine what has to be produced. The consumers do that.

~Ludwig von Mises

Under capitalism everybody provides for their own needs by serving

others.

~Ludwig von Mises

The truth is that most people lack the intellectual ability and courage to resist a popular movement, however pernicious and ill-considered.

~Ludwig von Mises

There is no remedy for the inefficiency of public management.

~Ludwig von Mises

War...is harmful, not only to the conquered but to the conqueror.

~Ludwig von Mises

The whole of mankind's progress has had to be achieved against the resistance and opposition of the state and its power of coercion.

~Ludwig von Mises

Those who satisfy the wants of a smaller number of people only collect fewer votes-dollars-than those who satisfy the wants of more people.

~Ludwig von Mises

The advocates of public control cannot do without inflation. They need it in order to finance their policy of reckless spending and of lavishly subsidizing and bribing the voters.

~Ludwig von Mises

A higher standard of living also brings about a higher standard of culture and civilization.

~Ludwig von Mises

[T]he essence of so-called war prosperity: it enriches some by what it takes from others. It is not rising wealth but a shifting of wealth and income.

~Ludwig von Mises

Human civilization is not something achieved against nature; it is rather the outcome of the working of the innate qualities of man.

~Ludwig von Mises

The struggle for freedom is not the struggle of the many against the few, but of minorities, sometimes of a minority of but one man against the majority.

~Ludwig von Mises

The boom is called good business, prosperity, and upswing. Its unavoidable aftermath, the readjustment of conditions to the real data of the market, is called crisis, slump, bad business, depression.

~Ludwig von Mises

The sharper the competition, the better it serves its social function to improve economic production.

~Ludwig von Mises

It is impossible to describe any human action if one does not refer to the meaning the actor sees in the stimulus as well as in the end his response is aiming at.

~Ludwig von Mises

Whoever wants peace among nations must seek to limit the state and its influence most strictly.

~Ludwig von Mises

The development of capitalism consists in everyone having the right to serve the consumer better or more cheaply.

~Ludwig von Mises

The concept of a 'just' or 'fair' price is devoid of any scientific meaning; it is a disguise for wishes, a striving for a state of affairs different from reality.

~Ludwig von Mises

Economic control is not merely control of a sector of human life that can be separated from the rest; it is the control of the means for all our ends.

~Ludwig von Mises

To assign to everybody his proper place in society is the task of the consumers. Their buying and abstention from buying is instrumental in determining each individual's social position.

~Ludwig von Mises

Government is essentially the negation of liberty.

~Ludwig von Mises

For it is an essential difference between capitalist and socialist production that under capitalism men provide for themselves, while under Socialism they are provided for.

~Ludwig von Mises

Professor von Mises has a splendid analytical mind and an admirable passion for liberty; but as a student of human nature he is worse than null and as a debater he is of Hyde Park standard.

~Ludwig von Mises

Economic knowledge necessarily leads to liberalism

~Ludwig von Mises

All attempts to coerce the living will of human beings into the service of something they do not want must fail

~Ludwig von Mises

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