

# Matt Taibbi

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, America, Wall, Government, Jobs, Party, Country, Hands,  
Two, Years, Tea, Giving, Class, Real, Player, Ideas, Cynical, Greed, Successful*

The world's most powerful investment bank is a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money.

~Matt Taibbi

In a society governed passively by free markets and free elections, organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy.

~Matt Taibbi

Obviously the commercial news media tries to get you worked up and terrified so you'll buy products that they're advertising.

~Matt Taibbi

I'm a product of an East Coast liberal arts educational system.

~Matt Taibbi

Being a wiseass in a groupthink environment is like throwing an egg at a bulldozer.

~Matt Taibbi

Within the cult of Wall Street that forged Mitt Romney, making money justifies any behavior, no matter how venal.

~Matt Taibbi

There is a reason it used to be a crime in the Confederate states to teach a slave to read: Literacy is power.

~Matt Taibbi

Mike Huckabee represents something that is either tremendously encouraging or deeply disturbing, depending on your point of view: a marriage of Christian fundamentalism with economic populism.

~Matt Taibbi

Why is JP Morgan getting so much heat? Maybe because it is a

massive international crime syndicate.

~Matt Taibbi

Organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy.

~Matt Taibbi

There are times when American politics seems like little more than two groups in a fever to prevent each other from trespassing upon their respective soothing versions of unreality

~Matt Taibbi

The failure to work out sensible budgets makes it impossible for government agencies to make long-term plans, and instead leaves them scrambling to spend money in the short term.

~Matt Taibbi

I mean, people who say that the Tea Party isn't a grassroots movement, I think, are incorrect. I think in some respects, it is a grassroots movement.

~Matt Taibbi

It would be inaccurate to say the Tea Partiers are racists. What they are, in truth, are narcissists.

~Matt Taibbi

In the years just after 9/11, even being breathed on by a suspected terrorist could land you in extralegal detention for the rest of your life.

~Matt Taibbi

An unregulated derivatives market essentially gives Wall Street a way to place hidden taxes on everything in the world.

~Matt Taibbi

Over the years, many in the public have become numb to news of

financial corruption, partly because too many of these stories involve banker-on-banker crime.

~Matt Taibbi

One loves one's country the way one loves a family member. And sometimes that family member does really embarrassing, shitty things. But you still love them.

~Matt Taibbi

Comparing your family budget to the sovereign debt of the United States is a little like comparing two kindergartners tossing a paper airplane to the Apollo 11 mission.

~Matt Taibbi

Like wars, forest fires and bad marriages, really stupid laws are much easier to begin than they are to end.

~Matt Taibbi

Our leaders know we're turning into a giant ghetto and they are taking every last hubcap they can get their hands on before the rest of us wake up and realize what's happened.

~Matt Taibbi

In modern American politics, being the right kind of ignorant and entertainingly crazy is like having a big right hand in boxing; you've always got a puncher's chance.

~Matt Taibbi

The problem with the Tea Party is that it's been used in a way that scares people into supporting an agenda that's counter to their own interests.

~Matt Taibbi

If the law doesn't apply equally to everybody, then you don't really have

a system of law.

~Matt Taibbi

Capitalism is a system for determining objective value.

~Matt Taibbi

At root, the Tea Party is nothing more than a them-versus-us thing.

~Matt Taibbi

The Congressional Record will forever show that [Obamacare] was passed in a romper room of overgrown children seemingly barely old enough to keep from peeing on themselves.

~Matt Taibbi

America's always had a real passion for lunatic movements.

~Matt Taibbi

I get the cynicism thing all the time, although I don't really know where that comes from, because I think I'm actually the opposite of a cynic.

~Matt Taibbi

Having lived in a collapsed empire before - I lived in Russia right after the Soviet Union collapsed - you can see a lot of the classic signs of an empire that's on its way out.

~Matt Taibbi

The average Tea Partier is sincerely against government spending - with the exception of the money spent on them.

~Matt Taibbi

Ratings agencies are the glue that ostensibly holds the entire financial industry together.

~Matt Taibbi

'Prop trading' is just a fancy term for banks gambling in the market for their own profit.

~Matt Taibbi

Politics is about a lot more than winning and losing. I think politics at its best is about compromise, shades of grey and about issues.

~Matt Taibbi

One of the great cliches of campaign journalism is the notion that American elections have long since ceased to be about issues and ideas.

~Matt Taibbi

For a country founded on the idea that rights are inalienable and inherent from birth, we've developed a high tolerance for conditional rights and conditional citizenship.

~Matt Taibbi

Once you give an NFL player permission to have thoughts, you invite all kinds of mischief.

~Matt Taibbi

George Bush and John Ashcroft were religious in a scary way, but the rational among us could always take heart that, deep down, the Bush administration was more cynical than messianic.

~Matt Taibbi

The individual incentive not to commit crime on Wall Street now is almost zero.

~Matt Taibbi

The one thing that I do is take really complicated systems and subjects and make them accessible to regular people.

~Matt Taibbi

The race for the White House is normally an event suffused with drama, sucking eyeballs to the page all over the globe.

~Matt Taibbi

This is America: Corporate stealing is practically the national pastime, and Goldman Sachs is far from the only company to get away with doing it.

~Matt Taibbi

The NFL, sadly, has a fatal environmental problem: It kills its workers.

~Matt Taibbi

In America, it takes about two weeks in the limelight for the whole country to think you've been around for years.

~Matt Taibbi

Everybody I knew, practically, was a journalist when I was a kid - my father, all of his friends. I never wanted to be like those people.

~Matt Taibbi

Contracting corruption has been around since the construction of the Appian Way.

~Matt Taibbi

America's always had a real passion for lunatic movements. That's one of the things we're probably known for around the world, I would imagine.

~Matt Taibbi

I was a bit of a troubled kid growing up, let's put it that way. I didn't take pleasure in hard work.

~Matt Taibbi

Wall Street has turned the economy into a giant asset-stripping

scheme, one whose purpose is to suck the last bits of meat from the carcass of the middle class.

~Matt Taibbi

I think America has the best assholes in the world. I defy the Belgians or the Japanese to produce something like a Donald Trump.

~Matt Taibbi

I think that if you're a thinking person you should always be trying to learn something new.

~Matt Taibbi

The party in power almost always unapologetically engages in deficit spending, while the other party argues passionately against the evils of debt and deficits.

~Matt Taibbi

America has two national budgets, one official, one unofficial.

~Matt Taibbi

America is a country that has been skating for ages on its unparalleled ability to look marvelous on the outside.

~Matt Taibbi

Creating legislation is a tough process. But watering down legislation? Strangling it with lawsuits and comment letters and blue-ribbon committees? Not so tough, it turns out.

~Matt Taibbi

Since the end of the Cold War, America has been grasping left and right for an identity.

~Matt Taibbi

Everything in America is so uniform. In Russia, everywhere you go is



completely insane.

~Matt Taibbi

It may be that America has become too big and complicated for most people to deal with being part of. People are longing for a smaller, stupider reality.

~Matt Taibbi

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