

Michael Ignatieff

Quotes

*War, Country, People, Political, Party, Kids, Believe, Thinking, Real, Want,
Mean, Moral, Strong, Goal, Differences, Memories, Commitment, Forget,
Causes, Book*

A liberal society cannot be defended by herbivores. We need carnivores to save us, but we had better make sure the meat-eaters hunt only on our orders.

~Michael Ignatieff

Well, I'm an absolute fan of lacy lingerie. I want to make that perfectly clear.

~Michael Ignatieff

There's a civic nationalism in Britain and dozens of other countries.

~Michael Ignatieff

An intellectual may be interested in ideas and policies for their own sake, but a politician's interest is exclusively in the question of whether an idea's time has come.

~Michael Ignatieff

There's intense national feeling in America that could be called patriotism.

~Michael Ignatieff

Patriotism is strong nationalistic feeling for a country whose borders and whose legitimacy and whose ethnic composition is taken for granted.

~Michael Ignatieff

It's good for people to believe in causes larger than themselves.

~Michael Ignatieff

Living fearlessly is not the same as never being afraid. It's good to be afraid occasionally. Fear is a great teacher.

~Michael Ignatieff

There are lots of nations in the world or national peoples who don't yet

have states. They're inside someone else's state and they want a state of their own.

~Michael Ignatieff

I distinguish, between nationalism and patriotism.

~Michael Ignatieff

I was with the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the day that Srebrenica fell, which happened to be a huge historical turning point in the Bosnian war.

~Michael Ignatieff

Memory is the only afterlife I have ever believed in. But the forgetting inside us cannot be stopped. We are programmed to betray.

~Michael Ignatieff

The Liberal Party of Canada has no monopoly on public service, we have no monopoly on virtue, and we have no monopoly on wisdom.

~Michael Ignatieff

The reason that the Croats want a state of their own is that they fear being cut into little pieces by the Serbs.

~Michael Ignatieff

If I am not elected, I imagine that I will ask Harvard to let me back.

~Michael Ignatieff

Inequality is not just an issue between individuals, between classes, between regions. It's between urban and rural.

~Michael Ignatieff

Canadians want a country. They don't want a community of communities. I'm committed to the national unity of the country.

~Michael Ignatieff

To defeat evil, we may have to traffic in evils: indefinite detention of suspects, coercive interrogations, targeted assassinations, even pre-emptive war.

~Michael Ignatieff

Cynics who say power is all that counts in politics forget that power without ideas is just improvisation.

~Michael Ignatieff

We must not lose sight of the fundamental issue of policy which is that people who come to the country on visa status must never be abused.

~Michael Ignatieff

There are all kinds of different forms of public service, but there's no form of public service that can make more difference for more people than partisan political activity.

~Michael Ignatieff

How do you keep war accountable to the American people when war becomes invisible and virtual?

~Michael Ignatieff

You can't get back to power by defining your project in negative terms. But it helps to have somebody in office who represents the opposite of what you believe.

~Michael Ignatieff

...our species is one, and each of the individuals who compose it are entitled to equal moral consideration.

~Michael Ignatieff

Patriotism is the secret resource of a successful society.

~Michael Ignatieff

Political utopias are a form of nostalgia for an imagined past projected onto the future as a wish.

~Michael Ignatieff

You're never really out of politics.

~Michael Ignatieff

All war aims for impunity.

~Michael Ignatieff

They [Afghans] understand the difficult truth that their best hope of freedom lies in a temporary experience of imperial rule.

~Michael Ignatieff

Scar Tissue is the only book I've ever written when I've felt completely toxic, ill.

~Michael Ignatieff

If you get the access to see history happen, do you understand the history when it does happen? And the answer to that question is no, you don't.

~Michael Ignatieff

The medium's gaze is brief, intense, and promiscuous. The shelf life of the moral causes it makes its own is brutally short.

~Michael Ignatieff

The disagreeable reality for those who believe in human rights is that there are some occasions-and Iraq may be one of them-when war is the only real remedy for regimes that live by terror.

~Michael Ignatieff

There's a financial cost, but the only costs that are ever real are the costs of our soldiers.

~Michael Ignatieff

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