

Milton Friedman

Quotes

*Government, People, Thinking, Country, Men, Political, Liberty, Mean, Real,
Freedom, Believe, Law, Responsibility, Long, Two, Running, Way, Hands,
Opportunity, Jobs*

A society that puts equality before freedom will get neither. A society that puts freedom before equality will get a high degree of both.

~Milton Friedman

If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in 5 years there'd be a shortage of sand.

~Milton Friedman

Underlying most arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself.

~Milton Friedman

You cannot be sure that you are right unless you understand the arguments against your views better than your opponents do.

~Milton Friedman

The essential notion of a capitalist society ... is voluntary cooperation, voluntary exchange. The essential notion of a socialist society is force.

~Milton Friedman

I am favor of cutting taxes under any circumstances and for any excuse, for any reason, whenever it's possible.

~Milton Friedman

The government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem.

~Milton Friedman

You cannot simultaneously have free immigration and a welfare state.

~Milton Friedman

Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program.

~Milton Friedman

The great advances of civilization, whether in architecture or painting, in science or literature, in industry or agriculture, have never come from centralized government.

~Milton Friedman

There's no such thing as a free lunch.

~Milton Friedman

Only government can take perfectly good paper, cover it with perfectly good ink and make the combination worthless.

~Milton Friedman

We have a system that increasingly taxes work and subsidizes nonwork.

~Milton Friedman

The black market was a way of getting around government controls. It was a way of enabling the free market to work. It was a way of opening up, enabling people.

~Milton Friedman

Most economic fallacies derive from the tendency to assume that there is a fixed pie, that one party can gain only at the expense of another.

~Milton Friedman

Many people want the government to protect the consumer. A much more urgent problem is to protect the consumer from the government.

~Milton Friedman

Most of the energy of political work is devoted to correcting the effects of mismanagement of government.

~Milton Friedman

The only corporate social responsibility a company has is to maximize

its profits.

~Milton Friedman

A minimum-wage law is, in reality, a law that makes it illegal for an employer to hire a person with limited skills.

~Milton Friedman

You know there are very few Marxists left in the world... they're all in American universities.

~Milton Friedman

One of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results.

~Milton Friedman

See, if you look at the drug war from a purely economic point of view, the role of the government is to protect the drug cartel. That's literally true.

~Milton Friedman

Inflation is taxation without legislation.

~Milton Friedman

Higher taxes never reduce the deficit. Governments spend whatever they take in and then whatever they can get away with.

~Milton Friedman

One man's opportunism is another man's statesmanship.

~Milton Friedman

Corruption is government intrusion into market efficiencies in the form of regulations.

~Milton Friedman

There is one and only one responsibility of business: to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits so long as it stays within the rules of the game.

~Milton Friedman

There's nothing that does so much harm as good intentions.

~Milton Friedman

Society doesn't have values. People have values.

~Milton Friedman

With respect to teachers' salaries Poor teachers are grossly overpaid and good teachers grossly underpaid. Salary schedules tend to be uniform and determined far more by seniority.

~Milton Friedman

The government doesn't have any money. The only power it has is to take from some and give to others.

~Milton Friedman

The combination of economic and political power in the same hands is a sure recipe for tyranny.

~Milton Friedman

The problem in this world is to avoid concentration of power - we must have a dispersion of power.

~Milton Friedman

You never can cure poverty. Poverty is in the eye of the beholder.

~Milton Friedman

A free man will ask neither what his country can do for him nor what he can do for his country.

~Milton Friedman

Since the 1930s the technique of buying votes with the voters' own money has been expanded to an extent undreamed of by earlier politicians.

~Milton Friedman

Making prohibition work is like making water run uphill; it's against nature.

~Milton Friedman

What makes it [economics] most fascinating is that its fundamental principles are so simple that they can be written on one page, that anyone can understand them, and yet very few do.

~Milton Friedman

The most important single central fact about a free market is that no exchange takes place unless both parties benefit.

~Milton Friedman

Inflation is the one form of taxation that can be imposed without legislation.

~Milton Friedman

If you cannot state a proposition clearly and unambiguously, you do not understand it.

~Milton Friedman

The Great Depression, like most other periods of severe unemployment, was produced by government mismanagement rather than by any inherent instability of the private economy.

~Milton Friedman

If you pay people not to work and tax them when they do, don't be surprised if you get unemployment.

~Milton Friedman

Hell hath no fury like a bureaucrat scorned.

~Milton Friedman

Inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon.

~Milton Friedman

One role of prohibition is in making the drug market more lucrative.

~Milton Friedman

With some notable exceptions, businessmen favor free enterprise in general but are opposed to it when it comes to themselves.

~Milton Friedman

There's no point in comparing an actual, operating system with an ideal system that doesn't exist.

~Milton Friedman

Concentrated power is not rendered harmless by the good intentions of those who create it.

~Milton Friedman

Political freedom means the absence of coercion of a man by his fellow men.

~Milton Friedman

So long as it stays within the rules of the game, which is to say, engages in open and free competition without deception or fraud.

~Milton Friedman

When you start paying people to be poor, you wind up with an awful lot of poor people.

~Milton Friedman

Governments never learn. Only people learn.

~Milton Friedman

Nobody spends somebody else's money as carefully as he spends his own.

~Milton Friedman

I am a libertarian with a small "l" and a Republican with a capital "R". And I am a Republican with a capital "R" on grounds of expediency, not on principle.

~Milton Friedman

You must distinguish sharply between being pro free enterprise and being pro business.

~Milton Friedman

When a private enterprise fails, it is closed down; when a government enterprise fails, it is expanded. Isn't that exactly what's been happening with drugs?

~Milton Friedman

I am in favor of cutting taxes under any circumstances and for any excuse, for any reason, whenever it's possible. ... because I believe the big problem is not taxes, the big problem is spending.

~Milton Friedman

I would say that in this world, the greatest source of inequality has been special privileges granted by government.

~Milton Friedman

I'm in favor of legalizing drugs. According to my values system, if people want to kill themselves, they have every right to do so. Most of the harm that comes from drugs is because they are illegal.

~Milton Friedman

Now that I'm 60, every morning I look in the mirror and say, "I don't know who you are, stranger, but I'm gonna shave you anyway".

~Milton Friedman

I think a major reason why intellectuals tend to move towards collectivism is that the collectivist answer is a simple one. If there's something wrong, pass a law and do something about it.

~Milton Friedman

A society based on the freedom to choose is better than a society based on the principles of socialism, communism and coercion.

~Milton Friedman

There are severe limits to the good that the government can do for the economy, but there are almost no limits to the harm it can do.

~Milton Friedman

The broader and more influential organisations of businessmen have acted to undermine the basic foundation of the free market system they purport to represent and defend.

~Milton Friedman

The problem of social organization is how to set up an arrangement under which greed will do the least harm, capitalism is that kind of a system.

~Milton Friedman

When something goes wrong, the natural tendency is to say, "By God, we need to pass a law and do something."

~Milton Friedman

The only way that has ever been discovered to have a lot of people cooperate together voluntarily is through the free market. And that's why it's so essential to preserving individual freedom.

~Milton Friedman

Prohibition is an attempted cure that makes matters worse - for both the addict and the rest of us.

~Milton Friedman

Universities exist to transmit knowledge and understanding of ideas and values to students not to provide entertainment for spectators or employment for athletes.

~Milton Friedman

If a tax cut increases government revenues, you haven't cut taxes enough.

~Milton Friedman

Congress can raise taxes because it can persuade a sizable fraction of the populace that somebody else will pay

~Milton Friedman

Anything that government can do, private enterprise can do for half the cost.

~Milton Friedman

[U]nemployment is ... a side effect of the cure for inflation.

~Milton Friedman

If the only motive was to help people who could not afford education, advocates of government involvement would have simply proposed tuition subsidies.

~Milton Friedman

The only relevant test of the validity of a hypothesis is comparison of prediction with experience.

~Milton Friedman

Only a crisis—actual or perceived—produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around.

~Milton Friedman

To really understand something you've got to reduce it to its principles.

~Milton Friedman

You never have real changes unless you have a time of crisis.

~Milton Friedman

The excuse for the destruction of liberty is always the plea of necessary ' that there is no alternative

~Milton Friedman

The most important ways in which I think the Internet will affect the big issue is that it will make it more difficult for government to collect taxes.

~Milton Friedman

Columbus did not seek a new route to the Indies in response to a majority directive.

~Milton Friedman

Economic freedom is ... an indispensable means toward the achievement of political freedom.

~Milton Friedman

Legalizing drugs would simultaneously reduce the amount of crime and raise the quality of law enforcement. Can you conceive of any other measure that would accomplish so much to promote law and order?

~Milton Friedman

Whenever we depart from voluntary cooperation and try to do good by using force, the bad moral value of force triumphs over good intentions.

~Milton Friedman

Every person shall be free to do good ' at his own expense.

~Milton Friedman

Only a crisis, actual or perceived, produces real change.

~Milton Friedman

Every economist knows that minimum wages either do nothing or cause inflation and unemployment. That's not a statement, it's a definition.

~Milton Friedman

In the 1960s, The National Education Association changed its character. The NEA changed into a union. And from that point on you can see deterioration in the quality of schooling in the United States.

~Milton Friedman

Never try to walk across a river just because it has an average depth of four feet.

~Milton Friedman

In response to a suggestion that total free trade would end in cheaper foreign products flooding the market and causing unemployment.

~Milton Friedman

Americans know very little about social statistics, but I am not sure that it's important that Americans know about social statistics.

~Milton Friedman

If you do not force political freedom, economic freedom will be stymied sooner or later.

~Milton Friedman

If freedom were not so economically efficient it certainly wouldn't stand a chance.

~Milton Friedman

The facts never speak for themselves. They have to be interpreted in terms of some understanding of where they come from and what the relation between them is.

~Milton Friedman

Inflation is a monetary phenomenon. It is made by or stopped by the central bank.

~Milton Friedman

The Federal Reserve the privately owned U.S. central bank definitely caused The Great Depression by contracting the amount of currency in circulation by one third from 1929 to 1933.

~Milton Friedman

What kind of society isn't structured on greed?

~Milton Friedman

Pick at random any three letters from the alphabet, put them in any order, and you will have an acronym designating a federal agency we can do without.

~Milton Friedman

The great achievements of civilization have not come from government bureaus.

~Milton Friedman

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