

# Murray Rothbard

## Quotes

*Government, Liberty, Men, Libertarian, Money, People, States, War, Principles,  
Freedom, Gold, Law, Political, Mean, Rights, Peace, Natural, Coercion, Hands,  
Self*

There can be no such thing as 'fairness in taxation.' Taxation is nothing but organized theft, and the concept of a 'fair tax' is therefore every bit as absurd as that of 'fair theft.'

~Murray Rothbard

It is easy to be conspicuously 'compassionate' if others are being forced to pay the cost.

~Murray Rothbard

The man who puts all the guns and all the decision-making power into the hands of the central government and then says, "Limit yourself"; it is he who is truly the impractical utopian.

~Murray Rothbard

The State is a gang of thieves writ large - the most immoral, grasping and unscrupulous individuals in any society.

~Murray Rothbard

The State is, and always has been, the great single enemy of the human race, its liberty, happiness, and progress.

~Murray Rothbard

States have always needed intellectuals to con the public into believing that its rule is wise, good, and inevitable

~Murray Rothbard

Equality is not in the natural order of things, and the crusade to make everyone equal in every respect (except before the law) is certain to have disastrous consequences.

~Murray Rothbard

You don't need a treaty to have free trade.

~Murray Rothbard

Capitalism is the fullest expression of anarchism and anarchism is the fullest expression of capitalism.

~Murray Rothbard

The more the government intervenes to delay the market's adjustment, the longer and more grueling the depression will be, and the more difficult will be the road to complete recovery.

~Murray Rothbard

There is one good thing about Marx: he was not a Keynesian.

~Murray Rothbard

All government operation is wasteful, inefficient, and serves the bureaucrat rather than the consumer.

~Murray Rothbard

It is in war that the State really comes into its own: swelling in power, in number, in pride, in absolute dominion over the economy and the society.

~Murray Rothbard

It is not the business of the law to make anyone good or reverent or moral or clean or upright.

~Murray Rothbard

Remember that the minimum wage law provides no jobs; it only outlaws them; and outlawed jobs are the inevitable result.

~Murray Rothbard

The best way to help the poor is to slash taxes and allow savings, investment, and creation of jobs to proceed unhampered.

~Murray Rothbard

If you wish to know how libertarians regard the State and any of its

acts, simply think of the State as a criminal band, and all of the libertarian attitudes will logically fall into place.

~Murray Rothbard

I define anarchist society as one where there is no legal possibility for coercive aggression against the person or property of any individual.

~Murray Rothbard

The state has typically been a device for producing affluence for a few at the expense of many.

~Murray Rothbard

Governmental subsidy systems promote inefficiency in production and efficiency in coercion and subservience, while penalizing efficiency in production and inefficiency in predation.

~Murray Rothbard

The great non sequitur committed by defenders of the State, is to leap from the necessity of society to the necessity of the State.

~Murray Rothbard

Behind the honeyed but patently absurd pleas for equality is a ruthless drive for placing themselves (the elites) at the top of a new hierarchy of power.

~Murray Rothbard

Monetary inflation not only raises prices and destroys the value of the currency unit; it also acts as a giant system of expropriation.

~Murray Rothbard

The natural tendency of government, once in charge of money, is to inflate and to destroy the value of the currency.

~Murray Rothbard

The necessary consequence of an egalitarian program is the decidedly inegalitarian creation of a ruthless power elite.

~Murray Rothbard

Monetary expansion is a massive scheme of hidden redistribution.

~Murray Rothbard

Falling prices through increased production is a wonderful long-run tendency of untrammelled capitalism.

~Murray Rothbard

The freedom to speak is meaningless without the corollary freedom to keep silent.

~Murray Rothbard

Harold, the young kids out there are not going to be willing to go to the barricades in defense of lowered transaction costs.

~Murray Rothbard

Free-market capitalism is a network of free and voluntary exchanges in which producers work, produce, and exchange their products for the products of others through prices voluntarily arrived at.

~Murray Rothbard

Scratch an egalitarian, and you will inevitably find a statist.

~Murray Rothbard

Cops must be unleashed, and allowed to administer instant punishment, subject of course to liability when they are in error.

~Murray Rothbard

The greatest danger to the State is independent intellectual criticism.

~Murray Rothbard

I see a great future for gold and silver coins as the currency people may increasingly turn to when paper currencies begin to disintegrate.

~Murray Rothbard

Gorbachev's stance contrasts admirably with the policy of the sainted Abraham Lincoln, who used massive force and mass murder to force the seceding Southern states to remain in the Union.

~Murray Rothbard

The State provides a legal, orderly, systematic channel for predation on the property of the producers.

~Murray Rothbard

It is clearly absurd to limit the term 'education' to a person's formal schooling.

~Murray Rothbard

The natural tendency of the state is inflation.

~Murray Rothbard

The concept of life and perfection is incompatible. BUT so is death and perfection

~Murray Rothbard

This, by the way, is the welfare state in action: Its a whole bunch of special interest groups screwing consumers and taxpayers, and making them think they're really benefiting.

~Murray Rothbard

If we look at the black record of mass murder, exploitation, and tyranny levied on society by governments over the ages, we need not be loath to abandon the Leviathan State and . . . try freedom.

~Murray Rothbard

Only the State legally obtains its revenue by coercion.

~Murray Rothbard

Never have the world's moneys been so long cut off from their metallic roots.

~Murray Rothbard

The State thrives on war - unless, of course, it is defeated and crushed - expands on it, glories in it.

~Murray Rothbard

Subjectivism is not an absolute principle; it is a necessary but not sufficient condition for sound methodology.

~Murray Rothbard

Inflation, being a fraudulent invasion of property, could not take place on the free market.

~Murray Rothbard

Government is a gang of thieves writ large.

~Murray Rothbard

Unlike the days of the gold standard, it is impossible for the Federal Reserve to go bankrupt; it holds the legal monopoly of counterfeiting (of creating money out of thin air) in the entire country.

~Murray Rothbard

The costs of government are bound to be much higher than those of the free market. . .The State cannot calculate well and therefore cannot gauge its costs accurately.

~Murray Rothbard

True #â€Ž anarchism will be #â€Ž capitalism , and true capitalism will be anarchism.

~Murray Rothbard

...The very nature of interstate war puts innocent civilians into great jeopardy, especially with modern technology.

~Murray Rothbard

The more these readjustments are delayed ... the longer the depression will have to last, and the longer complete recovery is postponed.

~Murray Rothbard

Rights might be universal but their enforcement must be local.

~Murray Rothbard

What...can the government do to help the poor? The only answer is the libertarian answer: Get out of the way.

~Murray Rothbard

All government wars are unjust.

~Murray Rothbard

Governments have persistently tried their best to promote, encourage, and expand the circulation of bank and government paper, and to discourage the people's use of gold itself.

~Murray Rothbard

The ingenious slogan that the public debt does not matter because 'we owe it to ourselves' is clearly absurd.

~Murray Rothbard

Money is the general medium of exchange. It is the thing for which all other goods are traded, the means of final payment for such goods on the market.

~Murray Rothbard



Placing the state in charge of moral principles is equivalent to putting the proverbial fox in charge of the chicken coop.

~Murray Rothbard

Unlike every other person and institution in society, government obtains its revenue from coercion, from taxation.

~Murray Rothbard

The fundamental axiom, then, for the study of man is the existence of individual consciousness

~Murray Rothbard

John Stuart was the quintessence of soft rather than hardcore, a woolly minded man of mush in striking contrast to his steel-edged father.

~Murray Rothbard

The more consistently Austrian School an economist is, the better a writer he will be.

~Murray Rothbard

I want to make it clear what I am not saying. I am not saying that fiat money, once established on the ruins of gold, cannot then continue indefinitely on its own.

~Murray Rothbard

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