

Niall Ferguson Quotes

*History, Country, Firsts, Civilization, People, Men, Motivation, Empires,
Inspiration, Collaboration, Names, Law, Average, West, Thinking, Matter,
Emotional, Massachusetts, Appetite, Struggle*

The law of unintended consequences is the only real law of history.

~Niall Ferguson

The West may collapse very suddenly. Complex civilizations do that, because they operate, most of the time, on the edge of chaos.

~Niall Ferguson

As a teacher, my strategy is to encourage questioning. I'm the least authoritarian professor you'll ever meet.

~Niall Ferguson

The ascent of money has been essential to the ascent of man.

~Niall Ferguson

To make a living space, there first had to be a killing space.

~Niall Ferguson

All empires have depended on local legitimacy and local collaboration; they are not based primarily on coercion. An imperial rule that relies wholly on coercion can't endure. It's too expensive.

~Niall Ferguson

The British press has an insatiable appetite for making public things that should be private. It's a prurience that I've never understood.

~Niall Ferguson

The Armenian genocide showed what could happen when empires were beaten into nations.

~Niall Ferguson

I can't imagine having a conversation about 'Celebrity Big Brother' in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

~Niall Ferguson

If young men have jobs - or the prospects of jobs - they are less likely to take up arms, they are less likely to join the resistance.

~Niall Ferguson

In Stalin's Russia racial persecution was often disguised as class warfare. More than 1.5 million members of ethnic minorities died as a result of forced resettlement.

~Niall Ferguson

Oral history is a recipe for complete misrepresentation because almost no one tells the truth, even when they intend to.

~Niall Ferguson

No civilization, no matter how mighty it may appear to itself, is indestructible.

~Niall Ferguson

The Japanese Co-Prosperity Zone began as a racist utopia and ended as a cross between an abbatoir, a plantation and a brothel.

~Niall Ferguson

You really struggle to be a successful empire if you are also the world's biggest debtor.

~Niall Ferguson

Between 1980 and 2000 the number of patents registered in Israel was 7652 compared with 367 for all the Arab countries combined.

~Niall Ferguson

A historian is battling all the time to remember as much as possible.

~Niall Ferguson

Today, the average Korean works a thousand hours more a year than the average German. A thousand. ... That is the end of the Great

Divergence.

~Niall Ferguson

In the financial sector, those whom the gods want to destroy they first teach math.

~Niall Ferguson

Collaboration is risky. If it fails, if the occupation is wound up prematurely and the bad guys come back to power, you might find yourself in some serious trouble.

~Niall Ferguson

When bond prices fall, interest rates soar, with painful consequences for all borrowers.

~Niall Ferguson

The rise of the West is, quite simply, the pre-eminent historical phenomenon of the second half of the second millennium after Christ.

~Niall Ferguson

Why did the Germans and Japanese keep fighting after 1943 when every rational hope of victory had disappeared?

~Niall Ferguson

When I first came to Oxford, I struggled to feel comfortable in an Anglican, public school-dominated institution.

~Niall Ferguson

I would say I'm a 19th-century liberal, possibly even an 18th-century one.

~Niall Ferguson

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