

Pankaj Mishra

Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, People, Ideas, Buddhism, Self, Country, Years, Reading,
Book, America, Art, Past, Important, Long, Rights, Tolerance, Responsibility,
World, Believe*

Gandhi saw how people have to re-think their own individuality before engaging in political activity. Otherwise they're just playing the game that the adversary has set out.

~Pankaj Mishra

In America, you don't even have proper holidays. It's really one of the most prosperous slave societies in history. People work their asses off all year long and get two weeks off! It's incredible.

~Pankaj Mishra

The people who encouraged me weren't necessarily writers or readers themselves. They were people who were just pleased to see me devote my life to reading and writing.

~Pankaj Mishra

I found it really disturbing to see a novelist writing a diatribe about Islam and Muslim radical extremists, blurring the distinction between the two.

~Pankaj Mishra

We need to infuse politics with ideas like compassion and empathy, and a sense that we live in an interdependent world.

~Pankaj Mishra

The idea that human beings can make history, that is something quite unique to the modern West.

~Pankaj Mishra

The asymmetries of power that have shaped relations between the West and the rest of the world also exist in the realm of literary criticism.

~Pankaj Mishra

Most suffering is human-made and avoidable. It's mostly in your head.

~Pankaj Mishra

Freedom of speech doesn't guarantee great literature.

~Pankaj Mishra

The longing for a very garish kind of success seems as widespread among writers as among investment bankers.

~Pankaj Mishra

Most books germinate within you for a long time before they are ready to come out. I wrote several drafts of the novel over many years and when I finally got to the last one, it didn't take much time.

~Pankaj Mishra

To think that land reform is going to somehow automatically create an equitable system, I think that's just wrong. It's a very technical view of the world.

~Pankaj Mishra

We are always boosting or trying to prop up the ego by fulfilling some desire or other, and always craving affirmation from the outside.

~Pankaj Mishra

Most writers have very little that's important or valuable to offer; most of them are just repeating each other.

~Pankaj Mishra

I think what's important and extraordinarily practical about Buddhism, is that it offers very concrete methods for people to work with.

~Pankaj Mishra

The internet has created a transnational audience. If you publish something in the New York Times, it's read all over the world. Who knows how big this audience is or how long it will last.

~Pankaj Mishra

I wrote for many years without showing my writing to anyone, because I was constantly comparing it to what I was reading. You have to compare yourself to the best and feel totally inadequate.

~Pankaj Mishra

There is a lot of anxiety in India about writers selling out to foreign audiences, but I'm neither flattering the Indian audience nor the American audience. I'm uneasily somewhere in the middle.

~Pankaj Mishra

No one is obliged to take a position on the urgent issues of the day, but there are times when our impoverished public sphere could do with some occasional assertions of literary and moral authority.

~Pankaj Mishra

Despite all the boosterish talk of globalization breaking down barriers, most writers in Anglo-America are still working within the nationalist assumptions of their traditionally powerful societies.

~Pankaj Mishra

Whether you are in the West, the East, the North, or the South, we should all feel pressured to attempt more, find new ways of outwitting ourselves, in our writing and thinking.

~Pankaj Mishra

Buddhism resonated very powerfully with a lot of my preoccupations.

~Pankaj Mishra

Modernity has created more problems than it is capable of solving. Millions of people are now condemned to wait endlessly for their redemption through modernity.

~Pankaj Mishra

There have been many instances of people combining the political life

with the spiritual life, a life of constant self-examination. Gandhi was a great example of that.

~Pankaj Mishra

Western conception of history has had great consequences over the last two hundred years. You see it in the invasion of Iraq. You see it in almost everything that is said and done.

~Pankaj Mishra

I myself, at one time, wanted to be like the explorers of the Himalayas that I used to read about; people intoxicated on the myth of history.

~Pankaj Mishra

In the modern world, nationalism remains a very important force. We delude ourselves into thinking that globalization has made all of that redundant and that everyone just wants to be like America.

~Pankaj Mishra

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