

Paul Fussell

Quotes

War, Travel, Past, Class, People, Nice, Tourism, Facts, Military, Way, Wise, Publicity, Ironic, Writing, Understanding, Art, Book, Seems, Mind, Innocence

Chickenshit can be recognized instantly because it never has anything to do with winning the war.

~Paul Fussell

Wars damage the civilian society as much as they damage the enemy. Soldiers never get over it.

~Paul Fussell

Americans are the only people in the world known to me whose status anxiety prompts them to advertise their college and university affiliations in the rear window of their automobiles.

~Paul Fussell

If I didn't have writing, I'd be running down the street hurling grenades in people's faces.

~Paul Fussell

A more or less accurate measure of class in America is TV size: the bigger your TV, the lower your class.

~Paul Fussell

I find nothing more depressing than optimism.

~Paul Fussell

Anybody who notices unpleasant facts in the have-a-nice-day world we live in is going to be designated a curmudgeon.

~Paul Fussell

The wise traveler learns not to repeat successes but tries new places all the time.

~Paul Fussell

If we do not redefine manhood, war is inevitable.

~Paul Fussell

Anyone telling about his travels must be a liar, . . . for if a traveler doesn't visit his narrative with the spirit and techniques of fiction, no one will want to hear it.

~Paul Fussell

Before the development of tourism, travel was conceived to be like study, and its fruits were considered to be the adornment of the mind and the formation of the judgment.

~Paul Fussell

Travelers learn not just foreign customs and curious cuisines and unfamiliar beliefs and novel forms of government. They learn, if they are lucky, humility.

~Paul Fussell

Those who fought know a secret about themselves, and it is not very nice.

~Paul Fussell

All the pathos and irony of leaving one's youth behind is thus implicit in every joyous moment of travel

~Paul Fussell

I am working on a book urging the beating to death of baby whales using the dead bodies of baby seals.

~Paul Fussell

Travel sharpens the senses. Abroad one feels, sees and hears things in an abnormal way.

~Paul Fussell

Tourism requires that you see conventional things, and that you see them in a conventional way.

~Paul Fussell

The past is not the present: pretending it is corrupts art and thus both rots the mind and shrivels the imagination and conscience.

~Paul Fussell

Things without defense: insects, kittens, small boys.

~Paul Fussell

Travel at its truest is thus an ironic experience.

~Paul Fussell

The worst thing about war was the sitting around and wondering what you were doing morally.

~Paul Fussell

Exploration belongs to the Renaissance, travel to the bourgeois age, tourism to our proletarian moment.

~Paul Fussell

Understanding the past requires pretending that you don't know the present. It requires feeling its own pressure on your pulses without any ex post facto illumination.

~Paul Fussell

Irony is the attendant of hope and the fuel of hope is innocence.

~Paul Fussell

The balls used in top class games are generally smaller than those used in others.

~Paul Fussell

There is no Apocalypse.

~Paul Fussell

And the ideal travel writer is consumed not just with a will to know. He

is also moved by a powerful will to teach.

~Paul Fussell

To get home you had to end the war. To end the war was the reason you fought it. The only reason.

~Paul Fussell

If the term discussion has always seemed to me to imply mild warnings of wasted time, workshop sets off a clangorous alarm.

~Paul Fussell

Understanding the past requires pretending that you don't know the present.

~Paul Fussell

If the guidebook used to be critical, today it seems largely a celebratory adjunct to the publicity operations of hotels, resorts, and even countries.

~Paul Fussell

The simple is carefully shunned by those who labour to seem what they would be.

~Paul Fussell

If truth is the main casualty in war, ambiguity is another.

~Paul Fussell

Every war is ironic because every war is worse than expected. Every war constitutes an irony of situation because its means are so melodramatically disproportionate to its presumed ends.

~Paul Fussell

What someone doesn't want you to publish is journalism; all else is publicity.

~Paul Fussell

The more violent the body contact of the sports you watch, the lower the class.

~Paul Fussell

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