

Pierre Trudeau

Quotes

*Thinking, Believe, Men, Country, People, Political, Canada, Mean, Reality, Past,
Violence, Government, Justice, Law, Home, Jobs, Philosophy, Land, Ideas,
Bedroom*

The past is to be respected and acknowledged, but not to be worshipped. It is our future in which we will find our greatness.

~Pierre Trudeau

If Canada is to survive, it can only survive in mutual respect and in love for one another.

~Pierre Trudeau

Our hopes are high. Our faith in the people is great. Our courage is strong. And our dreams for this beautiful country will never die.

~Pierre Trudeau

The state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation.

~Pierre Trudeau

You just cannot cut a country in two any more than you can cut a human being in two. If you do, you do not have two human beings; you have a corpse.

~Pierre Trudeau

I've been called worse things by better people.

~Pierre Trudeau

Le raison avant la passion - Reason over passion.

~Pierre Trudeau

Let us overthrow the totems, break the taboos. Or better, let us consider them cancelled. Coldly, let us be intelligent.

~Pierre Trudeau

I will use all my strength to bring about a just society to a nation living in a tough world.

~Pierre Trudeau

Well, I am trying to put Quebec in its place - and the place of Quebec is in Canada, nowhere else.

~Pierre Trudeau

Canada is a country whose main exports are hockey players and cold fronts. Our main imports are baseball players and acid rain.

~Pierre Trudeau

I remember thinking that walking on the beach as a free man is pretty desirable.

~Pierre Trudeau

Obviously I prefer freedom, but I know, and I think all history has told us, that freedom cannot flow from anarchy and disorder.

~Pierre Trudeau

Luck, that's when preparation and opportunity meet.

~Pierre Trudeau

The new frontier lies not beyond the planets but within each one of us.

~Pierre Trudeau

Canada will be a strong country when Canadians of all provinces feel at home in all parts of the country, and when they feel that all Canada belongs to them.

~Pierre Trudeau

I recognize that in some cases it's more important to have freedom and justice than to have peace.

~Pierre Trudeau

I think we have to realize that Canada is not immortal; but, if it is going to go, let it go with a bang rather than a whimper.

~Pierre Trudeau

When they are 50 yards from Parliament Hill, they are no longer honourable members, they are just nobodies.

~Pierre Trudeau

My life is one long curve, full of turning points.

~Pierre Trudeau

I just think you Westerners should take over this country if you are so smart.

~Pierre Trudeau

Paddling a canoe is a source of enrichment and inner renewal.

~Pierre Trudeau

I don't see any easy way of disqualifying people on the basis that they decide not to work.

~Pierre Trudeau

I believe a constitution can permit the co-existence of several cultures and ethnic groups with a single state.

~Pierre Trudeau

I want to separate sin from crime. You may have to ask forgiveness for your sins from God, but not from the Minister of Justice. There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.

~Pierre Trudeau

Society is responsible for its social organization, and if it can't provide the wherewithal for men to be gainfully employed then it should pay the penalty and give them welfare.

~Pierre Trudeau

We are in the extreme centre, the radical middle. That is our position.

~Pierre Trudeau

We don't think every man should be free to pass on everything to his descendants.

~Pierre Trudeau

I never actually got around to taping conversations with my guests, but there are a lot of things you can learn from a man like Nixon.

~Pierre Trudeau

If I found in my own ranks that a certain number of guys wanted to cut my throat, I'd make sure that I cut their throats first.

~Pierre Trudeau

The community of man should be treated in the same way you would treat your community of brothers or fellow citizens.

~Pierre Trudeau

I think that the only ultimate guide we have is our conscience, and if the law of the land goes against our conscience I think we should disobey the law.

~Pierre Trudeau

Democracy demands that elected members be able to realize fully the role for which they have been chosen.

~Pierre Trudeau

We wish nothing more, but we will accept nothing less. Masters in our own house we must be, but our house is the whole of Canada.

~Pierre Trudeau

The essential ingredient of politics is timing.

~Pierre Trudeau

Canada is not a country for the cold of heart or the cold of feet.

~Pierre Trudeau

In academic life you seek to state absolute truths; in politics you seek to accommodate truth to the facts around you.

~Pierre Trudeau

Society must take every means at its disposal to defend itself against the emergence of a parallel power which defies the elected power.

~Pierre Trudeau

The best thing you can possibly do for a friend is to be his friend.

~Pierre Trudeau

Some things I never learned to like. I didn't like to kiss babies, though I didn't mind kissing their mothers.

~Pierre Trudeau

We peer so suspiciously at each other that we cannot see that we Canadians are standing on the mountaintop of human wealth, freedom and privilege.

~Pierre Trudeau

It is wonderful to be despised, if, deep down, we know we are right.

~Pierre Trudeau

Living next to you is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, if I can call it that, one is affected by every twitch and grunt.

~Pierre Trudeau

I think that as the guardian of justice elected by the people it's our duty to use whatever forms of force, police, army, to make sure that at least the freedom of choice is preserved.

~Pierre Trudeau

The next time you see Jesus Christ, ask Him what happened to the just

society He promised 2,000 years ago.

~Pierre Trudeau

The Canadian community must invest, for the defence and better appreciation of the French language, as much time, energy, and money as are required to prevent the country from breaking up

~Pierre Trudeau

I must say that "Give Peace a Chance" has always seemed to me to be sensible advice.

~Pierre Trudeau

As against the "invisible hand" of Adam Smith, there has to be a visible hand of politicians whose objective is to have the kind of society that is caring and humane.

~Pierre Trudeau

Harvard was an extraordinary window on the world.

~Pierre Trudeau

You know you have a lot of impatience with reality as you see it when you're a young man and full of dynamism and strength and ideals and so on.

~Pierre Trudeau

I do object to the sensationalism or even the voyeurism of doing things in church or out of church.

~Pierre Trudeau

I honestly don't know what they mean by a devout Catholic.

~Pierre Trudeau

I believe in God, and I'm a Christian.

~Pierre Trudeau

People are more interested in ideas than dress.

~Pierre Trudeau

I know the usual answer of Christ using violence to get the sellers out of the temple, but to me this was impatience rather than violence.

~Pierre Trudeau

The attainment of a just society is the cherished hope of civilized men.

~Pierre Trudeau

I was too busy doing my job and living my life to spend time keeping notes for some future volume of memoirs.

~Pierre Trudeau

I am peaceful but I am not a pacifist in the philosophical sense.

~Pierre Trudeau

What shall we do about the Abortion Bill?" A: "Pay it!

~Pierre Trudeau

In my political philosophy I think that there sometimes is room for violence.

~Pierre Trudeau

Because I am a deep believer in the civil society, I think we should be prepared to pay the consequences of breaking the law and that is either paying the penalty for it, or leaving the country.

~Pierre Trudeau

The most beautiful missionaries I saw were those who talked less about religion but who were very generous in their approach.

~Pierre Trudeau

Who is it that said that 'you have not converted a man because you

have silenced him?' This is true of the use of the military on people.

~Pierre Trudeau

For my part...I am a realist but, somehow, optimism always keeps breaking out.

~Pierre Trudeau

Sometimes you must live in a violent world in order to get greater justice.

~Pierre Trudeau

I don't believe you can contain ideas by military force.

~Pierre Trudeau

I feel religion is basically and essentially a communication between a man and his God and I think it is the most personal thing of all and I don't think it concerns too many people.

~Pierre Trudeau

The state has no place in the nation's bedrooms.

~Pierre Trudeau

Obviously, the state's responsibility should be to legislate rules for a well-ordered society. It has no right or duty to creep into the bedrooms of the nation.

~Pierre Trudeau

Long live free France.

~Pierre Trudeau

Canada is seen to some as a confederation of shopping centres.

~Pierre Trudeau

The politicians, who once stated that war was too complex to be left to

the generals, now act as though peace were too complex to be left to themselves.

~Pierre Trudeau

Power only tires those who don't exercise it.

~Pierre Trudeau

The state has an active role to play in ensuring that there is equilibrium between the constituent parts of the economy, the consumers and the producers.

~Pierre Trudeau

I feel very deeply for Canada, and I believe most Canadians do.

~Pierre Trudeau

I feel perhaps I didn't deal with the question of violence in depth.

~Pierre Trudeau

In my religion I really cannot think of cases where violence is justified.

~Pierre Trudeau

I believe in life after death.

~Pierre Trudeau

There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation. What's done in private between adults doesn't concern the Criminal Code.

~Pierre Trudeau

The federal government is the balance wheel of the federal system, and the federal system means using counterweights.

~Pierre Trudeau

I think violence is counter-productive and it is bad in democratic societies.

~Pierre Trudeau

I've always lived in a democratic society.

~Pierre Trudeau

I'm impatient not with the House of Commons as an institution, but with the way in which it is operated. This doesn't prove I don't believe in participatory democracy.

~Pierre Trudeau

Every time I have a political rally I meet some people who say, "I need a job."

~Pierre Trudeau

I think that the history of the past hundred years has shown us that, by and large, the one linguistic group to whom separatism is being preached is not moved by the arguments which are used.

~Pierre Trudeau

I think that religions must seek peace and love and therefore be pacifist.

~Pierre Trudeau

I saw the charter as an expression of my long-held view that the subject of law must be the individual human being; the law must permit the individual to fulfil himself or herself to the utmost.

~Pierre Trudeau

I think all of us, politicians and churchmen, should do our utmost to change the society so that there would be no need for violence.

~Pierre Trudeau

The churches must realize that when they take a position on a political event that they must accept the rules of the game.

~Pierre Trudeau

I can see that in certain political situations you have to use force to overthrow police states.

~Pierre Trudeau

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