

Richard Hofstadter

Quotes

Intellectual, Class, Ideas, Men, Lying, Political, Character, Intellect, Today, Yesterday, Criticism, Luxury, Evil, Play, Has Beens, Fashion, Commitment, Failure, Catholicism, Hatred

A university's essential character is that of being a center of free inquiry and criticism - a thing not to be sacrificed for anything else.

~Richard Hofstadter

If for every error and every act of incompetence one can substitute an act of treason, many points of fascinating interpretation are open to the paranoid imagination.

~Richard Hofstadter

Intellectualism, though by no means confined to doubters, is often the sole piety of the skeptic.

~Richard Hofstadter

If there is anything more dangerous to the life of the mind than having no independent commitment to ideas, it is having an excess of commitment to some special and constricting idea.

~Richard Hofstadter

We are all sufferers from history, but the paranoid is a double sufferer, since he is afflicted not only by the real world, with the rest of us, but by his fantasies as well.

~Richard Hofstadter

The intellectual is engaged—he is pledged, committed, enlisted. What everyone else is willing to admit, namely that ideas and abstractions are of signal importance in human life, he imperatively feels.

~Richard Hofstadter

To the reactionary ear every whispered criticism of the elite classes has always sounded like the opening shot of an uprising.

~Richard Hofstadter

Intellect is resented as a form of power or privilege.

~Richard Hofstadter

As with the pursuit of happiness, the pursuit of truth is itself gratifying whereas the consummation often turns out to be elusive.

~Richard Hofstadter

The nation seems to slouch onward into its uncertain future like some huge inarticulate beast, too much attainted by wounds and ailments to be robust, but too strong and resourceful to succumb.

~Richard Hofstadter

The role of third parties is to sting like a bee, then die.

~Richard Hofstadter

It is a poor head that cannot find plausible reason for doing what the heart wants to do.

~Richard Hofstadter

It is a part of the intellectual's tragedy that the things he most values about himself and his work are quite unlike those society values in him.

~Richard Hofstadter

The tradition of the new. Yesterday's avant-gard-experiment is today's chic and tomorrow's cliché.

~Richard Hofstadter

To be sick and helpless is a humiliating experience. Prolonged illness also carries the hazard of narcissistic self-absorption.

~Richard Hofstadter

Intellect is neither practical nor impractical; it is extra-practical.

~Richard Hofstadter

It has been our fate as a nation not to have ideologies but to be one.

~Richard Hofstadter

To be confronted with a simple and unqualified evil is no doubt a kind of luxury.

~Richard Hofstadter

Anti-Catholicism has always been the pornography of the Puritan.

~Richard Hofstadter

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