

Robert Reich

Quotes

People, Thinking, Jobs, America, Class, Years, Mean, Government, Want, Needs, Technology, Economy, Moving, Wall, Political, Country, Party, Real, Growth, World

The only way to grow the economy in a way that benefits the bottom 90 percent is to change the structure of the economy. At the least, this requires stronger unions and a higher minimum wage.

~Robert Reich

A leader is someone who steps back from the entire system and tries to build a more collaborative, more innovative system that will work over the long term.

~Robert Reich

There will always be a business cycle, and white-collar workers will get hit in the next recession like they always do in recessions.

~Robert Reich

America has become the most unequal society among advanced countries, and rich people are now free to spend as much money on political campaigns as they wish.

~Robert Reich

The liberal ideal is that everyone should have fair access and fair opportunity. This is not equality of result. It's equality of opportunity. There's a fundamental difference.

~Robert Reich

We're the richest economy in the history of the world. For the majority of Americans not to get the benefits of this extraordinarily prosperous economy, there's something fundamentally wrong.

~Robert Reich

Social change occurs when the gap between the ideals that people hold and the reality that they see every day gets too large.

~Robert Reich

We do not want to live in a theocracy. We should maintain that barrier

and government has no business telling someone what they ought to believe or how they should conduct their private lives.

~Robert Reich

It is a myth that higher taxes lead to less demand and slower growth. In the first three decades after World War II, US top tax rates on the wealthy were never below 70 percent.

~Robert Reich

The largest party in America, by the way, is neither the Democrats nor the Republicans. It's the party of non-voters.

~Robert Reich

The faith that anyone could move from rags to riches - with enough guts and gumption, hard work and nose to the grindstone - was once at the core of the American Dream.

~Robert Reich

Cynicism is the largest obstacle to social change. Cynicism is dangerous because people throw up their hands and say, "Well it's not possible. Why should I even try?"

~Robert Reich

Standing up to bullies is the hallmark of a civilized society.

~Robert Reich

Globalization and free trade do spur economic growth, and they lead to lower prices on many goods.

~Robert Reich

Inequality is bad for everyone, not just the middle class and the poor.

~Robert Reich

I think the big problem is you have a vicious cycle of wealth and power

in America that's just gotten completely out of control and you've seen it in politics.

~Robert Reich

Median wages of production workers, who comprise 80 percent of the workforce, haven't risen in 30 years, adjusted for inflation.

~Robert Reich

A smaller government reflecting the needs of the middle class and poor is superior to a big government reflecting the needs of the privileged and powerful.

~Robert Reich

True patriotism isn't cheap. It's about taking on a fair share of the burden of keeping America going.

~Robert Reich

Terrorism itself is not the greatest danger we face.

~Robert Reich

Cynicism is the last refuge of those who don't want to do the work of creating a better society.

~Robert Reich

Radical conservatives want to police bedrooms.

~Robert Reich

Regardless of how you interpret the facts, you have to come to the conclusion that inequality is widening in the US and in almost every other country.

~Robert Reich

Most Americans are on a downward escalator. Median wage in the United States, adjusted for inflation, keeps on dropping.

~Robert Reich

Education is not the only answer and it's certainly not the immediate solution. At best, it's a necessary, but not sufficient response to widening inequality.

~Robert Reich

Liberals are concerned about the concentration of wealth because it almost inevitably leads to a concentration of power that undermines democracy.

~Robert Reich

The key to understanding the rise in inequality isn't technology or globalization. It's the power of the moneyed interests to shape the underlying rules of the market.

~Robert Reich

Averages don't always reveal the most telling realities. You know, Shaquille O'Neal and I have an average height of 6 feet.

~Robert Reich

You can't inspire people if you are going to be uninspiring.

~Robert Reich

The silent majority really is a liberal majority, even though the word liberal has taken a real beating over the last 20 years by radical conservatives.

~Robert Reich

It's not government's business what people do in their private bedrooms.

~Robert Reich

When I was a kid, the bigger boys would pick on me. So I got an idea

that I would make alliances with older boys, like just one or two, who would be my protectors.

~Robert Reich

There is a deep desire to change the power structure.

~Robert Reich

Socialism for rich bankers and capitalism for everyone else.

~Robert Reich

There is a crisis of public morality. Instead of policing bedrooms, we ought to be doing a better job policing boardrooms.

~Robert Reich

A lot of attention has been going to social values - abortion, gay rights, other divisive issues - but economic values are equally important.

~Robert Reich

I'm 40 years old. What I have seen my whole life is widening income inequality.

~Robert Reich

If leadership is about anything, it's about leading. Not leading people back to where they already are, because they don't need that. They're already there.

~Robert Reich

You can't create a political movement out of pabulum.

~Robert Reich

In the '90s it was irrational exuberance. Now it may be irrational doom and gloom.

~Robert Reich

In the life of a nation, few ideas are more dangerous than good solutions to the wrong problems.

~Robert Reich

Look, any cut in greenhouse gases is going to be expensive for American consumers, who are in no mood to bear additional costs.

~Robert Reich

Every organization, no matter who it is, just follow the money.

~Robert Reich

You've got to just follow the money [in Washington]. You see it. There's no countervailing power.

~Robert Reich

The United States is a safe harbor.

~Robert Reich

The rich would do better with a smaller share of a rapidly growing economy than they're doing now with a large share of an economy that is barely growing at all.

~Robert Reich

Britain's is traditionally a rigid class society.

~Robert Reich

We reform the system. We save capitalism from its own excesses.

~Robert Reich

If you ever want to get a sense of your own personal failure, look at yourself trying to get across a point that nobody is listening to and the situation gets worse and worse.

~Robert Reich

I grew up poor. My mother raised a family of four on between \$9,000 and \$15,000 a year.

~Robert Reich

I think that in politics, when people want to discredit a particular position, they say, "Oh, they are liberals," or "They are conservatives; we are centrists." Everybody wants to be a centrist.

~Robert Reich

In journalism, there are only two stories - "Oh, the wonder of it," and "Oh, the shame of it."

~Robert Reich

There`s sort of a chilling effect on non-profits and the media and a lot of other places because the establishment is so powerful. That`s where the money is.

~Robert Reich

Bill Clinton was a very, very good speaker. But like many people who are great speakers and great thinkers and have a lot of energy and ambition, he talked too much.

~Robert Reich

I have found over the years that the most important way of getting people to relax is self-deprecating humor.

~Robert Reich

I want a shot for people like me to grow up and do something with themselves.

~Robert Reich

We are paying teachers who are in charge of our human capital, arguably more important than our financial capital, a very tiny fraction of what Wall Streeters are paid.

~Robert Reich

Bill Clinton was a great politician. Bill Clinton loved a fight. He was willing to fight. But he also wanted to be loved. He wanted to be admired.

~Robert Reich

The presidency is probably the loneliest office in America. Regardless of your friends, regardless of how good your marriage is, regardless of anything, you are alone there at the top.

~Robert Reich

We need to expand Social Security to prevent the looming retirement crisis, and we can do it simply by asking billionaires to pay their fair share.

~Robert Reich

On the Republican playing field, Republicans always win.

~Robert Reich

It is impossible to fight bullies merely by saying they're going too far.

~Robert Reich

When the President decides to go to war, he no longer needs a declaration of war from congress.

~Robert Reich

The problem right now is jobs. The problem right now is the economy and economic growth.

~Robert Reich

If you want to be a change agent, you have to ready to fail.

~Robert Reich

In Washington, it's dog eat dog. In academia, it's exactly the opposite.

~Robert Reich

One thing I've learned from 35 years in the classroom is that people learn best when they are laughing, when they are emotionally hit, that it's both the brain and the heart.

~Robert Reich

If you give up on democracy, you might as well give up on everything.

~Robert Reich

The path to success used to be up and through an organization. Now the path to success is increasingly through self-promotion.

~Robert Reich

The core corporation is ... increasingly a facade, behind which teems an array of decentralized groups and subgroups continuously contracting with similarly diffuse working units all over the world.

~Robert Reich

In a world where routine production is footloose...competitive advantage lies not in one-time breakthroughs but in continual improvements. Stable technologies get away.

~Robert Reich

Corporations are not people, despite what the Supreme Court says, and they don't need or deserve handouts.

~Robert Reich

If you're going to be a great guide to what's great for consumers, and, indirectly, for investors, you've got to be very careful about who you contract with and what you're offering.

~Robert Reich

The Democratic Party is DEAD.

~Robert Reich

Now, inventiveness and empathy, those qualities, if they're together in the same person, you've got an entrepreneurial genius. But they do tend to be slightly separate.

~Robert Reich

Those who analogize the federal budget to a family's budget must know nothing about either.

~Robert Reich

The fastest growing occupation in the private sector is security guards. The fastest growing occupation in the public sector is prison guards. (1992)

~Robert Reich

Humor itself is a great disinfectant. It enables people to listen.

~Robert Reich

Any bank that is too big to fail is too big. Period.

~Robert Reich

Well-trained and dedicated employees are the only sustainable source of competitive strength.

~Robert Reich

America's real business leaders understand unless or until the middle class regains its footing and its faith, capitalism remains vulnerable.

~Robert Reich

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