

Saul Alinsky

Quotes

Mean, People, Rules For Radicals, Enemy, Men, Believe, Angel, Political, Issues, Organization, Dream, Tactics, World, Firsts, Past, Devil, Thinking, Doe, Book, Ethics

The despair is there; now it's up to us to go in and rub raw the sores of discontent, galvanize them for radical social change.

~Saul Alinsky

True revolutionaries do not flaunt their radicalism. They cut their hair, put on suits and infiltrate the system from within.

~Saul Alinsky

They have the guns and therefore we are for peace and for reformation through the ballot. When we have the guns then it will be through the bullet.

~Saul Alinsky

Control healthcare and you control the people

~Saul Alinsky

Never let a crisis go to waste

~Saul Alinsky

History is a relay of revolutions.

~Saul Alinsky

In the beginning the organizer's first job is to create the issues or problems.

~Saul Alinsky

Change means movement. Movement means friction. Only in the frictionless vacuum of a nonexistent abstract world can movement or change occur without that abrasive friction of conflict.

~Saul Alinsky

The establishment can accept being screwed, but not being laughed at

~Saul Alinsky

The fourth rule is: "Make the enemy live up to their own book of rules." You can kill them with this, for they can no more obey their own rules than the Christian church can live up to Christianity.

~Saul Alinsky

If people don't think they have the power to solve their problems, they won't even think about how to solve them.

~Saul Alinsky

The greatest enemy of individual freedom is the individual himself.

~Saul Alinsky

If you push a negative hard enough, it will push through and become a positive.

~Saul Alinsky

The very first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he at least won his own kingdom -- Lucifer.

~Saul Alinsky

The most effective means are whatever will achieve the desired results.

~Saul Alinsky

Power just goes to two poles -- to those who've got money, and those who've got people.

~Saul Alinsky

From the moment an organizer enters a community, he lives, dreams, eats, breathes, sleeps only one thing, and that is to build the mass power base of what he calls the army.

~Saul Alinsky

Humor is essential to a successful tactician, for the most potent weapons known to mankind are satire and ridicule.

~Saul Alinsky

One acts decisively only in the conviction that all the angels are on one side and all the devils on the other.

~Saul Alinsky

A racially integrated community is a chronological term timed from the entrance of the first black family to the exit of the last white family.

~Saul Alinsky

Action comes from keeping the heat on. No politician can sit on a hot issue if you make it hot enough.

~Saul Alinsky

Asking a sociologist to solve a problem is like prescribing an enema for diarrhea.

~Saul Alinsky

The thirteenth rule of radical tactics: Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it.

~Saul Alinsky

It is a sad fact of life that power and fear are the fountainheads of faith.

~Saul Alinsky

The price of a successful attack is a constructive alternative.

~Saul Alinsky

The cry of the Have-Nots has never been "give us our hearts," but always "get off our backs"; they ask not for love but for breathing space.

~Saul Alinsky

The Prince was written by Machiavelli for the Haves on how to hold power. Rules for Radicals is written for the Have-Nots on how to take it away.

~Saul Alinsky

Tactics mean doing what you can with what you have.

~Saul Alinsky

Liberals like people with their heads, radicals like people with both their heads and their hearts.

~Saul Alinsky

The threat is generally more terrifying than the thing itself.

~Saul Alinsky

America's corporations are a spiritual slum, and their arrogance is the major threat to our future as a free society.

~Saul Alinsky

A good tactic is one that your people enjoy.

~Saul Alinsky

Change means movement. Movement means friction.

~Saul Alinsky

Dogma, Whatever Form It Takes, Is The Ultimate Enemy Of Human Freedom.

~Saul Alinsky

Change comes from power, and power comes from organization. In order to act, people must get together.

~Saul Alinsky

We must believe that it is the darkest before the dawn of a beautiful

new world. We will see it when we believe it.

~Saul Alinsky

The most unethical of all means is the non-use of any means.

~Saul Alinsky

Always remember the first rule of power tactics; power is not only what you have but what the enemy thinks you have.

~Saul Alinsky

Ridicule is man's most potent weapon. It is almost impossible to counterattack ridicule. Also it infuriates the opposition, who then react to your advantage.

~Saul Alinsky

In a fight almost anything goes. It almost reaches the point where you stop to apologize if a chance blow lands above the belt.

~Saul Alinsky

The end is what you want and the means is how you get it.

~Saul Alinsky

Keep the pressure on, with different tactics and actions, and utilize all events of the period for your purpose.

~Saul Alinsky

The only nonpartisan people are those who are dead.

~Saul Alinsky

Our world has always had two kinds of changers, the social changers and the money changers.

~Saul Alinsky

A tactic that drags on too long becomes a drag.

~Saul Alinsky

Life is a corrupting process from the time a child learns to play his mother off against his father in the politics of when to go to bed; he who fears corruption fears life.

~Saul Alinsky

To say that corrupt means corrupt the ends is to believe in the immaculate conception of ends and principles.

~Saul Alinsky

As an organizer I start from where the world is, as it is, not as I would like it to be.

~Saul Alinsky

The standards of judgment must be rooted in the whys and wherefores of life as it is lived, the world as it is, not our wished-for fantasy of the world as it should be.

~Saul Alinsky

One's concern with the ethics of means and ends varies inversely with one's personal interest in the issue.

~Saul Alinsky

Never do for someone what they can do for themselves.

~Saul Alinsky

Whenever possible, go outside the expertise of the enemy.

~Saul Alinsky

No issue can be negotiated unless you first have the clout to compel negotiation.

~Saul Alinsky

Make the enemy live up to its own book of rules.

~Saul Alinsky

The third rule of ethics of means and ends is that in war the end justifies almost any means.

~Saul Alinsky

It does not matter what you know about anything if you cannot communicate to your people. In that event you are not even a failure. You're just not there.

~Saul Alinsky

The ninth rule of the ethics of means and ends is that any effective means is automatically judged by the opposition as being unethical.

~Saul Alinsky

In this world laws are written for the lofty aim of "the common good" and then acted out in life on the basis of the common greed.

~Saul Alinsky

The enemy properly goaded and guided in his reaction will be your major strength.

~Saul Alinsky

Democracy is alive, and like any other living thing it either flourishes and grows or withers and dies. There is no in-between. It is freedom and life or dictatorship and death.

~Saul Alinsky

It is a world not of angels but of angles, where men speak of moral principles but act on power principles; a world where we are always moral and our enemies always immoral.

~Saul Alinsky

The preferred world can be seen any evening on television in the succession of programs where the good always wins

~Saul Alinsky

My only fixed truth is a belief in people, a conviction that if people have the opportunity to act freely and the power to control their own destinies, they'll generally reach the right decisions.

~Saul Alinsky

Human beings do not like to look squarely into the face of tragedy. Gloom is unpopular.

~Saul Alinsky

Once you accept your own death, all of a sudden you are free to live.

~Saul Alinsky

Those who are most moral are farthest from the problem.

~Saul Alinsky

Last guys don't finish nice.

~Saul Alinsky

The prerequisite for an ideology is possession of a basic truth.

~Saul Alinsky

A free and open society is an ongoing conflict, interrupted periodically by compromises.

~Saul Alinsky

The second rule is: Never go outside the experience of your people. When an action is outside the experience of the people, the result is confusion, fear, and retreat.

~Saul Alinsky

The fact that people are poor or discriminated against doesn't necessarily endow them with any special qualities of justice, nobility, charity or compassion.

~Saul Alinsky

The only people who become disillusioned are people who have illusions.

~Saul Alinsky

You cannot meet today's crisis tomorrow.

~Saul Alinsky

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