

# Stefan Zweig

## Quotes

*Men, Heart, War, Hands, People, Fall, Suffering, Fate, Art, Mean, Long,  
Passion, Intellectual, Eye, World, Life, Book, Creative, History, Feelings*

In history as in human life, regret does not bring back a lost moment and a thousand years will not recover something lost in a single hour.

~Stefan Zweig

Truth to tell, we are all criminals if we remain silent.

~Stefan Zweig

It is never until one realizes that one means something to others that one feels there is any point or purpose in one's own existence.

~Stefan Zweig

Freedom is not possible without authority - otherwise it would turn into chaos and authority is not possible without freedom - otherwise it would turn into tyranny.

~Stefan Zweig

All I know is that I shall be alone again. There is nothing more terrible than to be alone among human beings.

~Stefan Zweig

There is nothing more vindictive, nothing more underhanded, than a little world that would like to be a big one.

~Stefan Zweig

In history, the moments during which reason and reconciliation prevail are short and fleeting.

~Stefan Zweig

Only the misfortune of exile can provide the in-depth understanding and the overview into the realities of the world.

~Stefan Zweig

Hairdressers are professional gossips; when only the hands are busy, the tongue is seldom still.

~Stefan Zweig

Only the person who has experienced light and darkness, war and peace, rise and fall, only that person has truly experienced life.

~Stefan Zweig

Those whom fate has dealt hard knocks remain vulnerable for ever afterwards.

~Stefan Zweig

When they are preparing for war, those who rule by force speak most copiously about peace until they have completed the mobilization process.

~Stefan Zweig

How terrible this darkness was, how bewildering, and yet mysteriously beautiful!

~Stefan Zweig

Often the presence of mind and energy of a person remote from the spotlight decide the course of history for centuries to come.

~Stefan Zweig

One can run away from anything but oneself.

~Stefan Zweig

Every wave, regardless of how high and forceful it crests, must eventually collapse within itself.

~Stefan Zweig

Happy people are poor psychologists.

~Stefan Zweig

No guilt is forgotten so long as the conscience still knows of it.

~Stefan Zweig

One must be convinced to convince, to have enthusiasm to stimulate the others.

~Stefan Zweig

Now I am discovering the world once more. England has widened my horizon.

~Stefan Zweig

The idea of Jewish unity, of a plan, an organization, unfortunately exists only in the brains of Hitler and Streicher.

~Stefan Zweig

The free, independent spirit who commits himself to no dogma and will not decide in favor of any party has no homestead on earth.

~Stefan Zweig

If you are going to sell yourself, you should at least get a good price.

~Stefan Zweig

In chess, as a purely intellectual game, where randomness is excluded, - for someone to play against himself is absurd ... It is as paradoxical, as attempting to jump over his own shadow.

~Stefan Zweig

Why is it that the stupidest people are always the most good-natured?

~Stefan Zweig

Dostoevsky was the first to reveal to us this teeming multiplicity of emotions, this complexity of our spiritual universe.

~Stefan Zweig

The union of opposites, in so far as they are really complementary,

always results in the most perfect harmony; and the seemingly incongruous is often the most natural.

~Stefan Zweig

The subject of a rumor is always the last to hear it.

~Stefan Zweig

It would be foolhardy to count on the conscience of the world.

~Stefan Zweig

For the more a man limits himself, the nearer he is on the other hand to what is limitless.

~Stefan Zweig

Memory is so corrupt that you remember only what you want to; if you want to forget about something, slowly but surely you do.

~Stefan Zweig

Whatever a woman's reason may say, her feelings tell her the truth.

~Stefan Zweig

Health alone does not suffice. To be happy, to become creative, man must always be strengthened by faith in the meaning of his own existence.

~Stefan Zweig

And fate? No one alive has ever escaped it, neither brave man nor coward, I tell you-- it's born with us the day that we are born.

~Stefan Zweig

Fate is never too generous even to its favorites. Rarely do the gods grant a mortal more than one immortal deed.

~Stefan Zweig

Never can the innate power of a work be hidden or locked away. A work of art can be forgotten by time; it can be forbidden and rejected but the elemental will always prevail over the ephemeral.

~Stefan Zweig

A word is nothing unless it has values and an atmosphere, unless you grasp its historical significance.

~Stefan Zweig

Ah, how fatefully swift is the move from one feeling to another.

~Stefan Zweig

The organic fundamental error of humanism was that it desired to educate the common people (on whom it looked down) from its lofty stance instead of trying to understand them and to learn from them.

~Stefan Zweig

It is the way of youth that each fresh piece of knowledge of life should go to its head, and that once uplifted by an emotion it can never have enough of it.

~Stefan Zweig

Through suffering we have endured the assaults of time; reverses have ever been our beginning; and out of the depths God has gathered us to his heart.

~Stefan Zweig

It is better to pay tribute of gold to the enemy than tribute of blood in war.

~Stefan Zweig

There is no sense to a sacrifice after you come to feel that it is a sacrifice.

~Stefan Zweig

The dressmaker doesn't have problems unless the dress has to hide rather than reveal.

~Stefan Zweig

Everything in life that deviates from the straight and, so to speak, normal line, makes people first curious and then indignant.

~Stefan Zweig

for the more a man restricts himself the closer he is, conversely, to infinity.

~Stefan Zweig

Nothing whets the intelligence more than a passionate suspicion, nothing develops all the faculties of an immature mind more than a trail running away into the dark.

~Stefan Zweig

Unless our souls had root in soil divine We could not bear earth's overwhelming strife. The fiercest pain that racks this heart of mine, Convinces me of everlasting life.

~Stefan Zweig

Only ambition is fired by the coincidences of success and easy accomplishment.

~Stefan Zweig

On the whole, more men had perhaps escaped into the war than from it.

~Stefan Zweig

The instinct for self-deception in human beings makes them try to banish from their minds dangers of which at bottom they are perfectly aware by declaring them non-existent.

~Stefan Zweig

Immanuel Kant lived with knowledge as with his lawfully wedded wife, slept with it in the same intellectual bed for forty years and begot an entire German race of philosophical systems.

~Stefan Zweig

To grow old means to be rid of anxieties about the past.

~Stefan Zweig

Life is futile unless it be directed towards a definite goal.

~Stefan Zweig

Long-protracted suffering is apt to exhaust not only the invalid, but the compassion of others; violent emotions cannot be prolonged endlessly.

~Stefan Zweig

The sight of a wedding always has a disturbing effect on young girls; at such moments a mysterious sense of solidarity with their own sex takes possession of them.

~Stefan Zweig

It remains an irrefragable law of history that contemporaries are denied a recognition of the early beginnings of the great movements which determine their times.

~Stefan Zweig

Pain is a coward. He flees when faced by the irresistible power of the will-to-live, which is more strongly rooted in the flesh than the intensest passion is rooted in the spirit.

~Stefan Zweig

Confidences are always risky: a secret entrusted to a stranger make him less of one. You've given away something of yourself, given him the advantage.

~Stefan Zweig



Whilst all the land was ringed with bristling arms  
And flames laid waste our world,  
All that was left me was a little garden  
And thou within it, my beloved,  
my comrade.

~Stefan Zweig

A human being will accept the strictest disciplinary measures with a better grace if he knows that they will fall with equal severity on his neighbor.

~Stefan Zweig

States of profound happiness, like all other forms of intoxication, are apt to befuddle the wits; intense enjoyment of the present always makes one forget the past.

~Stefan Zweig

Something indefinite is always worse than something definite, a strong fear that doesn't last very long is easier than one that's nebulous but doesn't go away.

~Stefan Zweig

All office workers are afraid of being late for work.

~Stefan Zweig

Formerly man had only a body and a soul. Now he needs a passport as well for without it he will not be treated like a human being.

~Stefan Zweig

It is better to be the servant of God than the ruler of men.

~Stefan Zweig

It is a blessing not yet to have acquired that over-keen, diagnostic, misanthropic eye, and to be able to look at people and things trustfully when one first sees them.

~Stefan Zweig

For one who is having no personal experience, the passionate disquiet of others is at any rate a titillation of the nerves, like seeing a play or listening to music.

~Stefan Zweig

Heroic ages are not and never were sentimental and those daring conquistadores who conquered entire worlds for their Spain or Portugal received lamentably little thanks from their kings.

~Stefan Zweig

Once shame touches your being at any point, even the most distant nerve is implicated, whether you know it or not; any fleeting encounter or random thought will rake up the anguish and add to it.

~Stefan Zweig

Besides, isn't it confoundingly easy to think you're a great man if you aren't burdened with the slightest idea that Rembrandt, Beethoven, Dante or Napoleon ever lived?

~Stefan Zweig

He who studies without passion will never become anything more than a pedant.

~Stefan Zweig

The works of the great artists are silent books of eternal truths.

~Stefan Zweig

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