

# Stephen Ambrose Quotes

*War, Men, Way, People, Thinking, Winning, President, Children, Choices,  
Vietnam, Easy, Century, Long, Giving, Writing, Firsts, Fighting, Done, Hate,  
Peace*

I was too young for Korea and too old for Vietnam.

~Stephen Ambrose

The number one secret of being a successful writer is this: marry an English major.

~Stephen Ambrose

Winning the Revolutionary War, or the Civil War, or World War II were the turning points in our history, the sine qua non of our forward progress.

~Stephen Ambrose

Crazy Horse saw history as integrated in the present, incorporated into daily life.

~Stephen Ambrose

There are many rules of good writing, but the best way to find them is to be a good reader.

~Stephen Ambrose

The Holocaust was the most evil crime ever committed.

~Stephen Ambrose

Eisenhower had the clearest blue eyes. He would fix them on you. In my every interview with him, he would lock his eyes on to mine and keep them there.

~Stephen Ambrose

The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future.

~Stephen Ambrose

Nothing is inevitable in life. People make choices, and those choices have results, and we all live with the results.

~Stephen Ambrose

I was taught by professors who had done their schooling in the 1930s. Most of them were scornful of, even hated, big business.

~Stephen Ambrose

It is through history that we learn who we are and how we got that way, why and how we changed, why the good sometimes prevailed and sometimes did not.

~Stephen Ambrose

My favorite book is the last one printed, which is always better than those that were published earlier.

~Stephen Ambrose

Johnson had been the most powerful man in the world, yet the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong had resisted, overcome his power, broken his will.

~Stephen Ambrose

Trial by jury. Live wherever you can make a living. How could a government based on such principles fail?

~Stephen Ambrose

My first book was the book that changed my life.

~Stephen Ambrose

Dams have harmed our wildlife and made rivers less useful for recreation.

~Stephen Ambrose

The American Constitution is the greatest governing document, and at some 7,000 words, just about the shortest.

~Stephen Ambrose

I'm no politician. I'm an historian who has learned through a lifetime of studying that nothing in the world beats universal education.

~Stephen Ambrose

It would not be possible to praise nurses too highly.

~Stephen Ambrose

The more sophisticated we get, the more advanced our buildings and vehicles become, the more vulnerable we are.

~Stephen Ambrose

Washington's character was rock solid. He came to stand for the new nation and its republican virtues, which was why he became our first President by unanimous choice.

~Stephen Ambrose

In America, Jefferson noted with approval, women knew their place.

~Stephen Ambrose

In 1945, there were more people killed, more buildings destroyed, more high explosives set off, more fires burning than before or since.

~Stephen Ambrose

World War II, the atomic bomb, the Cold War, made it hard for Americans to continue their optimism.

~Stephen Ambrose

There are many more want-to-be writers out there than good editors.

~Stephen Ambrose

Eisenhower is my choice as the American of the 20th Century. Of all the men I've studied and written about, he is the brightest and the best.

~Stephen Ambrose

As to the Indians, the guiding principle was, promise them anything just so long as they get out of the way.

~Stephen Ambrose

To be a slaveholder meant one had to regard the African American as inferior in every way.

~Stephen Ambrose

Andrew Johnson was a Southerner generally who proclaimed that his native state of Tennessee was a country for white men.

~Stephen Ambrose

American corporations hate to give away money.

~Stephen Ambrose

Even before Watergate and his resignation, Nixon had inspired conflicting and passionate emotions.

~Stephen Ambrose

The Canadians have managed to live peacefully with their Indians. It is disgrace that the United States has not done the same.

~Stephen Ambrose

American is the first democratic nation-state.

~Stephen Ambrose

Who today is willing to say that Texas and California and the remainder of the Southwest would be better off if they were governed by Mexico?

~Stephen Ambrose

Neighbors are far better acoustic analyzers for determining the quality of their life versus any acoustic instrument left unattended by an expert.

~Stephen Ambrose

Nixon regarded himself as having been cheated by life. He never got my vote.

~Stephen Ambrose

The war in Vietnam I thought a dreadful mistake.

~Stephen Ambrose

Washington and Jefferson were both rich Virginia planters, but they were never friends.

~Stephen Ambrose

You don't hate history, you hate the way it was taught to you in high school.

~Stephen Ambrose

History is everything that has ever happened.

~Stephen Ambrose

Immigrants do more than help us win our wars, or set up cleaning shops or ethnic restaurants.

~Stephen Ambrose

Writing is not the easiest way to make a living. You work long hours, usually all by yourself. It is not a way to make money.

~Stephen Ambrose

The great wars of the 20th Century made it into the worst Century ever.

~Stephen Ambrose

Within Easy Company they had made the best friends they had ever had, or would ever have. They were prepared to die for each other; more important, they were prepared to kill for each other.

~Stephen Ambrose

We know how to win wars. We must learn now to win peace.

~Stephen Ambrose

I thought Nixon was the worst President we had ever had, save only perhaps Andrew Johnson.

~Stephen Ambrose

Reading your own material aloud forces you to listen.

~Stephen Ambrose

Jefferson owned slaves. He did not believe that all were created equal. He was a racist.

~Stephen Ambrose

I think that the opportunity to improve race relations in the United States has been put off temporarily.

~Stephen Ambrose

We are part of a country that outshines those that have gone before us and most of those in existence today.

~Stephen Ambrose

Washington, not Jefferson, freed his slaves upon his death.

~Stephen Ambrose

Almost everything Truman did in foreign affairs I approve of.

~Stephen Ambrose

I've always tried to be fair to my subjects. That's easy when they are as likable and admirable as Lewis and Clark, or Eisenhower.

~Stephen Ambrose

Like their predecessors, the Presidents of today just throw up their hands.

~Stephen Ambrose



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