

# Tacitus Quotes

*Men, Law, Peace, Hate, War, Politics, Hatred, History, Thinking, Power, Giving,  
Passion, Fame, May, Inspirational, Liberty, Lust, Fear, Fall, Age*

The more numerous the laws, the more corrupt the government.

~Tacitus

Truth is confirmed by inspection and delay; falsehood by haste and uncertainty.

~Tacitus

Men are more ready to repay an injury than a benefit, because gratitude is a burden and revenge a pleasure

~Tacitus

The lust for power, for dominating others, inflames the heart more than any other passion.

~Tacitus

If you would know who controls you see who you may not criticise.

~Tacitus

In valor there is hope.

~Tacitus

When men are full of envy they disparage everything, whether it be good or bad.

~Tacitus

Traitors are hated even by those whom they prefer.

~Tacitus

The most seditious is the most cowardly.

~Tacitus

It belongs to human nature to hate those you have injured.

~Tacitus

The Romans brought devastation, but they called it peace.

~Tacitus

An honorable death is better than a dishonorable life. [Lat., *Honesta mors turpi vita potior.*]

~Tacitus

So as you go into battle, remember your ancestors and remember your descendants.

~Tacitus

A desire to resist oppression is implanted in the nature of man.

~Tacitus

The worst crimes were dared by a few, willed by more and tolerated by all.

~Tacitus

To plunder, to slaughter, to steal, these things they misname empire; and where they make a wilderness, they call it peace.

~Tacitus

*Corruptissima re publica plurimae leges.*

~Tacitus

Reason and calm judgment, the qualities specially belonging to a leader.

~Tacitus

Abuse if you slight it, will gradually die away; but if you show yourself irritated, you will be thought to have deserved it.

~Tacitus

No one would have doubted his ability to reign had he never been

emperor.

~Tacitus

An eminent reputation is as dangerous as a bad one.

~Tacitus

Every recreant who proved his timidity in the hour of danger, was afterwards boldest in words and tongue.

~Tacitus

Many who seem to be struggling with adversity are happy; many, amid great affluence, are utterly miserable.

~Tacitus

Things forbidden have a secret charm.

~Tacitus

Custom adapts itself to expediency.

~Tacitus

Formerly we suffered from crimes; now we suffer from laws.

~Tacitus

One who is allowed to sin, sins less

~Tacitus

Power won by crime no one ever yet turned to a good purpose.

~Tacitus

This I regard as history's highest function, to let no worthy action be uncommemorated, and to hold out the reprobation of posterity as a terror to evil words and deeds.

~Tacitus

Old things are always in good repute, present things in disfavor.

~Tacitus

[The Jews have] an attitude of hostility and hatred towards all others.

~Tacitus

They make a desert and call it peace.

~Tacitus

A woman once fallen will shrink from no impropriety.

~Tacitus

In a state where corruption abounds, laws must be very numerous.

~Tacitus

Reason and judgment are the qualities of a leader.

~Tacitus

It is a part of the nature of man to resist compulsion.

~Tacitus

To rob, to ravage, to murder, in their imposing language, are the arts of civil policy. When they have made the world a solitude, they call it peace.

~Tacitus

Great empires are not maintained by timidity.

~Tacitus

The word liberty has been falsely used by persons who, being degenerately profligate in private life, and mischievous in public, had no hope left but in fomenting discord.

~Tacitus

The grove is the centre of their whole religion. It is regarded as the cradle of the race and the dwelling-place of the supreme god to whom all things are subject and obedient.

~Tacitus

None make a greater show of sorrow than those who are most delighted.

~Tacitus

It is less difficult to bear misfortunes than to remain uncorrupted by pleasure.

~Tacitus

Valor is of no service, chance rules all, and the bravest often fall by the hands of cowards.

~Tacitus

It is found by experience that admirable laws and right precedents among the good have their origin in the misdeeds of others.

~Tacitus

Christianity is a pestilent superstition.

~Tacitus

Fear is not in the habit of speaking truth.

~Tacitus

It is common, to esteem most what is most unknown.

~Tacitus

We extol ancient things, regardless of our own times. [Lat., *Vetera extollimus recentium incuriosi.*]

~Tacitus

Things are not to be judged good or bad merely because the public think so.

~Tacitus

Crime, once exposed, has no refuge but in audacity.

~Tacitus

He (Tiberius) was wont to mock at the arts of physicians, and at those who, after thirty years of age, needed counsel as to what was good or bad for their bodies.

~Tacitus

The worst hatred is that of relatives.

~Tacitus

Flattery labors under the odious charge of servility.

~Tacitus

Such being the happiness of the times, that you may think as you wish, and speak as you think.

~Tacitus

If we must fall, we should boldly meet our fate.

~Tacitus

A bad peace is even worse than war.

~Tacitus

The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise.

~Tacitus

Nature gives liberty even to dumb animals.

~Tacitus

To show resentment at a reproach is to acknowledge that one may have deserved it.

~Tacitus

A man in power, once becoming obnoxious, his acts, good or bad, will work out his ruin.

~Tacitus

A shocking crime was committed on the unscrupulous initiative of few individuals, with the blessing of more, and amid the passive acquiescence of all.

~Tacitus

What is today supported by precedents will hereafter become a precedent.

~Tacitus

Viewed from a distance, everything is beautiful.

~Tacitus

The wicked find it easier to coalesce for seditious purposes than for concord in peace.

~Tacitus

The sciences throw an inexpressible grace over our compositions, even where they are not immediately concerned; as their effects are discernible where we least expect to find them.

~Tacitus

Neglected, calumny soon expires, show that you are hurt, and you give it the appearance of truth.

~Tacitus

Keen at the start, but careless at the end.



~Tacitus

The persecution of genius fosters its influence.

~Tacitus

The unknown always passes for the marvellous.

~Tacitus

Rumor is not always wrong

~Tacitus

It is the rare fortune of these days that one may think what one likes and say what one thinks.

~Tacitus

Cruelty is fed, not weakened, by tears.

~Tacitus

Victor and vanquished never unite in substantial agreement.

~Tacitus

We see many who are struggling against adversity who are happy, and more although abounding in wealth, who are wretched.

~Tacitus

In all things there is a law of cycles.

~Tacitus

More faults are often committed while we are trying to oblige than while we are giving offense.

~Tacitus

Benefits received are a delight to us as long as we think we can requite them; when that possibility is far exceeded, they are repaid with hatred

instead of gratitude.

~Tacitus

Flatterers are the worst kind of enemies. [Lat., Pessimum genus inimicorum laudantes.]

~Tacitus

It is a principle of human nature to hate those whom we have injured.

~Tacitus

Greater things are believed of those who are absent.

~Tacitus

They make solitude, which they call peace.

~Tacitus

Candor and generosity, unless tempered by due moderation, leads to ruin.

~Tacitus

The most detestable race of enemies are flatterers.

~Tacitus

In seasons of tumult and discord bad men have most power; mental and moral excellence require peace and quietness.

~Tacitus

Power acquired by guilt was never used for a good purpose. [Lat., Imperium flagitio acquisitum nemo unquam bonis artibus exercuit.]

~Tacitus

Other men have acquired fame by industry, but this man by indolence.

~Tacitus

Valor is the contempt of death and pain.

~Tacitus

Who the first inhabitants of Britain were, whether natives or immigrants, remains obscure; one must remember we are dealing with barbarians.

~Tacitus

Posterity will pay everyone their due.

~Tacitus

Everything unknown is magnified. [Lat., Omne ignotum pro magnifico est.]

~Tacitus

When the State is corrupt, then the laws are most multiplied.

~Tacitus

People flatter us because they can depend upon our credulity.

~Tacitus

The hatred of relatives is the most violent.

~Tacitus

Liberty is given by nature even to mute animals.

~Tacitus

All those things that are now held to be of the greatest antiquity were at one time new; what we to-day hold up by example will rank hereafter as precedent.

~Tacitus

None mourn more ostentatiously over the death of Germanicus than those who most rejoice at it [a death].

~Tacitus

Perdomita Britannia et statim omissa. Britain was conquered and immediately lost.

~Tacitus

It is not becoming to grieve immoderately for the dead.

~Tacitus

Nothing mortal is so unstable and subject to change as power which has no foundation.

~Tacitus

Conspicuous by his absence.

~Tacitus

**Related Links:**

- Men Quotes
- Law Quotes
- Peace Quotes
- Hate Quotes
- War Quotes
- Politics Quotes
- Hatred Quotes
- History Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Power Quotes
- Giving Quotes
- Passion Quotes
- Fame Quotes
- May Quotes
- Inspirational Quotes
- Liberty Quotes
- Lust Quotes
- Fear Quotes
- Fall Quotes
- Age Quotes