

# Thomas Friedman Quotes

*Thinking, People, Country, World, America, Jobs, Kids, Real, Men, Home,  
School, War, Years, Mean, Golf, Technology, Mother, Believe, Running, Oil*

I was in Bangalore, India, the Silicon Valley of India, when I realized that the world was flat.

~Thomas Friedman

Basically all the world's computer parts come from the same supply chain that runs from Korea, down through coastal China, over to Taiwan, and down to Malaysia.

~Thomas Friedman

What every employer is looking for is not someone who can do the job, but someone who can reinvent the job.

~Thomas Friedman

No, most of our political elite has not realized that the world is flat.

~Thomas Friedman

I have a daughter who is a sophomore in college and another who is in the 11th grade of high school.

~Thomas Friedman

I said that more people in more places can now compete, connect and collaborate with equal power and equal tools than ever before.

~Thomas Friedman

In the future, how we educate our children may prove to be more important than how much we educate them.

~Thomas Friedman

The Dell Theory of Conflict Prevention argues that no two countries that are both part of the same global supply chain will ever fight a war as long as they are each part of that supply chain.

~Thomas Friedman

Pessimists are usually right and optimists are usually wrong but all the

great changes have been accomplished by optimists.

~Thomas Friedman

Your boss doesn't care what you know, because the Google machine knows everything. Your boss cares about what you can do with what you know. That's the only thing your boss will pay for.

~Thomas Friedman

I've always believed the world would be a better place if more people everywhere have a chance to shape their own future and realize their full potential. I think that is what life is about.

~Thomas Friedman

Tap into people's dignity and they will do anything for you. Ignore it, and they won't lift a finger.

~Thomas Friedman

Hope and optimism aren't just attitudes, they are life strategies.

~Thomas Friedman

No two countries that both had McDonald's had fought a war against each other since each got its McDonald's

~Thomas Friedman

Remember, in China when you are one in a million, there are 1,300 other people just like you.

~Thomas Friedman

Remember, the difference between the world frozen over, in an ice ball, and the warming period we're in now is just 6 degrees centigrade. A change of just 1 degree can have a huge effect.

~Thomas Friedman

Do you know what my favorite renewable fuel is? An ecosystem for

innovation.

~Thomas Friedman

When widely followed public figures feel free to say anything, without any fact-checking, it becomes impossible for a democracy to think intelligently about big issues.

~Thomas Friedman

I would say that in 2000, we understand as much about how today's system of globalization is going to work as we understood about how the Cold War system was going to work in 1946.

~Thomas Friedman

Guantanamo Bay is the anti-Statue of Liberty.

~Thomas Friedman

Geopolitics is all about leverage. We cannot make ourselves safer abroad unless we change our behavior at home.

~Thomas Friedman

I firmly believe that the next great breakthrough in bioscience could come from a 15-year-old who downloads the human genome in Egypt.

~Thomas Friedman

When you lose your job, the unemployment rate isn't four percent, it's 100 percent.

~Thomas Friedman

Capitalism makes people unequally rich. Communism makes people equally poor.

~Thomas Friedman

The Arab awakening was like watching elephants fly: something you didn't expect, something you haven't seen before, "Wow, elephants fly."

~Thomas Friedman

A vision without resources is an hallucination.

~Thomas Friedman

What is al Qaeda? It's an open source religious political movement that works off the global supply chain.

~Thomas Friedman

The first rule of holes is when you're in one, stop digging. When you're in three, bring a lot of shovels.

~Thomas Friedman

Big breakthroughs happen when what is suddenly possible meets what is desperately needed

~Thomas Friedman

The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist.

~Thomas Friedman

Every sport needs its temple, its cathedral.

~Thomas Friedman

The historical debate is over. The answer is free-market capitalism.

~Thomas Friedman

Change your leaders, not your light bulbs.

~Thomas Friedman

We have to fight the terrorists as if there were no rules and preserve our open society as if there were no terrorists.

~Thomas Friedman

Just because we can't sell shares in nature doesn't mean it has no

value.

~Thomas Friedman

McDonald's cannot flourish without McDonnell Douglas, the builder of the F-15.

~Thomas Friedman

We are led by lawyers who do not understand either technology or balance sheets.

~Thomas Friedman

Sometimes, when my wife and I were going out to dinner, I would take my laptop with me and work in the car, so as to take advantage of the half hour going and coming.

~Thomas Friedman

You win the presidency by connecting with the American people's gut insecurities and aspirations. You win with a concept.

~Thomas Friedman

Most jobs are outsourced to the past, they aren't outsourced to India or Mexico or Pakistan or anywhere else.

~Thomas Friedman

Our kids are going to be so angry with us one day. We've charged their future on our Visa cards.

~Thomas Friedman

It created a global platform that allowed more people to plug and play, collaborate and compete, share knowledge and share work, than anything we have ever seen in the history of the world.

~Thomas Friedman

What about the rest of life? Respect for the sanctity of life, if you believe

that it begins at conception, cannot end at birth.

~Thomas Friedman

We need to become energy independent or at least aspire to that.

~Thomas Friedman

Two things are going on at the same time with the flattening of the world: The relentless quest for efficiency is squeezing some of the fat out of life.

~Thomas Friedman

Yes, the world is now flat for publishing as well.

~Thomas Friedman

If e-mail had been around before the telephone was invented, people would have said, 'Hey, forget e-mail! With this new telephone invention I can actually talk to people!'

~Thomas Friedman

A golf course should aspire to generate as much energy as it consumes - golf should be leading the way toward energy net zero.

~Thomas Friedman

A generation ago [the Democratic Party] stood for progressive change. Now they defend every federal program as if each were sacred. They have become the most conservative force in American politics.

~Thomas Friedman

My mom enlisted in the U.S. Navy in World War II, and my parents actually bought our home thanks to the loan she got through the GI Bill.

~Thomas Friedman

Rock stars get room keys, I get business cards.

~Thomas Friedman

I'm from Minnesota. I'm optimistic. I mean, that's just who I am.

~Thomas Friedman

It is hard to partner with someone when you become so radioactive no one wants to stand next to you.

~Thomas Friedman

There is no substitute for face-to-face reporting and research.

~Thomas Friedman

Optimists are usually wrong. But all the great change in history, positive change, was done by optimists.

~Thomas Friedman

In the hyperconnected world, there is only "good", "better" and "best".

~Thomas Friedman

Our bailout of Detroit will be remembered as the equivalent of pouring billions of taxpayers' money into the mail-order catalogue business on the eve of the birth of eBay.

~Thomas Friedman

We have to be the best global citizens we can be.

~Thomas Friedman

I love America. I think it's the best country in the world. But I also think we're not tending to our sauce.

~Thomas Friedman

I'm a capitalist. I believe in capitalism. But capitalism only works if you have safety nets to deal with people who are naturally left behind and



brutalized by it.

~Thomas Friedman

Combating climate change requires government policy, and most conservatives hate the idea of more government regulation. Because they hate the prescription, they deny the diagnosis.

~Thomas Friedman

Everyone needs to get together and say: "Our objective is to preserve and enhance the game and the planet on which it's played. To make golf a leader in greening the world."

~Thomas Friedman

I'm pretty much an open book. I am a fanatic golfer and golf nut. If I have three free hours any day, my first choice is to run to the golf course if the weather is nice.

~Thomas Friedman

I don't think a monarchy led by 75- and 80-year-old men [Saudi Arabia] in today's modern world is really sustainable.

~Thomas Friedman

You'll know the green revolution has been won when the word 'green' disappears.

~Thomas Friedman

Benjamin Netanyahu, understands that the standing ovation he got in Congress this year was not for his politics. That ovation was bought and paid for by the Israel lobby.

~Thomas Friedman

Saudi hijackers first came into contact with al-Qaeda and went through Terrorism 101 when they signed up for the jihad in Afghanistan.

~Thomas Friedman

Only if you give the Palestinians something to lose is there a hope that they will agree to moderate their demands.... I believe that as soon as Ahmed has a seat in the bus, he will limit his demands.

~Thomas Friedman

There is something more severe than the problem with Thomas Friedman, which can be generalized to represent someone causing action while being completely unaccountable for his words.

~Thomas Friedman

The only engine big enough to impact Mother Nature is Father Greed.

~Thomas Friedman

The Golden Straitjacket is the defining political-economic garment of globalization. [...] The tighter you wear it, the more gold it produces.

~Thomas Friedman

There is a connection between energy, climate, food and political stability. That has played out in the Arab awakening and is not done playing out.

~Thomas Friedman

The Arab world had a big problem of frankly venal elites. That is why these revolutions happen, because people didn't think the opportunities were being shared fairly.

~Thomas Friedman

Obviously China is clearly taking the lead in some areas, but when it comes to the most advanced innovation, it's still America.

~Thomas Friedman

I think there are different kinds of elites. I think there are venal elites, and self-interested elites, and selfish elites, and I think there are visionary elites.

~Thomas Friedman

If you don't visit the bad neighborhoods, the bad neighborhoods are going to visit you.

~Thomas Friedman

It's easy to kind of say it's the elite that's putting you down. Well, it wasn't really the elite, technology will do that.

~Thomas Friedman

Every golf course should have its carbon rating on the scorecard, alongside its Course Rating, Slope, par and yardage.

~Thomas Friedman

Almost all the students who make it to Caltech, one of the best scientific universities in the world, come from public schools. So it can be done.

~Thomas Friedman

In China today, Bill Gates is Britney Spears. In America today, Britney Spears is Britney Spears-and that is our problem.

~Thomas Friedman

American young people have got to understand from an early age that the world pays off on results, not on effort. Not everyone should win a prize no matter where he or she finishes.

~Thomas Friedman

The great thing about cheap natural gas, again it's cheap, and it provides a cleaner alternative to coal. But it's still a fossil fuel, and because it's still a fossil fuel, it still emits carbon.

~Thomas Friedman

When you can't rely on sticking a pipe in the ground, what you have to rely on is unlocking the energy and talent of all your people - men and

women.

~Thomas Friedman

We've given Iraq six months and I don't think things are really working out, so we should probably bring our troops home.

~Thomas Friedman

Desktop freelancers and innovative startups all over the world

~Thomas Friedman

Never before in the history of the planet have so many people, on their own, had the ability to find so much information about so many things and about so many other people.

~Thomas Friedman

In a hyper-connected world where average is over, there is one thing we know absolutely for sure: Every good job will require more education.

~Thomas Friedman

America needs rebooting.

~Thomas Friedman

If we don't have a more serious energy policy, the difference between a good day and bad day for America from here on will hinge on how the 86-year-old king of Saudi Arabia manages...change.

~Thomas Friedman

Communism was a great system for making people equally poor - in fact, there was no better system in the world for that than communism. Capitalism made people unequally rich.

~Thomas Friedman

If you don't visit a bad neighborhood, it might visit you.

~Thomas Friedman

Iraq may still have a decent outcome...but even if it becomes Switzerland, we overpaid for it.

~Thomas Friedman

There are elites that are real leaders and role models. There are elites that are really selfish and want to pull up the ladder once they've reached the roof.

~Thomas Friedman

If you don't have an ethic of conservation, you basically have a license to drive a Hummer through the Amazon.

~Thomas Friedman

Once people get a taste for whatever you want to call it - economic independence, a better lifestyle, and a better life for their children - they grab on to that and don't want to give it up.

~Thomas Friedman

That's right-the striking thing about greenhouse gases is the diversity of sources that emit them. A herd of cattle belching can be worse than highway full of hummers.

~Thomas Friedman

America is interested in change and reform in the Middle East but in a stable way.

~Thomas Friedman

I attended public school with the same group of kids from K through 12.

~Thomas Friedman

Rock stars get room keys, I get business cards. Wherever I go I meet

innovators of wind power equipment, solar energy operators.

~Thomas Friedman

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