

Thomas Jefferson Quotes

*Men, Government, People, Country, Law, Religious, Rights, War, Liberty,
Believe, Exercise, Thinking, Political, Freedom, Mean, Politics, Mind, Wisdom,
Giving, Peace*

Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.

~Thomas Jefferson

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

~Thomas Jefferson

The end of democracy and the defeat of the American Revolution will occur when government falls into the hands of lending institutions and moneyed incorporations.

~Thomas Jefferson

I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.

~Thomas Jefferson

I prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery.

~Thomas Jefferson

When tyranny becomes law, rebellion becomes duty.

~Thomas Jefferson

Truth between candid minds can never do harm.

~Thomas Jefferson

The government you elect is the government you deserve.

~Thomas Jefferson

Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.

~Thomas Jefferson

In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand

like a rock.

~Thomas Jefferson

Does the government fear us? Or do we fear the government? When the people fear the government, tyranny has found victory. The federal government is our servant, not our master!

~Thomas Jefferson

A true patriot will defend his country from its government.

~Thomas Jefferson

Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages.

~Thomas Jefferson

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.

~Thomas Jefferson

Equal rights for all, special privileges for none

~Thomas Jefferson

I think we have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious.

~Thomas Jefferson

The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases.

~Thomas Jefferson

The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite.

~Thomas Jefferson

To learn, you have to listen. To improve, you have to try.

~Thomas Jefferson

The cornerstone of democracy rests on the foundation of an educated electorate.

~Thomas Jefferson

There is no justification for taking away individuals' freedom in the guise of public safety.

~Thomas Jefferson

Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends [life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness] it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government.

~Thomas Jefferson

Men of quality are not threatened by women of equality

~Thomas Jefferson

The press is impotent when it abandons itself to falsehood.

~Thomas Jefferson

The purpose of government is to enable the people of a nation to live in safety and happiness. Government exists for the interests of the governed, not for the governors.

~Thomas Jefferson

Experience hath shewn, that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny.

~Thomas Jefferson

A private central bank issuing the public currency is a greater menace to the liberties of the people than a standing army. We must not let our

rulers load us with perpetual debt.

~Thomas Jefferson

To consider judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions is a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy.

~Thomas Jefferson

The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave.

~Thomas Jefferson

No government should be without critics. If its intentions are good then it has nothing to fear from criticism.

~Thomas Jefferson

Whenever you do a thing, act as if all the world were watching.

~Thomas Jefferson

If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed.

~Thomas Jefferson

The constitutions of most of our States assert that all power is inherent in the people; that... it is their right and duty to be at all times armed.

~Thomas Jefferson

Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.

~Thomas Jefferson

When you abandon freedom to achieve security, you lose both and deserve neither.

~Thomas Jefferson

Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none.

~Thomas Jefferson

Our citizens may be deceived for awhile, and have been deceived; but as long as the presses can be protected, we may trust to them for light.

~Thomas Jefferson

Difference of opinion leads to inquiry, and inquiry to the truth.

~Thomas Jefferson

Leave all the afternoon for exercise and recreation, which are as necessary as reading. I will rather say more necessary because health is worth more than learning.

~Thomas Jefferson

It is neither wealth nor splendor; but tranquility and occupation which give you happiness.

~Thomas Jefferson

I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial by strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country.

~Thomas Jefferson

To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.

~Thomas Jefferson

Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government.

~Thomas Jefferson

I consider trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by

which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution.

~Thomas Jefferson

There is nothing more unequal than the equal treatment of unequal people.

~Thomas Jefferson

The reason that Christianity is the best friend of government is because Christianity is the only religion that changes the heart.

~Thomas Jefferson

The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time.

~Thomas Jefferson

The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others.

~Thomas Jefferson

Our country is now taking so steady a course as to show by what road it will pass to destruction, to wit: by consolidation of power first, and then corruption, its necessary consequence.

~Thomas Jefferson

The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions that I wish it to be always kept alive.

~Thomas Jefferson

Never spend your money before you have earned it.

~Thomas Jefferson

Nothing is unchangeable but the inherent and unalienable rights of man.

~Thomas Jefferson

The man who reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers.

~Thomas Jefferson

The man who would choose security over freedom deserves neither.

~Thomas Jefferson

Question with boldness even the existence of a God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason, than that of blind-folded fear.

~Thomas Jefferson

A well informed citizenry is the best defense against tyranny.

~Thomas Jefferson

I have no ambition to govern men; it is a painful and thankless office.

~Thomas Jefferson

He who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine, receives light without darkening me.

~Thomas Jefferson

Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you.

~Thomas Jefferson

We will be soldiers, so our sons may be farmers, so their sons may be artists

~Thomas Jefferson

Bigotry is the disease of ignorance, of morbid minds; enthusiasm of the free and buoyant. Education and free discussion are the antidotes of both.

~Thomas Jefferson

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies.

~Thomas Jefferson

What has been the effect of [religious] coercion? To make one half the world fools, and the other half hypocrites. To support roguery and error all over the earth.

~Thomas Jefferson

An informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy.

~Thomas Jefferson

A walk about Paris will provide lessons in history, beauty, and in the point of Life.

~Thomas Jefferson

A candle loses nothing when it lights another candle.

~Thomas Jefferson

My heart trembles when I reflect that God is just

~Thomas Jefferson

I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it.

~Thomas Jefferson

Leave no authority existing not responsible to the people.

~Thomas Jefferson

The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I have passed at home in the bosom of my family.

~Thomas Jefferson

Governments constantly choose between telling lies and fighting wars, with the end result always being the same. One will always lead to the other.

~Thomas Jefferson

The only security of all is in a free press.

~Thomas Jefferson

Difference of opinion is advantageous in religion. The several sects perform the office of a Censor - over each other.

~Thomas Jefferson

Hemp is of first necessity to the wealth & protection of the country.

~Thomas Jefferson

He who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it the second time.

~Thomas Jefferson

I am opposed to any form of tyranny over the mind of man.

~Thomas Jefferson

Free men do not ask permission to bear arms

~Thomas Jefferson

If the freedom of religion, guaranteed to us by law in theory, can ever rise in practice under the overbearing inquisition of public opinion, [then and only then will truth]prevail over fanaticism.

~Thomas Jefferson

The republican is the only form of government which is not eternally at open or secret war with the rights of mankind.

~Thomas Jefferson

He who knows nothing is closer to the truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors.

~Thomas Jefferson

Amplification is the vice of modern oratory.

~Thomas Jefferson

I never will, by any word or act, bow to the shrine of intolerance or admit a right of inquiry into the religious opinions of others.

~Thomas Jefferson

Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks.

~Thomas Jefferson

The hocus-pocus phantasm of a God, like another Cerberus, with one body and three heads, had its birth and growth in the blood of thousands and thousands of martyrs.

~Thomas Jefferson

I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever.

~Thomas Jefferson

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.

~Thomas Jefferson

Our peculiar security is in the possession of a written Constitution. Let us not make it a blank paper by construction.

~Thomas Jefferson

Your own reason is the only oracle given you by heaven, and you are answerable for, not the rightness, but the uprightness of the decision

~Thomas Jefferson

It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself.

~Thomas Jefferson

The constitutional freedom of religion is the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights

~Thomas Jefferson

If the book be false in its facts, disprove them; if false in its reasoning, refute it. But, for God's sake, let us freely hear both sides, if we choose.

~Thomas Jefferson

A room without books is like a life without meaning.

~Thomas Jefferson

When the people are afraid of the government, that's tyranny. But when the government is afraid of the people, that's liberty.

~Thomas Jefferson

I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.

~Thomas Jefferson

No generation has a right to contract debts greater than can be paid off during the course of its own existence.

~Thomas Jefferson

A society that will trade a little liberty for a little order will lose both, and deserve neither.

~Thomas Jefferson

Every gentleman plays billiards, but someone who plays billiards too well, is no gentleman.

~Thomas Jefferson

Paper money is liable to be abused, has been, is, and forever will be abused, in every country in which it is permitted.

~Thomas Jefferson

A properly functioning democracy depends on an informed electorate.

~Thomas Jefferson

I consider ethics, as well as religion, as supplements to law in the government of man.

~Thomas Jefferson

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