

# Thomas Sowell

## Quotes

*People, Government, Political, Country, Mean, Thinking, Believe, Years, Men,  
Real, Liberty, Law, Decision, Ideas, Long, War, Children, School, Running,  
Vision*

It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong.

~Thomas Sowell

When you want to help people, you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear.

~Thomas Sowell

Racism is not dead, but it is on life support -- kept alive by politicians, race hustlers and people who get a sense of superiority by denouncing others as 'racists'

~Thomas Sowell

If you believe in equal rights, then what do "women's rights," "gay rights," etc., mean? Either they are redundant or they are violations of the principle of equal rights for all.

~Thomas Sowell

It takes considerable knowledge just to realize the extent of your own ignorance.

~Thomas Sowell

Any politician who can be elected only by turning Americans against other Americans is too dangerous to be elected.

~Thomas Sowell

The next time some academics tell you how important diversity is, ask how many Republicans there are in their sociology department.

~Thomas Sowell

Liberals seem to assume that, if you don't believe in their particular political solutions, then you don't really care about the people that they claim to want to help.

~Thomas Sowell

I have never understood why it is "greed" to want to keep the money you have earned but not greed to want to take somebody else's money.

~Thomas Sowell

It is bad enough that so many people believe things without any evidence. What is worse is that some people have no conception of evidence and regard facts as just someone else's opinion.

~Thomas Sowell

The first lesson of economics is scarcity: there is never enough of anything to fully satisfy all those who want it. The first lesson of politics is to disregard the first lesson of economics.

~Thomas Sowell

Capitalism knows only one color: that color is green; all else is necessarily subservient to it, hence, race, gender and ethnicity cannot be considered within it.

~Thomas Sowell

The real minimum wage is zero.

~Thomas Sowell

The left takes its vision seriously - more seriously than it takes the rights of other people. They want to be our shepherds. But that requires us to be sheep.

~Thomas Sowell

In a democracy, we have always had to worry about the ignorance of the uneducated. Today we have to worry about the ignorance of people with college degrees.

~Thomas Sowell

Elections should be held on April 16th- the day after we pay our income taxes. That is one of the few things that might discourage politicians from being big spenders.

~Thomas Sowell

Would you bet your paycheck on a weather forecast for tomorrow? If not, then why should this country bet billions on global warming predictions that have even less foundation?

~Thomas Sowell

What 'multiculturalism' boils down to is that you can praise any culture in the world except Western culture - and you cannot blame any culture in the world except Western culture.

~Thomas Sowell

You cannot subsidize irresponsibility and expect people to become more responsible.

~Thomas Sowell

It's amazing how much panic one honest man can spread among a multitude of hypocrites.

~Thomas Sowell

If the battle for civilization comes down to the wimps versus the barbarians, the barbarians are going to win.

~Thomas Sowell

One of the most important reasons for studying history is that virtually every stupid idea that is in vogue today has been tried before and proved disastrous before, time and again.

~Thomas Sowell

The fact that so many successful politicians are such shameless liars is not only a reflection on them, it is also a reflection on us. When the

people want the impossible, only liars can satisfy.

~Thomas Sowell

When people get used to preferential treatment, equal treatment seems like discrimination.

~Thomas Sowell

Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it.

~Thomas Sowell

No society ever thrived because it had a large and growing class of parasites living off those who produce.

~Thomas Sowell

If you are not prepared to use force to defend civilization, then be prepared to accept barbarism.

~Thomas Sowell

The welfare state is not really about the welfare of the masses. It is about the egos of the elites.

~Thomas Sowell

Education is not merely neglected in many of our schools today, but is replaced to a great extent by ideological indoctrination.

~Thomas Sowell

The word 'racism' is like ketchup. It can be put on practically anything - and demanding evidence makes you a 'racist.'

~Thomas Sowell

The welfare state is the oldest con game in the world. First you take people's money away quietly, and then you give some of it back to them flamboyantly.

~Thomas Sowell

Freedom has cost too much blood and agony to be relinquished at the cheap price of rhetoric.

~Thomas Sowell

Too much of what is called 'education' is little more than an expensive isolation from reality.

~Thomas Sowell

Hyperinflation can take virtually your entire life's savings, without the government having to bother raising the official tax rate at all.

~Thomas Sowell

One of the sad signs of our times is that we have demonized those who produce, subsidized those who refuse to produce, and canonized those who complain.

~Thomas Sowell

The big divide in this country is not between Democrats and Republicans, or women and men, but between talkers and doers.

~Thomas Sowell

What exactly is your 'fair share' of what 'someone else' has worked for?

~Thomas Sowell

Morality, like other inputs into the social process, follows the law of diminishing returns- meaning ultimately, negative returns. People can be too moral.

~Thomas Sowell

Some of the most vocal critics of the way things are being done are people who have done nothing themselves, and whose only

contributions to society are their complaints and moral exhibitionism.

~Thomas Sowell

There are few things more dishonorable than misleading the young.

~Thomas Sowell

Unbounded morality ultimately becomes counterproductive even in terms of the same moral principles being sought. The law of diminishing returns applies to morality.

~Thomas Sowell

Much of the social history of the Western world, over the past three decades, has been a history of replacing what worked with what sounded good.

~Thomas Sowell

Balanced budget requirements seem more likely to produce accounting ingenuity than genuinely balanced budgets.

~Thomas Sowell

The problem isn't that Johnny can't read. The problem isn't even that Johnny can't think. The problem is that Johnny doesn't know what thinking is; he confuses it with feeling.

~Thomas Sowell

People who talk incessantly about "change" are often dogmatically set in their ways. They want to change other people.

~Thomas Sowell

We seem to be getting closer and closer to a situation where nobody is responsible for what they did but we are all responsible for what somebody else did.

~Thomas Sowell

There is no talent so ardently supported, nor generously rewarded, as the ability to convince parasites they are victims.

~Thomas Sowell

A passionate commitment to social justice is no substitute for knowing what the hell you're talking about.

~Thomas Sowell

The least productive people are usually the ones who are most in favor of holding meetings.

~Thomas Sowell

The real goal should be reduced government spending, rather than balanced budgets achieved by ever rising tax rates to cover ever rising spending.

~Thomas Sowell

If you truly believe in the brotherhood of man, then you must believe that blacks are just as capable of being racists as whites are.

~Thomas Sowell

In this era of political correctness, some people seem unaware that being squeamish about words can mean being blind to realities.

~Thomas Sowell

A friend from India told me that a countryman of his said: "I want to go to America. I want to see a country where poor people are fat."

~Thomas Sowell

There are only two ways of telling the complete truth - anonymously and posthumously.

~Thomas Sowell

It is amazing how many people seem to think that the government



exists to turn their prejudices into law.

~Thomas Sowell

Politics is the art of making your selfish desires seem like the national interest.

~Thomas Sowell

The great escape of our times is escape from personal responsibility for the consequences of one's own behavior.

~Thomas Sowell

There is nothing that politicians like better than handing out benefits to be paid for by someone else.

~Thomas Sowell

How are children supposed to learn to act like adults, when so much of what they see on television shows adults acting like children?

~Thomas Sowell

Tariffs that save jobs in the steel industry mean higher steel prices, which in turn means fewer sales of American steel products around the world and losses of far more jobs than are saved.

~Thomas Sowell

Perhaps people who are gushing over the Obama Cult today might do well to stop and think about what it would mean for their granddaughters to live under Sharia law.

~Thomas Sowell

There are 3 questions that would destroy most of the arguments of the Left. The first is - compared to what? The second is - at what cost? And the third is - what hard evidence do you have?

~Thomas Sowell

We enjoy freedom and the rule of law on which it depends, not because we deserve it, but because others before us put their lives on the line to defend it.

~Thomas Sowell

Most of the founders of this country had day jobs for years. They were not career politicians. ... We need leaders with experience in the real world, not experience in the phony world of politics.

~Thomas Sowell

The welfare state has always been judged by its good intentions, rather than its bad results.

~Thomas Sowell

Everyone may be called "comrade," but some comrades have the power of life and death over other comrades.

~Thomas Sowell

I am so old that I can remember when liberals were liberal - instead of being intolerant of anything and anybody that is not politically correct.

~Thomas Sowell

Helping those who have been struck by unforeseeable misfortunes is fundamentally different from making dependency a way of life.

~Thomas Sowell

Progress in general seems to hold little interest for people who call themselves 'progressives.' What arouses them are denunciations of social failures and accusations of wrong-doing.

~Thomas Sowell

The black family survived centuries of slavery and generations of Jim Crow, but it has disintegrated in the wake of the liberals' expansion of the welfare state.

~Thomas Sowell

Nobody is equal to anybody. Even the same man is not equal to himself on different days.

~Thomas Sowell

There is usually only a limited amount of damage that can be done by dull or stupid people. For creating a truly monumental disaster, you need people with high IQs.

~Thomas Sowell

In the long run, the greatest weapon of mass destruction is stupidity.

~Thomas Sowell

Envy plus rhetoric equals "social justice."

~Thomas Sowell

I'm so old that I can remember when most of the people promoting race hate were white.

~Thomas Sowell

The key fallacy of so called gun control laws is that such laws do not in fact control guns. They simply disarm law abiding citizens, while people bent on violence find firearms readily available.

~Thomas Sowell

The welfare state shields people from the consequences of their own mistakes, allowing irresponsibility to continue and to flourish among ever wider circles of people.

~Thomas Sowell

Although the big word on the left is 'compassion,' the big agenda on the left is dependency.

~Thomas Sowell

Despite a voluminous and often fervent literature on "income distribution," the cold fact is that most income is not distributed: It is earned.

~Thomas Sowell

Compassion is the use of public funds to buy votes

~Thomas Sowell

Intellect is not wisdom.

~Thomas Sowell

Envy is always referred to by its political alias, 'social justice.

~Thomas Sowell

You will never understand bureaucracies until you understand that for bureaucrats procedure is everything and outcomes are nothing.

~Thomas Sowell

There is nothing so bad that politics cannot make it worse.

~Thomas Sowell

Mystical references to society and its programs to help may warm the hearts of the gullible but what it really means is putting more power in the hands of bureaucrats.

~Thomas Sowell

Civil rights used to be about treating everyone the same. But today some people are so used to special treatment that equal treatment is considered to be discrimination.

~Thomas Sowell

Ideas are everywhere, but knowledge is rare.

~Thomas Sowell

Since this is an era when many people are concerned about 'fairness' and 'social justice,' what is your 'fair share' of what someone else has worked for?

~Thomas Sowell

Creating whole departments of ethnic, gender, and other 'studies' was part of the price of academic peace. All too often, these 'studies' are about propaganda rather than serious education.

~Thomas Sowell

To say that being non-judgmental is better than being judgmental is itself a judgment, and therefore a violation of principle.

~Thomas Sowell

Competition does a much more effective job than government at protecting consumers.

~Thomas Sowell

You need only visit campuses where whole departments feature soft courses preaching a sense of victimhood and resentment, and see the consequences in racial and ethnic polarization on campus.

~Thomas Sowell

You may have the right to live anyway you like, but you don't have a right to have other people like it. Respect it or pay for it.

~Thomas Sowell

Politeness and consideration for others is like investing pennies and getting dollars back.

~Thomas Sowell

Capitalism is not an 'ism.' It is closer to being the opposite of an 'ism,' because it is simply the freedom of ordinary people to make whatever economic transactions they can mutually agree to.

~Thomas Sowell

The real culprits are those who created a system that makes it dangerous to work and safe to loaf.

~Thomas Sowell

Ronald Reagan had a vision of America. Barack Obama has a vision of Barack Obama.

~Thomas Sowell

We might have been better off if the question of Obama's patriotism had been raised before he was first elected. Never should we ignore so many red flag warnings again.

~Thomas Sowell

Mistakes can be corrected by those who pay attention to facts but dogmatism will not be corrected by those who are wedded to a vision.

~Thomas Sowell

'Global warming' is just the latest in a long line of hysterical crusades to which we seem to be increasingly susceptible.

~Thomas Sowell

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