

Thorstein Veblen

Quotes

*Mean, Class, Beautiful, Effort, Business, Eye, Use, Wealth, Self, Community,
Law, Hands, Possession, Expression, Scales, Gentleman, Character, Names,
Politics, Waste*

Conspicuous consumption of valuable goods is a means of reputability to the gentleman of leisure.

~Thorstein Veblen

In point of substantial merit the law school belongs in the modern university no more than a school of fencing or dancing.

~Thorstein Veblen

Labor wants pride and joy in doing good work, a sense of making or doing something beautiful or useful - to be treated with dignity and respect as brother and sister.

~Thorstein Veblen

The thief or swindler who has gained great wealth by his delinquency has a better chance than the small thief of escaping the rigorous penalty of the law.

~Thorstein Veblen

Only individuals with an aberrant temperament can in the long run retain their self-esteem in the face of the disesteem of their fellows.

~Thorstein Veblen

The possession of wealth confers honor; it is an invidious distinction.

~Thorstein Veblen

The dog commends himself to our favor by affording play to our propensity for mastery

~Thorstein Veblen

Born in iniquity and conceived in sin, the spirit of nationalism has never ceased to bend human institutions to the service of dissension and distress.

~Thorstein Veblen

Socialism is a dead horse.

~Thorstein Veblen

The requirement of conspicuous wastefulness is... present as a constraining norm selectively shaping and sustaining our sense of what is beautiful.

~Thorstein Veblen

A protective tariff is a typical conspiracy in restraint of trade.

~Thorstein Veblen

All business sagacity reduces itself in the last analysis to judicious use of sabotage.

~Thorstein Veblen

Abstention from labor is the conventional evidence of wealth and is therefore the conventional mark of social standing.

~Thorstein Veblen

The addiction to sports, therefore, in a peculiar degree marks an arrested development in man's moral nature.

~Thorstein Veblen

The chief use of servants is the evidence they afford of the master's ability to pay.

~Thorstein Veblen

No one travelling on a business trip would be missed if he failed to arrive.

~Thorstein Veblen

Invention is the mother of necessity.

~Thorstein Veblen

The walking stick serves the purpose of an advertisement that the bearer's hands are employed otherwise than in useful effort, and it therefore has utility as an evidence of leisure.

~Thorstein Veblen

It is always sound business to take any obtainable net gain, at any cost, and at any risk to the rest of the community.

~Thorstein Veblen

Instead of investing in the goods as they pass between producer and consumer, as the merchant does, the businessman now invests in the processes of industry.

~Thorstein Veblen

In itself and in its consequences the life of leisure is beautiful and ennobling in all civilised men's eyes.

~Thorstein Veblen

There are few things that so touch us with instinctive revulsion as a breach of decorum.

~Thorstein Veblen

It frequently happens that an element of the standard of living which set out with being primarily wasteful, ends with becoming, in the apprehension of the consumer, a necessary of life.

~Thorstein Veblen

While the proximate ground of discrimination may be of another kind, still the pervading principle and abiding test of good breeding is the requirement of a substantial and patent waste of time.

~Thorstein Veblen

With the exception of the instinct of self-preservation, the propensity for emulation is probably the strongest and most alert and persistent of the

economic motives proper.

~Thorstein Veblen

From the ownership of women the concept of ownership extends itself to include the products of their industry, and so there arises the ownership of things as well as of persons.

~Thorstein Veblen

In aesthetic theory it might be extremely difficult, if not quite impracticable, to draw a line between the canon of classicism, or regard for the archaic, and the canon of beauty.

~Thorstein Veblen

The domestic life of most classes is relatively shabby, as compared with the *Ã©clat* of that overt portion of their life that is carried on before the eyes of observers.

~Thorstein Veblen

In order to stand well in the eyes of the community, it is necessary to come up to a certain, somewhat indefinite, conventional standard of wealth.

~Thorstein Veblen

So soon as the possession of property becomes the basis of popular esteem, therefore, it becomes also a requisite to that complacency which we call self-respect.

~Thorstein Veblen

Conservatism is the maintenance of conventions already in force.

~Thorstein Veblen

Beauty is commonly a gratification of our sense of costliness masquerading under the name of beauty.

~Thorstein Veblen

The first duty of an editor is to gauge the sentiment of his reader, and then to tell them what they like to believe.

~Thorstein Veblen

The visible imperfections of hand-wrought goods, being honorific, are accounted marks of superiority in point of beauty, or serviceability, or both.

~Thorstein Veblen

It is much more difficult to recede from a scale of expenditure once adopted than it is to extend the accustomed scale in response to an accession of wealth.

~Thorstein Veblen

A standard of living is of the nature of habit. ...it acts almost solely to prevent recession from a scale of conspicuous expenditure that has once become habitual.

~Thorstein Veblen

Conservatism, being an upper-class characteristic, is decorous; and conversely, innovation, being a lower-class phenomenon, is vulgar. ...Innovation is bad form.

~Thorstein Veblen

The machine technology takes no cognizance of conventionally established rules of precedence; it knows neither manners nor breeding and can make no use of any of the attributes of worth.

~Thorstein Veblen

Inherited aptitudes and traits of temperament count for quite as much as length of habituation in deciding what range of habits will come to dominate any individual's scheme of life.

~Thorstein Veblen

The aesthetic serviceability of objects of beauty is not greatly nor universally heightened by possession.

~Thorstein Veblen

Loud dress becomes offensive to people of taste, as evincing an undue desire to reach and impress the untrained sensibilities of the vulgar.

~Thorstein Veblen

The corset is? a mutilation, undergone for the purpose of lowering the subject's vitality and rendering her permanently and obviously unfit for work.

~Thorstein Veblen

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