

Thucydides Quotes

*Men, War, People, Thinking, Peace, Believe, Military, Winning, Inspirational,
Firsts, Long, Successful, Hands, School, Justice, Party, Enemy, Opportunity,
Strong, Safety*

The strong do what they have to do and the weak accept what they have to accept.

~Thucydides

The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding go out to meet it.

~Thucydides

We must remember that one man is much the same as another, and that he is best who is trained in the severest school.

~Thucydides

Self-control is the chief element in self-respect, and respect of self, in turn, is the chief element in courage.

~Thucydides

Most people, in fact, will not take the trouble in finding out the truth, but are much more inclined to accept the first story they hear.

~Thucydides

You should punish in the same manner those who commit crimes with those who accuse falsely.

~Thucydides

When will there be justice in Athens? There will be justice in Athens when those who are not injured are as outraged as those who are.

~Thucydides

We Greeks believe that a man who takes no part in public affairs is not merely lazy, but good for nothing

~Thucydides

Love of power, operating through greed and through personal ambition,

was the cause of all these evils.

~Thucydides

Hope is an expensive commodity. It makes better sense to be prepared.

~Thucydides

It is from the greatest dangers that the greatest glory is to be won.

~Thucydides

There is no need to suppose that human beings differ very much one from another; but it is true that the ones who come out on top are the ones who have been trained in the hardest school.

~Thucydides

The secret of happiness is freedom and the secret of freedom is courage.

~Thucydides

Human nature is the one constant through human history. It is always there.

~Thucydides

We secure our friends not by accepting favours but by doing them.

~Thucydides

When a man finds a conclusion agreeable, he accepts it without argument, but when he finds it disagreeable, he will bring against it all the forces of logic and reason.

~Thucydides

He who graduates the harshest school, succeeds.

~Thucydides

Ignorance is bold and knowledge reserved.

~Thucydides

Knowledge without understanding is useless.

~Thucydides

It is a common mistake in going to war to begin at the wrong end, to act first, and wait for disasters to discuss the matter.

~Thucydides

When tremendous dangers are involved, no one can be blamed for looking to his own interest.

~Thucydides

History is Philosophy teaching by example.

~Thucydides

Few things are brought to a successful issue by impetuous desire, but most by calm and prudent forethought.

~Thucydides

Amassing of wealth is an opportunity for good deeds, not hubris

~Thucydides

Peace is an armistice in a war that is continuously going on.

~Thucydides

I think the two things most opposed to good counsel are haste and passion; haste usually goes hand in hand with folly, passion with coarseness and narrowness of mind.

~Thucydides

The sufferings that fate inflicts on us should be borne with patience, what enemies inflict with manly courage.

~Thucydides

And where the rewards for merit are greatest, there are found the best citizens.

~Thucydides

For so remarkably perverse is the nature of man that he despises whoever courts him, and admires whoever will not bend before him.

~Thucydides

In a democracy, someone who fails to get elected to office can always console himself with the thought that there was something not quite fair about it.

~Thucydides

When one is deprived of ones liberty, one is right in blaming not so much the man who puts the shackles on as the one who had the power to prevent him, but did not use it.

~Thucydides

So little trouble do men take in the search after truth; so readily do they accept whatever comes first to hand.

~Thucydides

Remember that this greatness was won by men with courage, with knowledge of their duty, and with a sense of honor in action.

~Thucydides

They are surely to be esteemed the bravest spirits who, having the clearest sense of both the pains and pleasures of life, do not on that account shrink from danger.

~Thucydides

You shouldn't feel sorry for the lifestyle you haven't tasted, but for the

one you are about to lose

~Thucydides

We Greeks are lovers of the beautiful, yet simple in our tastes, and we cultivate the mind without loss of manliness.

~Thucydides

It is men who make a city, not walls or ships.

~Thucydides

Mankind apparently find it easier to drive away adversity than to retain prosperity.

~Thucydides

The peoples of the Mediterranean began to emerge from barbarism when they learned to cultivate the olive and the vine.

~Thucydides

The strength of an Army lies in strict discipline and undeviating obedience to its officers.

~Thucydides

Three of the gravest failings, want of sense, of courage, or of vigilance.

~Thucydides

concessions to adversaries only end in self reproach, and the more strictly they are avoided the greater will be the chance of security.

~Thucydides

It is useless to attack men who could not be controlled even if conquered, while failure would leave us in an even worse position.

~Thucydides

I am not blaming those who are resolved to rule, only those who show

an even greater readiness to submit.

~Thucydides

The secret of freedom, courage.

~Thucydides

Happiness depends on being free, and freedom depends on being courageous.

~Thucydides

Be convinced that to be happy means to be free and that to be free means to be brave. Therefore do not take lightly the perils of war.

~Thucydides

Of all manifestations of power, restraint impresses men most.

~Thucydides

Indeed it is generally the case that men are readier to call rogues clever than simpletons honest, and are ashamed of being the second as they are proud of being the first.

~Thucydides

speculation is carried on in safety, but, when it comes to action, fear causes failure.

~Thucydides

War is a matter not so much of arms as of money.

~Thucydides

It is a general rule of human nature that people despise those who treat them well, and look up to those who make no concessions.

~Thucydides

And it is certain that those who do not yield to their equals, who keep

terms with their superiors, and are moderate towards their inferiors, on the whole succeed best.

~Thucydides

Don't confuse meaning with truth.

~Thucydides

For the love of gain would reconcile the weaker to the dominion of the stronger, and the possession of capital enabled the more powerful to reduce the smaller cities to subjection.

~Thucydides

An avowal of poverty is no disgrace to any man; to make no effort to escape it is indeed disgraceful.

~Thucydides

They whose minds are least sensitive to calamity, and whose hands are most quick to meet it, are the greatest men and the greatest communities.

~Thucydides

It is the habit of mankind to entrust to careless hope what they long for, and to use sovereign reason to thrust aside what they do not desire

~Thucydides

Abstinence from all injustice to other first-rate powers is a greater tower of strength than anything that can be gained by the sacrifice of permanent tranquillity for an apparent temporary advantage.

~Thucydides

For men naturally despise those who court them, but respect those who do not give way to them.

~Thucydides

It is frequently a misfortune to have very brilliant men in charge of affairs. They expect too much of ordinary men.

~Thucydides

For they had learned that true safety was to be found in long previous training, and not in eloquent exhortations uttered when they were going into action.

~Thucydides

Right, as the world goes, is only in question between equals in power, while the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.

~Thucydides

He passes through life most securely who has least reason to reproach himself with complaisance toward his enemies.

~Thucydides

I dread our own mistakes more than the enemy's intentions.

~Thucydides

One's sense of honor is the only thing that does not grow old, and the last pleasure, when one is worn out with age, is not, as the poet said, making money, but having the respect of one's fellow men.

~Thucydides

People get into the habit of entrusting the things they desire to wishful thinking, and subjecting things they don't desire to exhaustive thinking

~Thucydides

The growth of the power of Athens, and the alarm which this inspired in Sparta, made war inevitable.

~Thucydides

I have written my work, not as an essay which is to win the applause of

the moment, but as a possession for all time

~Thucydides

Men's indignation, it seems, is more excited by legal wrong than by violent wrong; the first looks like being cheated by an equal, the second like being compelled by a superior.

~Thucydides

Hatred also is short lived; but that which makes the splendor of the present and the glory of the future remains forever unforgotten here we bless your simplicity but do not envy your folly.

~Thucydides

Hope, danger's comforter

~Thucydides

Wealth to us is not mere material for vainglory but an opportunity for achievement; and poverty we think it no disgrace to acknowledge but a real degradation to make no effort to overcome.

~Thucydides

Wars spring from unseen and generally insignificant causes, the first outbreak being often but an explosion of anger.

~Thucydides

The cause of all these evils was the lust for power arising from greed and ambition; and from these passions proceeded the violence of parties once engaged in contention.

~Thucydides

Now the only sure basis of an alliance is for each party to be equally afraid of the other

~Thucydides

Those who have experienced good and bad luck many times have every reason to be skeptical of successes

~Thucydides

Stories happen to those who tell them.

~Thucydides

when night came on, the Macedonians and the barbarian crowd suddenly took fright in one of those mysterious panics to which great armies are liable

~Thucydides

The Thracian people, like the bloodiest of the barbarians, being ever most murderous when it has nothing to fear.

~Thucydides

The whole earth is the sepulchre of famous men.

~Thucydides

Those who really deserve praise are the people who, while human enough to enjoy power, nevertheless pay more attention to justice than they are compelled to do by their situation.

~Thucydides

Men do not rest content with parrying the attacks of a superior, but often strike the first blow to prevent the attack being made.

~Thucydides

still hope leads men to venture; and no one ever yet put himself in peril without the inward conviction that he would succeed in his design.

~Thucydides

we know that there can never be any solid friendship between individuals, or union between communities that is worth the name,

unless the parties be persuaded of each others honesty

~Thucydides

But the prize for courage will surely be awarded most justly to those who best know the difference between hardship and pleasure and yet are never tempted to shrink from danger.

~Thucydides

Full of hopes beyond their power though not beyond their ambition.

~Thucydides

Contempt for an assailant is best shown by bravery in action.

~Thucydides

...knowing the secret of happiness to be freedom, and the secret of freedom a brave heart, not idly to stand aside from the enemy's onset.

~Thucydides

In a word I claim that our city as a whole is an education to Greece.

~Thucydides

What made the war inevitable was the growth of Athenian power and the fear which this caused in Sparta.

~Thucydides

In generosity we are equally singular, acquiring our friends by conferring, not by receiving, favours.

~Thucydides

Of the gods we believe, and of men we know, that by a necessary law of their nature they rule wherever they can.

~Thucydides

I have often before now been convinced that a democracy is incapable

of empire.

~Thucydides

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