

# Tony Benn Quotes

*People, Thinking, Politics, Party, War, Years, Democracy, Believe, Mean,  
Political, World, Government, Support, Real, President, Ideas, Children,  
Community, Christian, Mistake*

There is no final victory, as there is no final defeat. There is just the same battle. To be fought, over and over again. So toughen up, bloody toughen up.

~Tony Benn

The way a government treats refugees is very instructive.

~Tony Benn

If we can find the money to kill people, we can find the money to help people.

~Tony Benn

I think there are two ways in which people are controlled - first of all frighten people and secondly demoralize them.

~Tony Benn

Britain today is suffering from galloping obsolescence.

~Tony Benn

The Labour party has never been a socialist party, although there have always been socialists in it - a bit like Christians in the Church of England.

~Tony Benn

We are paying a heavy political price for 20 years in which, as a party, we have played down our criticism of capitalism and soft-peddled our advocacy of socialism

~Tony Benn

The Tory party is the enemy of democracy.

~Tony Benn

I think very often the boat-rockers turn out to be the people who are building the craft

~Tony Benn

The flag of racialism which has been hoisted in Wolverhampton is beginning to look like the one that fluttered 25 years ago over Dachau and Belsen.

~Tony Benn

I did not enter the Labour Party 47 years ago to have our manifesto written by Dr Mori, Dr Gallup and Mr Harris

~Tony Benn

No medieval monarch in the whole of British history ever had such power as every modern British Prime Minister has in his or her hands. Nor does any American President have power approaching this

~Tony Benn

The one thing that is absolutely essential is that there shouldn't be any governmental control [of the media] directly or indirectly.

~Tony Benn

Most things in life are moments of pleasure and a lifetime of embarrassment; photography is a moment of embarrassment and a lifetime of pleasure.

~Tony Benn

I think democracy is the most revolutionary thing in the world, because if you have power you use it to meet the needs of you and your community.

~Tony Benn

The Marxist analysis has got nothing to do with what happened in Stalin's Russia: it's like blaming Jesus Christ for the Inquisition in Spain.

~Tony Benn

Broadcasting is really too important to be left to the broadcasters.

~Tony Benn

Encouragement is the most important thing in the world for young people, rather than league tables, which demoralise everyone.

~Tony Benn

Hope is the fuel of progress and fear is the prison in which you put yourself.

~Tony Benn

Through talk, we tamed kings, restrained tyrants, averted revolution

~Tony Benn

It's the same each time with progress. First they ignore you, then they say you're mad, then dangerous, then there's a pause and then you can't find anyone who disagrees with you.

~Tony Benn

A faith is something you die for; a doctrine is something you kill for; there is all the difference in the world.

~Tony Benn

I try to operate on two unconnected levels. One on the practical level of action in which I am extremely cautious and conservative. The second is the realm of ideas where I try to be very free

~Tony Benn

An educated, healthy and confident nation is harder to govern.

~Tony Benn

All war represents a failure of diplomacy.

~Tony Benn

There is no moral difference between a stealth bomber and a suicide bomber. Both kill innocent people for political reasons.

~Tony Benn

I am on the right wing of the middle of the road and with a strong radical bias.

~Tony Benn

I'd rather die on my feet making a speech than die of Alzheimer's - and that's what I'm planning to do.

~Tony Benn

I believe the more difficult the circumstances, the more people will be inclined to trust those in charge at the moment.

~Tony Benn

The House of Lords is the British Outer Mongolia for retired politicians.

~Tony Benn

The people who have sacrificed their view in order to get to the top have very often left no footprints in the sands of time.

~Tony Benn

The police are controlled by the whites, the media are controlled by the whites, the army's controlled by the whites, what hope is there for change? Administration changes from underneath.

~Tony Benn

Choice depends on the freedom to choose and if you are shackled with debt you don't have the freedom to choose.

~Tony Benn

Thanks to the tabloid campaigns I have many death threats and I was very pleased to get another one the other day.

~Tony Benn

I've made every mistake - but mistakes are how you learn.

~Tony Benn

When you think of the number of men in the world who hate each other, why, when two men love each other, does the church split?

~Tony Benn

The New York Times said, "There are two superpowers in the world: the United States and the world peace movement."

~Tony Benn

If you file your waste-paper basket for fifty years, you have a public library.

~Tony Benn

When I think of Cool Britannia I think of old people dying of hypothermia.

~Tony Benn

Making mistakes is how you learn.

~Tony Benn

We are not just here to manage capitalism but to change society and to define its finer values.

~Tony Benn

Some of the jam we thought was for tomorrow, we've already eaten

~Tony Benn

If I rescued a child from drowning, the press would no doubt headline the story: 'Benn grabs child

~Tony Benn

I am not a reluctant peer but a persistent commoner

~Tony Benn

The peace movement here is the biggest thing in human history.

~Tony Benn

The crisis that we inherit when we come to power will be the occasion for fundamental change and not the excuse for postponing it

~Tony Benn

I now want more time to devote to politics and more freedom to do so.

~Tony Benn

Middle class Labour leaders are recaptured by the establishment when they die.

~Tony Benn

I see myself as an old man and an unqualified teacher to the nation. I think being a teacher is probably the most important thing you can be in politics.

~Tony Benn

I think if journalists were responsible for international policy we'd have a nuclear war every week.

~Tony Benn

Through me the energy policy of the whole Common Market is being held up. Without opening old wounds, it pleases me no end.

~Tony Benn

I have had the advantage of a radical Christian upbringing

~Tony Benn

If ever I left the House of Commons it would be because I wanted to

spend more time on politics.

~Tony Benn

The exhaustion of old age is something people who are younger don't fully appreciate.

~Tony Benn

When you get to No 10, you've climbed there on a little ladder called 'the status quo'. And when you are there, the status quo looks very good

~Tony Benn

Workers are not going to be fobbed off with a few shares...or by a carbon copy of the German system of co-determination.

~Tony Benn

My alternative to American superpower is the UN and I might add when China becomes the worlds greatest superpower you will need it too.

~Tony Benn

I really think in the Commonwealth of Europe you should have Russia. I listed a hundred countries that would be in it and it would then be a really European United Nations.

~Tony Benn

It's lovely to be old. I've got age, experience and zero personal ambition. No body could corrupt me by anything: possibly a job in the government, a peerage, a quango, I don't want any of it.

~Tony Benn

Democracy is not just voting every 5 years and watching 'Big Brother' in between and wondering why nothing happens. Democracy is what we do and say where we live and work

~Tony Benn



The one thing that unites Sunni, Shiites and Kurds is they want the Americans out.

~Tony Benn

I'm a democrat - I don't support Bush, I don't support Blair, I don't support Bin Laden.

~Tony Benn

The thought that my mother would suddenly be a foreigner would upset me very much.

~Tony Benn

Having served in eleven Parliaments, it would be difficult to describe this as a maiden speech. It would be like Elizabeth Taylor appearing at her next wedding in a white gown.

~Tony Benn

It is tempting to deny, but if you deny you confirm what you won't deny.

~Tony Benn

Britain is the only colony in the British Empire and it is up to us now to liberate ourselves.

~Tony Benn

America is now the dominant force and the only countervailing force is Europe.

~Tony Benn

In the end, the tragedy of Harold Wilson was that you couldn't believe a word he said

~Tony Benn

I've been a member of the Labour Party sixty five years, and I remain in it, but I think it's all about campaigning for justice and peace, and if you

do that, you get a lot of support.

~Tony Benn

It is obvious I shall have to abandon my hopes of getting the Queen's head off the stamps.

~Tony Benn

The Internet is only the street corner meeting on a big scale

~Tony Benn

Anyone from abroad will tell you that it is the class system that really lies at the root of our problems, economic and industrial. The House of Lords symbolises that.

~Tony Benn

Undoubtedly the war with Iraq was a tragedy. I think it was also a crime.

~Tony Benn

There is no connection between imperialism and democracy. I mean when we ran an Empire which we did when I was born, there was no democracy anywhere.

~Tony Benn

I think to understand how the democratic process works is the most important thing, so people don't get frightened by it, and get put off, and give up.

~Tony Benn

The Civil Service is a bit like a rusty weathercock. It moves with opinion then it stays where it is until another wind moves it in a different direction

~Tony Benn

If you want your debt lifted you've got to sell your school and your hospitals.

~Tony Benn

Bush is actually encouraging the spread of nuclear weapons because the one thing I do know is if Iran did have nuclear weapons they wouldn't be threatening them.

~Tony Benn

Food movement organic food stores supplies health food products and facilitate with instrumental support in organic agriculture.

~Tony Benn

The 1973 Labour Conference will have before it the most radical programme the Party has prepared since 1945.

~Tony Benn

An MP is the only job where you have 70,000 employers, and only one employee.

~Tony Benn

Marxism is now a world faith and must be allowed to enter into a continuous dialogue with other world faiths, including religious faiths

~Tony Benn

She believes in something. It is an old-fashioned idea

~Tony Benn

[I am against] the Treaty of Rome which entrenches laissez faire as its philosophy and chooses bureaucracy as its administrative method.

~Tony Benn

There is good and bad in all of us and the Church uses the idea of original sin to control us by saying that, if we do not obey the bishops,

we will rot in Hell.

~Tony Benn

The peace movement didn't stop the Iraq but I think that Blair would not be able to go along and support an Iranian war.

~Tony Benn

I am a public library

~Tony Benn

I don't want to commit myself in advocating a definite republican constitution which will get bogged down with the question of who would elect the President and when.

~Tony Benn

When we have a majority we will do it. I think the days of the Lords are quite genuinely numbered.

~Tony Benn

In developing our industrial strategy for the period ahead, we have the benefit of much experience. Almost everything has been tried at least once

~Tony Benn

I do not share the general view that market forces are the basis of personal liberty.

~Tony Benn

It is wholly wrong to blame Marx for what was done in his name, as it is to blame Jesus for what was done in his

~Tony Benn

If you're going to make sense of politics you have to have a historical perspective and also recognise that you have to work with people you

don't agree with.

~Tony Benn

Britain's continuing membership of the Community would mean the end of Britain as a completely self-governing nation...

~Tony Benn

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