

# Tony Judt Quotes

*World, War, People, Thinking, Writing, Ideas, Men, Past, Citizens, Country,  
Israel, Political, Today, Military, Perfect, Government, Fall, Social,  
Responsibility, Believe*

Love consists in leaving the loved one space to be themselves while providing the security within which that self may flourish.

~Tony Judt

We know what things cost but have no idea what they are worth.

~Tony Judt

Unlike memory, which confirms and reinforces itself, history contributes to the disenchantment of the world.

~Tony Judt

Israel today is bad for the Jews.

~Tony Judt

Social democracy does not represent an ideal future; it does not even represent the ideal past.

~Tony Judt

If active or concerned citizens forfeit politics, they thereby abandon their society to its most mediocre and venal public servants

~Tony Judt

If we remain grotesquely unequal, we shall lose all sense of fraternity: and fraternity, for all its fatuity as a political objective, turns out to be the necessary condition of politics itself.

~Tony Judt

Words can make the illness a subject I can master, and not one that one simply emotes over.

~Tony Judt

Judaism for me is a sensibility of collective self-questioning and uncomfortable truth-telling. I feel a debt of responsibility to this past. It is why I am Jewish.

~Tony Judt

As citizens of a free society, we have a duty to look critically at our world. But if we think we know what is wrong, we must act upon that knowledge.

~Tony Judt

How should we begin to make amends for raising a generation obsessed with the pursuit of material wealth and indifferent to so much else?

~Tony Judt

The military system of a nation is not an independent section of the social system but an aspect of its totality.

~Tony Judt

But I'm English. We don't do uplifting.

~Tony Judt

After 1945 what happened was rather the opposite: with one major exception boundaries stayed broadly intact and people were moved instead.

~Tony Judt

We are not merely historians but also and always citizens.

~Tony Judt

I can still boss people around. I can still write. I can still read. I can still eat, and I can still have very strong views.

~Tony Judt

Today, neither Left nor Right can find their footing.

~Tony Judt

I do think we're on the edge of a terrifying world, and that many young people know that but don't know how to talk about it.

~Tony Judt

Reality is a powerful solvent.

~Tony Judt

Above all, the thrall in which an ideology holds a people is best measured by their collective inability to imagine alternatives.

~Tony Judt

My history writing was based on what I saw in strange, exotic places rather than just reading books.

~Tony Judt

I don't much mind being expelled from communities.

~Tony Judt

If words fall into disrepair, what will substitute? They are all we have

~Tony Judt

Love, it seems to me, is that condition in which one is most contentedly oneself.

~Tony Judt

History always happens to us and nothing ever stays the same.

~Tony Judt

The pleasures of mental agility are much overstated, inevitably - as it now appears to me - by those not exclusively dependent upon them.

~Tony Judt

The East European small countries have a sense of betrayal, of having been forgotten by Western leaders.

~Tony Judt

Apparently, the line you take on Israel trumps everything else in life.

~Tony Judt

There is nothing to be said for being crippled. You don't see the world better or clearer, nor do you develop some special set of skills by way of compensation.

~Tony Judt

I don't believe that one should have one-size-fits-all moral rules for international political action.

~Tony Judt

All modern U.S. presidents are perforce politicians, prisoners of their past pronouncements, their party, their constituency, and their colleagues.

~Tony Judt

It does irritate me when I am described as a controversialist and commentator on Israel.

~Tony Judt

I've lost count of the interviews I've done about my illness and its relationship to my ideas and writing.

~Tony Judt

I'm not sure I've learned anything new about life; but I've had to think harder about death and what comes after for other people.

~Tony Judt

I know exactly how and where I am going to die. The only question is when.

~Tony Judt

I grew up in a world where the social democratic state was the norm, not the exception.

~Tony Judt

I was born accidentally. I lived accidentally in London. We nearly migrated to New Zealand. So much of my life has been a product of chance, I can't see a meaning in it at all.

~Tony Judt

At a certain point, to remain slightly tangential to wherever I was became a way of 'being Tony': by not being anything that everyone else was.

~Tony Judt

I don't believe in an afterlife. I don't believe in a single or multiple godhead. I respect people who do, but I don't believe it myself.

~Tony Judt

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