

W. Averell Harriman

Quotes

*War, Europe, Eyebrows, People, Country, Russia, Thinking, Eastern Europe,
Economic, Bankers, Leadership, Numbers, Agreement, Gold, Determined,
Broken, Military, Brutality, Drink, Lease*

Conferences at the top level are always courteous. Name-calling is left to the foreign ministers.

~W. Averell Harriman

I always read everything on the desks of people I went to see in Moscow, London, Paris I found it quite useful.

~W. Averell Harriman

Yet the whole preamble of the second authorization act for the Marshall Plan showed the direction Congress was ready to take about breaking down barriers within Europe.

~W. Averell Harriman

Actually I'd had a certain amount of experience in Europe in the inter-war period, as a banker, and I was also a member of the Board of Directors of the International Chamber of Commerce.

~W. Averell Harriman

As far as the Russians were concerned, I felt the reverse; they had adequate gold, if they wanted to buy, and they weren't dependent upon international trade. I felt they were more self-sufficient.

~W. Averell Harriman

Roosevelt was determined to stop Stalin from taking over Eastern Europe. He thought they finally had an agreement on Poland. Before Roosevelt died, he realized that Stalin had broken his agreement.

~W. Averell Harriman

Americans wanted to settle all our difficulties with Russia and then go to the movies and drink Coke.

~W. Averell Harriman

Roosevelt was the one who had the vision to change our policy from isolationism to world leadership. That was a terrific revolution. Our

country's never been the same since.

~W. Averell Harriman

I think Stalin was afraid of Roosevelt. Whenever Roosevelt spoke, he sort of watched him with a certain awe. He was afraid of Roosevelt's influence in the world.

~W. Averell Harriman

We became convinced that, regardless of Stalin's awful brutality and his reign of terror, he was a great war leader. Without Stalin, they never would have held.

~W. Averell Harriman

There's a myth that Roosevelt gave Stalin Eastern Europe. I was with Roosevelt every day at Yalta.

~W. Averell Harriman

The Russians often took advantage of Lend-Lease.

~W. Averell Harriman

Poland, of course, was the key country. I remember Stalin telling me that the plains of Poland were the invasion route of Europe to Russia and always had been, and therefore he had to control Poland.

~W. Averell Harriman

The war changed everybody's attitude. We became international almost overnight.

~W. Averell Harriman

No foreign policy will stick unless the American people are behind it. And unless Congress understands it. And unless Congress understands it, the American people aren't going to understand it.

~W. Averell Harriman

The Russians obtained a number of plants under Lend-Lease, which had been authorized by Washington, that I thought were not justified for their war effort. They wanted them for postwar use.

~W. Averell Harriman

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