

# Zygmunt Bauman Quotes

*People, Thinking, World, Differences, Mean, Years, Order, Way, Needs, Past,  
Choices, Taken, Strong, Would Be, Numbers, Two, Believe, Cutting, Jobs,  
Writing*

You judge a society by the decency of living of the weakest

~Zygmunt Bauman

Power, in a nutshell, is the ability to get things done, and politics is the ability to decide which things need to be done.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Unlike 'real relationships', 'virtual relationships' are easy to enter and to exit. They look smart and clean, feel easy to use, when compared with the heavy, slow-moving, messy real stuff.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Questioning the ostensibly unquestionable premises of our way of life is arguably the most urgent of services we owe our fellow humans and ourselves.

~Zygmunt Bauman

For one to be free there must be at least two.

~Zygmunt Bauman

You are a stranger, I am a stranger, we all remain strangers, and nevertheless we can like or even love each other.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The rationality of the ruled is always the weapon of the rulers.

~Zygmunt Bauman

We belong to talking, not what talking is about... Stop talking - and you are out. Silence equals exclusion.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The task for sociology is to come to the help of the individual. We have to be in service of freedom. It is something we have lost sight of.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The value of other people is that they have something unique to offer.

~Zygmunt Bauman

A whole world is taken to the grave with the dead person; each one of us is unique and unrepeatable.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The planet is full and we will be rubbing shoulders forever. There is nowhere else to go.

~Zygmunt Bauman

There are other ways of finding satisfaction, recipes for human happiness, enjoyment, dignified and meaningful, gratifying life, than increased consumption that increases production.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Like the phoenix, socialism is reborn from every pile of ashes left day in, day out, by burnt-out human dreams and charred hopes.

~Zygmunt Bauman

When people think, rightly or wrongly, that marriage is forever, they are stimulated to seek and find a resolution, a modus vivendi, whenever they quarrel.

~Zygmunt Bauman

We are already and will remain all in the same boat.

~Zygmunt Bauman

This awful concept of underclass is really horrifying. You're not lower class, you are excluded - outside.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Relationships, like cars, should undergo regular services to make sure they are still roadworthy.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Madness is no madness when shared.

~Zygmunt Bauman

In our world of rampant individualisation, relationships are mixed blessings. They vacillate between a sweet dream and a nightmare, and there is no telling when one turns into the other.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The risk of the Holocaust is not that it will be forgotten, but that it will be embalmed and surrounded by monuments and used to absolve all future sins.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Civilisation, the orderly world in which we live, is frail. We are skating on thin ice. There is a fear of a collective disaster. Terrorism, genocide, flu, tsunamis.

~Zygmunt Bauman

You cannot have a cake and eat it too. Either you eat it, or you have it.

~Zygmunt Bauman

I think that the essential instruction of the Bible is very much topical. The sole problem is that with every change of historical setting, you need to readjust the interpretation of the message.

~Zygmunt Bauman

As far as love is concerned, possession, power, fusion and disenchantment are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Today's youth have been cast in a condition of liminal drift, with no way of knowing whether it is transitory or permanent.

~Zygmunt Bauman

I was leftwing, I am leftwing, and I will die leftwing.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Why do I write books? Why do I think? Why should I be passionate? Because things could be different, they could be made better.

~Zygmunt Bauman

What has been cut apart cannot be glued back together. Abandon all hope of totality, future as well as past, you who enter the world of fluid modernity.

~Zygmunt Bauman

In a consumer society, people wallow in things, fascinating, enjoyable things. If you define your value by the things you acquire and surround yourself with, being excluded is humiliating.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The consumerist culture insists that swearing eternal loyalty to anything and anybody is imprudent, since in this world new glittering opportunities crop up daily.

~Zygmunt Bauman

If only evil things are done by evil people... Life would be then safe, morally elevated, cozy - we know how to spot evil people and what to do with them to pay for their crimes.

~Zygmunt Bauman

'I am insecure' means: I can't cope on my own. The odds are overwhelming. I can't resist them on my own. I need us to join forces, stand shoulder to shoulder, march hand in hand.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Never paint epic canvases during the revolution, because the revolutionaries will tear them apart.

~Zygmunt Bauman

For intellectual authority, the appropriate version of Descartes 's cogito would be today: I am talked about, therefore I am.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Avoid the crowd, avoid mass audiences, keep your own counsel, which is the counsel of philosophy of wisdom you can acquire and make your own.

~Zygmunt Bauman

I did not and do not think of the solidity-liquidity conundrum as a dichotomy; I view those two conditions as a couple locked, inseparably, in a dialectical bond.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The so called "progress," "time marching on," is not a straight line, but a pendulum.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Security without freedom means slavery.

~Zygmunt Bauman

An ideal and flawless freedom, "complete freedom", enabling without disabling, is I believe an oxymoron in metaphysics as much as it is an unreachable goal in social life.

~Zygmunt Bauman

While a few poor countries are catching up with the rich world, the differences between the richest and poorest individuals around the globe are huge and likely growing.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Alas, you don't need monsters for monstrous deeds to be accomplished.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The art of walking on quicksand is still beyond me. What I learned is only how difficult this art is to master and how hard people need to struggle to learn it.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Jews and Gypsies were well-nigh the only Diasporas in 19th century Europe. Now go to London, it is a collection of Diasporas.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Being condemned by fate to perpetual togetherness, we better make that shared fate into our shared, consciously and gladly embraced, destiny.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Where we hope to land (and where we do land, though only for a fleeting moment, enough for tired wings to catch the wind anew) is a 'there' which we thought of little and knew of even less.

~Zygmunt Bauman

People do not choose a government that will bring the market within their control; instead, the market in every way conditions governments to bring the people within its control.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Our bad luck is that our writing is linear, while we think circularly.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Ingeniously, capitalism discovered that the economy may be moved not by satisfying existing needs, but by creating new ones.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Man is in his short sojourn on earth equal to God in His eternity.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Happiness needs one-upmanship.

~Zygmunt Bauman

As to describing me as an outsider throughout, and an outsider through and through - I have no reason to disagree.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The inequality between the world's individuals is staggering.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The more security we have, the less freedom there is; more freedom means less security. You can hardly enough of both at the same time.

~Zygmunt Bauman

All the skills which I have acquired during my sociological life allow me to diagnose and explain what is going on, but not to predict what will happen.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The problem of insufficient security was, until quite recently, a matter of a minority; now it is becoming very quickly a majority matter. That is a major change.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Fully "biodegradable" structures are nowadays the ideal and the standards to which most, if not all structures, struggle to measure up.

~Zygmunt Bauman

I guess my claustrophobia is incurable - feeling, as I tend to, ill at ease in any closed room, and always tempted to find out what is on the other side of the door.



~Zygmunt Bauman

What is assumed to be the materialisation of the inner truth of the self is in fact an idealisation of the material - objectified - traces of consumer choices.

~Zygmunt Bauman

When opting out from partnership is so easy, every minor disagreement is perceived as a major catastrophe and irreparable disaster.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The task is to keep the lost opportunities of the past alive.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Most young people today prefer just to move in together and stay together as long, but no longer, as satisfaction lasts.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The proof of my Jewishness is that iniquities done by Israel pain me much more than iniquities perpetrated by any other country.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The Bible provides unity without imposing uniformity, without prohibiting change; it is a standing invitation to thinking and to take responsibilities.

~Zygmunt Bauman

We are always confronted with choice.

~Zygmunt Bauman

At the turn of the twenty-first century, the richest 5 percent of people receive one-third of total global income, as much as the poorest 80 percent.

~Zygmunt Bauman

In Celan's words a Jew is "a man with a little book under the shoulder."  
We are the keepers of tradition.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Everybody is in trouble, including the up-and-coming economic miracles of China, Brazil or India.

~Zygmunt Bauman

With my tongue in one cheek only, I'd suggest that were our palaeolithic ancestors to discover the peer-review dredger, we would be still sitting in caves.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Every interpretation is but an introduction to another interpretation, and that is how Talmud pages are printed.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Throughout early modernity there were very strong pressures on Jews to assimilate. Assimilating meant cutting your ties with the community of origin.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The secret of every durable ... social system is the recasting of 'functional prerequisites' into behavioral motives for actors.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Community is like a big family.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Security is the slogan for people who feel unable to function by their own means.

~Zygmunt Bauman

With every death, a world is disappearing.

~Zygmunt Bauman

What is happening now is that the number of people who are not strong enough or do not feel strong enough to decide to live without the security provided by the community or the state, is going up.

~Zygmunt Bauman

I worry about the Israeli moral standard, Israeli humanity.

~Zygmunt Bauman

The question of identity has separated from the issue of 'assimilation', having lost much of its drama and become, so to speak, a secular problem.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Christ could not create a codified 'Christian ethics'; such a thing would be a contradiction in terms.

~Zygmunt Bauman

In Montreal, where I taught in 1970, I met many people. The only ones who said to me they were Canadians, were Jews. All the rest were Scots, Irish, English, French, Swedes.

~Zygmunt Bauman

I am not a prophet; I cannot predict what will happen.

~Zygmunt Bauman

It is easy now to break the vows. It is even easier to part your ways if vows haven't been taken.

~Zygmunt Bauman

"Community" came to be seen as a chat-group: you switch on as long as your pleasure lasts, then push another button and switch off. Very easy to go in and out, join and leave.

~Zygmunt Bauman

A reliable assurance of the right and ability to dismantle the constructed structure must be offered, before the job of construction starts in earnest.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Security was the demand which set in motion labour movements in history; trade unions, friendly societies, consumer cooperatives were all about compensating for the impotence of individual resistance.

~Zygmunt Bauman

We are living at the moment in revolutionary times. Argentineans probably are more aware of it than anybody else, because they tasted it several years earlier - but now the whole world is in trouble.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Freedom is the slogan of the strong, who feel self confident, self sufficient to do it alone.

~Zygmunt Bauman

Freedom without security portends chaos, perpetual anxiety and fear.

~Zygmunt Bauman

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