

# **2000+ Libertarian Quotes**

Harry Browne

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Browne.

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To  
the Supporters of the  
1996 and 2000 Libertarian  
Harry Browne for President Campaigns  
With  
Gratitude and Appreciation

## Also by Harry Browne

How You Can Profit from the Coming Devaluation, 1970  
How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World, 1973, 1997, 2007  
You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis, 1974  
The Complete Guide to Swiss Banks, 1976  
New Profits from the Monetary Crisis, 1978  
Inflation-Proofing Your Investments (with Terry Coxon), 1981  
Investment Rule #1, 1985  
Why the Best-Laid Investment Plans Usually Go Wrong, 1987  
The Economic Time Bomb, 1989  
Why Government Doesn't Work, 1995, 2003  
Fail-Safe Investing, 1999, 2003  
The Great Libertarian Offer, 2000, 2006  
Liberty A to Z, 2004

## Introduction

Harry was fond of quotations. Over the years he purchased numerous quotation books and CDs, compiled file folders full of interesting quotes, and collected quotes in various category files on his computer. This book contains 2,048 quotes mostly concerning liberty, government, political parties, and methods of selling the ideas of liberty. Surprisingly, none are by Harry Browne! Rather this is a collection of over two thousand pithy libertarian quotations and comments, mostly by famous people, that will help you sell libertarian ideas to others. (Sources that include vital statistics [e.g. B. 1915 or 1915-1987] were generally from *The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations*, 1993 edition, part of Microsoft Bookshelf.)

Harry started collecting the quotes in this book during the 1990's, and they've been sorted by topics -- all with their original sources given when available. There are, of course, quotes by famous philosophers, politicians, writers, and scholars; and there's even a quote or two from the Bible. But there are also quotes by lesser known sources that were of particular interest to Harry such as operettas, television shows, movies, speeches, etc. Even more surprising, this book includes quotes from conversations Harry had with friends, letters from admirers, emails from associates, and listeners to his radio shows. He even quotes a nurse in the neurology unit of Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he spent so much time the last year of his life.

When Harry was the 1996 and 2000 Libertarian Party Presidential candidate he wrote, committed to memory, and used hundreds of remarks again and again to convince listeners to embrace libertarian ideas. A couple of years later he organized his personally crafted short, powerful, thought-provoking, and highly quotable remarks or "soundbites" by topic for quick and easy reference. Then the Advocates for Self-Government published them in a book entitled, *Liberty A to Z: 872 libertarian soundbites you can use right now!* Harry hoped people would work the quotes into their conversations with friends and family, in speeches, in letters to editors ~ anywhere to open minds to embrace liberty. He had the same purpose in mind while collecting the quotes in this book.

Those of you who knew Harry personally know that he was a humble man. It was one thing for him to put together a book of his soundbites for you to use to convince others to embrace libertarian ideas. But it would never occur to him to add his own quotes to a book of quotations by mostly famous people. But I'm not so humble! I think this collection would be incomplete without a Harry Browne quote, so I've selected two of my favorites and offered them at the end of the book. (So technically speaking there are 2,050 quotes in this book!)

Quotes are generally meant to challenge, inspire, motivate, or offer advice. I hope you enjoy, and are inspired by, the over two thousand quotes Harry personally selected to share with you. As he often said, if you use these "with a benevolent attitude toward the people you encounter, you should be well-armed."

I wish you the very best.

Pamela Wolfe Browne  
Kernersville, North Carolina

## PART I

### Abortion

1. Passing laws to make abortion illegal would have a profound impact on the overall nature of health care while failing to substantially decrease the number of abortions performed.

Though government spends *billions* each year to conduct the absurd War on Drugs, government storm troopers interdict — or seize — only about 5% of the illegal drugs that come across our borders. I'm afraid the same ratio would hold true if we made abortion illegal. We'd spend billions of dollars and negatively impact millions of lives and all the while we'd fail to significantly reduce the number of abortions. And to enforce these laws, doctors — who are already fit-to-be-tied by government red tape and insurance company oversight — would be subjected to horrible invasions of their privacy — not to mention the privacy of their patients.

Many doctors are already on the verge of throwing up their hands and walking off the job. I believe that within five years of beginning a War on Abortion, our government would have to draft doctors. They'd have to draft college seniors, send them to medical school, then put them to work in government-run medical clinics. No man or woman in his right mind would want to practice medicine in the middle of a government War on Abortion.

Geoff Braun

Email message to Harry Browne, November 13, 1998.

2. Why do pro-lifers not speak out against the use of chemical weapons, napalm and napalm-like bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan? Why do pro-lifers not condemn the use of depleted uranium weapons which will continue to deform unborn Arab babies long after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are forgotten by Americans? Shame on pro-lifers for allowing the pro-choice Left to claim these issues for themselves. What do we get in exchange for our support, anyway? Alberto Gonzales, who supported the "right" of underage girls to get abortions without their parents' consent in Texas. Have you ever heard him criticize Roe vs. Wade as vocally as he does the Geneva Convention? It's a twisted sort of calculus that dictates that we swap support of George Bush's unjust and unjustly fought war for some gutless rhetoric against abortion.

Anne Rao

"Marching for Life"

LewRockwell.com, January 25, 2005.

### Achievement

3. As Ayn Rand once wrote, the man who discovered how to make fire was probably burned at the stake.

James Ostrowski

*Liberty*, September 1992, page 27

## Activism

4. There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root.  

Henry David Thoreau [1817-1862]  
*Walden* [1854], 1, *Economy*
5. The era of resisting big government is never over.  

Paul Gigot  
“The Political Re-Education of Bill Gates”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 6, 1998
6. Many CEOs think that if they leave Washington alone, Washington will return the favor. Washington never does.  

Paul Gigot  
“The Political Re-Education of Bill Gates”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 6, 1998
7. I came into this world, not chiefly to make this a good place to live in, but to live in it, be it good or bad.  

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)  
*Civil Disobedience* (1849)

## ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)

*See Victims.*

## Affirmative Action

8. We're in business to make a profit. If we don't, we're out of business. It's not about doing right for African-Americans or women or Hispanics. It's about making the cash register ring.  

Diana Scales, owner  
Scales & Associates Advertising and Public Relations  
Nashville, Tennessee  
*The Tennessean*, December 29, 1996, page E1
9. The nation's shame and remorse over its history of judging people by skin color is cynically transformed into a nationwide program of judging people by skin color.

David Gelernter  
*The Weekly Standard*, April 21, 1997, page 4

10. We have seen nearly 30 years of quotas, goals, set-asides, banding, race-norming, gender-balancing, and other euphemisms for preferences thrust on American society by non-elected officials for the purpose of social engineering. This produced no discernible positive change and only served to divide and polarize the races.

Raymond Batz, San Rafael CA  
Letter to the editor, *San Francisco Examiner*  
February 6, 1993, page A-16

11. If President Bush's nominee for the vacant seat on the Supreme Court were a black lawyer who graduated from a substandard law school at the bottom of the class and passed the bar on the third try but who enthusiastically supported abortion on demand, affirmative action, and hiring quotas, Senators Kennedy, Metzenbaum, and Biden would pronounce him or her eminently qualified, and the confirmation hearings would be a love-in.

Jerome M. McLaughlin, Menlo Park, California  
Letter to the *San Francisco Examiner*, Sept. 18, 1991

12. Individuals do, but groups don't, inherit opportunity. Do you actually believe that John F. Kennedy Jr. is a member of the same group and was born to the same opportunities possessed by some 35-year-old Caucasian guy in some poor rural county in Virginia, born to a 15-year-old girl whose mother was 17-years old, poor and uneducated when she was born? Do you actually believe that Colin Powell's son is a member of the same group as that guy born to a poor mother and poor father in Barry Farms [public housing complex]? And do you actually believe this guy and Powell's son have inherited the same opportunity? . . .

Find me a black boy with ambition, competence, determination, and I'll show you that boy's future success. Find me a white boy without ambition, without competence, without determination, and I'll show you that boy's future failure.

Opportunities given to him will not spell success, and opportunities denied the black boy will not cause him to fail. Some people will fail in heaven, and some people will succeed in hell. It has nothing to do with the group. It has everything to do with the individual character. That's why Harriet Tubman was free but the "group" wasn't.

James Bernard Miles  
A reader writing to William Raspberry  
Quoted in his syndicated column, April 14, 1997

13. Blacks cannot be repaid for the injustice done to the race, but we can be corrupted by society's guilty gestures of repayment. Affirmative action is such a gesture. It tells us that racial preferences can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. . . . This is an incentive to be reliant on others just as we are struggling for self-reliance.



Shelby Steele  
*The Content of Our Character*, 1990  
Quoted by Robert J. Samuelson  
*Washington Post*, July 23, 1997, page A23

14. Live people are being sacrificed because of what dead people did.

Thomas Sowell, *New York Times*, July 1, 1990  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993

## AIDS

15. Stroke, accidents, chronic pulmonary disease, pneumonia and flu, diabetes, suicide, chronic liver disease and arteriosclerosis round out the top 10 killers in America. All receive less money for research, cures and prevention than AIDS.

Cal Thomas, columnist  
Quoted in *Human Events*, page 318 (date missing)  
(I assume cancer and heart attacks are #1 & #2)

16. I had such hope when I interviewed Bill Clinton about AIDS and gay issues for [*The New York Times Magazine*] in August 1992. I really did see him as a white knight who might save me. How naïve I was to think that one man could make that big a difference. At its core, the problem isn't a government; it's a virus.

Jeffrey Schmalz  
*The New York Times Magazine*,  
November 28, 1993, page 86

17. It's the greedy pharmaceutical companies who wanted to exploit and profit from my misery and my tragedy who are keeping me alive today.

AIDS patient Peter McWilliams  
Speech, 1998 Libertarian Party convention.

## America & Americanism

18. Not a place upon earth might be so happy as America. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world, and she has nothing to do but to trade with them.

Thomas Paine (1737-1809)  
*The American Crisis*, no. 1 (December 23, 1776)  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 384

19. Driven from every other corner of the earth, freedom of thought and the right of private judgment in matters of conscience direct their course to this happy country as their last asylum.

Samuel Adams (1722-1803)  
Speech, Philadelphia, August 1, 1776

20. During the first hundred years of America, the American people said “No” to Social Security, “No” to Medicare, “No” to the Federal Reserve System, “No” to the income tax, “No” to foreign wars.

Jacob Hornberger  
Speech, July 29, 1995, Montgomery, Alabama

21. We Americans ought always to practice being grateful because we are luckier than we deserve. We’re still a country in which our poor would qualify as middle class in many countries. We’re still a country in which one of the big health problems is people eating too much. We’re still a country in which ordinary folks are extraordinarily generous in sharing with people who suffer misfortune.

In our case, we often look at the empty half of the glass of champagne, but any country in which the big problem for a lot of government high schools is finding parking space for the students’ \$20,000 cars is still one fat cat of a country.

Charley Reese  
“We are luckier than we deserve —  
and we should be thankful”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, November 15, 1998.

22. The American model is based on a certain kind of people — defined not by race but by virtue and by the willingness to take responsibility for our own lives.

Malcolm Wallop  
*National Review*, February 7, 1994, page 41

23. The promise of America is a promise that we can escape from the Old World, a world where people know their place. When we say we are fighting for an open society, we don’t mean a transparent society — one where neighbors can peer into each other’s windows using the joysticks on their laptops. We mean a society open to the possibility that people can redefine and reinvent themselves every day; a society in which people can travel from place to place without showing their papers and being encumbered by their past; a society that respects privacy and constantly reshuffles social hierarchy.

Jeffrey Rosen  
“A Cautionary Tale for a New Age of Surveillance”  
*New York Times Magazine*, October 7, 2001

24. I think of America like a well-built old car that's fallen into the hands of an unappreciative owner — a car about which people say "The guys who designed this thing really knew what they were doing, even way back then." She may need a serious overhaul, have been neglected, abused, twisted out of shape and almost unrecognizable, but underneath it all she's still strong and she can still run like a dream. It's going to take a lot of work, but one day we just might bring her back to her former glory.

Robert Keaton  
Email to Harry Browne, April 29, 2003.

25. America's present need is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy; not revolution, but restoration; not agitation, but adjustment; not surgery, but serenity. . . .

The world needs to be reminded that all human ills are not curable by legislation, and that quantity of statutory enactment and excess of government offer no substitute for quality of citizenship.

President Warren Harding, 1920  
Quoted by Clarence Carson  
*The Growth of America, 1978-1928*, page 235.

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

26. I'm concerned that abuse of the [ADA] law is hurting people like me. A large number of frivolous complaints brought under the ADA in recent years has contributed to the widespread impression that hiring disabled people is an invitation to trouble.

Kathi Wolfe (a visually disabled writer)  
"Handicapped by a Law That Helps"  
*The Washington Post*, July 26, 1998

*See also* Victims.

### Anarchy

27. Yes, we have anarchists in the Libertarian Party. They keep looking for new ways to shrink government, issue by issue, just as so many liberals and conservatives keep looking for ways to expand it.

Michael Hihn  
LPUS

28. Massachusetts, in its heroic day, had no government — was an anarchy. Every man stood on his own two feet, was his one governor, and there was no breach of peace from Cape Cod to Mount Hoosac.

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*Emerson's Works*, volume 11, page 247  
Cited by Bill Kauffman in  
“American Writers Confront War”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson,  
page 334.

### Antitrust Laws

29. The truth is that the only kind of “monopoly” that can form in a free market is one based on offering better products at lower prices, since under a free market even monopolies must obey the law of supply and demand. Harmful, coercive monopolies are the result, not of the operation of the free market, but of government regulations, subsidies, and privileges which close off entry to competitors. No business can outlaw its competitors — only the government can.

“A Petition to Stop the Persecution of Microsoft”  
The Committee for the Moral Defense of Microsoft  
Online, May 20, 1998

30. Considerable research has unmasked antitrust as special interest regulation, more adept at artificially protecting inefficient firms’ profits than at ensuring consumer welfare. Inferior competitors too often realize antitrust gives them a second bite at the apple in the courtroom if they fail in the marketplace. And, unlike those of the marketplace, government’s choices are binding upon all.

Clyde Wayne Crews, Jr., Competitive Enterprise Institute  
“Does Luck or Talent Rule the High-Technology Market?”  
*Center-Right*, March 30, 1998

31. It’s time to bone up on the economics of antitrust. Or rather, the anti-economics of antitrust. The government is in no position to determine what is or is not an efficient organization of industry, what is or is not a separate product, or to interfere in any way with the right of contract between producers and consumers.

Ludwig von Mises Institute press release  
June 29, 1998

32. Anyone familiar with the history of antitrust litigation will see an old theme: the companies that get the government’s shaft are the ones that aggressively expand their product line in ways that please consumers. That’s a crime in the United States of America.

Sheldon Richman, “Punishing Success”  
*E-Mail Update*, Future of Freedom Foundation  
August 26, 1998

33. Microsoft didn't create a "monopoly" in its operating system. Consumers did. And the day Microsoft, in the eyes of consumers, abuses its position, they will take it away.

Sheldon Richman, "Punishing Success"  
*E-Mail Update*, Future of Freedom Foundation  
August 26, 1998

34. To consumers, . . . "predatory pricing" means that a computer that costs \$700 today has 50,000 times the power of a \$5 million 1951 Univac mainframe computer.

T.J. Rodgers, Cypress Semiconductors, Inc.  
*The New York Times*, October 20, 1998

35. The lesson is this: when disgruntled adversaries gain access to the levers of power, market success, consumer service, and spectacular innovation are punishable crimes in the United States.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
Referring to the Microsoft case  
"Enemy of the People," op-ed article  
November 5, 1998

36. What can we expect in the future when, not if, government intervenes further? If you believe government will act fairly and wisely, not favoring one group vs. another, or if you believe government will be efficient and responsive to feedback as it deals with computer industry issues, I have an old Ethernet bridge I'd like to sell you.

No. We should expect a new pecking order, defined by the amount of political influence various companies have been able to buy. And who can afford the most influence? Which company is responding to the pressure brought upon it by drastically stepping up its lobbying efforts and political contributions? Microsoft, of course.

The folks who hate Microsoft, the 800-pound gorilla in a relatively free market, should be worrying about the future Microsoft, not four months, but four years from now, the gorilla with so much political influence, so many senators and representatives in its back pocket, that it's practically untouchable. After all, you don't have to buy Windows 98, and many people won't. But you do have to pay taxes to finance things like the federal Market Promotion Program, which pays for McDonald's hamburger ads overseas today, and, who knows, might pay for Microsoft's browser ads overseas tomorrow.

Dan Fylstra  
"Concern Over Intervention"  
*Computer Reseller News*, November 17, 1998

37. Big government is not an antidote for big business.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1994 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

38. If the Department of Justice gets its way, it would impose on Microsoft the same standards of efficiency that we have come to expect from the Post Office.

Christopher Westley  
“The Borking of Gates”

Ludwig von Mises Institute website, May 1, 2000

<http://www.mises.org/fullstory.asp?control=420&FS=The+Borking+of+Gates>.

39. So what are the specific implications [of the Microsoft decision] — both in the near future and down the road?

First, as noted, we will see a long-term tendency to put more resources into the legal and “public relations” divisions than into engineering and research; this will affect not only Microsoft, but its rivals as well. Note that by public relations, I do not mean sales and marketing, I mean politics. Goodwill advertising. Parties for congressional and White House staffs. Political contributions. Whatever the merits of the government’s case in the Microsoft suit, I have yet to meet anyone who believes that any of this would have happened had Gates spent \$100 million on political influence including nights in the Lincoln Bedroom. Imagine Janet Reno insisting on prosecution if the president told Justice to lay off. Imagine the president ignoring \$100 million.

Second, consumers will pay higher prices for software. This is inevitable because public relations and legal services are expensive .

Third, venture capitalists will be more cautious. The wild days are over. This isn’t quite a direct result of the Microsoft decision, but certainly the market slowdown that was a direct consequence had its influence. With less loose money, what is left over is invested more carefully. Perhaps this is a good thing. On the other hand, Yahoo!, Earthlink and many other success stories might not be possible in today’s climate.

Jerry Pournelle  
“The Beginning of the Decline and Fall?”  
IntellectualCapital.com, June 15, 2000.

40. No matter how large a company, the capital markets and the rest of the economy arrayed against it are bigger and can appropriately discipline it. Indeed, market conditions can never be frozen — the marketplace is an arena in which seemingly impervious standards (like mainframe computers and vinyl records) are routinely toppled.

Wayne Crews, Jr.  
“The Antitrust Terrible 10”  
*Cato Policy Analysis* #405, June 28, 2001.

41. It’s been said that a “conspiracy” is cooperation by those one doesn’t like; otherwise, it’s just a plan. Except for the preexistence of the companies involved, collusion is nearly indistinguishable operationally from forming a partnership, entering a contract, or the very act of forming a company in the first place.

Wayne Crews, Jr.  
“The Antitrust Terrible 10”  
*Cato Policy Analysis* #405, June 28, 2001.

42. [N]o one can be compelled to produce products in the first place, [and] once one does, one should not lose rights to determine conditions on which the products are sold.

Wayne Crews, Jr.  
“The Antitrust Terrible 10”  
*Cato Policy Analysis* #405, June 28, 2001.

### Anti-American Feeling

43. Most Argentines want to keep excellent relations with the United States, receive U.S. investment and consume its music and its fast food. But at the same time, there remains here a Latin American tradition that is critical of U.S. military interventions of any kind.

Martin Granovsky, managing editor, *Pagina 12*  
Buenos Aires newspaper  
Quoted by Anthony Faiola  
“Bombing of Yugoslavia Ignites Anti-U.S. Feeling Around World”  
Washington Post Foreign Service, May 18, 1999, page A01.

44. Your bombs in Yugoslavia are from the side of America that I can’t stand. I hate it when the U.S. plays judge and God.

Gonzalo Etcheberry, Buenos Aires medical student  
Quoted by Anthony Faiola  
“Bombing of Yugoslavia Ignites Anti-U.S. Feeling Around World”  
Washington Post Foreign Service, May 18, 1999, page A01.

### Apathy?

45. Any country with more passion for sports than politics might not be slouching toward Gomorrah after all.

Paul Gigot  
*The Weekly Standard*, January 27, 1997, page 18

### Arguments

46. You argue for the superiority of your system by parading its failures.

Gregory Stephen Swann  
CompuServe forum, June 1, 1995

## Arts, Funding for

47. Could the arts survive without government funding?

What a question! The government doesn't fund the Van Cliburn Competition or the National Book Awards or the MacArthur grants. The government doesn't organize poetry slams or commission new string quartets. The government doesn't keep art galleries afloat or make the Tony Awards so popular. To adapt an old bumper sticker, arts need the National Endowment for the Arts like a fish needs a bicycle.

More novel reading will take place this year because of Oprah Winfrey than because of anything the NEA has done in its 32 years. If the endowment faded away, who would care? American's tens of millions of art-lovers, swept up in the richest, most democratic arts scene the human race has known, would hardly notice it was gone.

Jeff Jacoby, Boston Globe columnist  
*The Washington Times*, July 8, 1997  
Reprinted in *LP News*, September 1997, page 13.

## Asset Forfeiture

48. "Asset forfeiture" should be renamed "robbery with a badge."

Sharon Harris  
"The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand"  
Speech at California Libertarian Party convention  
February 1998

49. Civil asset forfeiture is a government license to steal.

Unnamed historian  
Quoted by Ira Glasser, ACLU Executive Director  
Testifying before a House subcommittee  
June 16, 1999  
Quoted in an ACLU press release of the same date.

50. The large monetary value of forfeitures . . . has created a great temptation for state and local police departments to target assets rather than criminal activity.

Patrick Murphy, former New York City police commissioner  
Quoted in "What Can Government Take from You?"  
*Investors Business Daily*, December 9, 1993, page 1



## Atomic Bomb

51. It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender because of the effective sea blockade and the successful bombing with conventional weapons.

The lethal possibilities of atomic warfare in the future are frightening. My own feeling was that in being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages. I was not taught to make war in that fashion, and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children.

Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman

*I Was There*, page 441

Quoted by Gar Alperovitz

*The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb*, page 3.

52. Secretary of War Stimson, visiting my headquarters in Germany, informed me that our government was preparing to drop an atomic bomb on Japan. I was one of those who felt that there were a number of cogent reasons to question the wisdom of such an act. . . .

During his recitation of the relevant facts, I had been conscious of a feeling of depression and so I voiced to him my grave misgivings, first on the basis of my belief that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary, and secondly because I thought that our country should avoid shocking world opinion by the use of a weapon whose employment was, I thought, no longer mandatory as a measure to save American lives. It was my belief that Japan was, at that very moment, seeking some way to surrender with a minimum loss of 'face'. The Secretary was deeply perturbed by my attitude . . .

General Dwight Eisenhower

*Mandate For Change*, page 312

Quoted by Gar Alperovitz

*The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb*, page 4.

53. The use of the atomic bomb, with its indiscriminate killing of women and children, revolts my soul.

Herbert Hoover

Letter to Colonel John Callan O'Laughlin, publisher, *Army and Navy Journal*, August 8, 1945

Quoted by Gar Alperovitz

*The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb*, page 635.

54. When I asked General MacArthur about the decision to drop the bomb, I was surprised to learn he had not even been consulted. What, I asked, would his advice have been? He replied that he saw no military justification for the dropping of the bomb. The war might have ended weeks earlier, he said, if the United States had agreed, as it later did anyway, to the retention of the institution of the emperor.

Norman Cousins, consultant during occupation of Japan  
*The Pathology of Power*, pages 70-71.

55. I proposed to Secretary [of the Navy James] Forrestal that the weapon should be demonstrated before it was used. Primarily it was because it was clear to a number of people, myself among them, that the war was very nearly over. The Japanese were nearly ready to capitulate . . . My proposal to the Secretary was that the weapon should be demonstrated over some area accessible to Japanese observers and where its effects would be dramatic. I remember suggesting that a satisfactory place for such a demonstration would be a large forest of cryptomeria trees not far from Tokyo. The cryptomeria tree is the Japanese version of our redwood . . . I anticipated that a bomb detonated at a suitable height above such a forest . . . would lay the trees out in windrows from the center of the explosion in all directions as though they were matchsticks, and, of course, set them afire in the center. It seemed to me that a demonstration of this sort would prove to the Japanese that we could destroy any of their cities at will . . . Secretary Forrestal agreed wholeheartedly with the recommendation . . . It seemed to me that such a weapon was not necessary to bring the war to a successful conclusion, that once used it would find its way into the armaments of the world.

Lewis Strauss, Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy  
Quoted by Len Giovannitti and Fred Freed  
*The Decision To Drop the Bomb*, pages 145, 325.

56. We brought [the Japanese] down to an abject surrender through the accelerated sinking of their merchant marine and hunger alone, and when we didn't need to do it, and we knew we didn't need to do it, and they knew that we knew we didn't need to do it, we used them as an experiment for two atomic bombs.

Brigadier General Carter W. Clarke  
Interview with Dr. Forrest Pogue  
*The Pogue Papers*, George C. Marshall Research Library  
July 6, 1959  
Quoted by Gar Alperovitz  
*The Decision To Use the Atomic Bomb*, page 359.

57. In the first weeks after Hiroshima, extravagant statements by President Truman and other official spokesmen for the U.S. government transformed the inception of the atomic age into the most mythologized event in American history.

Stewart Udall  
*The Myths of August*  
Quoted by David Krieger  
“Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki”  
*WagingPeace.org*, August 1, 2003.

## Balanced Budget

See *Budget, Federal*.

## Balkans, The

58. Bosnia is as artificial a creation as the so-called “international community,” for which no sane nation would risk its life. When NATO departs, Bosnia will dissolve along its ethnic frontiers. In trying create an autonomous Kosovo, America will only interrupt the inevitable struggle between Albanians and Serbs for control. We will end up being hated — either as the power that presided over the severing from Serbia of its cradle land or as the power that denied Kosovar Albanians their independence.

In their hubris, our internationalists cannot see the world as others see it or see themselves as others see them. What they see as reasonable, Serbs view as intolerable, what they call stability, Kosovars reject as a perpetuation of injustice. As in Vietnam, our Balkan antagonists have captured the banners of nationalism, while we lecture them about a democratic order that appeals to the rational mind but not to the passions, the heart or the soul of a people. As in Lebanon in 1983, we will one day discover that the real superpower in the Balkans is the one willing to pay the most for its dreams — in the currency of blood.

Patrick J. Buchanan  
“Re-Enacting Wilson’s Folly,” October 16, 1998  
Distributed by Llewellyn Rockwell

59. [British prime minister Tony] Blair and [President Bill] Clinton and the opaque-eyed General Clark, apologist for the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, are killing and maiming hundreds, perhaps thousands, of innocent people in the Balkans. No contortion of intellect and morality, nor silence, will diminish the truth that these are acts of murder.

John Pilger  
“Acts of murder”  
*The Guardian* (London), May 18, 1999

60. “Save the Albanian Kosovars!” Clinton cries. “Save the Sudeten Germans!” Hitler trumpeted in 1938. The names have changed, but the strategy remains the same. For more than 50 years, we Americans have looked down our noses at the Germans, for having followed Hitler so blindly. But now it’s our turn. We are proving no more resistant to propaganda than those cheering crowds in Leni Riefenstahl’s *Triumph of the Will*. Back in the 1930s, Adolf Hitler needed an excuse to seize Czechoslovakia. So he invented one. Three and a quarter million ethnic Germans lived in the Sudetenland, under Czech rule.

Richard Poe  
“The Big Lie About Kosovo”  
NewsMax.Com, April 14, 1999

61. NATO jets are burning a quarter of a million barrels of jet fuel per day destroying Yugoslavia in preparation for the day when American taxpayers will be told to rebuild Yugoslavia. It seems to me we could save a lot of money, not to mention lives, by refraining from destroying it in the first place. But, then, I’m no foreign-policy expert. I suppose if I owned some of the big corporations that will profit from both the destruction and the rebuilding, then I could see the wisdom of the policy.

Charley Reese  
“When news was news — in a galaxy long ago and far away”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, May 25, 1999.

62. Heaven knows what the troops in Kosovo are fighting for.

Steve Chapman  
“The Bad Reasons for a Flag Amendment”  
Syndicated column, July 22, 2001.

### Banks

63. Prudential [banking] regulation was enshrined in international trade through the 1988 Basle Committee Accord on capital adequacy standards for G-10 banks, which mandated minimum levels of capital that banks must maintain as a buffer against ‘credit risk,’ or the risk that clients will fail to pay. . . . one must understand the political motivations for the agreement to understand the *why*, the *when*, and the *how*.

As for the *why*, prudential regulation was needed primarily to compensate for problems created by already existing regulation. Exceptionally generous government deposit-insurance guarantees were responsible for major banking disasters, particularly in the U.S. and Finland; banks in financial difficulty had been given massive incentives to roll the dice with depositor funds, for which the government was wholly liable. Simply stated government insurance guarantees give banks an incentive to operate with as little capital as possible. Rather than attempt the politically tricky task of overhauling national deposit-insurance systems, national regulators found it easier just to collude among themselves to fix minimum capital requirements.

As for the *when*, the timing largely reflects the rapidly growing concern in the mid-1980s with Japanese competition, the banking sector being just one example. The competitive success of Japanese banks prompted British and American authorities to push for an international agreement to raise capital standards, as this would have the explicit effect of slowing the expansion of large Japanese banks operating at relatively low capital levels.

As for the *how* of capital regulation, the exclusive focus on credit risk, with no concern for interest-rate risk, proved exceptionally convenient for G-10 countries with large budget deficits. While the Accord treated commercial loans as risky, and therefore requiring capital backing, government debt was treated as being completely riskless, therefore requiring no capital whatsoever.

The effect was predictable. Between 1989 and 1992, U.S. commercial and industrial loans declined by \$42 billion, to about \$600 billion. Over the same period, bank holdings of U.S. Government debt increased by nearly 50%, reaching the same level as the loan holdings. International prudential regulation apparently exacerbated the U.S. recession, while simultaneously increasing the incentives for the U.S. government to continue its deficit-financed spending binge. Be on the lookout for more such regulation in the future.

Benn Steil, "The New Rules of Trade"  
*National Review*, April 18, 1994, pages 41-43

64. To suppose that "wildcat" promises to pay money would circulate and be used among intelligent people, in these days of instantaneous communication, would be as unreasonable as to suppose that people have learned nothing during the past 50 years, and even if such a thing were possible, it is certainly no part of the duty of government to protect a free people against their own lack of intelligent discrimination.

Wildcat banking never existed because of freedom, but became possible only through and by the use of the law-making power of the state. Did anyone ever hear of dishonest banking being conducted without a charter from the state? . .

With freedom there would be bad banking, of course, but evils of that kind would soon be corrected and would be of small concern compared to the benefits to be derived under such conditions. Men of honesty and reputations acquired by honest methods of banking would soon come to the front; no dishonest banker could long compete with a banker who was honest.

Under present conditions there is no opportunity for moral considerations to have any force; it is only necessary to make people believe that bankers comply with the law, thereby giving the dishonest banker an advantage over those who conduct their banks honestly and in strict accordance with sound banking principles.

Austin Willard Wright, "Unwanted Government Interference"  
*Electric Engineering*, July 1896  
Reprinted in *Durell Journal of Money and Banking*, May 1990,

page 31

### Best, the, & the Good

65. The best is the enemy of the good.

Voltaire (1694-1778), French philosopher, author.  
*Philosophical Dictionary*, "Dramatic Art" (1764).

## Big Business

*See Antitrust Laws.*

## Big Brother

66. All government roads lead to Big Brother.

Paraphrase of remark attributed to Bill Allen by Bill Buppert in CompuServe Libertarian Forum.

## Black Culture, Government Has Destroyed

67. Rarely [in the media] do I see anything remotely familiar to the richness and diversity that I knew as a child growing up in the all-black community in Norfolk, VA. In this energized environment, everything around me was black-owned or black-managed. . . .

Thanks to the '60s Model Cities urban renewal program, it's all gone now. They seemed to start with the black businesses first, and then the black-owned homes. However, they did manage to leave every low-income housing project . . . Under the guise of "saving" us, they destroyed the base of what we had worked so hard to have: self-sufficiency.

Actor Tim Reid, *Los Angeles Times*' *TV Times*, February 20  
Quoted in "Soundbites", *TV, etc.*

## Black Markets

68. We see many instances of what can be called the Law of Black Markets. If government attempts to outlaw a peaceful activity that people want to engage in, that activity will continue but under more horrendous conditions than previously. Take the 1920s Prohibition. People didn't stop drinking alcohol. But the liquor industry moved into the underworld. Violence connected with the trade abounded. Law enforcement was corrupted by the black-market profits that reflected the risk of making and distributing liquor. The same can be said of the prohibition of narcotics and other drugs.

Sheldon Richman  
*Voice of Freedom*  
Tennessee Libertarian Party brochure, page 4

## Brotherhood

69. The ideal of brotherhood of man, the building of the Just City, is one that cannot be discarded without lifelong feelings of disappointment and loss. But, if we are to live in the real world, discard it we must. Its very nobility makes the results of its breakdown doubly horrifying, and it breaks down, as it always will, not by some external agency but because it cannot work.

Kingsley Amis (b. 1922), British novelist.  
*Sunday Telegraph* (London, 2 July 1967).

## Budgets, Government

*See Government Budgets.*

## Bureaucracy

70. Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmies.

Honore de Balzac

Quoted in San Francisco *Examiner* editorial, Oct 25 1993, page

A-16

Also quoted in "Thoughts on the Business of Life"

*Forbes*, January 18, 1993, page 124

71. The single most exciting thing you encounter in government is competence, because it's so rare.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, *New York Times*, March 2, 1976

Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993

72. The government starts a program — some very well-intended program — and then the program becomes a department, then the department becomes a bureaucracy, then the bureaucracy takes over. Bureaucracies are a life form unto themselves, a very low level of life form, but a life form nonetheless — like a termite colony. Bureaucracies have a basic mission over and above whatever mission the original lawmakers or voters gave them: to survive.

That's rule number one. No federal bureaucracy has ever, *ever*, determined "Our job is done; we recommend immediate dismantling. It's been a pleasure serving the people of America. We are individually now ready for new assignments." No. The War Department just becomes the Department of Defense (soon to probably be called the Department of Peace and Prosperity). In 1927 the Treasury Department started the Bureau of Prohibition (long after alcohol Prohibition, then seven years old, had been proven a failure) which in 1930 became the Bureau of Narcotics, which became the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in 1968 which begot the Drug Enforcement Administration (and lots of others) in 1973.

Peter McWilliams

"Ides of March Update, 1998"

Distributed by e-mail, March 15, 1998

73. Ms. [Linda] Chavez herself said, "So long as the game in Washington is a game of search and destroy, I think we will have very few people who are willing to do what I did, which was to put myself through this in order to serve." The comment was at least mildly self-serving, but it is echoed almost everywhere when such incidents occur. Gracious, isn't it awful? Where will the government find good, talented people to do its work if it treats them so shabbily?

In fact, that's hardly a problem; plenty of people have already jumped forward to tell Dubya they wouldn't mind being Labor Secretary and a few might even be qualified. But the notion that it's a terrible shame if people don't want to be government hacks is morally and politically inverted. In a free society few of the best and brightest would have any interest at all in government. And there's some evidence that when it comes to the less prestigious, well below cabinet-rank jobs, many of the best and the brightest are avoiding government jobs. Government is having a hard time finding people with real computer expertise and recruiting people to be social workers overseas in what the Clinton administration has laughingly called the military.

Alan W. Bock

"Hypocrisy reigns in Chavez withdrawal"

WorldNetDaily, January 12, 2001.

(After Linda Chavez withdrew her nomination to be Labor Secretary because of opposition to her taking an 'illegal' alien into her home.)

74. I have a low opinion of central bankers, IMF functionaries, and government economists of all stripes, maintaining that they're exactly the same people you'll find working for the Post Office, except that they come from better families and went to more prestigious schools. The fact they dress in Armani suits and fly first class on junkets where they decide how to spend your money doesn't mean they're smarter or harder working than their fellow government employees at the Post Office, just luckier and better connected. Indeed, I'd sooner trust my mail carrier with the decisions they make; at least he actually does something productive with his time, and his head hasn't been filled with all manner of economic rubbish.

Doug Casey

"End of the Stock-Slump Rainbow"

WorldNetDaily, March 15, 2001.

Bush, George H. W.

75. First, George Bush was one of the three or four worst presidents of this century; only a career *apparatchik* like Bush could have displayed for an entire term such exquisite policy ignorance and political ineptitude. Only an executive utterly devoid of judgment could have believed in the skills, foresight, and wisdom of an entourage comprising the likes of James Baker, Nicholas Brady, and Richard Darman. Only a fool could have believed in the viability of "bipartisanship" among a Republican president, the congressional Democrats, and *The Washington Post*. And only an utter incompetent could have transformed the Reagan bequest — the strongest economy in the world, the collapse of state socialism, the end of the Cold War, the most powerful and broad-based political coalition in more than a generation, and a Democratic Party in disarray — into the political disaster of November 3 [1992].

Benjamin Zycher

*Reason*, February 1993, page 17



76. President Bush's graciousness in accepting full responsibility for the Republican defeat should not obscure the fact that he was telling the truth.

John O'Sullivan  
*National Review*, November 30, 1992

Bush, George W.

77. Like his father, Dubya is a man largely unhindered by conservative ideology or fixed political principle. He won't find it hard to meet the Democrats halfway, if that is where he concludes that political advantage lies, because doing so won't violate anything he deeply believes. And he's quite attached to the idea of himself as someone who can forge agreement across party lines.

Jacob Weisberg  
"Bipartisans at the Gates"  
*Slate*, December 13, 2000.

78. As for George W. Bush, those who have been disappointed and betrayed since at least 1952 by a later Republican party, should not have high expectations. Perhaps he will surprise them by being less interventionist, at home and abroad, than he affects to be. In that case, he will be reversing the Jeffersonian model of talking a good libertarian game out of office and using government power to the hilt once in office. This reversal has never happened but there is always a first time.

Joseph Stromberg  
"The Election of 1800"  
Mises Institute, January 4, 2001.

79. This is an administration apparently out to dominate all discussion on everything related to this new war. Such repressiveness was evident in Ari Fleischer's unsuccessful attempt to extend Rice's efforts by browbeating newspapers into not reprinting transcripts of bin Laden's speeches, and his not-too-subtle warning that "Americans should watch what they say"; in Bush's short-lived and ill-managed move to limit Congressional access to classified intelligence; in Colin Powell's efforts to induce Al Jazeera, the Arab world's only independent TV network, to tone down their broadcasts of what the State Department deems "inflammatory rhetoric"; in the Pentagon's temporary cancellation of daily press briefings for reporters; and in John Ashcroft's recent statement urging federal agencies to think two or three times before granting FOIA requests.

Mark Crispin Miller  
"Squelching the News in Democracy's Name"  
*Mother Jones*, Oct. 24, 2001.

80. President Bush has proposed the most preposterous military buildup in human history — annual spending of \$451 billion by 2007 — and nary a word of criticism has been heard from the other side of the aisle. The president is drunk with the popularity that his war on terrorism has brought, and those sober Democrats and Republicans, who know better, are afraid to wrestle him for the keys to the budget before he drives off a cliff.

Robert Sheer  
“An Orgy of Defense Spending”  
*Los Angeles Times*, February 5, 2002.

81. America narrowly chose Bush. Ever since, on the domestic issues, his administration has governed to the left of Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

Joseph Farah  
“Robbing Peter to Pay Farmer Bob”  
*WorldNetDaily*, May 22, 2002.

82. Bush as a candidate gave few hints that he would be different or that he would extend the authority of the federal government both at home and overseas. But in all these areas — from peacekeeping in Kabul to school testing in Nebraska to health screening in Arizona — the length of his reach is overriding the conservative rhetoric of the Bush presidency. Big government is back — with a Republican label.

David S. Broder  
“So, Now Bigger Is Better?”  
*The Washington Post*, January 12, 2003.

83. Monumental arrogance is not just the hallmark of this administration’s foreign policy — it is their foreign policy. Their thuggishness does not embarrass them. In the collective mind of this Axis of the Primeval — the tiny neo-conservative circle that has seized control of the nation's foreign and military policy machine — doubt is the squeak of the pathetically spineless and dissent is the cry of the dangerously unpatriotic.

Todd Gitlin  
“How to Squander Moral Capital”  
*Mother Jones*, September 9, 2002.

84. Somehow, the Bush administration's cowboys have done the unthinkable. They have alienated friends, ruined international relationships, squandered the good will and sympathy that the Sept. 11 atrocities inspired, and turned America into a global villain. All of this, while Saddam Hussein smiles and watches the world turn in his favor, inheriting the gusts of international opinion that Mr. Bush has mind-bogglingly forfeited. Rarely in modern times has such a blundering swap taken place. A poll in an Irish newspaper recently found that the majority of respondents in that America-friendly country believed that George Bush was a bigger threat to peace than Saddam. It is not just those perfumed pansies in Paris who are alarmed by our behavior. Somehow Mr. Bush has contrived to have people the world over see this nation — the nation that created the Marshall Plan and ended the Cold War — as an international menace on matters of security, on the environment, on justice and on fair trade.

Editorial, *New York Observer*  
March 12, 2003.

85. He should depart. He should go away from the presidency and let the Americans lead an ordinary life with other nations, not a life of aggression, a policy of aggression against other nations. This policy has brought about disasters to the U.S. So for the U.S. to live properly with the world and for the world nations to live in peace, this crazy man should go.

Naji Sabri, Iraqi foreign minister  
"Iraq: Saddam Won't Step Down"  
CNN, March 17, 2003.

86. Republicans, you can be sure, will back President Bush in any military adventure, whatever the cost. The era of big government being over is over. And this time, conservatives can't blame it on liberals.

Steve Chapman  
"War in Iraq is a Boost for Big Government"  
*The Chicago Tribune*, March 20, 2003.

87. It's long past time for this administration to be held accountable. . . . The public was told that Saddam posed an imminent threat. If that claim was fraudulent, the selling of the war is arguably the worst scandal in American political history — worse than Watergate, worse than Iran-contra.

Paul Krugman  
"Standard Operating Procedure"  
*New York Times*, June 3, 2003.

88. To create a dependency dynamic between him and the electorate, Bush describes the nation as being in a perpetual state of crisis and then attempts to convince the electorate that it is powerless and that he is the only one with the strength to deal with it. He attempts to persuade people they must transfer power to him, thus crushing the power of the citizen, the Congress, the Democratic Party, even constitutional liberties, to concentrate all power in the imperial presidency and the Republican Party.

Renana Brooks  
“A Nation of Victims”  
*The Nation*, June 12, 2003.

89. This is the Republican Party that has embraced as its own every liberal initiative, from Lyndon Johnson’s Medicare to Jimmy Carter’s Department of Education to Bill Clinton’s AmeriCorps. This is the Republican Party preparing to enact a Medicare drug benefit that would represent the largest expansion of the welfare state in 40 years. This is the Republican Party that is increasing federal education spending as if doing so had something to do with the quality of local schools. This is the Republican Party that is increasing spending faster than during the Clinton years.

Doug Bandow  
“Righteous Anger”  
*The American Conservative*  
December 1, 2003.

90. While calling himself a conservative, he presides over unprecedented government expansion. While calling himself compassionate he jails millions of nonviolent Americans and indiscriminately slaughters Iraqis and Afghans. While praising freedom, he wipes rights off the map. While touting the virtues of self-reliance, he subsidizes everything — using other people’s money. While effusing about volunteerism, he expands programs to pay incompetent “volunteers” handsomely. While praising free-market economics, he uses subsidy and regulation, carrot and stick, to turn the U.S. business world toward economic fascism. To get his way, he lies about anything while proclaiming the virtues of honesty. He promotes himself as our savior from terrorism, while constantly striving to keep us terrified. He enthuses about spreading the glory of American values while subverting those values at home and sowing hatred and fear of America abroad.

Claire Wolfe  
“Buy This Book before It’s Banned”  
ClaireWolfe.com, July 18, 2004.

91. Bush proclaimed “Home ownership is more than just a symbol of the American Dream; it is an important part of our way of life. Core American values of individuality, thrift, responsibility, and self-reliance are embodied in home ownership.” In Bush’s eyes, self-reliance is so wonderful that the government should subsidize it.

James Bovard  
*The Bush Betrayal*  
Quoted by Claire Wolfe  
“Buy This Book before It’s Banned”  
ClaireWolfe.com, July 18, 2004.

92. A president who combines Wilson’s megalomania, FDR’s contempt for the Constitution, and Lincoln’s deluded sense of sanctity — with his own proprietary brand of dull-witted arrogance.

Korrin Weeks Grigg  
“Sacrificial Lambs”  
LewRockwell.com, September 17, 2004.

93. His chief accomplishments as president have been to abet an unprecedented orgy of deficit spending, kill tens of thousands of innocent people, and alienate hundreds of millions of people abroad. He knows nothing about freedom and cares about it even less. Before succeeding in the family business — politics — Bush displayed a skill set inadequate to any task more ambitious than managing a Taco Bell.

Korrin Weeks Grigg  
“Sacrificial Lambs”  
LewRockwell.com, September 17, 2004.

94. I asked an ardent conservative friend what conservatives want. “Smaller government, lower taxes, avoiding foreign entanglements, and liberty,” he said. So much for the archliberal Bush. He spends in the manner of a tour bus of Boise matrons who just got to Cancun, tangles the country everywhere like kite string in a ceiling fan, apparently has never heard of the Bill of Rights, and we’re going to pay for his games with inflation. Which is just taxation without representation.

Fred Reid  
“Hillary for President”  
LewRockwell.com, November 1, 2004.

95. It is possible to have the freer world that Bush speaks of, but the idea that those who are strong and have a larger arsenal have an unchallenged right to impose their will on the weak, undermines democracy.

Editorial, *The Nation*, Kenya  
Quoted by Jim Bencivenga in “Bush inaugural a jolt”  
*Christian Science Monitor*, January 21, 2005.

96. . . . a demigod of a president whose public harangues are redolent of those of every tyrant or dictator who has ever promised to bring his own brand of peace, equality, and justice at the point of a sword; . . .

Anne Rao  
“Marching for Life”  
LewRockwell.com, January 25, 2005.

## Business

97. The business of America is business.

Calvin Coolidge  
Speech to the Society of American Newspaper Editors  
January 17, 1925  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 911

98. In America all professors of economics tend to be leftists. Why? Because if an able youngster has an interest in economics, in figures, and has conservative views, he goes into business. Whereas if he has left-wing views, he becomes a professor. So academic economists tend to be left-wingers. Business should never have let that come about. You let the case go by default. The only answer is for business, in turn — having let the left wing capture the schools — to capture television. It's essential that this be done. Television is far more important than the schools. People get their ideas from television, and American television now has a left-wing bias.

C. Northcote Parkinson  
Quoted by John Train in “C. Northcote Parkinson: An  
Appreciation”  
*The American Spectator*, June 1993, page 57

## Campaign Finance

99. The problem with democracy — whose image the Clintons touchingly wish to restore — isn't campaign money, it's appropriations money.

What our tribunes spend on ads and air travel is dew on the Atlantic Ocean. Compare it to what they spend in the normal course of business — buying votes and support (entirely legally, mind you) through the public programs they fund. If we have too much campaign spending, it's because we have too much government spending, period. That's the malady. The rest is symptom — like a runny nose.

William Murchison  
*Laissez Faire*, June 5, 1993, page 15

100. So long as we have Big Government as a magnet, we're going to have Big Money attracted to politics.

James P. Pinkerton, syndicated column  
March 18, 1997

101. In 1996, every House incumbent who spent less than \$500,000 won, compared with only 3% of challengers who spent that little. . . . The key spending variable is not incumbent spending, or the ratio of incumbent to challenger spending, but the absolute level of challenger spending. Incumbents begin races with high name and issue recognition, so added spending doesn't help them much. Challengers, however, need to build that recognition. Once a challenger has spent enough to achieve similar name and issue recognition, campaign spending limits kick in. Meanwhile the incumbent is just beginning to spend. In other words, just as a challenger starts to become competitive, campaign spending limits choke off political competition.

Bradley A. Smith, Associate professor  
Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997, op-ed page.

102. It's not for nothing that the [House of Representatives] Transportation Committee, in their massive pork-laden bill last year, gave extra millions to incumbents who won by 2% or less. The political establishment wants to get private money out of elections and thus enable the political class to perpetuate itself with taxpayers' money.

Edward H. Crane, President, Cato Institute  
*Cato Memorandum*  
January 18, 1998, page 3.

103. For most of our history, campaigns were essentially unregulated, yet democracy survived and flourished. However, since passage of the Federal Elections Campaign Act and similar state laws, the influence of special interests has grown, voter turnout has fallen, and incumbents have become tougher to dislodge. Low contribution limits have forced candidates to spend large amounts of time seeking funds. Litigation has become a major campaign tactic, with ordinary citizens hauled into court for passing out homemade leaflets; and business and professional groups have been restrained from communicating endorsements to their dues-paying members.

Bradley A. Smith, Associate professor  
Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997, op-ed page.

104. Some of today's biggest loopholes were yesterday's reforms. Political action committees [PACs] were an early 1970s reform intended to increase the influence of small donors. Now the McCain-Feingold bill seeks to ban them. . . . Soft money, which [today's] bills would sharply curtail, was a 1979 reform intended to help parties engage in grassroots political activity, such as get-out-the-vote drives.

Bradley A. Smith, Associate professor  
Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997, op-ed page.

105. American and foreign corporations contribute millions of dollars to Republicans and Democrats. It's so politicians will then dole out billions of dollars worth of government contracts and corporate subsidies — not to mention favorable legislation, government-mandated monopolies, price support systems, and beneficial trade laws.

William Winter  
Source unknown

106. This unprecedented government regulation of political speech flies in the face of 25 years of court decisions protecting such speech from government regulation. In our democracy, you shouldn't have to register with the government in order to criticize it.

Laura W. Murphy  
Director, ACLU Washington National Office  
“Limits, Limits and More Limits: Why McCain-Feingold is Wrong  
for America”  
ACLU press release, March 1, 2001.

107. It never seems to occur to many in the media that perhaps it is the politicians who are already corrupt and who demand tribute from businesses and others in the form of campaign contributions. Remember Al Gore's telephone calls from the White House, telling various businesses how much money he expected them to contribute? They weren't beating down the White House gates, trying to get inside to force money into the pockets of those inside. Businesses were being summoned to pony up.

Thomas Sowell  
“‘Feel Good’ Laws”  
Syndicated column, April 5, 2001.

108. In the last few years, everyone has started harping about political reform — even politicians, which is how you know it's bunk. Drunks don't tell you how to lock the liquor cabinet unless they've got another key safely stashed away.

Joel Miller  
“Overgrowing the Government”  
WorldNetDaily, August 21, 2001.

109. Steel tariffs and quotas would cost domestic steel users many billions of dollars — perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars for every job saved. Suppose electoral considerations are, say, one-third of the motive for imposing any new tariffs and quotas. Then one-third of the cost of tariffs and quotas would be, in effect, a campaign contribution of billions of taxpayers' involuntary dollars, coerced by the recipients — politicians. Is this kind of political contribution going to be regulated? Or will regulations only limit the much smaller and voluntary contributions by individuals?



George Will  
“Steel Tariffs Would Shame Finance Bill”  
*The Chicago Sun-Times*, February 14, 2002.

### Campaigning

110. A richer candidate with a weaker message will generally lose to a poorer candidate with a stronger message as long as the candidate with more limited money has enough funds to get his or her message out.

Dick Morris  
*The New Prince*, page 27.

111. As voters become more certain of their own opinions, they worry less about to whom they will delegate their power, and more about whether or not their representative will echo their own points of view. Thus, character counts for less and message counts for more. If anyone doubts this proposition, we have only to examine the continuing popularity of Bill Clinton in the face of the Lewinsky scandal. With the right message, the character and image of the candidate is a lot less important.

Dick Morris  
*The New Prince*, page 28.

112. To win, a candidate does not need the kind of money most politicians, media, fund-raisers, and donors think is necessary. The key to running a campaign on the cheap is to avoid spending money on anything other than projecting a message. Rich candidates squander millions on headquarters, staff, duplicative consultants, and the like. A candidate needs enough money to get his or her message across.

Dick Morris  
*The New Prince*, page 28.

### Capitalism

113. Whoever prefers life to death, happiness to suffering, well-being to misery must defend without compromise private ownership in the means of production.

Ludwig von Mises  
From a 1920 article on socialism  
Paraphrased by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
*The Economics of Liberty*, page 313

114. Capitalism has been as unmistakable a success as socialism has been a failure. Here is the part that's hard to swallow. It has been the Friedmans, Hayeks, von Miseses who have maintained that capitalism would flourish and that socialism would develop incurable ailments. All three have regarded capitalism as the 'natural' system of free men; all have maintained that left to its own devices capitalism would achieve material growth more successfully than any other system. From [my samplings] I draw the following discomforting generalization: The farther to the right one looks, the more prescient has been the historical foresight; the farther to the left, the less so.

Robert Heilbroner, quoted by Wm. F. Buckley, Jr.  
*National Review*, February 1, 1993, page 70

115. I was guilty of judging capitalism by its operations and socialism by its hopes and aspirations; capitalism by its works and socialism by its literature.

Sidney Hook, *Out of Step*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993

116. The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery.

Winston Churchill  
Quoted by Don Feder  
"Middle Class Won't Rise to Class-Warfare Bait"  
Syndicated column, May 17, 1995

117. Thanksgiving is a celebration of the superiority of capitalism over socialism.

Anonymous  
Quoted on CompuServe political forum.

118. Under capitalism people thrive by serving others; under socialism they resort to stealing from others. {Paraphrased by Harry Browne}

George Gilder  
*The American Spectator*, August 1995, page 82

119. Capitalism begins with giving. Not from greed, avarice, or even self love can one expect the rewards of commerce, but from a spirit closely akin to altruism, a regard for the needs of others, a benevolent, outgoing, and courageous temper of mind.

George Gilder, *Wealth and Poverty*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

120. . . . Free enterprise has developed the only kind of society which, while it provides us with ample material means, if that is what we mainly want, still leaves the individual free to choose between material and nonmaterial reward . . .

F. A. Hayek  
Quoted by Allan C. Brownfeld, reviewing *The Morality of Capitalism*  
*Human Events*, April 3, 1993, page 15

121. On the market of a capitalistic society, the common man is the sovereign consumer whose buying or abstention from buying ultimately determines what should be produced.

Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997

122. Capitalism is the only social system compatible with individual liberty. If you do not have ownership over your own life and body. If you are denied the right to buy and sell freely, then you are a slave. Only the degree of slavery is in question.

Lowell Ponte  
“Conservative of What?”  
FrontPagemag.com, December 8, 1999  
<http://www.frontpagemag.com/archives/ponte/default.htm>.

See also *Free Market*.

### Censorship & Pornography

123. Those who begin by burning books end by burning people.

Anonymous

124. Are we Libertarians the only ones to notice the irony here? Bill Clinton, with his bombing campaign in Yugoslavia, caused children to be blown to bits in hospitals, blasted old people in retirement homes, massacred motorists on a busy bridge, rained missiles on refugee families, killed innocent Chinese civilians in their embassy, and cut off electricity to hospitals and schools.

And talk about marketing violence: Clinton has “sold” this war in speeches, via film clips of missile strikes and smart bomb attacks, saturation coverage on CNN, and through the massive, tax-funded PR machine of the federal government.

For Bill Clinton — a man with the blood of hundreds of innocent victims on his hands — to complain about fake violence in movies, music, and video games isn’t just hypocritical, its criminal.

Bill Winter  
“New study of entertainment industry attacks consumers’ right to choose”  
Libertarian Party press release, June 4, 1999.

*See also #1256. And see Propaganda.*

## Central Planning

*See Planning.*

## Change

125. The more things change, the more they remain the same.

Alphonse Karr (1808-1890)  
*Les Guêpes* (January 1849)

126. During the campaign they may have twittered a lot about “change,” but what they want to change isn’t the government: it’s everything the government hasn’t already changed.

Joseph Sobran  
*National Review*, February 1, 1993, page 38

## Character Assassination

127. Unfortunately, the liberal establishment too often “replaces the intellectual discussion of arguments by the moral extermination of persons,” in the words of distinguished French author Jean-Francois Revel.

Thomas Sowell  
*Human Events*, November 4, 1994, page 13

## Charity

128. When good works cease to be voluntary and become compulsory, charity becomes confiscation and freedom becomes servitude. Philanthropy is a byproduct of wealth and wealth is best created in free markets. . . .

T.J. Rodgers  
*New York Times*, ca. May 1997.

129. . . . the difference between genuine charity and the appeasement of interest groups.

Charles R. Kessler  
*National Review*, January 18, 1993, page 48

130. If you want to help others, do so with your own resources. Do not demand others do the same.

Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published

131. No better weapon against poverty, disease, illiteracy, and tyranny has yet been found. . . . Capitalism's compassion for the material needs of humankind has not in history, yet, had a peer.

Michael Novak  
Quoted by Sharon Harris  
"The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand"  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998

132. Charity is giving because you want to. Forcing someone to give is not charity, it is stealing.

Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published

133. If you came in to lots of money — say you won the lottery — and you wanted to help the poor. Would you give your money to the Department of Health and Human Services, or to your favorite charity?

John Fund  
Speech, Advocates for Self-Government Summit, 1995.

134. You call yourself "Your Brothers' Keepers" but in reality you are your brothers' takers. You advocate theft and force to take what is not yours to take.

Jpzrrro (screen name) on AOL Libertarian Forum  
September 15, 2000.

135. . . . privately financed schools and colleges multiplied. Foreign missionary activity exploded. Non-profit, private hospitals, orphanages, and numerous other institutions sprang up like weeds. Almost every charitable or public service organization, from The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to the YMCA and YWCA, from the Indian Rights Association to the Salvation Army, dates from that period.

Milton Friedman, speaking of the days before the income tax  
Quoted by Sharon Harris  
"The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand"  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998.

136. If you came in to lots of money — say you won the lottery — and you wanted to help the poor, would you give your money to the Department of Health and Human Services, or to your favorite charity?

John Fund  
Speech to the Advocates for Self-Government, 1995  
Quoted by Sharon Harris  
“The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand”  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998.

137. Someone once observed that if government had been in charge of fighting the polio epidemic — instead of the Polio Foundation — today we would have bigger, better iron lungs.

Sharon Harris  
“The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand”  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998.

### Child Labor

138. It’s assumed that everyone involved with Midnight Basketball is compassionate and well-meaning, and that a program that keeps kids busy and out of trouble at night is worth millions of tax dollars. But a different assumption applies to a restaurateur who keeps the same 15-year-old busy till midnight cutting vegetables for soup. He’s seen as some kind of slave-driver — a capitalist robber baron who exploits neighborhood youth for profits.

Ralph R. Reiland  
Associate Professor of Economics, Robert Morris College  
Owner of Amel’s Restaurant in Pittsburgh.  
*The Freeman*, April 1995, page 221

### Children

139. [Political prohibitions are] defended in the name of protecting children. . . . The invocation of child welfare is particularly ill-suited to politicians who claim to support the integrity of the family. You really can’t have it both ways. If the family is to thrive, it must be protected from do-gooders of any political persuasion who would strip it of its most vital functions, such as the moral education of the children.

Sheldon Richman  
“Treating Us Like Children”  
*E-Mail Update*, Future of Freedom Foundation  
August 26, 1998

140. I suppose it was too much to expect Bill Clinton to bomb the Serbs without asserting that this policy decision, like all others, was for “our children.” “You may not know a great deal about Kosovo,” said the president, but here’s the thing: “I want our children to have a Europe, I want this young girl here” — he waggled his finger at some Monica-in-waiting he’d spotted in the crowd — “to grow up in a world that is safer and more secure and more prosperous.” Clinton is a caring humanitarian warmonger: He wouldn’t be able to bomb all these countries — Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan, Serbia — if he didn’t have the endorsement of that little girl. It takes a child to raze a village.

Mark Steyn  
“For the Children”  
*The American Spectator*, May 1999, page 40.

141. People keep telling us that children are our most precious gift, and everything must be done for them. Oh really? And what are adults — nothing? Many of us work our butts off to feed many of these children, and to perform services and keep the economy moving along. Isn’t that worth something? Shouldn’t we as adults also be considered precious?

I have younger relatives, and love some of them dearly, but my own life happens to be precious, too; the same goes for my wife and numerous other people, children and adults alike. I’m tired of having to give up more and more money and liberties to supposedly protect these smaller beings who were never granted in the Bill of Rights any more rights than the rest of us.

Dwayne of Albany, New York  
Caller to Harry Browne’s radio show, May 30, 1999.

### China

142. For all the talk about the triumphant resumption of diplomatic relations with China, it has never been clear just what was achieved by going to Peking in 1972, instead of waiting another few years until Mao, and the Cultural Revolution, had run their course.

William F. Buckley, Jr.  
*National Review*, May 16, 1994, page 22

### Cholesterol-Free Zone

143. I’ve said before that the only reason to care what Californians do is that we often seem to wind up imitating them. That said, here’s another enormity to watch out for: the Sausalito City Council has established a “cholesterol-free zone,” by requiring restaurants to offer no-cholesterol food to patrons. Any decent barbecue joint would go out of business first.

John Shelton Reed  
*Chronicles*, issue unknown, page 48

## Choice

144. Choice is power.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1994 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

## Christians & Christianity

145. A free Christian in a free church in a free country.

Old Baptist slogan, cited by Mike Hurley  
America On Line Libertarian Forum, July 27, 1995.

146. Religious conservatives should be particularly wary of the statist temptation. After all, the Apostle Paul instructed Christians that they were to care for their families; if they didn't, he said, they were "worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8). He didn't say that it was employers' responsibility. Or their co-workers' responsibility. Or the government's responsibility. It was *their* responsibility.

Doug Bandow  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997.

147. We have very good friends who are fundamentalists. They don't want to proselytize anybody. They don't want a theocratic state. They just want a chance to send their children to schools and to live in neighborhoods that accord with their values. These are aspirations that Libertarians can sympathize with and that Libertarian policies can realize.

Charles Murray  
"The Eroding Legitimacy of the National Government"  
Speech at Libertarian Party convention, July 2, 1998.

148. Many of Christ's more memorable parables are pleas for tolerance and justice. Note the Good Samaritan. His Sermon on the Mount bespeaks the virtues of a humane society and opens the door for freedom of conscience. St. Paul in his exegesis of Christ's teachings and the Fathers of the Church after him elaborated on the Greeks' ideas of personal freedom and allowed for the notion of freedom of conscience. . . .

Therefore, from Scripture our atheist and agnostic friends might look at Christ in a new light. Consider him a pal. I would not be so importunate as to ask them to accept Christ as God or even an aerobics instructor, but note that when properly applied his teachings have opened the way for free thinkers. Celebrate the birthday of the greatest libertarian of them all, my infidel friends. And let the nativity scenes stand. Think freely.

R. Emmett Tyrrell  
"Unto Us a Libertarian Is Born"  
*The American Spectator* website, December 27, 1999.



149. No law and no government impedes them from finding their God, and from teaching their children to find their God, in their books, in their prayers, in their rituals, in their good works, in their houses of worship and their houses of study, in the immensity of the sky and the infinity of the sea. They will flourish, or they will not flourish, according to the spiritual quality of their exertions. Politics is too puny to get in the way of the most exalted meanings.

Editorial, *The New Republic*, July 24, 2000.

150. The First Amendment's Religion Clauses mean that religious beliefs and religious expression are too precious to be either proscribed or prescribed by the state.

Anthony Kennedy, Supreme Court Justice  
*Lee v. Weisman*, 1992

Quoted in an Editorial, *The New Republic*, July 24, 2000.

151. My fellow Christians have argued that the state's authority is divinely given. They cite Christ's injunction "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's" and St. Paul's words "The powers that be are ordained of God." But Christ didn't say which things — if any — belong to Caesar; his ambiguous words are far from a command to give Caesar whatever he claims. And it's notable that Christ never told his disciples either to establish a state or to engage in politics. They were to preach the Gospel and, if rejected, to move on. He seems never to have imagined the state as something they could or should enlist on their side.

Joseph Sobran  
"The Reluctant Anarchist"  
*Sobran's*, December 2002.

#### CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)

152. America's galaxy of see-all spy satellites and omnivorous electronic monitoring cannot wholly compensate for its dreadful human intelligence, which has caused one special operations failure after the next, from the Iran hostage rescue, to Somalia, and now bombing the wrong targets in America's growing war against Islamic radicals.

Eric Margolis  
Referring to the U.S. bombings of Afghanistan and the Sudan,  
August 20, 1998  
"Reaping the Terrorist Whirlwind"  
*The Toronto Sun*, August 30, 1998

153. The CIA is not now nor has it ever been a central intelligence agency. It is the covert arm of the President's foreign policy advisors. In that capacity it overthrows or supports foreign governments while reporting "intelligence" justifying those activities. It shapes its intelligence to support presidential policy. Disinformation is a large part of its covert action responsibility, and the American people are the primary target audience of its lies.

Ralph W. McGehee  
*Deadly Deceits: My 25 Years in the CIA*, epigraph

### Civil Liberties

154. He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty, he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself.

Thomas Paine  
Source unknown; in Bill Holmes' quotation file  
Also quoted once on AOL.

155. If you allow the law to be broken to punish people you don't like, the law will not be there to protect you when some future government decides that it doesn't like you.

Charley Reese  
"American Forces Are Seriously Misused — and It Must Stop"  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, April 1, 1999.

156. There should be legislation — which is "loophole-free" — that triggers the automatic prosecution of police officers and their leaders who storm into homes in the middle of the night and kill innocent people. Bad intelligence or laziness is no cover for killing an innocent person. If you or I did that, we'd be hauled up before a judge and — rightly — charged with homicide.

Jon E. Dougherty  
"Police action, military style"  
WorldNetDaily, September 9, 1999.

157. If, as most of us believe, the American system, for all its flaws, was a more decent regime than the Soviet one, shouldn't we expect it to abide by its own higher standards?

Ellen Schreckner  
"McCarthyism"  
Slate, Monday, May 18, 1998.

158. I most certainly understand that we are at war. I also understand that the freedoms afforded to all of us in the Constitution were meant specifically for times like these. Our freedoms were carved out during times of strife by people who were facing brutal injustices, and were intended specifically so that this nation would behave differently in such times. If our freedoms crumble exactly when they are needed most, then they were really never freedoms at all.

Jason Halperin  
"Patriot Raid"  
AlterNet, April 29, 2003.

159. The so-called Patriot Act and other Bush regime obscenities had their roots in the war on drugs and in the cowardly refusal of liberals to stand up against it.

Sam Smith  
"The Coalition of the Shilling"  
*The Progressive Review*, May 5, 2003.

160. Attorney General John Ashcroft is expected to announce today that, "those ten outdated amendments will be called 'Bill of Rights Classic,' while the post-PATRIOT Act version will henceforth be called, 'New Rights Lite.'"

Greg Palast  
"The Brown Stuff"  
September 4, 2003.

161. Furthermore, this explains why there is a great deal of injustice directed inward during wartime and why in many respects the society returns to a condition approximating that of the Middle Ages. It explains why freedom of speech is often violated in time of war, why forced labor is introduced (especially for the military), why dissent is not tolerated and why unsound financial policies are followed. These things are not means to win the war; in fact they operate to weaken the society and make for a less efficient war potential. For the ruling group which desires the war, they are the end itself, and the war is the means to bring them into being.

Howard S. Katz  
*The Warmongers*, pages 41-42.

162. The Constitution creates no executive prerogative to dispose of the liberty of the individual. Proceedings against him must be authorized by law.

|                                              |          |             |           |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| United                                       | States   | Supreme     | Court     |
| <i>Valentine</i>                             | v.       | <i>U.S.</i> | (1936)    |
| Quoted                                       | by       | Nat         | Hentoff   |
| "Bush's                                      | Vanished |             | Prisoner" |
| <i>The Village Voice</i> , October 10, 2003. |          |             |           |

163. Implicit in the term "national defense" is the notion of defending those values and ideals which set this Nation apart.

|                                              |          |              |           |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| United                                       | States   | Supreme      | Court     |
| <i>U.S.</i>                                  | v.       | <i>Robel</i> | (1967)    |
| Quoted                                       | by       | Nat          | Hentoff   |
| "Bush's                                      | Vanished |              | Prisoner" |
| <i>The Village Voice</i> , October 10, 2003. |          |              |           |

164. The word “security” is a broad, vague generality [that] should not be invoked to abrogate the fundamental law [of the Constitution].

Justice Hugo Black, U.S. Supreme Court  
*New York Times Co. v. U.S.* (1971)  
Quoted by Nat Hentoff  
“Bush’s Vanished Prisoner”  
*The Village Voice*, October 10, 2003.

165. The PATRIOT Act treats every citizen like a suspected terrorist and every federal agent as a proven angel.

James Bovard  
Independent Institute seminar, November 13, 2003.

166. Virtually every time the Bush administration feels cornered, it falls back on the argument that the president and his officials are honorable men and women. This is an invitation to turn what should be a debate about policy into a referendum on the hearts of the people making it. But this nation was organized under a rule of law, not a dictatorship of the virtuous. The founding fathers wrote the Bill of Rights specifically because they did not believe that honorable men always do the right thing.

*New York Times* editorial  
“About Independence”  
July 4, 2004.

167. Executive imprisonment has been considered oppressive and lawless since [King] John, at Runnymede, pledged that no free man should be imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed, or exiled save by the judgment of his peers or by the law of the land. The judges of England developed the writ of *habeas corpus* largely to preserve these immunities from executive restraint.

Robert Jackson, Supreme Court Justice, 1953  
Quoted by Harvey Silverglate  
“Civil Liberties and Enemy Combatants”  
*Reason*, January 2005.

168. The president is not commander in chief of the country, only of the military.

Robert Jackson, Supreme Court Justice, 1953  
Quoted by Harvey Silverglate  
“Civil Liberties and Enemy Combatants”  
*Reason*, January 2005.

## Civil Rights Acts

169. The so-called Civil Rights Bill might better be called the 1990 Lawyers Employment Act. It will be a boon for ambulance chasers.

R. Emmett Tyrrell  
Syndicated column, September 19, 1990

170. Modern notions of civil rights are in complete contradiction to an older version of rights [which were protections against the state]. Modern civil rights are group-directed privileges to coerce private parties and gain access to public funds.

Joseph Sobran  
Quoted in *Austrian Economics Newsletter*, Summer 1991

171. Libertarians . . . reject intolerant laws that mandate tolerance at the point of a gun — or with the threat of lawsuits or jail time. Such laws are supposed to end discrimination and promote harmony. But government coercion never promotes harmony. In the long run, only free people, with the power to make their best moral decisions, can create the kind of tolerant, harmonious society we all want.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release  
March 5, 1998

172. Discrimination imposed by the government has brought disruption in normal relationships of people, set neighbor against neighbor, created gross injustices, destroyed voluntary communities, and diminished human potential. Anti-discrimination laws enforced by the government are the reverse side of the coin, and will for the same reasons create the same problems. Consequently, we oppose any government attempts to regulate private discrimination, including choices and preferences, in employment, housing, and privately owned businesses. The right to trade includes the right not to trade . . . [and] the right of association includes the right not to associate, for exercise of the right depends upon mutual consent.

Libertarian Party platform

173. No matter how many times re-runs of civil rights marchers at Selma are shown on TV, that is over. It is as much history as the landing of American troops on the beaches at Normandy. It was a great thing for those troops to have stormed the beaches — but there is not a single problem in the world today that is going to be solved by landing more American troops at Normandy.

Thomas Sowell, syndicated column  
“The Black Conservatives Will Be Vindicated”  
*Orange County Register*, March 6, 1998

174. In an effort to attract more whites to Alabama State and Alabama A&M University, the judge ordered each to spend \$1 million a year in new state funding on scholarships for whites. In a state where “white only” signs hung over public facilities only a few decades ago, a white-only scholarship turns history on its head.

June Kronholz  
“Scholarship Program for Whites Becomes a Test of Preferences”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, December 23, 1997.

175. The race hustlers can still get a lot of mileage out of staging protest marches in the name of “civil rights,” but this is not going to benefit anybody but themselves. Jesse Jackson can still shake down corporations who are worried about their image, and “diversity consultants” can still make big bucks out of loudmouth harangues on campus or in the corporate suites. But none of that is going to help the kid growing up in Harlem or Watts.

Thomas Sowell, syndicated column  
“The Black Conservatives Will Be Vindicated”  
*Orange County Register*, March 6, 1998

176. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 consciously overrode both states’ rights and property rights.

E.J. Dionne Jr.  
Quoted by Myles Kantor  
“Now Great Conservative Hope”  
LewRockwell.com, January 19, 2001.

### Civil War, the

177. The Civil War first firmly impressed the national government on the national consciousness: new and confiscatory taxes, inflationary monetary policy, routine violations of civil liberties and democratic procedures, conscription, and more.

Doug Bandow  
*The Washington Times*, December 13, 1997

178. We seek no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind. . . . All we ask is to be let alone.

Jefferson Davis, Confederate President  
Quoted by Frank Owsley  
“The Fundamental Cause of the Civil War”  
*A Vanderbilt Miscellany*, page 235  
Quoted by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, page 20.

179. Since, therefore, the abolition of slavery never appeared in the platform of any great political party, since the only appeal ever made to the electorate on that issue was scornfully repulsed, since the spokesman of the Republicans [Lincoln] emphatically declared that his party never intended to interfere with slavery in any shape or form, it seems reasonable to assume that the institution of slavery was not a fundamental issue during the epoch preceding the bombardment of Fort Sumter.

Charles and Mary Beard  
*The Rise of American Civilization*, pages 2, 39-40  
Quoted by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, page 22.

180. The Union was formed by the voluntary agreement of the states; and these, in uniting together, have not forfeited their sovereignty, nor have they been reduced to the condition of one and the same people. if one of the states chose to withdraw its name from the contract, it would be difficult to disprove its right of doing so, and the federal government would have no means of maintaining its claims directly, either by force or by right.

Alexis de Tocqueville  
*Democracy in America*, pages 387-388.  
Quoted in "War, Reconstruction, and the End of the Old Republic"

by Clyde Wilson

In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 156.

181. The greatest cost of the war, then, was the end of the old Union and the substitution of one of force — the end of the American ideal of consent of the people and substitution of the Old World idea of obedience to those in power by whatever means.

Clyde Wilson  
"War, Reconstruction, and the End of the Old Republic"  
In *The Costs of War*, page 158.

*See also* Abraham Lincoln, Secession.

## Civilization

*See also* Secession.

## Cleveland, Grover

*See* #1448, #1449, #1450, #1451.

## Clinton, Bill

182. The Clinton administration loves planning; that is its uniting ideology, the one consistency in an otherwise inconsistent administration. Unfortunately, as Thomas Sowell has aptly noted, “What is politically defined as economic ‘planning’ is *the forcible superseding of other people’s plans* by government officials.” For the next four years at least, all our plans may be grounded in Washington.

Virginia I. Postrel  
*Reason*, May 1993, page 7

183. If you look at Clinton’s record in office, you’ll see that his real crimes are not the ones he tried to cover up, or lied about to grand juries — his real crimes are the ones he boasted about in press conferences and in State of the Union speeches.

Bill Clinton committed perjury when he put his hand on a Bible and swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. Instead of keeping his word, Clinton spent his entire term of office ignoring, abusing, and violating the guiding document of this nation — launching wars without Congressional approval, and routinely violating the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Tenth amendments to the Constitution.

And Bill Clinton obstructed justice when he signed so-called anti-terrorism legislation that sharply curtailed the right of habeas corpus; authorized the massacre at Waco, Texas; and expanded the power of the federal government to seize private property without compensation under asset forfeiture laws — to name just a few examples.

There are no greater crimes that a president can commit — other than perhaps treason — that are as serious and damaging to the nation as Bill Clinton’s serial abuse of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. And there is no more fitting punishment for those crimes than for the U.S. House of Representatives to impeach him, for the U.S. Senate to convict him, for freedom-loving citizens to scorn him, and for history to despise him.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, December 21, 1998.

184. . . . Oh, you get the drift. Clinton was a great campaigner, but other than that, he didn’t have a clue. As for Bush, he couldn’t even campaign effectively.

Fred Barnes  
Reviewing *Quest For The Presidency 1992* by Peter Goldman,  
Thomas M. DeFrank, Mark Miller, Andrew Murr, Tom Matthews  
*The American Spectator*, April 1995, page 69



185. There is evidence that the practice of selfless giving actually pre-dates the Clinton years. But then, no idea or virtue ever really achieves true significance until the Clintons themselves have discovered it. And then, a new era. Time to “celebrate” volunteerism, redefine it, analyze it, coordinate it, have Maya Angelou write a poem about it, maybe mandate and nationalize it. Having already invested compassion, public ethics, bipartisanship, meaning in politics, and reinvented government, they have now invented private charity. Now if they would only invent modesty.

Matthew Scully  
*National Review*, June 2, 1997  
Quoted in *LP News*, September 1997, page 13.

186. He will lie until the last dog dies.

Michael Kelly, *The Washington Post*  
Quoted by John Ellis, “Next Step: Resignation”  
*Boston Globe*, December 17, 1998

187. A skeptical public ascribes Mr. Clinton’s successes to luck, not skill. They admire the President’s uncanny ability to crawl out of a deep hole relatively unscathed, but they never forget that Mr. Clinton usually dug the hole himself. They believe some, but hardly all, of what he tells them.

Douglas Brinkley  
Professor of History, University of New Orleans and occasional  
advisor to Democrats  
Quoted by John M. Broder  
“Laurels Elude President As Public Judges a War”  
*The New York Times*, June 22, 1999.

188. It’s a mess ain’t it? He’s a horny little toad, too.

Dolly Parton (when asked about the Clinton scandals)  
Quoted by Brad Schmitt in *The Nashville Tennessean*  
October 2, 1998

189. It is the Clinton administration, not the movies, that is the source of the new violence chic. And herein lies the greatest tragedy of the present regime. If there was ever any hope that Clinton might do some good for his country, it stemmed from his youthful protests against aggressive U.S. wars. Was there a commitment to something right and true in this man who otherwise appeared to have no moral core? If nothing else, he might have kept us out of war.

Alas, war is now one of his many unsavory legacies. Not even his redeeming qualities redeemed him in the end. For him, that weapon of mass destruction called government provides tangible proof that he is somebody important. He can turn off the power in a Belgrade hospital. He can blow up buses. He can decide who and what to destroy, any place on earth. He can determine whether sick children in Iraq have access to medical supplies. (His answer is no.) Thank God his plan to nationalize all of American medicine failed.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
"Violence Chic"  
WorldNetDaily, May 6, 1999.

190. Bob Dole wants to build a bridge to the past, and Clinton wants to build one to the future. Either bridge will be a government project built with huge amounts of our tax dollars. I want us to keep our own money so we can build our own bridges to anywhere *we* want to go.

Jack Dean  
Email message to Harry Browne

191. President Clinton needs to conquer his addiction to government-imposed solutions to family problems. The president is hopelessly addicted to public opinion polls and hooked on government regulation. His way of showing concern for the American family is by taking away responsibility from parents and turning it over to government bureaucrats. Clinton doesn't seem to understand that he was elected president, not parent-in-chief.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, August 23, 1996.

192. I served two tours of duty in Viet Nam to bring down a government that robbed men of their basic rights and turned them over to the state . . . only to find out 25 years later, Bill Rodham Clinton wants to create the same evil system right here in my own damn country.

Wade, a Viet Nam veteran character on the sitcom *Grace Under Fire*, broadcast October 6, 1994, ABC

193. It looks as though we'll all be footing the bill for the Clintons' place in Chappaqua, purchased by the First Couple for \$1.7 million when Hillary had to demonstrate her New York roots. The Secret Service needs a place on the property to house its agents, and the Clintons have been so good as to make available a structure for their bodyguards. By an amazing coincidence the rent matches the monthly mortgage payment for the entire property.

Alexander Cockburn  
"Another Freebie For The Clintons"  
New York Press, January 11, 2001

194. If those leading the impeachment proceedings had emphasized Clinton's many egregious constitutional abuses instead of appearing to take the high ground and judging him on a strictly moral basis (with many of them proving to be utter hypocrites in the course), impeachment could very well have succeeded. The Clinton impeachment trial was an object lesson in exactly how far you could take a moral, as opposed to a political, crusade in America before hitting a brick wall.

Barton Wong  
"Andrew Sullivan and his Enemies"  
*The Houston Review*, June 6, 2001.

195. Nobody ever said he was dumb. Marginally diabolical, maybe; stupid, no. The cocky Republicans who once thought they could outsmart him, like Newt Gingrich, are now lying in a ditch somewhere.

Joseph Sobran  
"Slick Willie and Gauche George"  
*Sobrans*, November 17, 2005.

### Clinton, Hillary

196. The first virtuecrat says "it takes a village" to raise a child. By a "village," she means federal programs and the inculcation of her ideas about virtue — what she calls, in typical psychobabble, "the politics of meaning." When people talk like that, they don't want your money or your life. They want both.

Jeffrey Hart  
King Features syndicated column, August 11, 1997.

### Clinton's Economic Plan

197. Will somebody please explain to me how more government taxes, more government borrowing, more government spending, more government employment and more government involvement in business and technology are going to solve any problems? Can anybody point to any social or business problems the government has solved yet?

Ray Kraft, San Francisco  
*San Francisco Examiner*, March 9, 1993, letter to the Editor

### Coercion

198. Any society of force — whether ruled by criminal bands or by an organized state — fundamentally means the rule of the jungle, or economic chaos.

Murray N. Rothbard (1926-1995)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997

199. The triumph of persuasion over force is the sign of a civilized society.

Mark Skousen  
“Persuasion vs. Force”  
Phillips Publishing, Potomac, Maryland, 1992; page 2.

200. The creation of the world — said Plato — is the victory of persuasion over force. . . . Civilization is the maintenance of social order, by its own inherent persuasiveness as embodying the nobler alternative. The recourse to force, however unavoidable, is a disclosure of the failure of civilization, either in the general society or in a remnant of individuals . . .

Now the intercourse between individuals and between social groups takes one of these two forms: force or persuasion. Commerce is the great example of intercourse by way of persuasion. War, slavery, and governmental compulsion exemplify the reign of force.

Alfred North Whitehead, British philosopher & Harvard professor  
“From Force to Persuasion,” essay  
In *Adventures of Ideas*, page 83.

201. Edmund Burke, the great British statesman, listed three reasons against the use of force in a speech urging Great Britain to seek reconciliation with its American colonies.

One reason is that the effects of violence are always temporary.

Two, if the violence fails, then all chances for reconciliation have been lost.

Three, violence often destroys what the violence was employed to save.

Charley Reese  
“Clinton’s Balkan Policy Just Plain Doesn’t Make Any Sense”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, March 30, 1999.

### Collective Guilt

202. In the old days, we reviled the Nazis for their doctrine of collective guilt; now we embrace the same Nazi concept as a vital feature of our ethical system.

Murray Rothbard  
*Rothbard Rockwell Report*, July 1990, p.3

### Commerce is Not War

203. . . . [C]ommerce is utterly different from war, so that the ideas and the phraseology of the one should never be applied to the other; for in war both sides lose whoever wins the victory, but the transactions of trade, like the quality of mercy, are twice blessed, and confer a benefit on both parties.

Winston Churchill, 1903  
Quoted by Michael McMenamin  
*Reason*, January 1991, p. 39

## Communism

204. We have lost one third of our population. We deprived ourselves of our former prosperity. We have destroyed the peasants as a class with their villages. We have polluted our earth and water. We have destroyed our women with hard labor. We have separated them from their children. We forgot health care. There are no medicines. We have forgotten what is healthful food. Millions are homeless, and we hold to just one thing: We are afraid we will be deprived of our limitless drinking. But all is not lost. Russia can withstand everything.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn  
Message to Soviet people, September 17, 1990  
*San Francisco Examiner*, September 19, 1990, Page A-1

205. In the end we beat them with Levi 501 jeans. Seventy-two years of Communist indoctrination and propaganda was drowned out by a three-ounce Sony Walkman. A huge totalitarian system . . . has been brought to its knees because nobody wants to wear Bulgarian shoes.

P. J. O'Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
"The Death of Communism," in *Rolling Stone*, Nov. 1989  
Reprinted in *Give War a Chance*, 1992.

206. The only thing to do, if you want to rid the bureaucracy of Communists, is to abolish the bureaucracy.

Frank Chodorov  
"McCarthy's Mistake"  
*Human Events*, Nov 12, 1952, page 1

207. The Soviet threat was always grossly overstated. Anti-Communists (including me) recognized that Communism was evil, but forgot their own argument that it was also, ultimately, futile. It was an absurd, destructive way to organize human society. In retrospect we can see how shabby it was, how the Soviet Union was bound to collapse. But at the time, American foreign policy posited that Communism was an almost irresistible force. We gave it far too much credit. We shuddered at its promise to "bury" us, a threat that now seems risible.

Joseph Sobran  
"Did Bush Lie?"  
*Sobran's*, July 2003, page 9.

## Communitarianism

208. Who should decide where that woman can and can't shop? The *community*, say the anti-superstore folks. But kicking decisions up to the community level always sends a shiver down my spine. After all, who gets to decide what exactly the "community" is, much less who should speak for it and where its best interests lie? Communitarianism always assumes that a group has a collective will somehow at odds with the choices made by individuals expressing themselves through voluntary activities, associations, and transactions.

Nick Gillespie  
*Reason*, May 1995, page 42

## Compassion

209. There is no virtue in compulsory government charity, and there is no virtue in advocating it. A politician who portrays himself as "caring" and "sensitive" because he wants to expand the government's charitable programs is merely saying that he's willing to try to do good with other people's money. Well, who isn't? And a voter who takes pride in supporting such programs is telling us that he'll do good with his own money — if a gun is held to his head.

P.J. O'Rourke in *Rolling Stone Magazine*  
Quoted by Harold Brashears (brshears@whale.st.usm.edu)  
in Internet forum, January 3, 1996.

210. It is always possible to bind together a considerable number of people in love, so long as there are other people left over to receive the manifestations of their aggression.

Sigmund Freud (1856 — 1939), Austrian psychiatrist.  
*Civilization and its Discontents*, ch. 5  
(1930; reprinted in *Complete Works*, vol. 21, ed. by James Strachey  
and Anna Freud, 1961).

211. The size of the federal budget is not an appropriate barometer of social conscience or charitable concern.

Ronald Reagan  
Address to the National Alliance of Business  
October 5, 1981  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

212. He [Robert Dallek, author of *Lone Star Rising: Lyndon Johnson and His Times, 1908-1960*] keeps repeating that Johnson had a "genuine concern" for common folk and minorities, as shown by his support for every imaginable federal program; but this is like saying that a peddler of patent medicines has a genuine concern for the sick.

Joseph Sobran  
*National Review*, September 23, 1991, p. 45

213. Compulsory compassion has no soul.

Linda Bowles  
“Rich Cheer for Taxes”  
Syndicated column, February 20, 2001.

214. Compassion in a politician I view with unreserved suspicion.

William Williford  
Message to Harry Browne.

215. Using politicians and bureaucrats to enforce compassion is a horrible mistake, if only because those who gravitate towards power over others tend not to be especially compassionate.

Glen Allport  
“Government Is ‘Compassion’”  
*LP News*, July 2001, page 13.

### Competition

216. Competition is a by-product of productive work, *not* its goal. A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, *not* by the desire to beat others.

Ayn Rand, *Ayn Rand Letter*  
Quoted in *Policy Review*, Fall 1993, page 14

217. Market competition is not a game. The object of games is to determine which participant will win while abiding by arbitrary rules. The rules define the game, and there is no purpose beyond them. Economic competition is quite a different thing. Its object is to deliver goods to consumers in the most efficient way possible. Imposing a “level playing field” makes sense in games, but it makes no sense in the marketplace. We consumers don’t care who performs best under the same conditions. We care about getting the products we want as cheaply and quickly as possible!

Sheldon Richman, “Punishing Success”  
*E-Mail Update*, Future of Freedom Foundation  
August 26, 1998

218. Microsoft didn’t create a “monopoly” in its operating system. Consumers did. And the day Microsoft, in the eyes of consumers, abuses its position, they will take it away.

Sheldon Richman, "Punishing Success"  
*E-Mail Update*, Future of Freedom Foundation  
August 26, 1998

219. If you hear someone say something along the lines of 'America needs higher productivity so that it can compete in today's global economy,' never mind who he is, or how plausible he sounds. He might as well be wearing a flashing neon sign that reads: 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.'

Paul Krugman  
*Peddling Prosperity: Economic Sense & Nonsense in the Age of Diminished Expectations* (Norton, 1994)  
Yeager, *Liberty*, September 1994, page 54. Quoted by Leland

### Compromise

220. One has to start out with what is right rather than what is acceptable . . . precisely because one always has to compromise in the end.

Peter Drucker, *The Effective Executive*  
Quoted by James P. Pinkerton, syndicated column, Jan 17, 1996

221. It is impossible to appease an aggressive movement bent on full-scale collectivism: gains or concessions simply encourage it and whet its appetite for escalating its demands.

Murray N. Rothbard  
*FreeMarket*, December 1994, page 4

222. In any compromise between food and poison, it is only death that can win. In any compromise between good and evil, it is only evil that can profit. In that transfusion of blood which drains the good to feed the evil, the compromiser is the transmitting rubber tube.

Ayn Rand  
Quoted by Gene Trosper  
"No compromise on liberty"  
Liberzine.com, September 22, 2000.

### Computers

223. The computer industry, being relatively new, has not yet attracted as much attention from politicians, and there is not yet a bureaucratic empire in Washington to oversee the computer industry, as the national Highway Traffic Safety Administration oversees the automobile industry.



Once the political establishment gets involved in the computer industry, we may not see prices continuing to come down any more. There is absolutely no limit to the number of requirements that politicians can think of to pile onto any industry. Nor is there any limit to the number of taxes they can think of that will add directly to the price.

Thomas Sowell  
*San Francisco Examiner*, August 2, 1993, page A-15

224. Chips are the brains and the memories in computers and toasters, radios and automobiles, telephones and traffic lights. And those things that contain no chips, such as roller skates and furniture, were probably designed on computers, manufactured on computer-controlled machinery, shipped with bills of lading generated by computer, stored in warehouses with computer-controlled inventory systems, and sold in a credit-card transaction verified by computers.

Thomas G. Donlan  
*Barron's*, March 23, 1992, page 14

225. Computer power is now 8,000 times less expensive than it was 30 years ago. If we had the same progress in automotive technology, a Lexus would cost \$2 and travel 600 miles on a thimble of gas.

Dr. Bill Poppei, DePaul University  
Quoted by Charlotte Coles Goldston  
Partner, J.C. Bradford & Co., Nashville  
*The Nashville Banner*, December 2, 1997, page B-5

## **Congress**

*See* #873, #1045, #1353, #1354, #1531, #1749, #1750, #1752, #1853.

## **Consciousness Raising**

226. Has there ever been a more arrogant phrase than “raising the consciousness” of someone else? It says that people who disagree with you are not to be debated on the same plane. They “just don’t get it” and the most you can hope for is that they will “grow.”

Thomas Sowell  
Syndicated column, November 17, 1992

## **Conscription**

227. It is customary to maintain that American wars are all fought on behalf of freedom, but few notice that for the sake of freedom millions of young men are enslaved for years, Shanghaied by conscription into a life whose every dimension is at odds with the idea of freedom.

Paul Fussell  
“The Culture of War”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 357.

### Consequences

228. The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.

Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)  
*Essays* [1891]. *State Tamperings with Money Banks*

229. There is only one basic human right, the right to do as you damn well please. And with it comes the only basic human duty, the duty to take the consequences.

P.J. O'Rourke  
*The American Spectator*, July 1993, page 38

230. If you deliberately insinuate yourself between another person and the consequences of his behavior, . . . you teach him what is not true, and you use the leverage of circumstance to keep him from learning what he *must* learn to flourish, and you do it not to improve him, but to exalt yourself.

Ken B. Hooper  
Libertarian Debate Forum on CompuServe, July 25, 1995

231. When we shield people from the consequences of their actions, we get a society characterized not by thrift, sobriety, diligence, self-reliance, and prudence, but by profligacy, intemperance, indolence, dependency, and indifference to consequences.

David Frum, *Dead Right*  
Quoted by David D. Boaz  
Speech, Libertarian Party convention, July 3, 1998.

### Consequences, Unintended

232. The emperor Constantine, with the best intentions, had issued a decree which provided that no one could be convicted unless he admitted his offense; but the result was to introduce the practice of interrogating the defendant under torture.

Jasper Ridley, Statesman and Saint  
Quoted by Stephen Cox, *Liberty*, January 1994, page 38

*See also* Symbolism.

## Conservatives & Conservatism

233. What is conservatism anyway? It used to mean the disposition to resist the political passions of the moment and to sprinkle a little cool skepticism on the more fiery enthusiasms. But in some quarters it has come to mean the most rash and extreme militarism.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, September 19, 1990

234. This is a party which never conserves anything. Its history has been that it demurs to each aggression of the progressive party, and aims to save its credit by a respectable amount of growling — but always acquiesces at last in the innovation. What was the resisted novelty of yesterday is today one of the accepted principles of conservatism. It is now conservative only in affecting to resist the next innovation, which will tomorrow be forced upon its timidity and will be succeeded by some third revolution to be denounced and then adopted in its turn. American conservatism is merely the shadow that follows radicalism as it moves forward toward perdition. It remains behind it, but never retards it, and always advances near its leader. . . . Its impotency is not hard, indeed, to explain. It is worthless because it is the conservatism of expediency only and not of sturdy principle. It intends to risk nothing serious for the sake of the truth, and has no idea of being guilty of the folly of martyrdom.

R.L. Dabney, 19th century theologian  
Quoted by Howard Phillips  
in “Because All Education is Religious, Government Must Get

Out”

Speech at Separation of School & State conference  
November 22, 1997

235. Conservatives, especially the Republican variety of conservatives, tend to assume that when a skirmish is lost, the supposed principle on which it was being waged need be surrendered forever. Once the federal government puts its nose in the tent, it can never be pushed out.

Howard Phillips  
“Because All Education is Religious, Government Must Get Out”  
Speech at Separation of School & State conference  
November 22, 1997

236. In general, it can probably be said that the conservative does not object to coercion or arbitrary power so long as it is used for what he regards as right purposes. He believes that if government is in the hands of decent men, it ought not be too much restricted by rigid rules . . . Like the socialist he regards himself as entitled to force the values he holds on other people.

Friedrich Hayek  
Quoted by James K. Glassman  
Syndicated column, November 18, 1997

237. Virtually every cause to which conservatives have attached themselves for the past three generations has been lost, and the tide of political and cultural battle is not likely to turn anytime soon.

Samuel Francis  
*Chronicles*, May 1991, Page 14

238. Conservatives who support global intervention promote big government.

Doug Bandow  
*The Washington Times*, December 13, 1997

239. The conservative response to the welfare state since the 1940s, with the honorable exception of a few lovable cranks, was to trim the fat, hold the line, and wait for the next onslaught of socialism that would carry the ball ever closer to the 100-yard line of 100% government. Those were the policies of the Eisenhower, Nixon, and Reagan administrations, and the fact — staring us in the face — the fact of their utter failure even to slow the advance, much less reverse the progress, of socialism tells us everything we need to know about the futility of such Fabian tactics.

Thomas Fleming  
*Chronicles*, June 1994, page 12

240. Conservatives want to eliminate abuses of power. Libertarians want to eliminate the power to abuse.

Michael Cloud  
In conversation with Harry Browne, April 10, 1998

241. Much that flies the conservative flag these days would have been called communism even in the 1950s.

Thomas Fleming  
*Chronicles*, June 1994, page 13

242. With the development of the Internet, conservatives have certainly shown themselves to be liberty's fair-weather friends. They have been far too eager to stifle the development of the Net's rich and varied potential on the grounds that children will gamble or see naked bodies, as if kids didn't do those things long before the PC was invented. It seems that conservatives are just as intolerant as the welfare-state liberals are about the freedom to make decisions beyond the prying eyes of the state.

Sheldon Richman  
"Treating Us Like Children"  
*E-Mail Update*, Future of Freedom Foundation  
August 26, 1998

243. By 1971, it had become apparent to me that the worst enemy of the working man and woman is the state, and that the average person is safest in a country that struggles to limit the size of the state.

And this is something that everyone knows at some level, whether liberal or conservative. When liberals are in power, they love government and champion it as the solution to all ills — but, when they aren't in power, they fear the government and suspect it of all sorts of nightmarish conspiracies. When conservatives are in power, they have a different agenda from that of liberals, but so far they haven't actually reduced the power of any government anywhere; they've only reduced the rate of growth of that power. Yet when they're out of office, conservatives see government as a monolithic horror about to crush everyone.

As a result, I developed a profound distrust of government regardless of the philosophy of the people in power. I remained a liberal on civil-rights issues, became a conservative on defense, and a semi-libertarian on all other matters.

Dean Koontz

Quoted in *The Dean Koontz Companion* (Headline Book Publishing, 1994), pages 30-31.

244. In assembling a staff, the conservative leader faces a greater problem than does the liberal. In general, liberals want more government and hunger to be the ones running it. Conservatives want less government and want no part of it. Liberals want to run other people's lives. Conservatives want to be left alone to run their own lives . . . Liberals flock to government; conservatives have to be enticed and persuaded. With a smaller field to choose from, the conservative leader often has to choose between those who are loyal and not bright and those who are bright but not loyal.

Richard M. Nixon, *Leaders*

Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13

245. Conservative governments in Britain, France and Germany that raise taxes are the tax collectors for the welfare state. Instead of balancing the budget by reducing spending, they finance the growth of government spending. Their election rhetoric notwithstanding, they contribute to growth of the government sector.

Allan H. Meltzer

*Los Angeles Times*, May 30, 1993, page D2

246. The Dec. 16 [1996] issue of the *Weekly Standard* opened with the kind of editorial one is used to reading in conservative magazines. Titled "It's Time to Take on the Judges," it heaped outrage on the recent decision by a California federal judge halting the enforcement of Proposition 209, passed by the voters last month, which bans state-sponsored affirmative action. The *Standard* denounced Judge Henderson's order as "an assault on popular will" and an act of "judicial usurpation." Growing more indignant by the paragraph, the editors declared it "time to ignite a popular outcry against unelected officials and their efforts to invalidate the results of elections."

It all made sense — unless you happened to have read an article in the previous issue of the *Standard* about Proposition 215, the other big California ballot initiative this year, which legalized the use of marijuana for medical purposes. In that piece, William Bennett and John Walters, Bennett's deputy drug czar during the Bush administration, argued that the will of the people must be overridden. The authors recommended that the federal government invoke an obscure provision of the Controlled Substances Act of 1917 to revoke the licenses of doctors who dare to act on Proposition 215, and that the Drug Enforcement Administration ignore state authorities and "use its power" to "move unilaterally" against pro-pot doctors.

Jacob Weisberg  
"Republican Revisionism"  
*Slate* magazine, December 21, 1996  
(<http://www.slate.com/StrangeBedfellow/96-12-21/StrangeBedfellow.asp>)

247. [T]he decisive objection to any conservatism which deserves to be called such . . . is that by its very nature it cannot offer an alternative to the direction in which we are moving. It may succeed by its resistance to current tendencies in slowing down undesirable developments, but, since it does not indicate another direction, it cannot prevent their continuance. It has, for this reason, invariably been the fate of conservatism to be dragged along a path not of its own choosing. The tug of war between conservatives and progressives can only affect the speed, not the direction, of contemporary developments. I personally cannot be content with simply helping to apply the brake. What the [classical] liberal must ask, first of all, is not how fast or how far we should move, but *where* we should move.

Friedrich A. Hayek  
*The Constitution of Liberty*, page 398.  
Quoted by David Dieteman  
National Review Online, March 6, 2001.

248. The task of the political philosopher can only be to influence public opinion, not to organize people for action. He will do so effectively only if he is not concerned with what is now politically possible but consistently defends the 'general principles which are always the same.' In this sense I doubt whether there can be such a thing as a conservative political philosophy. Conservatism may often be a useful practical maxim, but it does not give us any guiding principles which can influence long-range developments.

Friedrich A. Hayek  
*The Constitution of Liberty*, page 411.  
Quoted by David Dieteman  
National Review Online, March 6, 2001.

249. Fanaticism consists in redoubling your efforts when you have forgotten your aim.

George Santayana  
*The Life of Reason*, volume I.

250. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, conservative intellectuals lost their bearings. They seemed to forget the principles that had originally united them; they interpreted Republican political victories, however compromising, as evidence of their own triumph; and their agenda became little more than supporting any war favored by Republicans. They forgot their old hopes of repealing the welfare state, the New Deal, the Great Society; and the further the country moved leftward, the more they pretended it was moving rightward, claiming a popular mandate for their shrinking body of principles.

Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran's*, February 2003, page 4.

251. Far from believing in a limited, constitutional Federal Government, today's "movement" conservative believes in a centralized, militaristic state. He sees war not as an occasional necessity, regrettable and full of tragedy and peril even for the victors, but as a positively beneficent thing, even for the losers. Annoyed by constitutional restraints, he is a Caesarist, claiming for the president (provided he is a Republican, of course) a discretionary power to make war; and his periodicals are full of personal adulation of President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, embarrassing in their celebration of these men's heroism and wisdom.

Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran's*, February 2003, page 3.

252. Not 1 in 10,000 Republican conservatives has an inkling of the most basic insights of the old liberal faith in freedom, to say nothing of the founders' fears of government power. For most of them, the proper political philosophy amounts to nothing more than power lust backed by chauvinism. They have become proud to behave exactly like leftwing caricatures of themselves: fascistic, anti-intellectual, longing to be led.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
"Send in the Marines?"  
LewRockwell.com, May 3, 2003.

253. [U.S. Senator Rick Santorum] provided his comments about the Texas sodomy case pending before the Supreme Court to the AP on April 7th, in which he stated the following: 'We have laws in states, like the one at the Supreme Court right now, that has sodomy laws and they were there for a purpose. Because, again, I would argue, they undermine the basic tenets of our society and the family.' . . .

While his reasoning in that one point is valid, it is — or should be — blatantly obvious to anyone that Santorum's claim that homosexuality and 'homosexual acts' constituting a direct assault on the 'basic tenets of our society and the family' is highly erroneous. Don't conservative collectivists know that the *real* direct assault on the 'basic tenets of our society and the family' is the government's intrusions into our personal and economic affairs on a daily basis?

After all, aren't conservative collectivists, who claim to champion family values, lower taxes, school choice, personal responsibility, private property rights, individual liberty, and limited government, the ones who support the immoral and pervasive federal income tax, the War on Drugs, the War on Poverty, Keynesian tax and spend policies, gun control, occupational licensure, economic regulations, and 'saving' Social Security? Aren't they also responsible for preserving the morally bankrupt and perverse public 'government' school system? Aren't they also responsible for supporting pork-barreled spending, government fiat, wage controls, price controls, trade controls, and immigration controls? Aren't they also responsible for supporting our disastrous and destructive foreign policy of global interventionism, which has ignited more sentiments of resentment, bitterness, and animosity towards the government? Aren't they also supportive of foreign aid (which is really global welfare for nations that receive subsidies from our government), corporate welfare, and conscription?

Todd Andrew Barnett  
 "Santorum Is A Threat To Individual Liberty"  
*The Libertarian Enterprise*, May 5, 2003.

254. Global empire is an important issue for conservatism. If the U.S. government has the ability to bring peace and democracy to the world, big government can obviously also run America's economy and plan its social life — and limited government becomes irrelevant.

Donald Devine  
 "Revitalizing Conservatism", May 13, 2003  
 American Conservative Union memo.

255. [There is] nothing you can't put over on conservatives if you spice it with war and anti-red talk.

Lawrence Dennis  
 Quoted in "The Old Right Revisited" by Ryan McMaken  
 LewRockwell.com, July 24, 2003.

256. [Today's] conservatives have an essentially militaristic conception of society. They think of the state as, ideally, in charge of social arrangements — provided, of course, that people on "our" side, rather than liberals, are in charge of the state itself. . . . they fell that "we" are winning, and that's what counts. Never mind just who "we" are, or just what is being won.

Joseph Sobran  
 "War and Worship"  
*Sobran's*, September 2003, page 4.

## Conspicuous Benevolence

See Symbolism.



## Constitution, The

257. It would be a dangerous delusion were a confidence in the men of our choice to silence our fears for the safety of our rights. . . . Confidence is everywhere the parent of despotism. Free government is founded in jealousy, and not in confidence. It is jealousy and not confidence which prescribes limited constitutions, to bind down those whom we are obliged to trust with power . . . Our Constitution has accordingly fixed the limits to which, and no further, our confidence may go. . . . In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.

Thomas Jefferson  
The Kentucky Resolutions of 1798.

258. To take a single step beyond the boundaries specially drawn around the powers of Congress is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible to definition.

Thomas Jefferson  
*The Report to the President* (George Washington)  
February 15, 1791.

259. Good intentions will always be pleaded for any assumption of power . . . [T]he Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

Daniel Webster  
Quoted in "Perspective," *The Freeman*, July 1993, page 243.  
Cited in *Forfeiting Our Property Rights* by Henry Hyde, page 29.

260. Why have a Constitution at all, if a majority of an appointed Supreme Court — the organ of state least accountable to public opinion — can make the Constitution say whatever it wishes?

Eugene D. Genovese  
*The Southern Front: History and Politics in the Cultural War*  
Quoted in a review by Mark Falcoff  
*The American Spectator*, January 1996, page 69

261. The Constitution of the United States of America was written for the purpose of limiting the power of government and making it accountable to the governed. This notion, that the governed ought be concerned with, and in control of, the actions of government, was not predicated upon some set of circumstances particular to the time; in fact it was based upon a deep understanding of both human nature and power itself. And the truths that applied then have not changed in the intervening 200 years, nor are they likely to change in the thousand to come.

Adam J. Smith  
“From Ignorance to Tyranny”  
DRCNet, September 4, 1998

262. Within the Constitution there is no grant of authority to the federal government to pay money to farmers, run the health care industry, impose wage and price controls, provide job training, subsidize electricity and telephone service, lend money to business or foreign governments, or build parking garages or tennis courts or swimming pools.

Stephen Moore  
*Cato Policy Report*, March/April 1995, page 6

263. The 10th Amendment to the Constitution states the Founders’ intentions quite clearly and unambiguously: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution . . . are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Such plain language would not seem to be easy to misinterpret. Put simply, if the Constitution doesn’t specifically permit the federal government to do something, then it doesn’t have the right to do it.

Stephen Moore  
*Policy Review*, Spring 1995, page 23

264. Either we have a government in chains and a free people, or we have a government free to do what it wants and the people in chains.

Michael Cloud

265. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government that is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.

James Madison, *Federalist* No. 51  
Cited by Joseph Baldacchino in “How Congress Can Revive the  
Constitution”

*Human Events*, January 13, 1995, page 14

266. [I can] not undertake to lay [my] finger on that article in the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents. And if [we] once [break] the line laid down before [us], for the direction of [our] conduct, it [is] impossible to say to what lengths [we] might go, or to what extremities this practice might be carried.

*Original:* “He acknowledged for his own part, that he could not undertake to lay his finger on that article in the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents. And if they once broke the line laid down before them, for the direction of their conduct, it was impossible to say to what lengths they might go, or to what extremities this practice might be carried.”

James Madison, as a Congressman in January 1794  
Voting against a \$13,000 appropriation for French refugees.  
Summarized & paraphrased from the House floor debate  
*The History of Congress*, page 170.

267. We have the right as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity; but as members of Congress we have no right to appropriate a dollar of the public money.

Davy Crockett  
Quoted in *Policy Review*, Spring 1995, page 24

268. I cannot find any authority in the Constitution for public charity. [It] would be contrary to the letter and the spirit of the Constitution and subversive to the whole theory upon which the Union of these States is founded.

Franklin Pierce  
Quoted in *Policy Review*, Spring 1995, page 24

269. I can find no warrant for such an appropriation in the Constitution. . . . a prevalent tendency to disregard the limited mission of [the government’s] power and duty should, I think, be steadfastly resisted, to the end that the lesson should constantly be enforced that though the people support the government, the government should not support the people.

Grover Cleveland, U.S. president, 1885-1889, 1893-1897,  
In vetoing an appropriation of \$10,000 for Texas farmers who  
suffered a terrible drought.

Quoted in *Policy Review*, Spring 1995, page 24  
And in “Odyssey of a Statesman” by Matthew Hoffman  
*FreeMarket*, January 1991, page 8.

270. Ask yourselves, is there any spending program that you would oppose simply on the grounds that authority for the expenditure cannot be found in the Constitution? If not, why do we have a Constitution at all for you to uphold?

Stephen Moore, in congressional testimony  
*Cato Policy Report*, March/April 1995, page 6

271. Doesn’t the Constitution come first?

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice  
January 14, 1997  
Quoted by Richard Carelli, Associated Press report

272. Clinton and the Republicans never let the Constitution stand in the way of a law they want. And now the Republicans want to impeach him for having a Teflon zipper? That's like busting Nixon in 1974 for littering.

Michael Cloud  
Radio broadcasts, 1998 campaign.

273. Maybe, instead of saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag in school, that time could be better spent actually reading the Constitution.

Joseph Farah  
"The desecration of the Constitution, Part 2"  
WorldNetDaily, June 29, 1999.

274. Few people see the logical absurdity of letting a government decide the meaning of the very document that is supposed to limit that government's powers. Could anything be more irrational? If the federal government can change the Constitution, which was allegedly "unalterable by the government," why bother having a written constitution at all?

Joseph Sobran  
"Symptoms of Tyranny"  
*Sobran's*  
Reprinted on LewRockwell.com, December 13, 2000.

275. With respect to the words general welfare, I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers (enumerated in the Constitution) connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators.

James Madison  
Quoted by Larry Elder  
"Barney Frank discovers the tenth amendment"  
Syndicated column, February 1, 2001.

276. Politicians often read the Constitution the way W.C. Fields approached the Bible — looking for loopholes, not guidance.

Steve Chapman  
"Who asked Congress to serve as editors?"  
Syndicated column, February 18, 2001.

277. The Constitution was intended for a state of war, as well as a state of peace, and is equally binding upon rulers and people at all times and under all circumstances.

*Ex parte Milligan*  
Supreme Court Ruling, 1866  
Quoted by George P. Fletcher  
“War and the Constitution”  
*The American Prospect*, January 1-14, 2002.

278. A constitution of government, once changed from freedom, can never be restored; liberty, once lost, is lost forever.

John Adams  
Quoted by Tom DeWeese  
“Losing Our Liberty in the Name of Fighting Terrorism”  
MichNews.com, August 6, 2003.

279. Fortunately it still is startling, in this country, to find a person held indefinitely in executive custody without accusation of crime or judicial trial. Executive imprisonment has been considered oppressive and lawless since John, at Runnymede, pledged that no free man should be imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed, or exiled save by the judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.

Robert Jackson, Supreme Court Justice  
Shaughnessy v. Mezei (1953)  
Quoted by Jacob Levich  
“Justice for Robert Jackson:  
The War on Terror Is Not a Suicide Pact”  
CommonDreams.org, June 20, 2002.

### Consumers & Consumer Choice

280. On the market of a capitalistic society, the common man is the sovereign consumer whose buying or abstention from buying ultimately determines what should be produced.

Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997

281. The test of an economic system lies in the choices it offers, the alternatives that are open to the people living under it. When choices are limited by coercion of one sort or another, the system must fall short of meeting the test in greater or less degree. The virtue of a free system — that is, competitive capitalism — is that it allows energy to flow uncoerced into a thousand-and-one different forms, expanding goods, services, and jobs in myriad unpredictable ways.

John Chamberlain  
Quoted in *Freedom Daily*, January 1990

282. The objection to Wal-Mart is simple: It charges lower prices, drawing customers away from established businesses, hurting “the community.” The problem is not really Wal-Mart, however. Rather, it is economy-minded consumers who desire increased choice and lower prices. Thus, instead of barring Wal-Mart, honest critics should favor arresting anyone who shops at any discounter — even by mail. This is the logical, if nonsensical, consequence of the anti-Wal-Mart worldview.

Doug Bandow  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997

### Controlling our Lives

283. Most of the history of the human race has been a history of the masses of ordinary people having their lives controlled and their destiny decided by some elite.

It has taken centuries of struggle, agony, sacrifice, and bloodshed to get out from under the thumb of those who acted as if they had been born into this world ‘booted and spurred, to ride mankind.’ Now we are turning around and heading backward, toward a world where people’s fates are not in their own hands but in the hands of some puffed-up political leaders.”

Thomas Sowell  
*The New York Post*, November 19, 1993

### Coolidge, Calvin

284. Calvin Coolidge was the first President to discover that what the American people want is to be left alone.

Will Rogers  
Quoted by David Neff  
*Christianity Today*, April 28, 1997, page 23.

285. There were no thrills while he reigned, but neither were there any headaches. He had no ideas, and he was not a nuisance.

H.L. Mencken  
Quoted by Robert Higgs  
“No More ‘Great Presidents’”  
*The Free Market*, Ludwig von Mises Institute, March 1997.

## Corporate Responsibility

286. “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Its Profits” was a modest five-page article in the September 13, 1970, issue of the *New York Times Magazine*. In it, [Milton] Friedman . . . said, . . . If a corporation makes a donation to charity, for example, it is really corporate managers who are making donations of assets that ultimately belong to corporation shareholders. Unless those shareholders express their desire to make such a donation, the manager’s decision to support the donation is a case of one person “spending someone else’s money.” Far better would be a decision to return the money to shareholders as dividends (or capital gains, realized if and when they sell their stock) and let them decide which charities to support. Similarly, if corporate social responsibilities are to be fulfilled with money that would otherwise go to employees in the form of wages, or that is collected by raising prices for consumers, then the corporate manager is spending their money without consent as well.

John Hood

*The Heroic Enterprise* (Free Press, 1996), page 8.

287. The May 13, 1996 issue of Fortune magazine analyzed the “ethical mutual funds” which invest with a social-issues agenda, and currently control \$639 billion in investments. Those funds produced an 18.2% return in the last 12 months, while the S&P 500 returned 27.2%. The investors in those funds thus lost 9% of \$639 billion, or \$57.5 billion in one year, because they invested on a social-issues basis. Furthermore, their loss was not simply someone else’s gain; the money literally vanished from our economy, making every American poorer. That’s a lot of houses, food, and college educations that were lost to the “higher good” of various causes. What absurd logic would contend that Americans should be harmed by “good ethics”?

T.J. Rodgers

CEO, Cypress Semiconductor Corp.

In a reply to a shareholder concerned about the number of women and minorities on the Cypress board of directors.

288. I have never known much good done by those who affected to trade for the public good.

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, book IV, chapter 2

Quoted in *Bagatorials*, page 168

## Corporate Welfare

289. It is not pro-business for government to try to help businesses one at a time — as seems to be the overriding mission of the Department of Commerce. It is not free enterprise for the government to be picking winners and losers in high technology markets — or in any industry. The way that the United States Senate can help create more Microsofts, more Intels, more Federal Expresses, and more MCIs is not to have government go searching for them. It is to cut taxes, cut government spending, and streamline anti-business regulations that cause more problems than they solve.

Stephen Moore, Director Of Fiscal Policy Studies, Cato Institute  
In testimony before the Senate Committee on Governmental  
Affairs,  
Subcommittee On Government Management,  
Restructuring and the District of Columbia, June 3, 1997  
Reprinted at Web site <http://www.cato.org/testimony/ct-sm060397.html>

290. Big Business-Big Government partnerships . . . were the central facts behind the power structures of old fascism in the days of Mussolini, Hitler and the Japanese empire builders.

Bertram Gross, *Friendly Fascism*  
Quoted by Richard Poe  
"Third Way or Third Reich?"  
NewsMax.Com, May 18, 1999

291. Henry Clay was a champion of that political system which doles favors to the strong in order to win and to keep their adherence to the government. His system offered shelter to devious schemes and corrupt enterprises. He was the beloved son of Alexander Hamilton with his corrupt funding schemes, his superstitions concerning the advantage of a public debt, and a people taxed to make profits for enterprises that cannot stand alone. His example and his doctrines led to the creation of a party that had no platform to announce [the Whig Party] because its principles were plunder and nothing else.

Edgar Lee Masters  
Quoted by Thomas diLorenzo.

### Corruption, Police

292. Police corruption results when police are put in situations where it is worth more to them to accept bribes or misuse their authority than it would be to do the right thing. These situations are especially prevalent when police are dealing with crimes without victims. If no one has an opposing stake in seeing the law upheld, then it makes little sense to pass up easy money.

Mark Kavar  
"LAPD, Inc.?"  
Liberzine.com, August 31, 2000.

### Crime

293. . . . The one thing our government does worst is govern, in the sense of protecting us from violence. You might think that a government whose size and powers have multiplied would be proportionately more effective at controlling crime. But the opposite is true. A State that devotes most of its energy to inessentials is bound to neglect essentials. Ours is too intent on policing taxpayers and businesses to police robbers.



Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, May 17, 1995

294. If there is a key to understanding America's criminal justice problem, it lies in recognizing that the War on Drugs has been lost. In order to feed the war machine, we have sacrificed our courts, prisons, and law enforcement. More importantly, we have surrendered many of the freedoms that made us the freest society in history.

Denver Judge John L. Kane, Jr.  
"Just say 'no' to the Drug War"  
*The Coloradan*, May 1998, page 20

295. Between 1850 and the late 1970s, the U.S. incarceration rate remained relatively stable at about 100 per 100,000 — a higher rate than any other nation. In the past decade, the prison population has grown by 13% a year, and yet this tremendous increase has had no impact on crime.

Denver Judge John L. Kane, Jr.  
"Just say 'no' to the Drug War"  
*The Coloradan*, May 1998, page 20

296. If you were going to choose a single class of individuals to fight crime, would you choose politicians? And let them use your checkbook to do it?

Rob Morse  
*San Francisco Examiner*, August 11, 1994, page A-3

297. America needs fewer laws, not more prisons.

James Bovard  
Quoted in *Liberty*, Vol. 8, No. 1, November 1994, page 56

298. The police? They will fine you for not wearing seatbelts, but when the riots came in Los Angeles, police hesitant to act for fear of exacerbating the violence left the law-abiding citizens to defend themselves.

Malcolm Wallop  
*National Review*, February 7, 1994, page 39

299. [Congressman] Dingell has assailed Justice and the U.S. attorney in Houston for not indicting Marinus Van Leuzen of Galveston, Texas. His crime? Mr. Van Leuzen filled a quarter-acre of wetland under his house so he could park his car and set out lawn furniture. Children are being shot in swimming pools in Washington, D.C., but Sheriff Dingell is hot on the case of the man who built a driveway.

*Wall Street Journal* editorial, no date

300. It's ironic that the Crime Bill, which Bill Clinton bragged would put 100,000 new cops on the beat, actually helped put 134,300 rapists on the street. The 1994 exodus of rapists from prison is partly attributable to that year's Crime Bill, which mandated life terms for many drug law violators, compelling prison officials to set more sexual predators free to relieve prison overcrowding. America's women are paying a terrible price because politicians would rather keep a person in jail for smoking a marijuana cigarette than for rape. Thanks to the politicians, the War on Drugs has become a War on Women.

Bill Winter, Communications Director  
Libertarian Party press release, February 5, 1997

301. The *New York Times* reported on a case of four commuters arrested on an evening train by a plainclothes policewoman. They had been playing cards. The four desperadoes were "taken off the train, handcuffed, fingerprinted, and photographed. They were then charged with possessing a gambling device: a deck of cards."

Now, why was a policewoman cracking down on poker-players when New York is rife with muggings, rapes, murders, and burglaries? Rest assured, gentle reader, that her encounter with the gamblers was no part of her duties. She had boarded the train "in search of smokers."

John O'Sullivan  
*National Review*, June 12, 1995

302. Conservatives are right that the guilty often go free, but the reason is that the innocent are convicted in their place. Justice is no longer a concern of the justice system. Careers depend on conviction rates. It is easier for police and prosecutors to get convictions by piling charges on a convenient suspect until they coerce a plea than to solve a case and find the truth.

Paul Craig Roberts  
"Forgive Us our Injustice System"  
December 25, 2001.

303. Prosecutors have greater ease in framing white-collar defendants with arcane regulatory interpretations than they do framing the poor with well-defined common law crimes.

Paul Craig Roberts  
"Convicting Wrongfully"  
Vdare.com, January 13, 2003.

304. You get an idea of what is going on when you see a newspaper story about a crime (often a white-collar crime) in which there is a detail like this: "If convicted on all counts, so-and-so would be subject to a sentence of 120 years." It seems that every misdeed becomes, in the statute books, a panoply of offenses like money laundering and racketeering. By throwing a large statute book at a defendant, the prosecutor can blackmail the culprit (or an innocent person) into a plea bargain.

Paul Craig Roberts  
“The Death of Due Process”  
*Forbes*, December 11, 2000.

305. [Frontier towns such as] Bodie and Aurora actually suffered rarely from robbery . . . today’s cities, such as Detroit, New York, and Miami, have 20 times as much robbery per capita. The United States as a whole averages three times as much robbery per capita as Bodie and Aurora. Burglary and theft were also of infrequent occurrence in the mining towns. Most American cities today average 30 or 40 times as much burglary and theft per capita as Bodie and Aurora. The national rate is ten times higher. . . .

Yes, men (and some women) went about armed and male combatants killed each other, mostly in fights where there were somewhat “even chances.” On the other hand, the young, the old, the female, and those who chose not to drink in saloons and display reckless bravado were rarely the victims of crime or violence. . . .

In the early 1950s, the city of Los Angeles averaged about 70 murders a year. Today the city averages more than 90 murders a month. . . . In 1952 there were 572 rapes reported to the LAPD. In 1992 there were 2,030 reported. During the same years robbery increased from a reported total of 2,566 to 39,508, and auto theft from 6,241 to 68,783.

Roger D. McGrath  
*Gunfighters, Highwaymen, and Vigilantes*, pages 17-18  
Quoted by Hans-Hermann Hoppe  
“Time Preference, Government, and the Process of De-

Civilization”

In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 418.

306. There are only three specifically enumerated federal crimes in the Constitution: treason, piracy, and counterfeiting. The federal government has no general police power to prosecute ordinary crimes. It was never intended to do that. But it acts as though it does have that power. Federal jurisdiction has expanded to include a host of crimes that are already illegal at the state level: drug crimes, gun crimes, robberies, car theft — almost everything short of jaywalking can now be prosecuted federally.

Gene Healy  
Cato Policy Forum, December 14, 2005.

*See also* Drug War, Gun Control.

### Crime & Joblessness

307. During the 1960s, one neighborhood in San Francisco had the lowest income, the highest unemployment rate, the highest proportion of families with incomes under \$4,000 a year, the least educational attainment, the highest tuberculosis rate, and the highest proportion of substandard housing. . . . That neighborhood was called Chinatown. Yet in 1965, there were only five persons of Chinese ancestry committed to prison in the entire state of California.

James Q. Wilson & Richard Herrnstein, *Crime and Human Nature*  
Quoted by David Rubinstein  
*The Wall Street Journal*, November 9, 1992, page A14

### Criminal Methods — Getting Used To Them

308. Criminal means, once tolerated, are soon preferred.

Edmund Burke  
Quoted by Joseph Sobran  
*National Review*, September 23, 1991, page 45

### Debates, Presidential

309. We have broken down the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall, but now an electronic curtain has descended across America, stifling debate in Presidential and Congressional races.

Stormy Mon, 1996 Libertarian candidate for Senate in Oregon

### Defense, National

310. War is just one more big government program.

Joseph Sobran  
Source unknown

311. The most fundamental purpose of government is defense, not empire.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, August 3, 1995  
Reprinted in *Sobran's*, September 1995, page 9

312. This matter of national defense would take on an entirely different aspect if people could be brought to understand that the only government they need to defend themselves against is their own government, and that the only way to defend themselves against it is by constant distrust and vigilance.

Albert Jay Nock  
Quoted by Ralph Raico in a letter to the editor  
*The Freeman*, December 1954  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 225

313. In reality, the defense budget is a *burden* on society. That is one reason why economic growth has been so low in the United States and the Soviet Union — which have heavy military expenditures — while growth has been so high in Japan and Germany, which have small military budgets.

Mark Skousen  
*Forecasts & Strategies*, February 1991, page 2.

314. The White House and the Pentagon need to stop treating the American people and Congress like some kind of ATM machine to finance their foreign policy adventures.

Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D - Vermont)  
Quoted by Wayne Washington  
“Bush Aides Admit Iraqi Missteps”  
*Boston Globe*, September 9, 2003.

315. [America] well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, wee they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy, and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom.

John Quincy Adams  
*Memoirs of John Quincy Adams*, volume 4, pages 437-439  
Quoted in *Empire of Liberty* by Richard W. Tucker and David C.

Hendrickson, pages 44-45

Cited in "The Anti-Interventionist Tradition in American Politics"

by Justin Raimondo

In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, pages 72-73.

## Deficits

316. I sincerely believe . . . that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies, and that the principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)  
Letter, 28 May 1816, to political philosopher and senator John  
Taylor,  
whose book *An Inquiry into the Principles and Policy of the  
Government of the United States*  
(1814) had argued against the harmful effects of finance capitalism.

317. We may consider each generation as a distinct nation, with a right, by the will of its majority, to bind themselves, but none to bind the succeeding generation, more than the inhabitants of another country.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)  
Letter, 24 June 1813, on the incurring of a national debt.

318. Here we are in 1997 in a time of peace and rapid military downsizing, with a healthy economy, a President who says he wants to balance the budget, and allegedly the most conservative Congress in forty years. Under any semblance of fiscal sanity we should be running a budget surplus to pay off the Cold War debt. Instead, the deficit is expected to go up this year and the next, and the next.

Stephen Moore  
*National Review*, February 10, 1997, page 39

319. Governments harangue about deficits to get more revenue so they can spend more.

Allan H. Meltzer  
*Los Angeles Times*, May 30, 1993, page D2

### Definitions, Political

320. In the current political vocabulary, “need” means wanting to get someone else’s money. “Greed,” which used to mean what “need” now means, has come to mean wanting to keep your own. “Compassion” means the politician’s willingness to arrange the transfer.

*Free Market*, July 1989, page 6  
Author & article title missing, probably Lew Rockwell

### Demagogues

321. . . . of those men who have overturned the liberties of republics the greatest number have begun their career, by paying an obsequious court to the people, commencing Demagogues and ending Tyrants.

Alexander Hamilton  
Federalist Paper #1  
Quoted by Eric Johnson on CompuServe, Jan. 9, 1997

322. The more he spoke of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons.

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
Quoted by Michael Cloud, April 7, 1997

323. The bad are at their most bad when they appear at their least bad.

Hilaire Belloc, quoted by Michael Coren  
*National Review*, February 21, 1994, page 63

324. Hero-worship is strongest where there is least regard for human freedom.

Herbert Spencer (1820 — 1903), English philosopher  
*Social Statistics*, pt. 4, ch. 30, sct. 6 (1850).

325. In times of economic crisis the demagogue is the one who attacks the bankers, who vilifies the capitalists and the financiers. As it happens, these same bankers and financiers were shortly before the praiseworthy authors of prosperity. Nobody complained then. Everyone, as history shows, was then equally debauched by the spirit of economic optimism. Yet when the business cycle at last hits bottom, when summer gives way to winter, the bankers and the capitalist are targeted as if they were public enemies engaged in a conspiracy to pauperize the country.

J.R. Nyquist  
“Beware the Demagogues”  
WorldNetDaily, March 26, 2001.

### Democracy

326. Democracy means simply the bludgeoning of the people by the people for the people.

Oscar Wilde, *The Soul of Man Under Socialism*  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, page 675

327. When important issues affecting the life of an individual are decided by somebody else, it makes no difference to the individual whether that somebody else is a king, a dictator, or society at large.

James Taggart  
“Rights Wronged”  
*Liberty*, September 1992, page 14.

328. Majority rule is a precious, sacred thing worth dying for. But — like other precious, sacred things, such as the home and the family — it's not only worth dying for; it can make you wish you were dead. Imagine if all of life were determined by majority rule. Every meal would be a pizza. Every pair of pants, even those in a Brooks Brothers suit, would be stone-washed denim. Celebrity diet and exercise books would be the only thing on the shelves at the library. And — since women are a majority of the population — we'd all be married to Mel Gibson.

P. J. O'Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Parliament of Whores*, “The Mystery of Government” (1991).

329. We sometimes think the solution to our problems is to elect the right people to Congress. I believe that's false, that if a random sample of the people in this room were to replace the 435 people in the House and the 100 people in the Senate, the results would be much the same.

Milton Friedman  
*Cato Policy Report*, July/August 1993, page 14

330. The theory of democracy is that politicians rob 49% of the population to buy the votes of the other 51%. The practice of democracy is that politicians rob 98% of the population to reward the politically organized 2%.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1997 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

331. It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man, who knows what the law is today, can guess what it will be tomorrow.

*The Federalist Papers*  
Quoted by Brink Lindsey, *Policy Review*, Winter 1991, page 52

332. Let the people think they govern and they will be governed.

William Penn (1644 — 1718), founder of Pennsylvania.  
*Some Fruits of Solitude* (1693).

333. In other words, a democratic government is the only one in which those who vote for a tax can escape the obligation to pay it.

Alexis de Tocqueville (1805 — 59), French social philosopher.  
*Democracy in America*, vol. 1, pt. 2, ch. 5 (1840).

334. Democracy works in mysterious ways its chaos to perform.

Florence King  
*National Review*, September 15, 1997, page 88

335. Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.

John Adams (1735-1826)  
Letter, 15 April 1814  
Published in *The Works of John Adams*, vol. 6, 1851



336. I hear many condemn these men because they were so few. When were the good and the brave ever in a majority?

Henry David Thoreau [1817-1862]  
*A Plea for Captain John Brown* [1859]

337. A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950), Anglo-Irish playwright,  
critic.

*Everybody's Political What's What*, ch. 30 (1944).

338. The fate of the country . . . does not depend on what kind of paper you drop into the ballot box once a year, but on what kind of man you drop from your chamber into the street every morning.

Henry David Thoreau [1817-1862]  
*Slavery in Massachusetts* [1854]

339. “Democracy” is merely the best disguise yet devised for minority rule. Convince the majority that they are ruling themselves, and they will submit to anything.

Joseph Sobran  
“On with the War!”  
*Sobran's*, March 2002, page 10.

340. Democracy is also a form of religion. It is the worship of jackals by jackasses.

H.L. Mencken  
Quoted by Clarence B. Carson  
*The Growth of America, 1978-1928*, page 240.

341. In those countries where certain individual freedoms coexist with a form of “democratic” (that is, popularly elected) government, these freedoms were generally established in law before the wide extension of the franchise.

David Botsford  
“The Case for Isolationism”

## Democratic Party

342. The fundamental motivation for Democrats is their understanding that winning control of government is tied to paychecks, jobs, government grants, public money for private groups and companies, government contracts, union bargaining advantages, rules by which trial lawyers bring lawsuits, and on and on. The use of government to feed friends and starve enemies is something Democrats know instinctively. Winning elections means getting or keeping a livelihood.

Cleta Mitchell  
*The Wall Street Journal*, November 20, 2000  
Quoted by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Cashing in on Government”  
WorldNetDaily, November 24, 2000.

## Dependency

343. We have depended on government for so much for so long that we as people have become less vigilant of our liberties. As long as the government provides largesse for the majority, the special interest lobbyists will succeed in continuing the redistribution of welfare programs that occupies most of Congress’s legislative time.

Ron Paul, Congressman (R — Texas)  
Speech in the House of Representatives  
September 17, 1997

## Depression, The Great

344. The New Deal prolonged the Great Depression by doubling taxes, making it more expensive for employers to hire people, making it harder for entrepreneurs to raise capital, demonizing employers, destroying food, promoting cartels, breaking up the strongest banks, forcing up the cost of living, channeling welfare spending away from the poorest people, and enacting labor laws that hit poor African Americans especially hard.

Jim Powell  
“How FDR Prolonged the Great Depression”  
*Cato Policy Report*, July/August 2003, page 1.

## Dictatorships

345. Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship.

George Orwell (1903-50)  
O’Brien to Winston Smith, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, pt. 3, ch. 3  
(1949).

346. I imagine when one has grown up where highwaymen rob you naked in midday, where the government has been corrupt and randomly lawless for generations, where foreign powers come and go, where religious persecution is the unquestioned routine, one craves order, security, and clarity about the consequences of one's actions. And so a Reza Shah or even a Mussolini or Stalin are accepted and admired in their own time, and wistfully remembered by the old once they are gone and the land has settled back into its ancient and familiar chaos.

Imaj Isaac Rahmin  
"Where the Shah Went Alone"  
*Reason*, July 2003, page 43.

### Discrimination Laws

347. Many actual cases of harm have been motivated by discrimination, to be sure; but since those are wrong anyway, the fact that they are discriminatory is beside the point.

T. Patrick Burke, *No Harm*  
Quoted by Jan Narveson, *Liberty*, January 1997, page 63

348. Federal anti-discrimination law has never been more zealously enforced than it is today. Never have the business practices of Americans been more intensely regulated. Never have the incentives for private litigation glittered more alluringly. Never has the government threatened malefactors with such heavy punishments. If what American society has done so far in the name of fairness is not enough, one is entitled to wonder: What on earth *would* be enough?

David Frum  
*The Weekly Standard*, December 2, 1996; page 28

349. Unsurprisingly, in the hope of defending themselves against lawsuits, American employers have resorted to race and sex quotas. They have felt obliged to do so because, under the present legal rules, once a *prima facie* case of discrimination has been made, the onus of proof shifts to the defendant, and it's hard to prove the *absence* of an improper motive.

David Frum  
*The Weekly Standard*, December 2, 1996; page 29

350. Might some difference in pay exist in a competitive economy? Yes, indeed. The slogan "equal pay for equal work" is thrown around too casually. What is "equal work"? When employers hire workers, they are arranging for a stream of labor services projecting into the future. Naturally, employers value reliability as well as productivity. They want not only talented workers, but also workers who will be on the job long-term. If experience shows that one group of workers is less likely to be there long-term than another group, it stands to reason that the first group will command somewhat lower pay than the second. If the pay difference is outlawed, the group that would have been paid less will have a harder time finding jobs.

Like it or not, women are more apt than men to drop out of the work force to raise families. Even if a woman's leave is brief, she is still likely to spend less time on work than a man is. Thus, on average there's more risk in hiring a woman than a man, and many older women just don't have the cumulative work experience that men their age have. Both factors would tend to depress women's wages. If that's discrimination, it's rational and not pernicious.

Sheldon Richman  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, March 8, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation

351. Imagine a world without anti-discrimination law. Every employee would be planned and wanted. Business would be free to advertise for job openings without fearing lawsuits. There would be no more quota loans from banks. The credit rating would mean something again. The university could get back to being a place of learning instead of a victimological remediation center.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
*The Free Market*, May 1995, page 4

352. Let's say we had a law that said: "Marriages contracted under the age of 25 must be based on the grounds of love and no other reason." It would be enforced with fines of \$100,000. Is there any doubt where such a law would lead? Certainly not to more loving young couples. Everyone would wait until age 26 to get married.

The advocates of such a law can protest that this is not what they have in mind. They can claim they were just trying to promote romance. But the legal logic says otherwise. The only way to enforce certain kinds of intentions is by mandating certain kinds of effects.

It is anti-discrimination law, not quotas, that allows the government to enforce multiculturalism in every business in America. Businessmen pass over more qualified candidates for hiring and promotion because they fear the costs of lawsuits. What looks like a quota is actually defensive action against federal courts that like to count the numbers. Bean counting may be unfair and inefficient, but is the only way that anybody has found to enforce the law.

Ban every quota in the country, and business would still be subject to bankruptcy-threatening class-action suits. End every set-aside, and you still have whole housing complexes harassed for keeping out criminals. Abolish all affirmative action, and colleges will still have to recruit the intellectually challenged to avoid the appearance of discrimination.

That's why the central government needs to be stripped of its power to determine if anyone is discriminating or giving preferences (or even what constitutes either). Without anti-discrimination law, every employee would be planned and wanted. Business would be free to advertise for job openings without fear of lawsuits. There would be no quota loans from banks. The universities could get back to being places of learning.

Someday we may even recover the original meaning of the term discrimination: choosing among several options. We stop discriminating only when we stop making choices.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
*Rothbard-Rockwell Report*, June 1995, page 12

### Dissent

353. In the midst of World War II, the Supreme Court held that compelling kids in public schools to salute the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance violated the First Amendment and was therefore unconstitutional. This decision, handed down on Flag Day 1943, was considered then to be a pretty good statement of why we were fighting.

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.  
“Embracing the True Nature of Patriotism”  
*The Seattle Times*, May 29, 2003.

354. To announce that there must be no criticism of the president . . . is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.

Theodore Roosevelt  
Quoted by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.  
“Embracing the True Nature of Patriotism”  
*The Seattle Times*, May 29, 2003.

355. Too many people desire to suppress criticism simply because they think it will give some comfort to the enemy . . . . If that comfort makes the enemy feel better for a few moments, they are welcome to it . . . because the maintenance of the right to criticism in the long run will do the country maintaining it a great deal more good than it will do the enemy.

Senator Robert A. Taft  
Quoted by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.  
“Embracing the True Nature of Patriotism”  
*The Seattle Times*, May 29, 2003.

356. The classic emotional reaction of the True Believer [is that] dissent is not just wrong but intolerable.

Fred Reed  
“Thinking in Darwinian Lockstep”  
LewRockwell.com, March 3, 2004.

### Do-Gooders

357. The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men force others to be good.

Tom Kane, Chairman  
Wilson County, Texas, Libertarian Party  
On LPUS, March 21, 1997

358. As for doing good, that is one of the professions which are full.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)  
*Walden, I, Economy*

359. When I remember how many of my private schemes have miscarried; how speculations have failed, agents proved dishonest, marriage been a disappointment; how I did but pauperize the relative I sought to help; how my carefully governed son has turned out worse than most children; how the thing I desperately strove against as a misfortune did me immense good; how while the objects I ardently pursued brought me little happiness when gained, most of my pleasures have come from unexpected sources; when I recall these and hosts of like facts, I am struck with the incompetence of my intellect to prescribe for society.

Herbert Spencer  
Source unknown

360. Most of the major ills of the world have been caused by well-meaning people who ignored the principle of individual freedom, except as applied to themselves, and who were obsessed with fanatical zeal to improve the lot of mankind-in-the-mass through some pet formula of their own. The harm done by ordinary criminals, murderers, gangsters, and thieves is negligible in comparison with the agony inflicted upon human beings by the professional do-gooders, who attempt to set themselves up as gods on earth and who would ruthlessly force their views on all others — with the abiding assurance that the end justifies the means.

Henry Grady Weaver  
*The Mainspring of Human Progress*  
Quoted by Rep. Ron Paul  
“Keep Your Eye on the Target,” speech, November 29, 2001.

### Doomsday Thinking

361. He is having a delightful time here, and simply reveling in gloom over the appalling social and civic disasters which he sees impending.

Theodore Roosevelt, speaking of Brooks Adams  
Quoted by Stephen Chapman  
*The American Spectator*, May 1997, page 75

362. It is legitimate to deplore certain trends and developments in any society as malign or destructive. However, it is quite another to draw, or allow to be drawn, a picture that suggests that these problems have such deeply rooted social causes that they are unsolvable, or have such far-reaching implications that only a drastic overhaul of the society or culture *as a whole* can fix them.

Arthur Herman, in *The Idea of Decline in Western History*  
Quoted by Stephen Chapman  
*The American Spectator*, May 1997, page 76

363. Every generation has perceived the limits to growth that finite resources and undesirable side effects would pose if no new recipes or ideas were discovered. And every generation has underestimated the potential for finding new recipes and ideas. We consistently fail to grasp how many ideas remain to be discovered. The difficulty is the same one we have with compounding. Possibilities do not add up. They multiply.

Paul Romer, Stanford University economist  
Quoted by Ronald Bailey  
“Earth Day, Then and Now,” *Reason* magazine, May 2000.

364. On the occasions when they admit things have gotten better, doomsters will claim whatever environmental progress has been made over the past 30 years is only a result of the warnings that they sounded. One of the more annoying characteristics of activists such as [Paul] Ehrlich and Lester Brown is the way in which these prophets of doom get out ahead of a parade that has already started. When things get better, they claim that it’s only because people heeded their warnings, not because of longstanding trends and increased efficiencies. As a result, there is always the danger that governments may actually enact their policies, thereby stifling technological progress and economic growth — and making the world worse off. Then the doomsters would be able to say “I told you so.” So good or bad, they get to claim that they were right all along.

Ronald Bailey  
“Earth Day, Then and Now,” *Reason* magazine, May 2000.

### Dracula

365. If you believe that government will use higher taxes to pay off its debts, you would probably also believe that Dracula wants only one more pint of blood and then he’ll become a vegetarian.

Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published

### Draft, the

366. This measure would declare to the world that Hitler was right — that the threat of communism externally justified militarism and regimentation at home.

Congressman Howard Buffett, 1948  
Quoted in “The Cold War and the Transformation of the American  
Right,” master’s thesis by Joseph R. Stromberg (Florida Atlantic  
University, 1971), page 7  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 223

367. It is hard to think of any more drastic limitation of personal freedom than to permit the state to take boys from their homes, their education, or their chosen occupations and subject them for a year to the arbitrary direction of some military officer and indoctrination courses prepared by some ideological bureau in the War Department.

Senator Robert Taft, 1948  
Quoted by John B. Judis  
“Citizen Soldiers”  
*The New Republic*, June 28, 1999.

368. A compulsory draft . . . is far more typical of totalitarian nations than of democratic nations. The theory behind it leads directly to totalitarianism. It is absolutely opposed to the principles of individual liberty.

Senator Robert A. Taft (R-Ohio)  
Quoted in press release from Ron Paul, September 9, 1999  
<http://www.house.gov/paul/press/press99/pr090999.htm>.

369. [T]he most fundamental objection to draft registration is moral . . . a draft or draft registration destroys the very values that our society is committed to defending.

Ronald Reagan  
Quoted in press release from Ron Paul, September 9, 1999  
<http://www.house.gov/paul/press/press99/pr090999.htm>

### Drug War

370. Liberals are using the drug war as an excuse to undermine the Second Amendment’s guarantee of the people’s right to own firearms; conservatives are using it as an excuse to vastly expand the police powers of government and to undermine protection against illegal search and seizures and the right to due process.

The health problems caused by using narcotics or hallucinogenic drugs are not nearly so dangerous to the nation as erosion of liberty. A free people can solve their problems. A captive people cannot. No chemical substance is more addictive than power and no addict is more dangerous than a power addict.

Author unknown.

371. No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we’re looking for the sources of our troubles, we shouldn’t test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power.

P. J. O’Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Give War A Chance*, “Studying For Our Drug Test” (1992).



372. Whenever there is prohibition, there is a bootlegger.

James Burnham  
Quote compiled by Don Lipsett  
Quoted by John Von Kannon,  
*American Spectator*, January 1996, page 51

373. Legal products tend to become safer and safer, while illegal products become progressively more dangerous. Cigarettes have become safer as manufacturers have introduced filters, low-tar cigarettes, and other improvements. The typical alcoholic drink has progressed from a double scotch or bourbon to a wine cooler or Lite beer. But, meanwhile, illegal drugs have become progressively more dangerous — marijuana is at least ten times as potent today as it was prior to 1937 when it was declared illegal. Cocaine today is smoked as crack cocaine, a far more addictive drug. Drugs will be safer when they are legal.

Richard Rider  
Letter to Harry Browne, June 15, 1998

374. The prestige of government has undoubtedly been lowered considerably by the Prohibition law, for nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced. It is an open secret that the dangerous increase of crime in this country is closely connected with this.

Albert Einstein, "My First Impression of the U.S.A.," 1921  
Quoted at web site: <http://deoxy.org/prohib2.htm>

375. When prohibition was repealed, we didn't become a nation of alcoholics; but Chicago-style gangland crime went away.

Jim Merritt  
Statement on America On Line

376. Before drugs were criminalized, many people had "habits," including such notables as Sigmund Freud. They were productive, contributing members of society, and many lived to ripe old ages. It can be demonstrated that use, even if habit-forming, is not the same as abuse or addiction.

Jim Merritt  
Statement on America On Line

377. From the beginning, libertarian opponents of the war on drug users warned that outlawing consensual activity (no one is forced to buy or sell drugs) will lead to wholesale violation of our civil liberties. Under the guise of ending drug use, the government is able to do things that would have appalled the American people a few generations ago.

Sheldon Richmond  
“New Law Would Destroy Financial Privacy”  
*Libertarian Party News*, February 1999, page 20.

378. More people are behind bars for drug offenses in the United States — about 400,000 — than are in prison for *all* crimes in England, France, Germany and Japan *combined*.

Timothy Egan  
“The War on Drugs Retreats, Still Taking Prisoners”  
*The New York Times*, February 28, 1999.

379. The most recent National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, for 1997, estimated that about 14 million people had used an illegal drug in the last month, a number barely changed since 1988. Of those, 600,000 had smoked crack within a month, unchanged since 1988. But during that time, imprisonment rates soared.

Timothy Egan  
“The War on Drugs Retreats, Still Taking Prisoners”  
*The New York Times*, February 28, 1999.

380. California is spending nearly \$4 billion a year to operate the nation’s largest prison system. As the state added 21 prisons since 1984 — and only one university campus — violent criminals fell to 42 percent of the prison population in 1997, from 57 percent, while drug inmates grew to 27 percent, from 8 percent.

Quoted by Timothy Egan  
“The War on Drugs Retreats, Still Taking Prisoners”  
*The New York Times*, February 28, 1999.

381. We have a failed social policy and it has to be re-evaluated. Otherwise, we’re going to bankrupt ourselves. Because we can’t incarcerate our way out of this problem.

Barry McCaffrey, head of the National Drug Control Policy (so-called Drug Czar)

Quoted by Timothy Egan  
“The War on Drugs Retreats, Still Taking Prisoners”  
*The New York Times*, February 28, 1999.

382. [Drug Czar Barry] McCaffrey’s holy war against medical marijuana set the federal tenor which is allowing my death to take place. I hope that at the end of his day he reflects on the unnecessary misery and death his continued opposition to medical marijuana has caused, and he’ll bow his head and cry.

Peter McWilliams  
Letter to *USA Today*, February 19, 1999  
(might not have been published).  
Copy sent to Harry Browne.

383. For politicians, the drug debate is driven by the three R's — retribution, revenge, retaliation — and that leads to the fourth R, re-election.

Dr. James Alan Fox, Dean  
College of criminal justice, Northeastern University  
Quoted by Timothy Egan  
“The War on Drugs Retreats, Still Taking Prisoners”  
*The New York Times*, February 28, 1999.

384. Alcohol and nicotine kill about 600,000 Americans each year. By contrast, cocaine and heroin killed an estimated 8,000 since 1989. Since the Controlled Substance Act of 1970, marijuana has killed no one. For a marijuana death to occur, a user would have to smoke about 40 pound in an hour, a feat that has yet to be accomplished. Tobacco has killed over 12 million Americans since the Act, and this does not count those who have died of tobacco exports.

Gary & Nora Callahan  
“America's Drug War”  
The November Coalition  
<http://www.november.org/essay1.html#anchor5790>

385. Our 85-year experiment with criminal prohibition of drugs has not solved the problems it was meant to solve and has created other serious problems resulting from the excessive and unprincipled use of the government's police power.

Ira Glasser, ACLU Executive Director  
Testifying before a House subcommittee  
June 16, 1999  
Quoted in an ACLU press release of the same date.

386. The prestige of government has undoubtedly been lowered considerably by the prohibition law. For nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced. It is an open secret that the dangerous increase of crime in this country is closely connected with this.

Albert Einstein, 1921  
Quoted by “Gerald” <gfa@earthlink.net on CompuServe, January  
26, 1998

387. On the Net, we can do what journalists won't or can't — talk openly about the catastrophe our national drug policies represent. How we have the highest incarceration rate in the Western world. How, in some states, more young African Americans are in jail on drug charges than are in college. How rigid sentencing laws passed by hysterical legislators have left tens of thousands of relatively harmless people in prison for years, criminalizing them out of all proportion to their crimes.

How urban police have been militarized, corrupted, and sometimes killed as a result of the creation of military-style SWAT teams, violent cultures, and extreme attitudes that frighten and alienate local communities.

And how, despite all that, drugs pour into America because more and more people want to use them, while those who want to stop using them far outnumber the slots and beds available in treatment programs.

Jon Katz  
“This Is Your Net on Drugs”  
*The Netizen* (Internet magazine)  
ca. June 28, 1997

388. If there is a key to understanding America’s criminal justice problem, it lies in recognizing that the War on Drugs has been lost. In order to feed the war machine, we have sacrificed our courts, prisons, and law enforcement. More importantly, we have surrendered many of the freedoms that made us the freest society in history.

Denver Judge John L. Kane, Jr.  
“Just say ‘no’ to the Drug War”  
*The Coloradan*, May 1998, page 20

389. Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man’s appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes. A Prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government was founded.

Abraham Lincoln (1809-65), U.S. President.  
Speech, 18 Dec. 1840, to Illinois House of Representatives  
Quoted by Tim O’Brien (Tobrien321@AOL.com)  
on LPUS, April 3, 1997  
Also quoted at web site: <http://deoxy.org/prohib1.htm>

390. The tattered Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures and the now frail Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination or deprivation of liberty without due process have fallen as casualties in this ‘War on Drugs’ . . . today, the ‘war’ targets one of the most deeply held fundamental rights — the First Amendment right to freely exercise one’s religion.

J.G. Burciaga, Federal Judge  
Ruling against the United States government in drug case  
[774F.Supp.1333(D.N.M. 1991)]  
Quoted at web site: <http://deoxy.org/pc.htm#wosd>

391. Just as bootleggers were forced out of business in 1933 when Prohibition was repealed, making the sale of liquor legal (thus eliminating racketeering), the legalization of drugs would put drug dealers out of business. It would also guarantee government-approved quality, and the tax on drugs would provide an ongoing source of revenue for drug-education programs. An added plus: there would be far less crowding in our prisons due to drug-related crimes. It's something to consider.

Abigail Van Buren  
Quoted on Peter McWilliams' web site

392. I am tired of hearing the same old plans I have heard for 30 years and statements about how we are winning the war when one party is in charge and losing the war when the other party is running the show. Please negotiate a surrender so we can live in peace, as this futile war is being fought in my neighborhood.

Tomas R. Estrada-Palma  
Vice-chairman, Virginia Libertarian Party  
*Washington Times*, letter to the editor, March 12, 1998

393. Government officials such as Mr. [Congressman William] McCollum will never force America to be drug free — only less free. . . . I challenge Mr. McCollum to act more like an American Congressman and less like a central-planning Soviet-style poli-bureaucrat.

Tomas R. Estrada-Palma  
Vice-chairman, Virginia Libertarian Party  
*Washington Times*, letter to the editor, March 12, 1998

394. It is prohibition that causes drugs to be expensive, impure, dangerous, unregulated, and criminal. When was the last time you heard of someone going blind or dying because they drank wood alcohol instead of grain alcohol? Happened by the thousands each year during Prohibition.

Peter McWilliams  
author of *Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do*  
on his website, <http://www.mcwilliams.com/response.htm>

395. Prohibition laws never work. They cause more harm than they cure. When will we learn this? How many lives must be sacrificed to ignorance of this fact?

Peter McWilliams  
author of *Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do*  
on his website, <http://www.mcwilliams.com/response.htm>

396. Trying to ban alcohol produced the following effects: a product dirt cheap to make became expensive on the black market; huge crime organizations grew wealthy; bribery and corruption became rampant; there grew a general contempt for the law. Perhaps that seems familiar.

Charley Reese  
“Same stuff, different time”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, July 11, 1999.

397. It’s ironic that Philip Morris, a generous contributor to drug-war propaganda via the Partnership for a Drug Free America, now finds itself the victim of the same absolutism that motivates policy on illegal drugs.

Joshua Wolf Shenk, “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes”  
A review of *For Your Own Good* by Jacob Sullum  
*The Washington Post*, Sunday, May 10, 1998; Page X05

398. The nation’s drug policies are nothing short of insane. I can think of no redeeming quality. We’ve been sending \$50 billion a year to the drug lords and we think we can stop drugs from coming into this country. It’s a fraud.

John Sperling, Phoenix businessman, founder of the University of Phoenix  
Quoted by Hal Spencer, Associated Press writer  
Published in the *Ohio Beacon Journal* online  
August 12, 1997

399. It is essential that we understand that by choosing prohibition we are choosing to have an intense crime problem concentrated among minorities. . . . Clearly federal drug policy is responsible for a degree of social regression for which there does not appear to be any equivalent in our history.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
Quoted by James Bovard  
*The American Spectator*, February 1997, page 79

400. The endless escalations of the “drug war” have led to the militarization of police tactics and the dilution of Constitutional safeguards. . . . it’s time to reassess the awful toll it is taking on our society. Dangerous as drugs may be to those who use them, the danger pales in comparison with the dangers of a police state. Yet little by little, that is what the War on Drugs is giving us.

Timothy Lynch  
“‘Drug War’ Is Slowly Diluting Constitutional Safeguards”  
*The Los Angeles Daily Journal*, December 2, 1998.

401. Al Capone epitomizes our earlier attempt at Prohibition; the Crips and Bloods epitomize this one.

Milton Friedman  
“There’s No Justice in the War on Drugs”  
*The New York Times*, January 11, 1998

402. On ethical grounds, do we have the right to use the machinery of government to prevent an individual from becoming an alcoholic or a drug addict? For children, almost everyone would answer at least a qualified yes. But for responsible adults, I, for one, would answer no. Reason with the potential addict, yes. Tell him the consequences, yes. Pray for and with him, yes. But I believe that we have no right to use force, directly or indirectly, to prevent a fellow man from committing suicide, let alone from drinking alcohol or taking drugs.

Milton Friedman  
*Newsweek* column, "Prohibition and Drugs," May 1, 1972

403. In 1970, 200,000 people were in prison. Today, 1.6 million people are. Eight times as many in absolute number, six times as many relative to the increased population. In addition, 2.3 million are on probation and parole. The attempt to prohibit drugs is by far the major source of the horrendous growth in the prison population.

Milton Friedman  
"There's No Justice in the War on Drugs"  
*The New York Times*, January 11, 1998

404. Prohibition makes drugs exorbitantly expensive and highly uncertain in quality. A user must associate with criminals to get the drugs, and many are driven to become criminals themselves to finance the habit. Needles, which are hard to get, are often shared, with the predictable effect of spreading disease. Finally, an addict who seeks treatment must confess to being a criminal in order to qualify for a treatment program. Alternatively, professionals who treat addicts must become informers or criminals themselves.

Milton Friedman  
"There's No Justice in the War on Drugs"  
*The New York Times*, January 11, 1998

405. Can any policy, however high-minded, be moral if it leads to widespread corruption, imprisons so many, has so racist an effect, destroys our inner cities, wreaks havoc on misguided and vulnerable individuals and brings death and destruction to foreign countries?

Milton Friedman  
"There's No Justice in the War on Drugs"  
*The New York Times*, January 11, 1998

406. That so-called War on Drugs, meanwhile, is a complete farce. It costs \$40 billion per year. When the war was launched, some 6% of Americans were habitual narcotics users. Today some 6% of Americans are habitual users.

Jeffrey Hart, King Features syndicated column  
August 11, 1997

407. The fact of the matter is that people who want to use drugs will be able to buy them no matter what the government does. The flow into the country cannot be stopped. Enough cocaine to supply the U.S. for a year could be flown in aboard one cargo plane.

Jeffrey Hart, King Features syndicated column  
August 11, 1997

408. The War on Drugs does deliver some real benefits: It provides thousands of federal jobs for the people waging it, and it makes the virtuecrats feel morally superior.

Jeffrey Hart, King Features syndicated column  
August 11, 1997

409. [Decriminalization] will stop making the drug Mafia and the cartels enormously rich, it will remove the pusher from the street, it will keep police and judges honest — no profit, no bribes — and by reducing the price or eliminating it, it will diminish the addicts' need to steal.

David M. Elderkin, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, attorney  
Quoted by James Flansburg  
*The Des Moines Register*, September 23, 1995, 7A

410. What properties must a substance have before we give our government the right to kick in our doors without knocking, search our homes without warrants (boaters already face this nightmare), seize property of people not convicted of a crime, and jail people for life?

Colin Eagles, Wrightsville Beach, NC  
Letters to the Editor, *The Wall Street Journal*  
April 25, 1994, page A10.

411. . . . if it is “legitimate” for government to control what we put into our bodies, one has to wonder why it isn’t even more important for government to control what goes into our minds. If we can’t be trusted to consume sensibly, how can we be trusted to think the right thoughts, read the right literature, attend the right movies and plays, and vote for the right political candidates? It’s an awfully slippery slope.

By James T. Bennett & Thomas J. DiLorenzo  
“Government should butt out”  
*USA Today*, November 16, 1998  
Reprinted by the Mises Institute



412. Richard Nixon brought together a commission of experts to examine the US approach to the [drug] problem. Headed by Raymond Shafer, a former Republican governor of Pennsylvania, the commission was far from leftwing, yet it advocated . . . acknowledging that drugs cannot be eliminated from society, treating drug use as a social problem as much as a crime, and recognizing that law enforcement sometimes has high financial and moral costs that bring few returns.

In the case of marijuana, the Shafer commission argued, the millions spent on law enforcement, the time diverted from investigating violent crimes, and the ruining of people's careers through prosecution outweighed the harm of using marijuana.

In the late 1970s, President Carter was still able to endorse that view, and in 1982, a National Academy of Sciences commission echoed it. Today, almost no politician on the national level would dare concede the validity of such views . . .

Christopher Shea  
"Thou Shalt Not"  
Washingtonian Magazine, October 1999.

413. The District of Columbia government is a work-free drug zone.

David D. Boaz  
Speech, Libertarian Party convention, July 3, 1998.

414. Marijuana itself isn't terribly more dangerous than alcohol. What is dangerous is lying to children, trying to convince them that marijuana is practically like heroin. When these children realize marijuana isn't so bad after all, that plenty of A-students and star athletes use it with no obvious ill effects, they start to question the association given between marijuana and heroin. The logical step is, "Well, they told us pot is so bad, and it isn't, so maybe heroin isn't so bad either."

Shaun Breidbart, Pelham, New York  
Letter to the editor  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 31, 1999

415. The federal budget for the drug war in the first year of the new millennium is \$17 billion. In 1972 when President Richard Nixon first called for a "war against drugs," the federal drug-law enforcement budget was about \$101 million.

It is difficult for most of us to comprehend what these numbers mean. But the true magnitude of cost can be understood if we consider that in 1972, the average monthly Social Security retirement check was \$177. If Social Security benefits had increased at the same rate as drug-war spending, the monthly benefits would now be \$30,444 a month. Similarly, the average 1972 salary of \$114 per week would have soared to \$19,608 a week.

Joseph D.McNamara, retired police chief, San Jose, CA  
“Drug Peace for a New Millennium?”  
*The Orange County (CA) Register*, July 24,1999  
Commentary section, page 4.

416. I was a policeman for 35 years of this century. As a beat officer in New York’s Harlem, and as police chief in Kansas City and San Jose, I caused many drug users to be locked up. I have come to believe that jailing people simply because they put certain chemicals into their bloodstream is a gross misuse of police and criminal law. Jailing drug users does not lessen drug use, and incarceration usually destroys the person’s life and does immense harm to that person’s family and neighborhood.

Joseph D.McNamara, retired police chief, San Jose, CA  
“Drug Peace for a New Millennium?”  
*The Orange County (CA) Register*, July 24,1999  
Commentary section, page 4.

417. Because drug transactions are consensual, the police do not have a victim, witnesses and physical evidence that helps them solve crimes like murder, assault, robbery, rape and burglary. And under the Fourth Amendment, the police, with few exceptions, are not allowed to search people or their homes without a warrant. Yet, last year, state and local police in the United States made approximately 1,400,000 arrests for illegal possession of drugs. Overwhelmingly, these were minor arrests and rarely did they involve a court approved warrant.

The inescapable conclusion is that in hundreds of thousands of cases police officers violated their oath to uphold the Constitution and often committed perjury so that the evidence would be admitted. The practice is so prevalent that the term “testilying” is frequently substituted in police jargon for “testifying.” The injury that unlawful searches and perjury by the police does to the credibility of our justice system is immeasurable.

Joseph D.McNamara, retired police chief, San Jose, CA  
“Drug Peace for a New Millennium?”  
*The Orange County (CA) Register*, July 24,1999  
Commentary section, page 4.

418. The new millennium provides the opportunity for reflection and change. Marijuana should be decriminalized. There is no record of anyone dying from marijuana or committing a murder under its effects. Any number of scientific studies have indicated that in some cases it may be an effective medicine and it is certainly a less dangerous drug than alcohol. We would eliminate almost 700,000 arrests a year which would not only save money but also avoid ruining the lives of those arrested.

In addition, our country should revert to the pre-Harrison Act principle that no one should be arrested if his/her only crime is putting certain chemicals into their bloodstream. Treatment should be substituted for arrests. As to the “harder” drugs, we should reject the inane demagogic slogan of a “drug free America” and recognize that drugs are here and they need to be dealt with on a humane and just basis.

Joseph D.McNamara, retired police chief, San Jose, CA  
“Drug Peace for a New Millennium?”  
*The Orange County (CA) Register*, July 24,1999  
Commentary section, page 4.

419. Repression has driven this vice underground and produced the narcotic smugglers and supply agents who have grown wealthy. Drug addiction is not a police problem; it never has and never can be solved by policemen. It is first and last a medical problem.

August Vollmer, Police Chief, Berkeley, CA, 1936  
Quoted by Joseph D.McNamara  
“Drug Peace for a New Millennium?”  
*The Orange County (CA) Register*, July 24,1999  
Commentary section, page 4.

420. Greater harm is done by the drug trade than by the drugs themselves. Because the trade is illegal, dealers charge a premium to cover the risk of going to jail if they’re caught. This is generating billions of dollars, all in cash and all beyond the effective control of governments. It is corrupting our society. It is the driving force of many of the gang wars and murders in our cities.

It is the motivation for a disproportionate percentage of income-generating crimes such as robbery, burglary, and theft committed by addicts looking for money to pay high drug prices. In contrast, violent crimes — murder and assault among others — are more likely to be committed by people under the influence of alcohol than of other drugs.

“Anti-Drug Contradictions”  
Pat M. Holt  
*The Christian Science Monitor*, August 5, 1999

421. The only explanation for lawmakers’ obsession with penalizing drug offenders while neglecting public safety is that they are far more anxious to control us than to protect us.

James Bovard  
“Time Out for Justice”  
*Playboy*, December, 1997.

422. I am retired law enforcement, and there has never been any real thought to winning any drug war. If nothing else it turned law enforcement into whores, where the confiscation laws are concerned. If you had the slightest information that someone with a large home and lots of land and a great amount of money in the bank had the least bit of drugs on the premises, then the raid was run on this person, rather than stone-cold information on a known drug dealer with little or no monetary value. Forget the solid information and let’s run the search warrant on the maybe information for big money.

J.D. Miller  
Sgt., Criminal Investigation (Retired)  
“Drug War Lost Before It Began”  
E-mail to the Editor, WorldNetDaily, February 9, 2000.

423. The failure of the twenty-year “drug war” has never been more apparent . . . Interdiction has functioned mainly as a protectionist and R. & D. program for the burgeoning domestic marijuana industry. . . .The prison population, which fifteen years ago was under three-quarters of a million, will cross the two- million mark sometime this month. . . .This costly jihad has scared off some casual users, but it has done nothing to reduce the number of hardcore addicts.

Henrik Hertzberg  
*The New Yorker*, February 2000.

424. The last time we had this level of police corruption was during (alcohol) Prohibition. In 1926, Al Smith, who was Mayor of New York, put a halt to local law enforcement of Prohibition. He basically said that if the Feds wanted to do that work, they could, but he wouldn’t spend any more city resources on it. The level of corruption went down immediately.

Peter J. Christ, Captain (retired) Tonawanda (NY) Police Dept.  
Quoted in “There’s A Riot Goin’ On”  
*The Week Online with DRCNet*, Issue #124, Feb. 11, 2000.

425. When I was a youngster there were no Prohibition agents; hence I never so much as drank a glass of beer until I was nearly 19. Today, Law Enforcement is the eighth sacrament and the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals by itself authority for the sad news that the young of the land are full of gin. I remember, in my youth, a time when the cops tried to prohibit the game of catty. At once every boy in Baltimore consecrated his whole time and energy to it. Finally, the cops gave up their crusade. Almost instantly catty disappeared.

H.L. Mencken  
“The Uplifters Try It Again”  
The Baltimore Sun, November 30, 1925  
Reprinted in *Center-Right*, Issue 98, February 14, 2000.

426. The real victim of moral legislation is always the honest, law-abiding, well-meaning citizen — what the late William Graham Sumner called the Forgotten Man. Prohibition makes it impossible for him to take a harmless drink, cheaply and in a decent manner. In the same way the Harrison Act puts heavy burdens upon the physician who has need of prescribing narcotic drugs for a patient, honestly and for good ends. But the drunkard still gets all the alcohol that he can hold, and the drug addict is still full of morphine and cocaine.

H.L. Mencken  
“The Uplifters Try It Again”  
The Baltimore Sun, November 30, 1925  
Reprinted in *Center-Right*, Issue 98, February 14, 2000.

427. America’s internal gulag.

Barry McCaffrey, U.S. drug czar  
Referring to increasing population of drug prisoners.  
Quoted by Bill Sizemore  
The Norfolk (VA) *Virginian-Pilot*, March 6, 2000  
<http://www.pilotonline.com/special/prisons/nw0306dru.html>.

428. In 1998, according to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse produced annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 10.6% of Americans reported using an illicit drug in the past year. That number has hovered steadily between 10% and 11% since 1991.

Bill Sizemore  
The Norfolk (VA) *Virginian-Pilot*, March 6, 2000  
<http://www.pilotonline.com/special/prisons/nw0306dru.html>.

429. The Drug War is another Viet Nam. Most of the drug warriors know it, and they have no intention of becoming the homeless people so many Viet Nam veterans have tragically become.

Peter McWilliams  
“The DEA Wishes Me a Nice Day”  
*Liberty*, May 1998, page 29.

430. The war on drugs has strained civil liberties to the breaking point. The police can seize your property without trial under forfeiture laws, and even if you are found innocent, you will have an awful time getting it back again. The war has brought us routine surveillance of ordinary people’s bank accounts, the expansion of wiretapping powers and the incarceration of hundreds of thousands of nonviolent criminals. Worst is the transformation of inner-city neighborhoods into de facto war zones, the inevitable result of Prohibition-style black markets.

Solveig Singleton  
“How Cookie-Gate Crumbles”  
*Today’s Commentary*, Cato Institute, July 11, 2000.

431. Given the monumental failure of the drug war, its ever-increasing violations of individual liberty, egregious injustices, and the fact that there is no biblical mandate to back it up, Christians should seriously — and scripturally — reconsider their support of it.

Joel Miller  
“One toké over the line, sweet Jesus?”  
WorldNetDaily, July 20, 2000.

432. Anyone who has had the misfortune of having a drug house in his or her neighborhood can attest to the fact the drug war is a failure. People in and out of the drug house all hours of the night, drive-by shootings in the fight over territory, pushers selling drugs to kids and make-shift meth labs blowing up. These things just don't happen at a drug store with legal drugs.

Art Olivier, Libertarian vice-presidential candidate  
Letter to the editor, *Long Beach Press-Telegram*  
September 27, 2000.

433. At some point in my first months on patrol, after handling hundreds of calls that involved drugs, and after arresting scores of people for possessing various sorts of illegal stuff, I began to have doubts about what my peers and I were doing. I saw violent criminals walking the streets because the jail space they rightfully deserved was occupied by nonviolent drug offenders.

David Klinger, former Los Angeles police officer  
*After Prohibition: An Adult Approach to Drug Policies in the 21st Century*  
Cato Institute.

434. To attempt to cure a vice by calling it a disease and a criminal act is to certainly assure that it becomes a disease and a crime.

Antonio Escohotado  
*A Brief History of Drugs*, page 85.

435. Dressed as benevolence and scientific orientation, the practice of fighting pain in some persons by making the best remedies illegal is equivalent to cruelty and superstition.

Antonio Escohotado  
*A Brief History of Drugs*, page 85.

436. Whether drugs cure or do damage depends on human beings, not on drugs. Drugs have always existed everywhere, and judging by the present times, tomorrow there will be more drugs than exist today, so that the options are not a world *with* or *without* drugs. The alternatives are to teach people how to use them correctly, or to indiscriminately demonize them: to sow knowledge or to sow ignorance.

Antonio Escohotado  
*A Brief History of Drugs*, page 161.

437. Americans want policies that save lives, keep drugs out of the hands of children and humanely treat those suffering from drug addiction. The drug war accomplishes none of that.

Gary E. Johnson, Governor of New Mexico  
“Another Prohibition, Another Failure”  
*The New York Times*, December 30, 2000.

438. I’m neither soft on crime nor pro-drugs in any sense. Yet when I ask whether our costly, protracted war on drugs has made the world safer for our children, I must answer no.

Gary E. Johnson, Governor of New Mexico  
“Another Prohibition, Another Failure”  
*The New York Times*, December 30, 2000.

439. Nearly 70 million Americans have smoked marijuana, which remains the third-most popular recreational drug in the country after tobacco and alcohol.

Gary E. Johnson, Governor of New Mexico  
“Another Prohibition, Another Failure”  
*The New York Times*, December 30, 2000.

440. Deaths attributable to marijuana are very rare. In fact, deaths from all illegal drugs combined, including cocaine and heroin, are fewer than 20,000 annually. By contrast, more than 450,000 Americans die each year from tobacco or alcohol use (not counting drunk-driving fatalities). Should we outlaw liquor and cigarettes? Ask anyone who remembers our nation's disastrous experiment with alcohol prohibition.

Gary E. Johnson, Governor of New Mexico  
“Another Prohibition, Another Failure”  
*The New York Times*, December 30, 2000.

441. We must never tolerate the violence resulting from the use of drugs. But neither should we, nor do we have to, tolerate the needless casualties of drug prohibition.

Gary E. Johnson, Governor of New Mexico  
“Another Prohibition, Another Failure”  
*The New York Times*, December 30, 2000.

442. A letter accompanying the panel’s [New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson’s Drug Policy Advisory Group] report strongly rebukes the federal government for promulgating what it describes as “patently false information” about drugs “and the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of current drug policies.” It states that 30 years of the federally driven war on drugs spurred more dangerous and addictive drugs; heavier drug use at earlier ages; an increase in death and disease; gang violence; extraordinarily long prison sentences for nonviolent offenders; and the squandering of tax dollars on ineffective policies.

Daniel Forbes  
“New Mexico thumbs its nose at the war on drugs”  
*Salon*, January 5, 2001.

443. A national policy forced down the states’ throats is no laboratory, but a march to the same drumbeat. And it’s a march of folly.

John Kane, Federal Judge  
U.S. District Court in Colorado  
Quoted by Daniel Forbes  
“New Mexico thumbs its nose at the war on drugs”  
*Salon*, January 5, 2001.

444. You hear you’re going to lose your mind and go crazy and even die if you smoke marijuana. You have to tell the truth. When kids realize you’re lying, they will no longer listen to you. They may think the stuff you’ve been telling them about other drugs isn’t true either . . . People try pot and they don’t go crazy.

Gary Johnson, governor of New Mexico  
*Playboy*, December 2000  
Quoted by Daniel Forbes  
“New Mexico thumbs its nose at the war on drugs”  
*Salon*, January 5, 2001.

445. If you are young, poor, brown or black or don’t have a lawyer, there is no category called “youthful indiscretion.”

Jesse Jackson  
Shadow Convention, Philadelphia, August 2000  
Quoted by Arianna Huffington  
“No More Lies,” *Salon*, August 10, 2000.

446. We really need a re-examination of our entire policy on imprisonment. . . . Small amounts of marijuana have been decriminalized in some places, and should be. . . . I think the sentences in many cases are too long for nonviolent offenders, . . . I certainly think [mandatory sentences] need to be re-examined.”

Bill Clinton  
Interview with Jan Wenner  
*Rolling Stone*, December 28, 2000  
Quoted in Common Sense for Drug Policy ad  
*The Weekly Standard*, January 15, 2001, page 32.

447. Is it really your position to let criminals sell drugs to children? I want the drugs sold by doctors and pharmacists; you want them sold by drug dealers in schools.



Doug Scribner  
Email message to Harry Browne, March 5, 2000.

448. To conservatives who favor the Drug War, I would like to point out that it is your policies that have led us to drug anarchy, while we want drugs to be regulated and controlled by doctors and pharmacists — not gangsters and children. Yes I said ‘regulated.’ That is what the free-market is — natural regulation. Your policy has given us an unregulated drug market, and Libertarians want the drug trade brought under control.

Doug Scribner  
Email message to Harry Browne, March 5, 2000.

449. Not all people who drink alcohol or smoke tobacco are killed or seriously injured as a result, nor are all voluntarily obese people fatalities. The same is true of those who take illegal drugs: not all, nor even most who use them are killed, seriously injured or addicted. Yet it is our stated national policy to imprison all those who possess, sell or use illegal drugs. That policy is pure folly.

John L. Kane,  
Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court of Denver  
“The War on Drugs: An Impossible Dream”  
Speech to Western Governors’ Association  
December 15, 2000.

450. Drug prohibition is a waste of money. Local, state and federal governments now spend over \$9 billion per year to imprison 458,131 drug offenders. Incarcerating all cocaine users for a year would cost \$74 billion, but only after constructing 3.5 million more prison beds at an initial cost of \$175 billion. It would cost \$365 billion to jail everyone who smoked marijuana last year — five times the total state and local spending for all police, courts and prisons. We would need a cadre of guards and other prison employees larger than all of our military forces. This is a cost we cannot afford and a project we could never accomplish even if we had the money.

John L. Kane,  
Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court of Denver  
“The War on Drugs: An Impossible Dream”  
Speech to Western Governors’ Association  
December 15, 2000.

451. Good citizens, who are otherwise law-abiding, ignore or evade drug laws. With literally tens of millions of people using illegal drugs or related to those who do, a large portion of the population has become cynical about all laws and our legal system and political process in particular.

John L. Kane,  
Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court of Denver  
“The War on Drugs: An Impossible Dream”  
Speech to Western Governors’ Association  
December 15, 2000.

452. Each year since 1989, more people have been sent to prison for drug offenses than for violent crimes. At the same time only one in five burglaries is reported and only one in 20 reported burglaries ends in arrest and yet detectives continue to be reassigned from burglary details to investigation of street sales of drugs.

John L. Kane,  
Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court of Denver  
“The War on Drugs: An Impossible Dream”  
Speech to Western Governors’ Association  
December 15, 2000.

453. The most fundamental concept of economics is the law of demand, which says that consumers buy less when the price rises. Misunderstanding this basic rule, the drug warriors attempt to justify interdiction. They claim drug consumption can be ended by cutting off supply, thereby causing a price increase resulting in little or no demand. In other words, interdiction will cause prices to rise to such a high level that demand will cease.

A little knowledge is very dangerous. In fact, the law of demand only applies to one product at a time. Our sorry experience shows that when one illicit commodity becomes too expensive, another is selected. A 1994 National Bureau of Economic Research study found that when the price of marijuana rises, youth drink more beer and that directly correlates with an increase in traffic fatalities.

A National Institute of Justice study reported a precipitous increase in the use of methamphetamine during 1985-86 after a crop destruction program eviscerated the marijuana supply in Hawaii. Making marijuana more difficult to obtain also causes an increase in cocaine consumption. When efforts to interdict marijuana are successful, the danger to our youth is increased by a rising consumption of alcohol and cocaine. When the supply of beer is reduced, the consumption of hard liquor increases.

John L. Kane,  
Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court of Denver  
“The War on Drugs: An Impossible Dream”  
Speech to Western Governors’ Association  
December 15, 2000.

454. If you can’t arrest your way out of the problem, but don’t want to consider legalization, what do you do?

Steven Wishnia  
“What’s Your Anti-Drug?”  
*In These Times*, April 16, 2001.

455. Things have changed so much since 1900 that today it is difficult to comprehend what a free market used to be like. In those days a uniformed federal agent might bring heroin to your door that you had ordered from Sears Roebuck . . . along with the rest of your mail.

Bob Ramsey  
“A History of U.S. Drug Laws”  
Drug Policy Forum of Texas.

456. Current law gives drug dealers a huge incentive to *prefer* to recruit young people as runners, spotters, and retailers: An adult arrested on trafficking charges faces hard time, and thus is motivated to inform on the people who hired him. A minor faces much less stringent punishment, and thus has much less reason to turn state’s evidence.

Sigh . . . wouldn’t it be nice to go back to the days when 14-year-olds had paper routes instead of drug routes?

Brian Christeson  
Email message to Harry Browne, June 7, 2001.

457. It’s the money, stupid. After 33 years as a police officer in three of the country’s largest cities, that is my message to the righteous politicians who obstinately proclaim that a war on drugs will lead to a drug-free America. About \$500 of heroin or cocaine in a source country will bring in as much as \$100,000 on the streets of an American city. All the cops, armies, prisons and executions in the world cannot impede a market with that kind of tax-free profit-margin. It is the illegality that permits the obscene mark-up, enriching drug-traffickers, distributors, dealers, crooked cops, lawyers, judges, politicians, bankers, businessmen.

Joseph D McNamara  
Former police chief, San Jose, California  
*National Review*, date unknown.

458. To be honest I don’t know what would happen if drugs were legalized. Try this analogy. You are headed down the wrong road and find yourself getting desperately low on gas, with no end in sight. If you go back, you will run out of gas before getting there, but at least you know there is a gas station there. Even if you have to walk part way back, at least you will eventually get back on the right road.

Larry Johnson  
Minneapolis *Star Tribune* online forum, Jan 17, 1998.

459. The assumption [has been] that if any senior politician called for the legalization of cannabis, the tabloids would destroy him, claiming that if he had his way the entire nation would be comatose in a Limehouse opium den within 72 hours.

Bruce Anderson  
“Our Biggest Problems Are Not Heroin, Cocaine and Cannabis”  
*The UK Independent*, July 9, 2001.

460. Asking South American peasants to stop growing coca is like asking the Scots to stop growing barley because people on the other side of the world could not hold their drink.

Princess Anne of Great Britain, during a tour of South America  
Quoted in “Drug war options” by John Otis  
*The Houston Chronicle*, July 17, 2000.

461. Just as the end of alcohol Prohibition in the United States reduced gangland violence, ending drug prohibition would kill off the narcotics cartels. People think that somehow I’m giving in to the drug dealers; well, baloney. I’m putting the drug dealers out of business.

Gary Johnson, New Mexico governor  
Quoted in “Drug war options” by John Otis  
*The Houston Chronicle*, July 17, 2000.

462. I would like to see drugs sold in licensed, regulated stores, not on street corners and not on playgrounds. You don’t see very many liquor dealers offering liquor on schoolyards and playgrounds. You do see people selling drugs there, because it’s a completely unregulated, unlicensed, illegal business.

David Boaz, The Cato Institute  
Testifying at a Congressional hearing in 1999  
Quoted in “Drug war options” by John Otis  
*The Houston Chronicle*, July 17, 2000.

463. Under a legalization scenario, there will be a new set of problems. But I suggest that the new problems are going to be about half the negative consequence of what we’ve got today.

Gary Johnson, New Mexico governor  
Quoted in “Drug war options” by John Otis  
*The Houston Chronicle*, July 17, 2000.

464. I do not want to see anything done that would change the status of illegal drugs. It is a comforting thought to know that the opportunity exists for me to saddle up the ol’ airplane and roll the dice for a million-dollar-plus payday if I so choose. That’s the real American dream.

Hawkeye Gross, drug smuggler  
*Drug Smuggling*, 1992 book  
Quoted in “Drug war options” by John Otis  
*The Houston Chronicle*, July 17, 2000.

465. In 19th-century America, campaigners talked of the demon drink in much the same way that they now talk of drugs. The temperance movement blamed booze for crime, “moral degeneracy”, broken families and business failure. In America, this led to Prohibition, with its accompanying crime and bootlegging.

“How Did We Get Here?”  
*The Economist*, July 26, 2001.

466. Today’s illegal drugs were patent medicines in the 19th century. Morphine and opium were freely available in both Europe and America. Victorian babies were quietened with Godfrey’s Cordial, which contained opium. Cocaine was the basis of remedies for the common cold. When Atlanta prohibited alcohol, John Pemberton, producer of a health drink called French Wine Coca, developed a version that was non-alcoholic but still contained traces of coca, thereby creating the world’s best-selling soft drink. As for marijuana, Queen Victoria reputedly used it to soothe the royal period pains.

“How Did We Get Here?”  
*The Economist*, July 26, 2001.

467. Trade in drugs may be immoral or irresponsible, but it should no longer be illegal.

“Set It Free”  
*The Economist*, July 26, 2001.

468. Adult Americans have endless opportunities for self-destruction, most of which are not legally restricted. Education and truth about health risks have helped to substantially reduce the number of new cigarette smokers over the past decade, without jailing a single person for distribution or consumption of tobacco.

Brett Ginsburg  
Letter to editor  
*WorldNetDaily*, August 23, 2001.

469. I’ve received letters from readers who support 20-year sentences for low-level, first-time nonviolent drug offenders because they think those sentences will protect their kids. It doesn’t occur to these folks that their kids could be drug offenders. According to the Bush administration’s own brief, 54 percent of high-school seniors have used illegal drugs.

Debra Saunders  
“Drug war vs. U.S. Constitution”  
Syndicated column, March 22, 2002.

470. After three decades of fueling the US war on drugs with over half a trillion tax dollars and increasingly punitive policies, illicit drugs are easier to get, cheaper, and more potent than they were 30 years ago. While our court system is choked with ever-increasing drug prosecutions our quadrupled prison population has made building prisons this nation's fastest growing industry, with two million incarcerated — more per capita than any industrialized country in the world. Meanwhile people are dying in our streets and drug barons grow richer than ever before. We must change these policies.

Law Enforcement against Prohibition  
Website statement.

471. By the end of my tenure with the LAPD [Los Angeles Police Department] I came to believe that marijuana — a drug I had never seen anyone overdose on or influence anyone to do anything more violent than attack a bag of potato chips — should be legalized.

I held a bifurcated stance toward illicit drugs — legalize pot but strictly enforce existing laws against the rest of the stuff. . . . As the years passed, however, I saw a nation fighting harder, devoting more money and jailing increasing numbers of individuals — all the while falling further behind in the war on drugs.

The price of the drugs didn't rise with increased interdiction, usage rates didn't fall and the number of lives damaged or destroyed by chronic use, overdose and drug-related criminal activity mounted. No matter how much I disliked the idea, I became convinced the United States should legalize illicit drugs. . . .

I do not know whether legalizing drugs will increase their popularity. But I suspect that if we approach legalization thoughtfully and pursue a sensible post-legalization strategy, then the drug rolls will not swell. They may in fact decline. But even if more people do take drugs in the wake of legalization, we would live in a society where citizens suffer far less from the predatory crimes spawned by the illicit drug trade.

David Klinger  
“Make Drugs Legal for Adults, says Former Cop”  
Cato Institute, January 13, 2001.

*See also Marijuana, Medical and Mandatory Minimum Sentences.*

## PART II

### Economic Systems

472. Even as we were fighting the Nazis, we were adopting their economy. Even as we fought the Soviets, we were adopting their system.

Jacob Hornberger  
Speech, July 29, 1995, Montgomery, Alabama

## Economics

473. The art of economics consists of looking not merely at the immediate but at the longer effects of any act or policy; it consists in tracing the consequences of that policy not merely for one group but for all groups.

Henry Hazlitt (1894-1993)  
*Economics in One Lesson*  
Harper & Brothers 1946 edition, page 5.

474. There is only one difference between a bad economist and a good one: the bad economist confines himself to the *visible* effect; the good economist takes into account both the effect that can be seen those effects that must be *foreseen*.

Frédéric Bastiat  
*Selected Essays on Political Economy*, page 1  
Van Nostrand 1964 edition.

475. Factual evidence can never “prove” a hypothesis; it can only fail to disprove it, which is what we generally mean when we say, somewhat inexactly, that the hypothesis is “confirmed” by experience.

Milton Friedman (1912- )  
*Essays in Positive Economics* [1953], pt 1, ch. 1  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 880

476. Economy is the art of making the most of life.

Gary Becker, Nobel Prize winner  
*San Francisco Examiner*, October 13, 1992, page A-7

## Economics, Supply-Side

477. An economy hampered by restrictive tax rates will never produce enough revenue to balance our budget, just as it will never produce enough jobs or enough profits.

John F. Kennedy, New York City, December 14, 1962  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13

## Economy, The

478. In 1969 government and academic economists, flush with a decade of unbroken expansion, held a conference titled *Is the Business Cycle Obsolete?* That year, MIT economist and former Kennedy advisor Paul Samuelson remarked that the National Bureau of Economic Research had worked itself out of one of its first jobs, namely, [tracking] the business cycle. Two years later, the economy had begun to turn down, and by 1974 it had plunged into the worst recession since the 1930s.

Now, almost three decades past, with the economy entering the seventh year of recovery and the Dow soaring above 7000, politicians and economists are again touting the end of the business cycle.

John B. Judis  
*The New Republic*, June 9, 1997, page 12

479. Suddenly, an amazing idea is in the air — the idea that the business cycle has at last been interred by a newly flexible economy. *Fortune* magazine put it this way: ‘The U.S. economy is stronger than it’s ever been before . . . reflect[ing] fundamental improvements [that] ensure that future fluctuations will be less extreme and less harmful than those of the past.’ *Business Week* headlined a recent cover story ‘How Long Can This Last? Strong growth with little unemployment and low inflation doesn’t have to peter out.’ *U.S. News* asks: ‘Are Recessions Necessary?’ It answers: ‘The restructured economy may be less vulnerable to the business cycle.’

Although no one is quite willing to say we will never have another recession, the mainstream media are clearly saying that it definitely won’t happen soon, hinting that it may never happen again, and adding that if it does, it will be mild by historical standards. And all this just a few short years after the *New York Times* examined post-downsizing America and announced ‘that people were bitter, anxious, disenfranchised’!

Irwin M. Stelzer  
*The Weekly Standard*, July 14, 1997, page 15

480. There are no such things as limits to growth, because there are no limits on the human capacity for intelligence, imagination and wonder.

Ronald Reagan  
Address to the University of South Carolina, Columbia, September  
20, 1983  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993

481. They tell us that because of the various government safety nets we can never have another depression. I sure hope they’re right about the depression — and to be honest, I sometimes find myself believing that malarkey myself. But then I get back to reality, and it realize that the people running our government today are just as stupid and cowardly as the guys who ran the government in 1929.



Richard Russell  
*Dow Theory Letters*, December 30, 1987, page 4.

482. [G]overnment's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

Ronald Reagan  
Remarks to the White House Conference on Small Business,  
August 15, 1986  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993

### Education

483. In 1940 teachers were asked what they regarded as the three major problems in American schools. They identified the three major problems as: littering, noise, and chewing gum. Teachers last year were asked what the three major problems in American schools were, and they defined them as: rape, assault, and suicide.

William Bennett  
*National Review*, March 29, 1993, page 46

484. Despite many advances, a kid growing up where I lived in Harlem half a century ago has less chance of escaping from poverty today than I did. The big difference is that I received a solid education in the public schools of that era and these schools can barely maintain order today, much less educate the students.

Thomas Sowell, syndicated column  
"The Black Conservatives Will Be Vindicated"  
*Orange County Register*, March 6, 1998

485. So long as those schools provide jobs for teachers and administrators, they are a success as far as the teachers unions are concerned, and what happens to the students is the students' problem. Naturally, it is presented in a much prettier way than this to the public. But the bottom line is that a place has to be found for any teacher, no matter how incompetent, and the more incompetent they are the more likely they are to end up teaching in the ghetto, because middle-class parents tend to drive out such teachers and tenure makes it too hard to fire them.

Thomas Sowell, syndicated column  
"The Black Conservatives Will Be Vindicated"  
*Orange County Register*, March 6, 1998

486. Black "leaders" who are ready to go ballistic over any stupid remark that could be construed as racist remain very silent while the education of a whole generation of young blacks is destroyed and their future with it.

Thomas Sowell, syndicated column  
“The Black Conservatives Will Be Vindicated”  
*Orange County Register*, March 6, 1998

487. “[T]he school is a political prize of the highest importance. It cannot be deprived of its political character as long as it remains a public and compulsory institution. There is, in fact, only one solution: the state, the government, the laws must not in any way concern themselves with schooling or education. Public funds must not be used for such purposes. The rearing and instruction of youth must be left entirely to parents and to private associations and institutions.”

Ludwig von Mises  
*Liberalism* (1929)  
Cobden Press, 1985, p. 115.

488. The more money they spend on education, the dumber the kids get. But nobody cares: Democrats and Republicans don’t argue about whether we should spend even more money, only about how that extra money should be spent. Because, after all, spending money shows how much you care about “our children.”

Mark Steyn  
“For the Children”  
*The American Spectator*, May 1999, page 41.

489. As for money, the relationship between it and effective schools has been studied to death. The unanimous conclusion is that there is no connection between school funding and school performance.

John Chubb and Terry Moe  
“Letting Schools Work”  
*The City Journal*, New York, Autumn 1990  
Quoted in *Liberating Schools* by David Boaz, page 6.

490. The politicians elected to the Kansas Board of Education have adopted the most anti-evolution science standard in the country. The anti-creationists are outraged and are telling their supporters to get involved in politics and run for school boards. Why should such an important area as education be subject to the rule of politicians and government bureaucrats? Why not end all governmental involvement in education? With a free market in education, everyone could attend the school that teaches what he wants to learn. Why not separate school and state the way our ancestors separated church and state?

Jacob G. Hornberger  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, August 17, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation, Fairfax, Virginia

491. When you let the federal government get involved in education, it reduces test scores; it graduates children who can't read a job application; it teaches children to solve their problems by shooting their schoolmates; it discourages respect and patriotism; it alters history; it intrusively collects personal data on children and their families; it replaces academics with political correctness; it encourages life-threatening "diverse" lifestyles; it "reforms" curriculum from academic facts to the Goals 2000 "outcomes" of decision making, problem solving, teamwork, diversity, lifelong learning, and control over teacher education and professional development.

Shirley Basarab  
Email message to Harry Browne, October 29, 2005.

492. The government school monopoly needs to be replaced with voluntarily-financed, voluntarily-attended, privately-operated non-government schools.

Marshall Fritz  
Founder, Separation of School & State Alliance  
Alliance promotional material.

493. Every year, the state effectively seizes every child of six years or older and removes him to a government institution, where he is required to learn government-approved doctrine from a government-approved teacher using government-approved textbooks.

Jacob G. Hornberger  
"Educational Coercion and Aberrant Behavior"  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, September 8, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation.

494. If you don't wish to be taxed to support teaching of homosexuality (as I certainly do not), then don't try to force others to support the teaching of your values and beliefs.

Andrew Main  
Email letter to the editor  
WorldNetDaily, December 24, 1999.

495. All education is indoctrination, as the beliefs and values of the teacher are transferred to the student; it is perfectly reasonable for any parent to be concerned about the belief system their child will absorb in school. The solution is simple: get the government, and thus force, out of education. The only system of education compatible with a free society is one in which every family is free to educate their children as they see fit, and no one is forced to support any form of education with which they do not agree.

Andrew Main  
Email letter to the editor  
WorldNetDaily, December 24, 1999.

496. Give me a child for eight years and it will be a Bolshevik forever.

Vladimir Ilich Lenin  
Quoted by Ezra Taft Benson  
“An Enemy Hath Done This,” pages 229-230  
Parliament Publishers 1969, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Cited by Steve Farrell  
“Abandoning Ship: Republicans for Federal Education”  
EnterStageRight.com, January 3, 2000  
<http://www.enterstageright.com/0100feded.htm>

497. In my great educative work, I am beginning with the young.

Adolf Hitler  
Quoted by Ezra Taft Benson  
“An Enemy Hath Done This,” pages 229-230  
Parliament Publishers 1969, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Cited by Steve Farrell  
“Abandoning Ship: Republicans for Federal Education”  
EnterStageRight.com, January 3, 2000  
<http://www.enterstageright.com/0100feded.htm>

498. Like every other form of state-directed activity in the Soviet Union, education is conceived as a weapon serving the interests of the Communist Party and dedicated to a single objective — the victory of the Soviet system.

Nikita Khrushchev  
Quoted by Ezra Taft Benson  
“An Enemy Hath Done This,” pages 229-230  
Parliament Publishers 1969, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Cited by Steve Farrell  
“Abandoning Ship: Republicans for Federal Education”  
EnterStageRight.com, January 3, 2000  
<http://www.enterstageright.com/0100feded.htm>

499. It’s time to get your kids out of government schools. Recognize them for what they are. Too many parents take the easy way. They persuade themselves that their schools are really OK. They pretend the problems are with government schools in other districts. They overlook the fact that their own kids are being conditioned — sometimes subtly, other times not so subtly.

Joseph Farah  
“Prayer in Government Schools”  
WorldNetDaily, June 20, 2000.

500. Jesus said to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. Do you think your children belong to Caesar? Or are they truly a gift from God? If you agree they are a gift from God, why are you turning them over to Caesar for six to eight hours a day?

Don't wait for the politicians to fix the government schools. It will never happen. Take responsibility for your own kids — before you lose them to the state and before they lose their most basic human rights.

Joseph Farah  
"Prayer in Government Schools"  
WorldNetDaily, June 20, 2000.

501. The teachers are overburdened. The classrooms are overcrowded. The buildings are falling down. The reform agenda is underfunded.

Al Gore  
"The Side Gore Must Project"  
Quoted by Bob Herbert  
*The Nashville Tennessean*, October 6, 1999, page 13A.

502. Despite poorer pay, private school teachers as a group are more satisfied than public school teachers with their jobs. In the aggregate, private schools seem to offer a greater sense of community, greater teacher autonomy in the classroom, and more local influence over curriculum and important school policies. In addition, on average, private schools have a climate that would appear to be more conducive to learning, including greater safety and fewer problems caused by students having poor attitudes toward learning or negative interactions with teachers. Finally, private school students take more advanced courses than do public high school students. They also appear to follow a more rigorous academic program overall. . . .

National Center on Education Statistics, 1997 report  
Quoted by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
"The Education Tax Racket"  
WorldNetDaily, August 24, 2001.

503. Government schooling in America can't be fixed any more than government farms could be fixed in the Soviet Union.

Marshall Fritz  
The Alliance for the Separation of School & State website.

504. I want the poor to go to better schools than today. Free market schooling can make this happen. It will deliver better education at less than half the cost of government schools.

The top two-thirds of the families will be able to afford tuitions after the \$300-billion tax cut, but the poorest third will need financial help. We'll need to raise an additional \$20-billion each year for groups like the Children's Scholarship Fund. Americans now give \$175 billion to charities each year. With the huge tax cut, we can prudently predict \$20-billion in new scholarships.

Marshall Fritz  
The Alliance for the Separation of School & State website.

505. Nearly every child in the world who attends school does so at one owned or controlled by government agencies. The whole world population has been taught to see history and politics through statist eyes.

Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, May 2002.

506. The United States spends more money on education than any other industrial nation and produces the dumbest kids in the civilized world. Forget the Balkans: If you wander into the average high school and invite the Students to identify the Horn of Africa on a map, 78% would point to a picture of the president in Rwanda. The more money they spend on education, the dumber the kids get. But nobody cares: Democrats and Republicans don't argue about whether we should spend even more money, only about how that extra money should be spent. Because, after all, spending money shows how much you care about "our children."

Mark Steyn  
"For the Children"  
*The American Spectator*, May 1999, page 77.

507. To the rational thinker, handing off children to paid agents of government makes as much sense as hiring the hangman as your babysitter. Yet today otherwise sane people consider it normal to frog-march a terrified five-year-old child to the bus stop, and send him off into a penal system peopled with monsters and manipulators.

Tom Smedley  
"Homeschooling for Liberty"  
LewRockwell.com, July 26, 2004.

See also *Vouchers*.

## Employment

508. Policies designed to increase production increase employment; policies designed to increase employment do everything but.

C. Northcote Parkinson, coining a "Swedish Law"  
Quoted in John Train, "C. Northcote Parkinson: An Appreciation"  
*The American Spectator*, June 1993, page 56

## Endangered Species

509. The Fish and Wildlife Service faces no budget constraint on the number of acres it can control in the name of endangered species, so it always wants more.

Richard Stroup, former Chief Economist  
The U.S. Interior Department  
Quoted by James Bovard  
*The American Spectator*, February 1997, page 38

## Enemies

510. [The delegates from Wisconsin] love Cleveland for his character, but they love him most for the enemies he has made.

Edward Stuyvesant Bragg (1827-1912)  
Seconding the nomination of Grover Cleveland for President, July 9, 1884  
Quoted in "Odyssey of a Statesman" by Matthew Hoffman  
*FreeMarket*, January 1991, page 6.

## Entertainment Industry

511. I said to one of the English actresses, "You'll never know what it's like to live under a guy like [Stalin]." And she says to me, "Yeah, try living under Margaret Thatcher." Give me a break! To compare that is like comparing rotten apples with good ones.

Robert Duvall, star of the movie *Stalin*  
*USA Today*, November 20, 1992  
Quoted in *TV, etc.*, December 1992, page 3

512. In the Age of Clinton, politics and pop culture have been fused beyond the dreams of Reagan. Marching, doing benefits, and organizing boycotts for pet political causes have become as much a part of show business as greasepaint and the electric guitar.

Joseph Sobran  
*National Review*, February 15, 1993, page 34

513. What salacious movies or excessively violent video games were seen by Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, or the rulers of Imperial Japan?

Larry Elder  
"More Television, More Crime?"  
*Jewish World Review*, August 2, 1999.

## Environment

514. Many scientists, economists and government officials have reached the dismayingly conclusion that much of America's environmental program has gone seriously awry. These experts say that in the last 15 years environmental policy has too often evolved largely in reaction to popular panics, not in response to sound scientific analyses of which environmental hazards present the greatest risks. . . . As a result, many scientists and public health specialists say, billions of dollars are wasted each year in battling problems that are no longer considered especially dangerous, leaving little money for others that cause far more harm.

Keith Schneider, *The New York Times*, March 21, 1993  
Quoted in *AIM Report*, April-A 1993, page 1.

515. [Congressman] Dingell has assailed Justice and the U.S. attorney in Houston for not indicting Marinus Van Leuzen of Galveston, Texas. His crime? Mr. Van Leuzen filled a quarter-acre of wetland under his house so he could park his car and set out lawn furniture. Children are being shot in swimming pools in Washington, D.C., but Sheriff Dingell is hot on the case of the man who built a driveway.

*Wall Street Journal* editorial, date missing.

516. Environmentalism today has nothing to do with kindness to animals, which is a species of kindness in general, and can't possibly justify cruelty to humans. But environmentalist bureaucrats are cruel to humans on a regular basis, which goes to show that they are part of the postmodern elite. Today's elite makes a deliberate practice of using Americans' kindness against them, and spells out its intentions in powerful symbols that will define our generation forever. Homes burn in a Los Angeles firestorm because it is essential to preserve the habitat of — a rat.

David Gelernter  
*The Weekly Standard*, April 21, 1997, page 4.

517. Panic reigned during the first Earth Week [in 1970]. The doomsaying environmentalists — among whom the pre-eminent figure was Paul Ehrlich — asserted that the oceans and the Great Lakes were dying; great famines were impending; the death rate would quickly increase, due to pollution; and increasingly scarce raw materials would reverse the past centuries' progress in the standard of living. Every ill was the result of exploding populations in the U.S. and abroad. The doomsayers urged government-coerced birth control, abroad and even at home. Of course, none of those calamities has occurred. . . . Yet the environmental organizations, the press, and the Clinton administration still take as doctrine exactly the same falsified ideas expressed by the doomsayers in 1970.

Julian L. Simon  
*The Wall Street Journal*, April 22, 1997.



518. Newsletter of Statistical Assessment Service reports on [the] science project of Nathan Zohner, 14, of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Zohner explained hazards of dihydrogen monoxide — it's a major component of acid rain, can kill when accidentally inhaled, causes severe burns in gaseous form — and then surveyed listeners on whether they would support a ban. Out of 50, 43 would, 6 were unsure, only 1 realized that dihydrogen monoxide is H<sub>2</sub>O, or water.

*National Review*, November 10, 1997, page 6.

519. Success in politics is determined by how many laws and regulations are passed, not by what is best for the ecology. Environmental interest groups and the media tend to exaggerate public-health concerns in order to build momentum for an agenda.

James M. Sheehan, Competitive Enterprise Institute  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 13, 1992, letter, page A11.

520. Only a wealthy society can afford to improve both the ecology and human health. It's the very products environmentalists have demonized — be they pesticides, plastics or power lines — that allow us to do just that.

Michael Fumento  
"With Frog Scare Debunked, It Isn't Easy Being Green"  
*The Wall Street Journal*  
Reprinted in *Center-Right*, May 31, 1999

521. The purpose of the environmental movement is not to save the fûûûûg environment. Its purpose is to demonstrate the crimes and failures of capitalism.

Character in *Lucky Bastard* by Charles McCarry  
Quoted in a review by John J. Miller  
*National Review*, August 17, 1998, page 43.

522. The threat posed by humans to the natural environment is nothing compared to the threat to humans posed by global environmental policy.

Fred L. Smith  
*Liberty*, September 1992, page 21.

523. They watch the river flowing to the sea, and they wonder how long it will be before the land is parched and drained of all its water. They do not observe the fertilizing showers by which, in the marvelous economy of nature, the water is restored to the land.

Winston Churchill, 1903  
Quoted by Michael McMenamin in *Reason*, January 1991, p. 39.

524. Socialists used to promote their ideology as raising living standards. Now that Lasch [Christopher Lasch, author of *The True and Only Heaven: Progress and Its Critics*], like other socialists, knows that socialism equals poverty, he wants us to believe that being poor is good for us, and for the “earth’s finite resources.”

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
*Chronicles*, August 1991, page 27.

525. The biggest polluters are governments. Federal and State and local governments dump sewage and waste into rivers and lakes and oceans. Governments bury toxic waste in Rocky Mountain flats. Governments try to bury nuclear waste in Nevada. Governments give their Big Business pals permission to dump dangerous materials in Love Canal — then they say it’s okay to put homes on top of it.

Libertarians believe in full financial and legal liability. Libertarians believe that *no one* has a right to dump poison into your well or toxic waste on your property, or lethal gasses into your lungs.

Full property rights and strict liability lead to a clean and safe environment. Libertarian policies mean pure water, clean air, and a dramatically better environment.

Michael Cloud  
1998 election campaign.

526. Given the failed legacy of federal intervention, one might think that those who are truly concerned with protecting Mother Earth would have learned their lesson. Governments are the greatest polluters on the planet. Those nations with the greatest governmental controls over their economy suffered the worst environmental catastrophes.

Even in market-oriented economies, most major environmental problems can be traced to governmental subsidies or a failure to protect property rights and market institutions. It is time for environmental activists to learn that environmental protection does not require more government. In most instances, it would do better with less.

Jonathan H. Adler  
“Killing Kyoto Without Regrets”  
*Center-Right*, Issue 35, November 2, 1998.

527. If Vice President Gore and his environmental compatriots are truly more concerned with saving the planet than with inflating the power of Uncle Sam, there are many policy options that they can endorse without mortgaging America’s economic future or subjecting people to another round of bureaucratic controls. Indeed, in several areas, reducing government spending and regulatory controls is likely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and spur research and investment in “cleaner” technologies.

A free-market “no regrets” policy would consist of the following three elements: 1) Removing regulatory barriers to innovation; 2) Eliminating subsidies to energy use; and 3) Deregulating energy-related markets. Each element will produce tangible economic benefits by either reducing needless government spending or limiting regulatory burdens on the private sector. Each element will also remove government-induced market distortions which can produce greater greenhouse gas emissions.

For example, most firms are constantly seeking to cut costs so as to increase profits. Energy use, in many sectors, is a substantial cost. So, when new facilities are built, and old facilities are upgraded, they typically use energy more efficiently than before. Increasing energy productivity is one way for companies to cut costs and, incidentally, to reduce their emissions while maintaining, if not increasing, their productive output.

Environmental regulations, however, often get in the way of these improvements. As a recent study by the Environmental Law Institute concluded, “technology-based emission limits and discharge standards, which are embedded in most of our pollution laws, play a key role in discouraging innovation.

Jonathan H. Adler  
“Killing Kyoto Without Regrets”  
*Center-Right*, Issue 35, November 2, 1998.

528. The scientific basis for greenhouse warming is too uncertain to justify drastic action at this time.

Gore, Roger Revelle, nicknamed “Dr. Greenhouse,”  
one of the early global-warming advocates and a mentor to Al  
writing just before his death in 1991.  
Quoted in “Plenty of Doom,” *The Economist*, December 20, 1997.

529. Is it not a good thing to exaggerate the potential ecological problems the world faces rather than underplay them? Not necessarily. . . .Westerners have forced inappropriate measures on puzzled local inhabitants in order to meet activists’ preconceived notions of environmental change. The myth that oil and gas will imminently run out, together with worries about the greenhouse effect, is responsible for the despoliation of wild landscapes in Wales and Denmark by ugly, subsidized — and therefore ultimately job-destroying — wind farms.

“Plenty of Doom”  
*The Economist*, December 20, 1997.

530. In truth, what the environmental community has become is a money machine . . . We have come to the point where we keep score by the almighty dollar. And we need to start keeping score by the health of the planet.

Alfred Runte, environmental historian  
Board member, National Parks Conservation Association, 1993-  
1997

Quoted by Tom Knudson  
“Movement’s prosperity comes at a high price”  
Sacramento Bee, April 22, 2001.

531. It is private property owners, not governments, who take the long-term view of things. Private planners aim to preserve and increase the value of their resources, for themselves and their great-grandchildren. Public planners aim to buy votes or quell civil unrest, often at the expense of the environment.

Karen Selick  
“Don’t Trust Government to Protect the Environment”  
*Canadian Lawyer*, November/December, 1996.

*See also* Endangered Species and Recycling.

### Environmentalists

532. The neo-hippie-dips, the sentimentality-crazed iguana anthropomorphizers, the Chicken Littles, the three-bong-hit William Blakes — thank God these people don’t actually go outdoors much, or the environment would be even worse than it is already.

P. J. O’Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Parliament of Whores*, “Dirt of The Earth: The Ecologists” (1991).

533. We used to look down on the ancients for their superstitious fears. We derided the Hindus for their worship of the sacred cow. In these progressive times, we have cast aside oracles and crystal balls. Instead, we rely on actresses and computer models to tell us where to make the trillion-dollar economic sacrifices to head off global catastrophe. We have no sacred cows — only spotted owls, red squirrels, dolphins, and millions of other endangered species.

Jane M. Orient, M.D.  
Doctors for Disaster Preparedness  
Form letter, June 24, 1991.

534. Perhaps the most important reason the environmentalists are so eager to implement drastic solutions to what may prove to be non-problems is that they simply happen to like those solutions. If a government inspector told you that you had termites in your mud-and-straw walls, you might be skeptical. But if you were told that the solution was to be given a brand new, more spacious brick house, what would you care if the termite assertion proved untrue? Indeed, you’d be training termites to eat mud.

It is not coincidental that the draconian solutions suggested by the environmental extremists, from forced sterilization to elimination of internal combustion engine vehicles to expenditures of trillions of corporate and tax dollars, seem to have a common thread of austerity, rejection of free market principles, and greater centralized control of the populace. The brownshirts of sixty years ago have counterparts among the greenshirts of today. True environmentalists reject these interlopers and embrace those who identify the real problems and offer real solutions.

Michael Fumento  
*The American Spectator*, January 1991, page 43.

535. Californians refuse to acknowledge that in the real world their desire for one good (an unsullied environment) might actually conflict with another (their desire for hot water in their Jacuzzis).

Charles Krauthammer  
“Supply and Demand Realities”  
Syndicated column, February 18, 2001.

536. The environmental movement is often characterized as elitist. It *is* elitist. Economically, it is a latter-day movement of feudal aristocrats, seeking the existence of a privileged class able to pocket the benefits of the economic progress that has taken place up to now, while denying those benefits to the broad mass of the public. It is a movement of monopolists, typified by the mentality of homeowners of the type who, having gotten “theirs,” seek to stop all further development of land in their area. It is the movement of neofeudal mentalities who desire a world of broad open spaces for themselves, spaces that are essentially ownerless, and who care nothing for the plight of crowded, starving masses, who are to be denied the benefit of access to those open spaces, which are to be closed to all development. Essentially it is the old story of the feudal lords who are to have vast forests set aside for their enjoyment, while serfs dare not remove a log for their fires or kill an animal for their meal.

George Reisman  
*Capitalism: A Treatise on Economics*, page 316.

537. If God hadn’t expelled Adam & Eve from the Garden of Eden, the Sierra Club would have.

Fred Smith, President, Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Speech to the Conservative Leadership Conference,  
Broadcast on C-SPAN, November 25, 1991.

## Envy

538. The whole gospel of Karl Marx can be summed up in a single sentence: Hate the man who is better off than you are. Never under any circumstances admit that his success may be due to his own efforts, to the productive contribution he has made to the whole community. Always attribute his success to the exploitation, the cheating, the more or less open robbery of others. Never under any circumstances admit that your own failure may be owing to your own weaknesses, or that the failure of anyone else may be due to his own defects — his laziness, incompetence, improvidence, or stupidity.

Henry Hazlitt  
Quoted in *Freedom Daily*, January 1990  
And *FFF Email Update*, January 11, 2000  
The Future of Freedom Foundation.

## Epithets, Political

539. The concept “political extremism” is not a tool of cognition. Its function is not to enhance discussion, but to suppress it; not to explain a phenomenon but to denounce one. It was used by the center-liberal for the same function that the Klansmen used the words “nigger” and “kike.”

R.W. Bradford  
*Liberty*, June 1993, Vol. 6, No. 5.

## Equality

540. A society that is more concerned about the redistribution of wealth than about the creation of wealth will certainly produce an equality of poverty.

George Marotta, Research Fellow, Hoover Institute  
*Los Angeles Times* article  
*Nashville Banner*, April 26, 1995, page A-13.

541. The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery.

Winston Churchill  
Cited by Don Feder  
“Middle Class Won’t Rise to Class-Warfare Bait”  
Syndicated column, May 17, 1995.

542. For equality achieved is the mainspring, the central teaching of the Left’s secular theology, or the kind of equality of opportunity that insists on the right results in every contest. The Left realizes that so long as the most influential conservatives don’t reject its dogmatics on that subject it must win out in the end.

M.E. Bradford  
*Policy Review*, Summer 1991, page 80.

543. A claim for equality of material position can be met only by a government with totalitarian powers.

Fredrich August von Hayek (1899-1992)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997.

544. No advance in wealth, no softening of manners, no reform or revolution has ever brought human equality a millimeter nearer.

George Orwell (1903-50), British author.  
*1984*, pt. 2, ch. 9 (1949), extract from Goldstein's book.

545. Do we want an equalized level of care? We can always have an equalized level at a low level. Where does progress come from? If we go back and look at the history of our country, what is behind our progress? It's not equalizing. It's differentiating.

It's that somebody gets a bright idea about how you can have a telegraph line. And who buys that first? Is it the poor people? No. Or look at television. How did we get the television and all its related products? We didn't get progress in television technology by immediately demanding that every American get a television set. We got it by someone starting the venture and rich people buying it to begin with.

Rich people are the experimental ground for every new development. The nature of progress is that what begins as a luxury for the rich becomes a necessity for the poor as it's developed and passed on.

Milton Friedman  
"Nobel Prize-Winning Economist With David Asman"  
Fox TV News, May 21, 2004.

### Equality before the Law

546. The use of quotas and statistics to evaluate IRS employees is explicitly banned by federal law, based on concerns that such measures would foster abusive tax collection practices. But [an IRS internal] investigation found that the IRS has used statistics to evaluate performance of employees and supervisors. It also ranked district offices' tax collections.

Ralph Vartabedian, *Los Angeles Times*  
Reprinted in *The Nashville Banner*, January 14, 1998, page A-8.

## Europe, United

547. For years, Europe has been heading toward unification. Had this been confined to removing trade barriers between the European countries, it would have been a boon. But instead, Europe is on its way to becoming the United States of Europe, with major power vested in a continental government. That will be an unmitigated disaster.

Without unification, if one European country enacts onerous taxes and regulations, businesses can flee to a neighboring country. Technology makes that easier and cheaper than ever. The ability to vote with one's feet tempers national governments.

Unification represents an effort to end competition among governments. If competition is good for citizens, ending it is bad for them. Voting with one's feet will become prohibitively costly or impossible, freeing European politicians to raise taxes and impose regulations without fear. . . .

The United States began with a decentralized system of governance. The locus of power was not at the national level, but at the state and local levels. The Constitution delegated only a few defined powers to the national government. The Tenth Amendment of the Bill of Rights re-enforced this principle by stating that all powers not so delegated belong to the states and the people. While state governments could be every bit as oppressive as the national government, at least the state jurisdictions were smaller and, if necessary, people could flee. . . .

Over the years, power has flowed to Washington, thanks to politicians and judges who don't give a hoot what the Constitution says. The result has been an incredible increase in levels of taxation and regulation that have stifled our ability to enjoy liberty and raise our living standards as high as they might have been. . . .

In their own way Europeans are repeating our mistake. They will live to regret it.

Sheldon Richman  
"Euro is a No-Go"  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, February 8, 1999.

548. What do Shakespeare, Mozart, and Leonardo have in common? Each is a towering figure in European culture and each has been rejected as too controversial to appear on the new Euro currency. The Bard slammed Jews, Mozart puffed the Masons, Leonardo might have been homosexual. Despairing of famous Europeans, the European Monetary Institute has decreed that the new currency will feature architecture — gateways, windows, bridges. Or, as one Euro-skeptic has put it, "It will remind people that a single currency is a gateway to mass unemployment, a window to misery, and a bridge to civil unrest."

*National Review* editorial, Jan 27, 1997, page 10.

549. Since its launch on 1 January, 1999, the Euro has been a huge embarrassment and crushing disappointment to its promoters. Far from rising against the dollar as its supporters claimed, it has fallen by 30 per cent in as many months.



Bill Jamieson  
“So Where Are the Signs of a ‘Successful’ Euro?”  
*The Scotsman*, June 5, 2001.

## Fair Trade

*See* Protectionism.

## Fairness

550. Any collective help to eliminate unfairness introduces the most dangerous form of unfairness, namely, by giving some people power over others. How do you equalize things but with equalizers? And they must be armed, otherwise some will not yield to the effort to equalize. That makes these equalizers most unequal — armed regimentors.

Tibor R. Machan  
“Misunderstanding Free Markets and Justice”

## Family Values

551. When millions of American couples need a second income, they need it not to support their children, but to support the government. Yes, we are indeed frighteningly close to serfdom.”

Richard Armey, Congressman  
*Policy Review*, Summer 1994, page 14.

## FDA (Food & Drug Administration)

552. When faced with difficult approval decision, FDA reviewers often ask for costly, elaborate new studies. If anyone is hurt by a new drug, after all, it will be front-page news. But if 10,000 people die because approval is delayed, the public will never know.

Murray Weidenbaum  
“Are Drug Prices Too High?”  
*The Public Interest*, Summer 1994 issue  
Quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, July 15, 1993, page A14.

553. The delays and costs on companies are unconscionable. As far as I’m concerned, the Food and Drug Administration is Disneyland. It’s a mess.

Dr. Robert Hatcher  
 Professor of gynecology and obstetrics, Emory University; editor of  
*Contraceptive Technology*  
 Statement to the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*  
 Quoted by Michael Fumento  
 "Sponge Bath," *Reason*, June 1995, page 42.

554. When a device or drug fails, an FDA regulator can count on hostile headlines, angry congressional hearings, and the threat of new legislation. But suppose a regulator is super-cautious and doesn't approve a life-saving device. What happens? Nothing. The heart-attack victims don't know that they could have been saved by streptokinase, and so the 22,000 deaths are invisible and safe.

Alexander Volokh  
*Reason*, May 1995, page 24.

555. In terms of lives, it's quite possible that the FDA bureaucracy could be killing on the order of three to four times as many people as it saves.

Dale Geringer, Stanford University professor  
 Quoted by James Bovard  
*The American Spectator*, February 1997, page 40.

556. The theoretical American patient, beloved by Congress and consumer advocates, that they wish to protect from an avaricious industry and uncaring health-care community is a wonderful abstraction beloved, as well, by the media. But real patients hurt, bleed, and die for many specific reasons, which manufacturers and the health community address in detail. Those details are not understood by Congress and the FDA, and political ideology keeps consumer advocates from seeing technical issues in perspective.

Joel Nobel, president of ECRI, an independent medical-device  
 testing company

Quoted by Alexander Volokh  
*Reason*, May 1995, page 24.

557. To Congress we must say that our road to hell is paved with your good intentions and that we understand your formula. First, require that the FDA do the unwise or impossible. A few years later, ask the General Accounting Office to tell you if the FDA is doing the unwise or impossible as instructed. Express shock and surprise when you learn that it is not. Hold hearings to pistol-whip the FDA and industry in order to support the passage of more unwise or impossible-to-implement legislation. Do not forget to include testimony from patients whose demonstrable suffering can be attributed to the FDA and industry derelictions. Be sure to use a few exceptional industry sins to justify collective guilt and punishment. Never allow testimony by knowledgeable witnesses who may disagree with your preordained conclusions and already-written legislation, unless they represent industry and can be portrayed as self-serving and mercenary.

testing company Joel Nobel, president of ECRI, an independent medical-device

Quoted by Alexander Volokh  
*Reason*, May 1995, page 24.

558. Medical bureaucrats know so much about what is good for you that they would rather kill you then let you make your own choices.

Sharon Harris  
“The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand”  
Speech, Los Angeles, February 15, 1998.

559. The government inspected the hamburger that Jack in the Box served with yummy e-coli bacteria. The government inspected the beef — laden with e-coli and other dangerous matter — that was sent to numerous supermarkets . . . and was barely caught before being sold.

Libertarians want safe and nutritious foods. Libertarians want a network of free market food inspections — to protect consumers from sickness and businesses from unwarranted liability. Free market food inspections might take the form of *Consumers Reports* type ratings. They might take the form of Underwriters’ Laboratories guarantees. We might well have surprise inspections from bonding companies and insurance companies. We might have bonded health ratings. We want clean and pure and nutritious foods. Businesses have every incentive to support this — and every liability for refusing it.

Free markets mean safer foods. Government inspection means e-coli.

Michael Cloud  
1998 election campaign.

#### Federal Reserve & Interest Rates

560. The Federal Reserve cannot and does not control interest rates. . . . If the Fed could control interest rates, does anyone really believe that we would have seen the federal funds rate at 20% in 1981?

Milton Friedman  
*The Wall Street Journal*, October 23, 1992; pg. A14.

561. If the hacks at the Fed really can make us all wealthier simply by lowering the Federal Funds rate, what can't they do? Why don't they make our women all look like Hollywood starlets and our kitchen faucets run with good Scotch!

William Bonner  
*The Daily Reckoning*, June 25, 2003.

## Federalism

562. We now see, all over the Western world, a ferment of people against consolidation, in favor of regionalism, devolution, secession, break-up of unnatural states, the return to historic identities in preference to universal bureaucracies. There is reason to believe the consolidation phase of history may be coming to an end.

Clyde Wilson  
*The Free Market*, August 1995, page 8.

563. The Constitution is an antitrust act for government. Taken seriously, which means with full weight accorded to every clause, it ensures that each state has sovereignty within a wide sphere. This allows tyrannical possibilities, but it also puts the most effective check on those possibilities: the individual can move from a less free state to a freer one. Federalism, like Adam Smith's market, creates an "invisible hand" that promotes maximum liberty.

Joseph Sobran, syndicated column  
Quoted in *National Review*, February 10, 1997, page 16.

564. The only way to preserve civil liberty is to check government power. The only way to check power is to disperse and divide it. The federal government will never check itself. That is the purpose of federalism. It must be checked by the states. And this ultimately is of no avail unless it is backed by the right of secession. Curiously, recognition of the right of secession often obviates its use, because where it is a real possibility, Power is motivated, has incentive, to check itself and be responsible.

Clyde Wilson  
*The Free Market*, August 1995, page 6.

## Feminism

565. The enthusiasms of feminists are after all no more than the stock principles of Marxism extended beyond the bounds of sanity.

Paul V. Mankowski  
*Commentary*, June 1990, page 50.

## Fifth Amendment

566. The Fifth Amendment is an old friend and a good friend. It is one of the great landmarks in man's struggle to be free of tyranny, to be decent and civilized.

William O. Douglas [1898-1980], Supreme Court Justice  
*An Almanac of Liberty* [1954].

## Flag, the American

567. The United States shouldn't become like Iran, China, and Cuba, where flag desecration is already a crime — and where people are required by law to venerate the government and their rulers.

Bill Winter

Libertarian Party press release, September 30, 1998

568. I see the flag of the U.S. as a symbol of what this country stands for. Given that we elect people like Clinton, Boxer, Schumer, Feinstein, et al., we pillage other sovereign nations at a whim, force our own citizens to be hostages to terrorism (I didn't bomb Iraq or Serbia) and generally ignore all constitutional rights that we are born with, I believe that the only decent thing to do with the flag these days is to burn it.

L. Price

"Our Fascist Fatherland"

Letter to the editor

WorldNetDaily, June 29, 1999.

569. If the Congress insists on passing an amendment to protect the flag, the least they can do is to include a proviso that also prohibits politicians from wrapping themselves in it.

Michael Moses, Orlando, Florida

Email to *The American Spectator Online*

570. [Pledging allegiance to the flag] leads to obedience to an image. That image is only as good as what the image stands for. When children are taught to worship the image and not the supporting concepts of unalienable rights and freedom, we are leaving them open to an attack on their intelligence and reasoning skills. More people have died worshipping flags throughout the ages than any other symbol. Leadership can change, policies can change. Do you still want your children worshipping the same symbol of that changed form — blindly?

Dave Wissel

Email to Harry Browne

## Food & Drug Administration

*See FDA.*

## Foreign Aid

571. Foreign aid taxes poor people in rich countries and gives the money to rich people in poor countries.

Fred Smith  
Quoted by Stephen Moore  
*Human Events*, May 19, 1995, page 8.

572. Foreign aid . . . might be defined as a transfer from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

Douglas Casey  
*Crisis Investing*, April 1992, page 3.

573. We are for aiding our allies by sharing some of our material blessings with those nations which share in our fundamental beliefs, but we are against doling out money government to government, creating bureaucracy, if not socialism, all over the world. We set out to help 19 countries. We are helping 107. We spent \$146 billion. With that money, we bought a 2-million-dollar yacht for Haile Selassie. We bought dress suits for Greek undertakers, extra wives for Kenya government officials. We bought a thousand TV sets for a place where they have no electricity.

Ronald Reagan (b. 1911)  
“A Time for Choosing,” televised address, 27 Oct. 1964  
Published in *Speaking My Mind*, 1989.

574. The U.S. government deals with foreign politicians who bankrupt their corrupt, quasi-socialist countries [by giving them] unlimited access to Uncle Sam’s credit card to bail themselves out. And, as always, the bills come due to American taxpayers.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, October 19, 1998.

575. By God, I’m sick of this pseudo-philanthropic, pseudo-compassion-for-the-world bilge which spews forth from the mouths of our politicians like the filth that comes out a broken sewer pipe.

Charley Reese  
“A poor understanding of where world is headed”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, July 19, 2001.

576. A *New Yorker* cartoon of the [Cold War] era portrayed two tribal chiefs sitting in a hut, one saying to the other: “We tell the Americans we are going Communist and they send technicians and fortunes in aid to stop it. Then, we tell the Soviets that we are becoming a bourgeois democracy, and the Russians send more aid and technicians. Then, we tell the French and the British, we want them to run things, so they do the same. We get them all here and we eat them.”

Richard Cummings  
“Doctor Livingstone, I Presume — Dubya In The Heart of  
Darkness”  
LewRockwell.com, July 8, 2003.

### Foreign Policy

577. Any prolonged examination of the U.S. government reveals foreign policy to be America’s miniature schnauzer — a noisy but small and useless part of the national household.

P. J. O’Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Parliament of Whores*, “Very Foreign Policy” (1991).

578. Whatever it is that the government does, sensible Americans would prefer that the government do it to somebody else. This is the idea behind foreign policy.

P. J. O’Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Parliament of Whores*, “Very Foreign Policy” (1991).

579. America is the world’s policeman, all right — a big, dumb, mick flatfoot in the middle of the one thing cops dread most, a “domestic disturbance.”

P. J. O’Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
“Jordan,” in *Rolling Stone*, Aug. 1990  
Reprinted in *Give War a Chance*, 1992).

580. Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)  
First inaugural address, 4 March 1801.

581. Here’s your enemy for this week, the government says. And some gullible Americans click their heels and salute — often without knowing who or even where the enemy of the week is.

Charley Reese  
“With crises around the globe, what makes Kosovo different?”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, October 20, 1998.

582. Americans who value their own national independence had better respect the independence of other countries. If the United Nations has the right to control the internal affairs of Serbia, why not the internal affairs of the United States?

Charley Reese

“With crises around the globe, what makes Kosovo different?”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, October 20, 1998.

583. The policeman-of-the-world role, which is the current fad, has no legitimate arguments in its favor. It costs billions of dollars. It risks American lives. It involves us in quarrels that don't threaten our interests and, therefore, should not concern us. The billions of dollars — taken right out of the pockets of the American people — to meddle in foreign affairs that don't concern us would be better spent on the genuine needs of the American people.

Charley Reese

“With crises around the globe, what makes Kosovo different?”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, October 20, 1998.

584. It seems that in the corrupt ways of Washington, foreign leaders are OK guys one day and demons the next, depending on how the winds of opportunism are blowing among the cherry trees.

Charley Reese

“Human crisis in Kosovo? Not hardly — and Clinton knows it”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, April 6, 1999.

585. An independent America cannot be the world's policeman. If Americans wish others to respect their sovereignty, they must respect that of others. If Americans don't want others interfering in their internal affairs, they must not interfere in others'.

Charley Reese

“Precious independence is nibbled around the edges all the time”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, July 4, 1999.

586. I have the consolation to reflect that during the period of my administration not a drop of the blood of a single fellow citizen was shed by the sword of war or of the law.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

Letter to Count Dugnani, Papal Nuncio, February 14, 1818  
Quoted in *Bartlett's* 14th edition, page 473.

587. I have ever deemed it fundamental for the United States never to take active part in the quarrels of Europe. Their political interests are entirely distinct from ours. Their mutual jealousies, their balance of power, their complicated alliances, their forms and principles of government, are all foreign to us. They are nations of eternal war.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

Letter, 11 June 1823, to President James Monroe,  
six months before the formulation of U.S. foreign policy in the

Monroe Doctrine.



588. [Michael] Ignatieff [Canadian commentator] says “rogue states” must now tremble because “a U.S. president can rain punishment down on any rogue state on the globe.” Except the United States, which easily qualifies for rogue status. It has defied UN resolutions, the World Court and international trade bodies; tried to assassinate foreign leaders and bombed and invaded more or less at will. Is the U.S. going to punish itself? If you speak from moral superiority, the question doesn’t get asked.

Rick Salutin

“Moral arrogance at full throttle in most Kosovo coverage”  
*The Toronto Globe & Mail*, July 8, 1999.

589. Friendship is but another name for an alliance with the follies and the misfortunes of others. Our own share of miseries is sufficient: why enter then as volunteers into those of another?

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)  
Letter, 12 Oct. 1786, to Maria Cosway.

590. ‘Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.

George Washington (1732-99)  
Farewell address, 17 Sept. 1796.

591. Before every air strike, the President assures his future victims how much he admires them. Ronald Reagan told the Libyan people that America regarded them as friends — then he unleashed his bombers on Tripoli and Benghazi. George Bush waffled on about Iraq’s history as the birthplace of civilization and America’s friendship for ordinary Iraqis — before bombing every town and city in Iraq. And this week, as his missiles had just left their ships in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, there was Bill Clinton telling the people of the Middle East that Islam was one of the world’s great religions.

Robert Fisk

*The Independent* (London), August 22, 1998

592. If missiles are misguided, or if trade sanctions hurt the wrong people, as in Iraq, that is someone else’s fault. Too bad if the three countries currently in Washington’s and London’s sights — Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan — happen to be the poorest and most unstable on Earth. We are only hurting them for their long-term good. They should say “thank you” really.

Simon Jenkins, *The London Times*, August 22, 1998

593. Throughout the non-NATO world, Americas is increasingly seen as an aggressor nation, the new “Evil Empire,” demonstrably unfit to preach to other nations about human rights and democratic freedoms. . . . The perception grows that America has fallen from grace and lost its image as the light and hope of the world.

Linda Bowles  
Syndicated column, May 26, 1999  
Quoted at <http://iraqwar.org/morequotes.htm>.

594. The forces of order must not stoop to the terrorist tactics of their foes.

Simon Jenkins, *The London Times*, August 22, 1998

595. The United States, having been defeated, stymied, or denied victory in its last three wars (Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf), fits the classic definition of an aging great power beginning to weaken. Think Rome.

Kevin Phillips  
“When wars fail, so do Democrats”  
*The Boston Globe*, May 26, 1999.

596. Today, for the first time in its history, the United States confronts a world that by and large wishes it ill. China hates and mistrusts the United States. Japan is sick of listening to American strictures about their economic system and about their supposed lack of contrition for the “rape of Nanking.” Latin Americans are tired of being judged only by their “efforts to combat drug trafficking.” Brazilians can’t bear hearing again about the destruction of the “rainforest.”

George Szamuely  
“Proud To Be Un-American”  
*The New York Press*, June 23, 1999.

597. Adolf Hitler and World War II were created by the Treaty of Versailles, dictated mainly by vain, old politicians from Great Britain and France in 1918. Twenty-one years would pass before the consequences of that blunder began to unfold in a war that cost an estimated 55 million human lives. History can be said to be the story of human errors and the consequences. As the power of governments to do evil has grown enormously, so, too, have the consequences of human error.

Charley Reese  
“We had our chance with Russia — too bad Clinton let it slip”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, December 13 1998.

598. . . . think about what has been the greatest threat to our freedoms which are supposed to be secured by our Constitution. It has not been China. It has not been Russia. It has not been Germany. It has not been Japan. It has been our own federal government confiscating citizens' property in the name of fighting foreign bogeymen and then expanding the size of the federal government in defiance of the Constitution. Lincoln invaded the "disloyal" Confederate States of America. McKinley initiated 20th century American imperialism by invading Cuba and the Philippines. Wilson sent thousands of young American men to their deaths to fight the German "menace" and to secure "peace." Roosevelt goaded the Japanese into attacking Pearl Harbor, and then proceeded to whip up war fever until his death. Truman unleashed the atomic bomb on 200,000 helpless victims, and then fought the Communist "menace" in Korea with 25,000 American lives. The litany of cold (and often hot) war warriors Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson et al. is well established.

Of course, these foreign adventures could not have been possible without the war propaganda of the national press.

Dan Winterrowd  
"Hobgoblins for Hire . . ."  
E-mail to WorldNetDaily, July 21, 1999.

599. At the news of perestroika and Gorbachev's intention to start scrapping his warheads, did Washington officialdom don funny hats, swill champagne and run out to foxtrot through the streets? Not at all; in fact the White House inexplicably derided the Soviet leader as a "drugstore cowboy" and hinted that perestroika was a diabolical trick. When then-Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney proposed a microscopic 0.3% reduction in defense spending to mark the sudden disappearance of any plausible enemy, outraged screams issued from Congress. "You are putting Grumman out of business," complained the congressional representative of that particular weapons company. What would have been welcomed as peace almost anywhere else looked to Americans like an enemy shortage.

Barbara Ehrenreich  
"Cold War II: Kosovo's Legacy"  
*L.A. Weekly*, June 25 — July 1, 1999.

600. Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

George Washington (1732-99)  
Farewell address, September 17, 1796  
During the time of the Napoleonic Wars.

601. America does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own. She will recommend the general cause by the countenance of her voice, and the benignant sympathy of her example. She well knows that by one enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standards of freedom. The fundamental maxims of her policy would insensibly change from liberty to force.

John Quincy Adams  
Address, July 4, 1821.

602. [America] well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy, and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom.

John Quincy Adams  
*Memoirs of John Quincy Adams*, volume 4, pages 437-439  
Quoted in *Empire of Liberty* by Richard W. Tucker and David C.  
Hendrickson, pages 44-45  
Cited in "The Anti-Interventionist Tradition in American Politics"  
by Justin Raimondo  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, pages 72-73.

603. The old republic is gone; a new global empire has replaced it, with American forces scattered around the world at enormous expense. Very little of this can be justified as defense. It's the accumulation of military power for its own sake and has nothing to do with our safety.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, August 10, 1995.  
Reprinted in *Sobran's*, September 1995

604. . . . people whose courage is measured by their willingness to send others to die.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, November 18, 1997.

605. How many enemies do we want? We have the power to make an unlimited number, provoking terrorist retaliation in the short run and who knows what in years to come. And to what end? American military domination of the globe? Why is that desirable? What could it cost us?

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, November 18, 1997.

606. If you'd rather trade with foreigners than shoot them, you're an "isolationist."

Friend of Joseph Sobran  
Mentioned to Harry Browne.

607. By following the policy we have adhered to since the days of Washington we have prospered beyond precedent; we have done more for the cause of liberty in the world than arms could effect; we have shown to other nations the way to greatness and happiness. . .

But if we should involve ourselves in the web of European politics, in a war which could effect nothing, . . . where, then, would be the last hope of the friends of freedom throughout the world? Far better it is . . . that, adhering to our wise pacific system, and avoiding the distant wars of Europe, we should keep our own lamp burning brightly on this western shore, as a light to all nations, than to hazard its utter extinction amidst the ruins of fallen or falling republics in Europe.

Henry Clay, 1852  
Quoted in *Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*, edited by Harry Elmer Barnes; page 555.

608. During the 1980s, while accusing the Soviet Union of excessive military aggression, the Reagan administration was participating in nine little wars — in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Chad, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Morocco, and Nicaragua — not to mention our bombing of Libya, invasion of Grenada, and repeated attempts to bring down Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Thomas H. Naylor  
Press release, August 1998

609. Without any sense of irony whatsoever, President [George H.W.] Bush condemned Saddam Hussein for replicating in Kuwait precisely what he had done in Panama a few months earlier — namely, invading a tiny country with a huge military force and setting up a puppet government.

Thomas H. Naylor  
Press release, August 1998

610. The best way to keep people from believing that the United States is responsible for their problems is to avoid involvement in their conflicts.

Richard K. Betts  
Director of National Security Studies, Council on Foreign Relations  
Professor of Political Science, Columbia University  
*Foreign Affairs*, Volume 77, No. 1, page 40.

611. Because the United States is now the only superpower and weapons of mass destruction have become more accessible, American intervention in troubled areas is not so much a way to fund off threats as it is what stirs them up.

Richard K. Betts  
Director of National Security Studies, Council on Foreign Relations  
Professor of Political Science, Columbia University  
*Foreign Affairs*, Volume 77, No. 1, page 40.

612. This running around over the world trying to placate every situation and adjust every controversy is not the business of democracy. A democracy must live at home or have no life. Totalitarian states which have absolute control over their subjects and may send them into any war that personal discretion or ambition suggests may engage in combat against aggressors, and so forth, but democracies cannot do so.

William Borah, Idaho Senator, 1937  
Quoted in *The Twilight of Progressivism* by Ronald L. Feinman  
Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981, page 170  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 214.

613. The July Fourth orators may boast that the United States is the only superpower, the most powerful nation on earth, but the fact is that our entangling alliances have tied us down with an international weave of Lilliputian strings.

Ralph de Toledano  
Syndicated column, July 5, 1995.

614. Conservatives who support global intervention promote big government.

Doug Bandow  
*The Washington Times*, December 13, 1997.

615. Some of those who back Cold War interventionism despite the end of the Cold War . . . really don't believe in liberty. At least they don't believe it's important enough to interfere with their goals. They see war, conscription, big military budgets, high taxes, economic regulation, trade restrictions and press controls as a small price to pay for the opportunity to play social engineer around the globe, especially if someone else is doing the paying.

Doug Bandow  
*The Washington Times*, December 13, 1997.

616. Today's mammoth federal government is the product not so much of the New Deal but of the massive power assembled in Washington to wage World War II and the Cold War.

Burton Yale Pines  
Quoted by Doug Bandow  
*The Washington Times*, December 13, 1997.

617. [I do not like putting the United States] at the mercy of the foreign policies of 11 other nations.

Senator Robert Taft, 1948  
Quoted in "The Cold War and the Transformation of the American Right,"  
master's thesis by Joseph R. Stromberg (Florida Atlantic University, 1971), page 14  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 221.

618. We Americans are not imperialists or hegemonists; we are not Romans or Britons. Before Americans will send their sons to fight and die, something more vital must be at stake than sugar plums dancing in the heads of foreign policy intellectuals.

Patrick J. Buchanan  
"The Lament Of The Establishment"  
Syndicated column, November 3, 1998

619. Even if it were desirable, America is not strong enough to police the world by military force. If that attempt is made, the blessings of liberty will be replaced by coercion and tyranny at home.

Congressman Howard Buffett  
Quoted in "The Cold War and the Transformation of the American Right,"  
master's thesis by Joseph R. Stromberg  
(Florida Atlantic University, 1971), page 15  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 222.

620. Is it worth giving up our own freedom to be "top dog" in the dog-eat-dog world? Is being top dog merely an illusion, or would we really get something worthwhile and tangible for our abdication of individual/regional/state sovereignty?

James Merritt  
America Online message, November 27, 1998.

621. Most people in the Middle East considered Saddam Hussein a thug, but now, by killing Iraqi women and children with cruel sanctions, the United States has created sympathy for Iraq.

Charley Reese  
“American intelligence in Middle East a contradiction in terms”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, September 13, 1998.

622. The historian Barbara Tuchman famously addressed the puzzle of Vietnam and concluded that, in the matter of war, little had changed since the fall of Troy. In *The March of Folly*, she related how each crisis was confounded by vain and hesitant leaders, by fears of retreat, by deafness to unpalatable advice and by a constant belief “that there was no choice”. Kennedy had to take America into Vietnam to prove he was tough on communism, and Lyndon Johnson to prove that “I am not going to lose it”. After half a million dead, it was lost. Nothing was gained, and it appears nothing was learnt.

Simon Jenkins  
*The London Times*, March 24, 1999.

623. Bill Clinton and his baby-boomer gang have swaggered about, neglected important affairs, meddled in trivial ones and given the world an almost comic-opera picture of a sanctimonious, bombastic, ineffective and incompetent superpower.

Charley Reese  
“America’s starring role as superpower may close to bad reviews”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, January 3, 1999.

624. You don’t “support the troops” by acting the political coward and allowing a president to commit them to battle in an unconstitutional war for no discernible benefit, let alone one that actually will damage and threaten the national interest. In such a situation, you support the troops by not allowing the chief executive to misuse them.

Charley Reese  
“American Forces Are Seriously Misused — and It Must Stop”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, April 1, 1999.

625. The purpose of American armed forces, their reason for existence, is to defend the United States and its citizens. Period. Nothing else. Not peace-keeping, not being the world’s policeman, not being a bully, not digging sewers for people in Third World countries. There is an ongoing, serious misuse of American forces, and the American people had better wake up and get their heads out of that place where they don’t belong.

Charley Reese  
“American Forces Are Seriously Misused — and It Must Stop”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, April 1, 1999.

626. The notion that humanitarian violations can be redressed with random destruction and killing by advanced technological means is inherently suspect. This is mere pretext for our arrogant assertion of dominance and power in defiance of international law. We make the non-negotiable demands and rules, and implement them by military force.



Walter J. Rockler, prosecutor at Nuremberg war crimes trial  
“War Crimes Law Applies To U.S., Too”  
*The Chicago Tribune*, May 23, 1999.

627. We have engaged in a flagrant military aggression, ceaselessly attacking a small country primarily to demonstrate that we run the world. The rationale that we are simply enforcing international morality, even if it were true, would not excuse the military aggression and widespread killing that it entails. It also does not lessen the culpability of the authors of this aggression.

Walter J. Rockler, prosecutor at Nuremberg war crimes trial  
Referring to the U.S. war against Serbia  
“War Crimes Law Applies To U.S., Too”  
*The Chicago Tribune*, May 23, 1999.

628. A year ago, the Kosovo Liberation Army, which we now support with the bravery of our airmen, was described as a terrorist organization. Today, despite their connections to the Mullahs in Tehran, Osama bin Laden, and Hamas, the KLA is our ally because Slobodan Milosevic called Bill Clinton’s bluff.

Oliver North  
“Get Out Now,” syndicated column, April 2, 1999.

629. It’s obvious that many in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have no knowledge of the Constitution and of the political theories on which it was based. Our forefathers set up the House and Senate as separate branches of government specifically so they could act as a check against the executive branch.

To hear men in these offices say “we must support the president” is to hear them admit their ignorance of their duties. Under our system of government, no member of the House or Senate has any obligation whatsoever to support any president on any issue or question. . . . They take an oath to support the Constitution, not the president.

Charley Reese  
“American Forces Are Seriously Misused — and It Must Stop”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, April 1, 1999.

630. The government of Turkey — lauded by Washington as an important member of NATO — has engaged in torture and murder for many years. Of course, rationalizations for such actions are always available, whether in Ankara or Belgrade.

As it happens, the most righteous charges leveled by President Clinton against the Yugoslavian government about its treatment of ethnic Albanians could just as accurately be aimed at the Turkish government for its treatment of Kurds. . . . If humanitarian concerns are high on Washington’s agenda, why drop bombs on Yugoslavia and give aid to Turkey?

Norman Solomon  
“American Journalists Have No Reason to be Smug”  
Creators Syndicate, April 8, 1999.

631. A . . . fallacy . . . is the assumption that global events are tightly interconnected, and that what the U.S. does in one crisis is a precedent for subsequent crises. Hence, Clinton argues that if Serbian aggression goes unpunished, leaders in other troubled regions will be encouraged to take dangerous actions. But stopping Serbian aggression is no more likely to deter future aggressors than U.S. action in the Persian Gulf — which, after all, was defended as part of a new world order that would punish aggressors — deterred Serbia.

In the world of statecraft, most crises are discrete, not tightly linked. The outcome of events in other potential hot spots (Taiwan, Korea, the Gulf) will be decided by local conditions, not by what the United States does in the Balkans. Put another way, just as Milosevic was not deterred by U.S. action against Iraq, Saddam Hussein was not deterred by U.S. action in Panama; Manuel Antonio Noriega was not deterred by U.S. actions in Lebanon, Grenada or Vietnam; Ho Chi Minh was not deterred by U.S. action against North Korea, and Kim Il Sung and Joseph Stalin were not deterred by U.S. action against Adolf Hitler.

Christopher Layne, Benjamin Schwarz  
“Believe This: ‘Credibility’ Isn’t the Issue”  
*Los Angeles Times*, April 23, 1999

632. Yes, Clinton just passed the 60-day mark; so what happens? Nothing. This just confirms what I have feared for the last ten years, that there is no law for our rulers — that the law is only for us, average citizens. Clinton is a King that can drag us into a war and destroy another nation.

Clinton and his cronies, the Congress, the NATO governments in Europe, all are now making up law as they go, making a land grab like Hitler’s taking of the Sudetenland. They have cast aside any pretense of international law; they have sidelined the U.N. like a repeat performance of the death of the League of Nations.

The West, NATO (i.e., the U.S.) is now acting like a new colonial power alliance that thinks it can rule the world. They are sadly mistaken, and are heading for disaster. The alliance that will confront the West is starting to develop. This is 1938 all over again, but this time we are the Fascists.

Francis K. Krikorian  
“Guess who’re the Fascists now?”  
Email to WorldNetDaily, May 27, 1999

633. Killing 17 Iraqis last week as if they were flies is now routine for the Clinton-Albright gang. . . . Once upon a time sovereign states could only be attacked when they attacked another sovereign state. The Clinton-Albright Mafia has changed all that. And even in peaceful little villages like Flims [in Europe], people are outraged at the bully Uncle Sam has become.

. The lives of our youth are not the property of the State, to throw on a rubbish heap in Korea or Yugoslavia as some brass hat may ordain.

Felix Morley, March 1948  
Quoted by Joseph R. Stromberg  
“The ‘Loss’ of China, McCarthy, Korea, and the New Right”  
AntiWar.com, October 29, 2005  
<http://www.antiwar.com/stromberg/s083199.html>.

634. The United States cannot create understanding between peoples by bombing them into tolerance.

Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich (D — OH)  
“What I Learned in the War”  
*The Progressive*, August 1999

635. Nonintervention should not be mistaken for “isolationism,” or self-sufficiency. A policy of unconditional free trade — as opposed to managed trade — is not only consistent with political and military nonintervention: it also logically requires it. If government follows a policy of leaving its and other citizens alone, free trade is the default position.

Sheldon Richman  
“Breeding Terrorism”  
*FFF Email Update*, January 25, 2000  
The Future of Freedom Foundation.

636. “The world is still a dangerous place.” Yes, it is, if you go around asking for trouble. And that is what the U.S. government does. There is nothing “defensive” about its enormous military system, at a time when we face no military threat whatever. The only enemies we have are the enemies our government continues to make for us, particularly by meddling in the Middle East.

Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran’s*, December 2000, page 9.

637. This government our kids kill for and die for, is the one with the boot on our necks. It is this government against whom we should take a stand. Have you noticed that in this, our republic, we have no political power? These war games are just to take our minds off that harsh fact.

Michael Peirce  
“They Are Beating the War Drums (Again)”  
LewRockwell.com, February 21, 2001.

638. The rascals in Washington bask in the imagined glory of being a “superpower” but does it buy you or me anything? It buys us not a damn thing! We support it with our sons and our treasure.

Michael Peirce  
“They Are Beating the War Drums (Again)”  
LewRockwell.com, February 21, 2001.

639. Absent an attack on America, foreign wars should remain off limits to our armed forces. Why? Foreign peoples are foreign. They do not believe in our institutions. They do not live here. They do not pay taxes here. They do not vote here. They are not part of America. Therefore, before Hitler declared war on us, we should have refrained from helping Britain. We Americans pay taxes to our government to defend our rights. Our paying that money obligates its recipients, our paid public servants, to defend us. Britain was not part of “us,” because Britain was a foreign country. Therefore, for those paid public servants to draw us into Britain’s war was immoral. Similarly, it was immoral for those servants to broaden our soldiers’, sailors’, and flyers’ peacetime promise to defend America to include a defense of British convoys. Some Americans did volunteer to defend Britain, as they had a right to do. Their decisions, and the attendant risks, were exclusively theirs, and should have remained so.

Gordon Francis Corbett  
Letter to J.R. Nyquist at the Nyquist website.

640. Those who ignore history are doomed to suffer ever more collateral damage from homecoming chickens.

Gary Reed  
“Collateral Damage and Roosting Chickens”  
September 15, 2001.

641. Not since the Roman Empire has a country so confused appetite for entitlement as the US.

Stephen Gowans  
“Getting the Pipeline Map and Politics Right”  
*Swans* (Internet publication), November 12, 2001.

642. It’s curious that there are plenty of silver linings to be found in the dark cloud of September 11th’s horrors. Bush’s popularity has soared. Opposition to his legislative agenda has vanished. There’s talk of accelerating tax cuts for the wealthy, raiding social security, new spending for the military, new life for the NMD [Nuclear Missile Defense], scads of new funding for the intelligence apparatus, and a pumped up patriotism that keeps Americans from asking too many questions. And this: Bush issues his “either you’re with us, or you’re with the terrorist” threat, the central Asian republics line up with Washington on pain of being pulverized if they don’t . . .

Stephen Gowans  
“Getting the Pipeline Map and Politics Right”  
*Swans* (Internet publication), November 12, 2001.

643. [Most people] recognize that politicians lie, that they are capable of saying one thing then doing another . . . But when it comes to . . . foreign policy, many of us retreat from that judgment. Suddenly we find it hard to believe that [our] leaders would lie to us about their intentions in the world.

Michael Parenti  
*Against Empire*, 1995, page 71.  
Quoted by Stephen Gowans  
“Getting the Pipeline Map and Politics Right”  
*Swans* (Internet publication), November 12, 2001.

644. Consider how victims of U.S. wars, surrogate and direct, since World War II have fared: Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Liberia, Cuba, Guatemala, Grenada, Palestine, Lebanon, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, Angola, Croatia, Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iran, Indonesia, Afghanistan. Yet where is the promised peace?

Consider the havoc direct U.S. military violence has wreaked in the past decade on the people of Iraq, all the Republics of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia created to make peace possible in the Balkans, Nicaragua, Haiti, Somalia, Sudan, North Korea, Kosovo, Afghanistan. And who will be next? The media reports daily on the candidates.

Ramsey Clark  
Letter to UN ambassadors, December 11, 2001  
Quoted by Jude Wanniski  
“Ramsey Clark, Peacenik,” December 12, 2001.

645. America is a giant. But its political class often seems to have the mind of a child. And a giant with the mind of a child is very dangerous — not only to those amongst whom he roams — but to himself.

George Galloway, British MP  
Quoted by Stephen Smith  
“Love & Hate — Where Britain Meets America”  
American Radio Works  
National Public Radio, December 20, 2001.

646. [There is] a whole cadre of journalists and commentators now insisting that the United States of America can do whatever it likes in the world, regardless of any arguments pro or con. This is because we alone possess ultimate responsibility for the world and the power to back up our wishes.

Jude Wanniski  
“Wolfowitz and the Axis of Evil”  
February 20, 2002.

647. Respect for self-determination really is the cornerstone of a sensible foreign policy, yet many Americans who strongly support U.S. sovereignty advocate interventionist policies that deny other nations that same right. The interventionist approach that has dominated American foreign policy since World War I has produced an unmitigated series of disasters. From Korea to Vietnam to Kosovo to the Middle East, American military and economic meddling has made numerous conflicts worse, not better.

Ron Paul  
“Get out of the Middle East”  
LewRockwell.com, April 3, 2002.

648. Our policy of subsidizing both sides is ludicrous. We support Arabs and Jews, Pakistanis and Indians, Chinese and Russians. We have troops in 140 countries around the world just looking for trouble. Our policies have led us to support Al Qaeda in Kosovo and bomb their Serb adversaries. We have, in the past, allied ourselves with bin Laden, as well as Saddam Hussein, only to find out later the seriousness of our mistake. Will this foolishness ever end?

Ron Paul  
“America’s Entangling Alliances in the Middle East”  
April 12, 2002.

649. Does Argentina, or Canada, or Italy, or Thailand or, really, any country in the world besides the US, have reason to fear a massive ABC attack? The answer is no. Sure, the Indians and the Pakistanis, the Chinese and the Taiwanese, the North and South Koreans could attack each other. But the source of the threat is discrete. Only the US is running around the world, whacking a hundred different hornets nests.

Doug Casey  
“Waiting for WWII”  
*Doug Casey’s International Speculator*, July 2001.

650. Trade, aid, tourism and pirated Hollywood movies are the proven weapons of mass destruction against totalitarianism, much more effective than sanctions and war, which only enshrine dictators and terrorists as the protectors of a people or nation’s virtue.

Robert Scheer  
“White House Spins Out on an Axis of Evil”  
*Los Angeles Times*, October 22, 2002.

651. Personally, I do not know one single person, including myself, who does not like — even love — America, the Americans, and the “American Way Of Life.” Concomitantly, of all those mentioned above, I do not know one who likes the way America is proceeding to push the world around.

George Paxinos  
Email to Harry Browne, December 5, 2002.

652. Surely, I should rather have a crack at the perpetrators of this War On The World instead — but they are safe in their bunkers, old men too decrepit to create new life, sending out red-blooded young boys to create death instead of the life that Nature made them for, and die in their stead — kids who would have had a life ahead of them full of love and their own children and grandchildren must now die for the sake of an Oil Oligarchy, Corporate Profit, and a dinosaurian technology which will leave America behind the rest of the developing world, should it survive the coming conflict, given the biological weapons I myself as any sort of military commander would deploy, knowing I was going to die and all of my people with me.

George Paxinos  
Email to Harry Browne, December 5, 2002.

653. If America's relationship with the Middle East were based on peace and justice for all peoples of the Middle East, if America can act on the interests of the people of those regions . . . it could recapture its warmth which all the people of the region felt toward America after the First World War and indeed after the Second World War. America was not always hated in the Middle East. . . . If you can deal fairly with a group of another people, whether it be your next door neighbor or a country on the other side of the world, you will not need to feel endangered. Your security will not be your first concern. Your first concern will be how you will be able to improve your relations even more.

Robert Fisk  
"Fisk Criticizes U.S. Media in Interview"  
*The Stanford Daily*, December 4, 2002.

654. Regime change begins at home.

Brian Eno  
"The U.S. Needs to Open Up to the World"  
*Time Europe*, January 20, 2003.

655. We know we cannot trust Hussein or North Korea's Kim Jong II. But total distrust of tyrants does not entail the corollary of total trust in Bush. Americans have embraced the motto "in God we trust," not "in presidents we trust." They have placed their faith in a republican form of government that questions and limits power. That is the difference between Iraq and the United States.

Benjamin R. Barber  
"In Doubt We Trust"  
*Los Angeles Times*, February 5, 2003.

656. It's juvenile to equate critics with enemies. A critic may warn you that you are driving dangerously. An enemy would rather see you have a serious accident. A true friend will sometimes be a critic, even an angry critic.

Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran's*, January 28, 2003.

657. Suddenly, there is hope of peace — in the unlikely figure of Kim Jong II, the world's ugliest, nastiest tyrant. His nuclear threat has taken the Bush administration by surprise: he doesn't mind saying he's everything Bush accuses Saddam Hussein of being. And how have our dauntless tough guys reacted? With notable restraint, that's how. They insist this isn't a "crisis" and they want to resolve our little differences through negotiation. What happened to their refrain that "the risks of inaction are greater than the risks of action"? If Kim can save us from war with Iraq, he may deserve a Nobel Peace Prize.

Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran's*, February 2003, page 2.

658. [T]he current neocon line . . . [is] that the United States must not only defeat Iraq, but install democratic regimes in the entire region: . . . replacing existing Arab regimes (and Iran's) with democracies. All this assumes that "democracies" can be created ex nihilo by American military force in an alien and hostile region, and that free elections in these countries would produce rulers congenial to the United States and, more important, to Israel. The idea is so absurd one can hardly believe its proponents are serious. Truly popular governments in the Middle East would elect radical Islamic rulers. An Osama bin Laden would vastly outpoll any pro-American candidate.

Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran's*, February 2003, page 3.

659. It's frightening to see Bush claim with a straight face his war against Iraq will bring democracy and peace to the Mideast, and save Iraqis from repression.

Why didn't he begin by saving Palestinians from the repression by his alter-ego, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon? If Bush really cared about Mideast democracy, he's had two years to do something about U.S.-sponsored dictatorships like Egypt and Pakistan, or medieval autocracies such as Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and America's Gulf protectorates.

When Bush says he will bring democracy to benighted Iraqis, what he really means is U.S. rule.

Eric Margolis  
"Bush's War Is Not about Democracy"  
*The Toronto Sun*, March 2, 2003.

660. If we're an arrogant nation, they'll view us that way. But if we're a humble nation, they'll respect us.



George W. Bush, 2000  
Quoted by Doyle McManus  
“The World Casts a Critical Eye at Bush’s Style of Diplomacy”  
*Los Angeles Times*, March 3, 2003.

661. No foreign policy can be justified except a policy devoted without reservation or diversion to the protection of the liberty of the American people, with war only as the last resort and only to preserve that liberty.

Robert A. Taft, Republican Senator from Ohio  
*A Foreign Policy for Americans*, 1951  
Quoted by Steven Greenhut  
“Honk If You Think It’s a Conservative War”  
*Orange County Register*, February 23, 2003.

662. Neoconservatives assure us that once Arab peoples see our destructive power rain down on Iraq, they will line up with the winner and accept our hegemony. . . . History teaches otherwise. Five years after the United States had reduced to smoldering ashes the greatest empire Asia had seen in centuries, little North Korea, which did not even exist in 1945, launched an invasion to throw the Americans off the peninsula and out of Asia. World champions never lack for challengers.

Patrick J. Buchanan  
“Wages of Empire”  
*Los Angeles Times*, February 25, 2003.

663. War hawks view the world in a vacuum. Enemies such as Hitler, the Soviet Union, and now Al-Queda just pop up out of nowhere for no reason, and the beleaguered United States must continually wipe them out in time for the next enemy to magically appear. It never occurs to war hawks that if, say, the United States had listened to the isolationists before World War II, then the Soviet Union never would have achieved its global position (and hence maybe we wouldn’t have had the horrors in Indochina).

Bob Murphy  
“Give Max the Boot”  
LewRockwell.com, March 5, 2003.

664. We are scared of the world now, and the world is scared of us.

Maureen Dowd  
“The Xanax Cowboy”  
*New York Times*, March 9, 2003.

665. The expectation of war solves many problems of the crackpot realists; it also confronts them with many new problems. Yet these, the problems of war, often seem easier to handle. They are out in the open: to produce more, to plan how to kill more of the enemy, to move materials thousands of miles. . . . So instead of the unknown fear, the anxiety without end, some men of the higher circles prefer the simplification of known catastrophe. . . .

They know of no solutions to the paradoxes of the Middle East and Europe, the Far East and Africa except the landing of Marines. Being baffled, and also being very tired of being baffled, they have come to believe that there is no way out — except war — which would remove all the bewildering paradoxes of their tedious and now misguided attempts to construct peace. In place of these paradoxes they prefer the bright, clear problems of war — as they used to be. For they still believe that “winning” means something, although they never tell us what.

C. Wright Mills  
*The Causes of World War III*, pages 87-88  
Quoted by Robert Higgs  
“On Crackpot Realism”  
Independent Institute, February 19, 2003.

666. On the sixth day of Hate Week, after the processions, the speeches, the shouting, the singing, the banners, the posters, the films, the waxworks, the rolling of drums and squealing of trumpets, the tramp of marching feet, the grinding of the caterpillars of tanks, the roar of massed planes, the booming of guns — after six days of this, when the great orgasm was quivering to its climax and the general hatred of Eurasia had boiled up into such delirium that if the crowd could have got their hands on the 2,000 Eurasian war-criminals who were to be publicly hanged on the last day of the proceedings, they would unquestionably have torn them to pieces — at just this moment it had been announced that Oceania was not after all at war with Eurasia. Oceania was at war with Eastasia. Eurasia was an ally.

George Orwell, 1984.

667. We have broken with our past. We have thrown away our New World, our splendid isolation, our geographical advantage of three to one against all aggressors, our separate political religion. There is no longer a New World, nor an Old World, but now one world in which the American people have been cast for a part they will have to learn as they go along. . . . From now on for us there is no foreign war. Any war anywhere in the world is our war, provided only there is an aggressor to be destroyed, a democracy to be saved or an area of freedom to be defended.

Garet Garrett  
*The Saturday Evening Post*, March 29, 1941  
Quoted by Bruce Ramsey  
“The Good War and Defend America First”  
LewRockwell.com, April 22, 2003.

668. The policies we are now asked to advance are incompatible not only with American values but also with American interests. . . . Has “oderint dum metuant” [let them hate us so long as they fear us] really become our motto? . . . When our friends are afraid of us rather than for us, it is time to worry. And now they are afraid. Who will tell them convincingly that the United States is as it was, a beacon of liberty, security, and justice for the planet?

John Kiesling, career U.S. diplomat in resigning over rush to Iraqi war

“U.S. Diplomat’s Letter of Resignation”  
*New York Times*, February 27, 2003.

669. Uncle Sam appears to be nothing more than a hanging judge, roaming the world in search of convenient villains on which to impose a crude form of swift, but unsavory, gunslinger justice.

Robert Sheer  
“The Only Law West of the Tigris”  
*Los Angeles Times*, May 7, 2003.

670. Drawn to despots whom we hire to represent our freedom-loving commercial interests (Diem, the Shah of Shahs, Somoza, Thieu, Marcos, Jonas Savimbi, Noriega, Saddam Hussein, King Fahd, Arafat, Mobutu Sese Seko, Ariel Sharon), we pretend that our new ally stands as a pillar of democracy in one or another of the world’s poorer latitudes, and for however many years the arrangement lasts we send F-16s and messages of humanitarian concern.

Lewis Lapham  
“The Road to Babylon”  
*Harper’s Magazine* online, May 12, 2003.

671. Now our president has proclaimed a new doctrine of “anticipatory self-defense,” which is simply a fancy term for preventive war. In fact, the policy of anticipatory self-defense is the same policy that imperial Japan employed in its attack on Pearl Harbor on a date that still lives in infamy. Today, it is we Americans who live in infamy. The global wave of sympathy that engulfed the United States after 9/11 has given way to a global wave of fear and hatred of American arrogance.

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.  
“Embracing the True Nature of Patriotism”  
*The Seattle Times*, May 29, 2003.

672. We must face the fact that the United States is neither omnipotent nor omniscient . . . that we cannot right every wrong or reverse each adversity — and that therefore there cannot be an American solution to every world problem.

John F. Kennedy  
Speech at University of Washington, 1961  
Quoted by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.  
“Embracing the True Nature of Patriotism”  
*The Seattle Times*, May 29, 2003.

673. With the vastness of our government and the difficulty of controlling it, we must make sure that those in “high places” do not, without most careful consideration of the consequences, exert our prestige and might. Such uses of our power may result in serious international actions at great cost in lives and money — injurious to the interests and standing of the United States.

Admiral Hyman Rickover  
*How the Battleship Maine Was Destroyed*, page 106.

674. “We are now acting,” Bush continued, reading tomorrow's headlines, “because the risks of inaction would be far greater.”

Inaction is, of course, what humble people do in foreign affairs. They admit that they don't know what will happen in the future. Lacking clairvoyance, they mind their own business...and put up defenses to protect themselves from a possible attack.

Action is what humble people do after an attack — or what arrogant people do before one.

Bill Bonner  
“God, Man, and George Bush”  
*The Daily Reckoning*, April 4, 2003.

675. So much of what the managers of the American empire have sown has been kept secret. Although most Americans may be largely ignorant of what was, and still is, being done in their names, all are likely to pay a steep price — individually and collectively — for their nation's continued efforts to dominate the global scene.

Chalmers Johnson  
*Blowback: Costs and Consequences of American Empire*  
Quoted by Paul Rockwell, *AlterNet*, March 6, 2003.

676. Americans puzzled by why conditions won't settle down in Iraq seem mesmerized by official U.S. propaganda depicting the conquest and occupation of the country as a "liberation." To solve this puzzle, we need only to turn the situation around in our own minds. Imagine that the Iraqi army now controls your town. Imagine that from time to time for no apparent reason, they burst into homes, kicking, clubbing, and shooting the occupants and hauling some off as captives to unknown destinations for unknown reasons. Imagine that the Iraqis passing by your home train their tank cannons on it, that the Iraqis on the streets aim their automatic rifles at you and your children as you go about your shopping. Imagine that from time to time they shoot a 12-year-old child foolish enough to peer at them at the wrong time in the wrong place. Imagine that when you and your neighbors peacefully protest their actions, they sometimes fire wildly into the crowd of demonstrators and the adjacent buildings. Think about all these sorts of horrors, which now compose day-to-day life for the Iraqi people, and put yourself in their place.

Then ask yourself: when you choose to fight back against the foreigners' brutal occupation of your country, your city, and your neighborhood, to resist the desecration of your place of worship, to seek revenge for the arbitrary slaughter of your loved ones, does anyone have the right to call you a terrorist?

Robert Higgs  
"Defense of Your Home Is Not Terrorism, Not Even in Iraq"  
Independent Institute, July 2, 2003.

677. The management of foreign relations appears to be the most susceptible to abuse of all the trusts committed to a Government, because they can be concealed or disclosed, or disclosed in such parts and at such times as will best suit particular views.

James Madison  
Letter, May 13, 1978.

678. [Today we have] 'regime change' (military invasion), 'preemptive defense' (attacking a country that is not attacking you), 'critical regions' (countries we want to control), the 'axis of evil' (countries we want to attack), 'shock and awe' (massive obliteration), and 'the war on terror' (a hold-all excuse for projecting American military force anywhere).

Brian Eno  
"Lessons in How to Lie about Iraq"  
*The UK Guardian*, August 17, 2003.

679. All the government analyses begin with the unspoken premise that the government and the country are the same thing, and since the country is good, the government must be good, which means the government's enemies must be bad. Good guys against bad guys, white hats against black hats.

Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, September 2003, page 7.

680. The urge to save humanity is almost always a false face for the urge to rule it.

H.L. Mencken, journalist  
Quoted by Richard J. Maybury  
*World War I: The Rest of the Story*, page 77.

681. Rarely does anyone ask the question: how much blood are you willing to pay for a barrel of oil, and are you willing to pay with your own blood or only with the blood of others?

Richard J. Maybury  
*World War I: The Rest of the Story*, page 83.

682. Those to whom evil is done  
Do evil in return.

W.H. Auden  
"September 1, 1939"  
Quoted by Patrick J. Buchanan  
*A Republic, Not An Empire*, page 214.

683. The security measures alleged to be necessary to promote and execute global crusades are rapidly bringing about the police state in hitherto free nations, including our own. Any amount of arbitrary control over political and economic life, the most extensive invasions of civil liberties, the most extreme witch-hunting, and the most lavish expenditures, can all be demanded and justified on the basis of alleged "defense" requirements, without even examining the validity of the need for such defensive measures.

Harry Elmer Barnes  
*Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*, page 61-62.

684. If results are any test of the validity of a position, no program in human history has had less confirmation and vindication than has the intervention of the United States in foreign quarrels.

Harry Elmer Barnes  
*Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*, page 34.

685. The greater pattern runs like this, and in some measure it is derived from a system of empire and "democracy" reaching back to the Great Crusade of 1861-1865. We invade some country with some laudable Jacobin slogan on our lips: "make the world safe for democracy," "the four freedoms," "winning the hearts and minds," etc. We demonize the ruler of said country, making him into the "face of evil," so that those in our land who can't quite grasp the meaning of a "crusade for humanity" can latch onto the more prosaic goal of killing a really bad guy. (This is easy enough, since most leaders of modern countries have plenty of skeletons in their closets)

At the end of the victorious crusade, we “reconstruct” the country, with price tags rising war-by-war. Part of this money goes to enhance the power and size of the military establishment policing the occupation. Part of it goes toward rooting out and expropriating certain chosen, and wealthy, intractable ruling elites and setting up deserving new elites who will be friendly. Part funds the physical reconstruction of the damage done during the war (most of which we did ourselves--some of it at least, gratuitous).

This last part is critical, since it is done by awarding “contracts” to American or other firms to do the work. Most of the contracts are awarded far in advance, and those businesses which receive the contracts will always be among the deserving companies that supported the war in any case.

Hunt Tooley  
“The Bi-Partisan War Machine”  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, September 18, 2003.

686. All the oratory of the advocates of government omnipotence cannot annual the fact there is but one system that makes for durable peace: a free-market economy. Government control leads to economic nationalism and thus results in conflict.

Ludwig von Mises  
*Omnipotent Government*, pages 284-286  
Quoted by John V. Denson  
“A Century of War,” page 8  
*Studies in Classical Liberalism*  
Ludwig von Mises Institute.

687. It is hard to conceive of a man who will cold bloodedly send another human being (let alone thousands or millions) to die only for his material self-interest; few could do this if they understood the situation in those terms. But when the motive is strong enough, most men’s capacity for self-delusion is infinite. . . . Once a man’s self-interest is involved, he can usually find some “ideal” in terms of which to justify his actions.

Howard S. Katz  
*The Warmongers*, page 41.

688. To most Europeans, I guess, America now looks like the most dangerous country in the world. Since America is unquestionably the most powerful country, the transformation of America’s image within the last thirty years is very frightening for the great majority of the human race who are neither European nor North Americans, but are the Latin Americans, Asians and Africans. They, I imagine, feel even more insecure than we feel. They feel, at any moment, America may intervene in their internal affairs, with the same appalling consequences as we have followed from the American intervention in Southeast Asia.

Arnold Toynbee  
*New York Times*, May 7, 1971  
Quoted by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, page 6.

689. They had nothing they wished to give their subjects, except a measure of security against want and external enemies. But the enemy within — the rulers themselves — were more fearsome than any foreign foe. And the price exacted for freedom from want turned out to be very high.

Charles Van Doren, speaking of the Aztec civilization  
*A History of Knowledge*, page 12  
Quoted by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, page 11.

690. We cannot maintain an empire in the Orient and maintain a republic in America.

Mark Twain  
Quoted by Gore Vidal  
*United States Essays*, page 1012  
Cited in *The Costs of War* by John V. Denson, page 34.

691. Even were a government to be found unselfish enough to assume the fearful cost of war, simply for the sake of extending democracy, the very attempt to impose democracy upon another nation would constitute a violation of sovereignty.

John Kenneth Turner  
*Shall It Be Again?*  
Quoted in “The Anti-Interventionist Tradition in American  
Politics” by Justin Raimondo  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 92.

692. Stromberg’s First Law [is] that there is virtually no situation anywhere in the world that can’t be made worse by U.S. intervention. . . .

Corollary to my first Law: namely, the more U.S. interference and “help” a country receives, the bigger the anti-American explosion down the line (e.g., Cuba, the Philippines, Nicaragua, Iran).

Joseph Stromberg  
“The Spanish-American War As Trial Run”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 194.

693. Republics cannot go into the conquering business and remain republics. Militarism leads to military domination, military despotism.



Tom Watson, writer and politician  
Quoted by C. Vann Woodward in *Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel*,  
page 335

Cited in “The Spanish-American War As Trial Run”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 197.

694. Because of the powerful Calvinist influence — predestinarian and theocratic — in American Protestantism, the American story has always described a confrontation between the Elect and the Evil.

When the Soviet Union no longer fulfilled the latter role, Washington tried out several possible successors, finally settling on “rogue nations” — those professing radically un-American ideas and that give evidence of wanting to possess nuclear deterrents. Their feebleness, however, tended to diminish their credibility when cast in the role of global Evil.

Then came Sept. 11, and the problem was solved. The rogue nations now became the Axis of Evil. They were integral to a vast international threat, capable of striking the United States itself. Moreover, this threat more or less resembled (less, actually, than more) the clash between civilizations that Samuel Huntington had warned would be the “next world war” . . .

Americans declared that “everything has changed, and nothing can be the same.” The nation was at war with “terror.” Terror expressed itself through Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Palestinian suicide-bombers, South American narco-terrorists, Chechen separatists and Moro separatists in the southern Philippines. Terror was a ubiquitous force that could ultimately manifest itself in weapons of mass destruction, supplied by the rogue states.

Hence, preventive wars were necessary; Afghanistan and Iraq had to be invaded to seize terror’s leaders and their nuclear and biological weapons. International law must step aside.

But what actually has happened during the past nine months is something Americans have yet to grasp, and that others have yet to say out loud: People outside the United States have stopped believing the American story.

William Pfaff  
A fiction shattered by America’s aggression  
*International Herald Tribune*, November 1, 2003.

695. Does the mere existence of evil somewhere in the world justify preemptive war at the expense of the American people?

Ron Paul, Congressman (R - Texas)  
“The Crime of Conscription”  
November 26, 2003

696. Why does the US keep being surprised by events? Because the government, whether at home or abroad, acts like an irresponsible teenager driving a fast car. The decision calculus is myopic in the extreme. No thought is given to the effect of its decisions on others, and no uncertainties are ever presumed. When the crash occurs, there are fleeting moments of regret, but no actual learning. Ultimately, the US knows it can always flee the scene of the crime.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Mismanaging the World”  
LewRockwell.com, March 3, 2004.

697. A government that believes in its own foreign policy omniscience and omnipotence is a dangerous government, not just to foreign peoples but also to its citizens.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Five Smooth Stones”  
LewRockwell.com, June 3, 2004.

698. We must face the fact that there is not a single country in the world that measures up to the lofty moral and social standards that are the hallmark of the USA: even Canada is delinquent and deserves a whiff of grape. There is not a single country in the world which, like the U.S., reeks of democracy and “human rights,” and is free of crime and murder and hate thoughts and undemocratic deeds. Very few other countries are as Politically Correct as the U.S., or have the wit to impose a massively statist program in the name of “freedom,” “free trade,” “multiculturalism,” and “expanding democracy.”

And so, since no other countries shape up to U.S. standards in a world of Sole Superpower they must be severely chastised by the U.S., I make a Modest Proposal for the only possible consistent and coherent foreign policy: the U.S. must, very soon, Invade the Entire World! Sanctions are peanuts; we must invade every country in the world, perhaps softening them up beforehand with a wonderful high-tech missile bombing show courtesy of CNN.

Murray N. Rothbard (tongue-in-cheek)  
“Invade the World!”  
*The Irrepressible Rothbard*, September 1994.

699. Were the Soviet Union to sink tomorrow under the waters of the ocean, the American military-industrial establishment would have to go on, substantially unchanged, until some other adversary could be invented. Anything else would be an unacceptable shock to the American economy.

George F. Kennan, 1987  
Quoted by Butler Schaffer  
“Self-Healing”  
LewRockwell.com, September 20, 2004.

*See also* Balkans, Iraq, War.

## Founding Fathers

See #1056, 1173, 1417, 1542.

## Free Country

700. The land of the free has been transformed into the land of the government permit.

Joseph Sobran  
Mentioned to Harry Browne.

## Free Market

701. The great virtue of a free market system is that it does not care what color people are; it does not care what their religion is; it only cares whether they can produce something you want to buy. It is the most effective system we have discovered to enable people who hate one another to deal with one another and help one another.

Milton Friedman  
Why Government Is The Problem, page 18.

702. There is simply no other choice than this: either abstain from interference in the free play of the market, or to delegate the entire management of production and distribution to the government. Either capitalism or socialism: there exists no middle way.

Ludwig von Mises, quoted in *The Macmillan Book of Business and Economic Quotations*, Michael Jackman, 1962  
November 20, 1993, page 13. Cited in *Human Events*,

703. Fundamentally, there are only two ways of coordinating the economic activities of millions. One is central direction involving the use of coercion — the technique of the army and of the modern totalitarian state. The other is voluntary cooperation of individuals — the technique of the marketplace.

Milton Friedman (1912- )  
*Capitalism and Freedom* [1962], ch. 1  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 880.

704. Your freedom to trade will always be limited by the willingness of others to trade with you.

Gary M. Shoemaker  
On CompuServe, Oct 2, 1995.

705. In transactions of trade it is not to be supposed that, as in gaming, what one party gains the other must necessarily lose. The gain to each may be equal. If A has more corn than he can consume, but wants cattle; and B has more cattle, but wants corn; exchange is gain to each; thereby the common stock of comforts in life is increased.

Benjamin Franklin  
Quoted in *Freedom Daily*, January 1990.

706. [Referring to building nuclear power plants . . .] But, you ask, what about all that radioactive waste that'll have to be stored for 100,000 years? This is a fallacy based on the false assumption that our technology will never get any better than it is now. Somewhere out there are a bunch of our grandchildren who'll grow up and invent a way for dealing with this that we never thought of. So, really, we only have to keep it safe for a few decades and wait for the technology to catch up — and history shows that it inevitably will.

Kevin Petersen  
"More power to Ya," Letter to the editor  
*WorldNetDaily*, January 12, 2001.

707. Day in and day out, we're treated fairly and honestly by businesses who sell us stuff, provide us services, and fix problems without a hassle on the instances that things go wrong. It's so natural that we don't even notice. Yet our dealings with government are rarely good, because they are based solely on force.

Steven Greenhut  
"It's our Choice: Wal-Mart or the DMV"  
*LewRockwell.com*, May 3, 2003.

708. . . . to the prophets of doom, [Scott Adams] replies, "Any doom that can be predicted won't happen." Why? Because there is a natural market for solutions to problems. Central Planning, however, removes the incentives to solve problems and the feedback that a market naturally provides.

Jeremy Lott in "Scott Adams: Closet Libertarian"  
*SpinTech*, March 12, 1999.

709. If the public had wanted non-smoking bars, then greedy, capitalistic entrepreneurs would have built them years ago!!

New York Nightlife Assn, 2004

710. . . . to the prophets of doom, [Scott Adams] replies, "Any doom that can be predicted won't happen." Why? Because there is a natural market for solutions to problems. Central Planning, however, removes the incentives to solve problems and the feedback that a market naturally provides.

Jeremy Lott  
“Scott Adams: Closet Libertarian”  
*SpinTech*, March 12, 1999.

711. It is the market process of competition and consumer service that serves us all, even those with highly specialized needs. The government serves only itself and those with clout enough to get the state to do their bidding.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Do Food Makers Want to Kill You?”  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, July 24, 2004.

### Free People

712. What the welfare state is saying, whether in this new ‘Health Security Act’ or in a thousand other programs, is that we are not to be a nation of independent people controlling our own lives, but a nation of clients whose lives are controlled by bureaucrats, dispensing taxpayers’ money according to the vision of the anointed.

This is not a new idea, however much the advocates of the welfare state proclaim “change,” Most of the history of the human race has been a history of the masses of ordinary people having their lives controlled and their destiny decided by some elite.

It has taken centuries of struggle, agony, sacrifice, and bloodshed to get out from under the thumb of those who acted as if they had been born into this world ‘booted and spurred, to ride mankind.’ Now we are turning around and heading backward, toward a world where people’s fates are not in their own hands but in the hands of some puffed-up political leaders.

Thomas Sowell  
*The New York Post*, November 19, 1993.

#### *Paraphrase of the above:*

What the politicians are saying, whether in their health care proposals or in a thousand other programs, is that we are not a nation of independent people controlling our own lives, but a nation of clients whose lives are controlled by bureaucrats — dispensing taxpayers’ money according to the vision of the anointed.

This is not a new idea, however much the politicians talk about ‘change.’ Most of the history of the human race has been a history of the masses of ordinary people having their lives controlled and their destiny decided by some elite.

It took centuries of struggle, agony, sacrifice, and bloodshed before our forefathers were able to get out from under the thumb of those who believed they had been born into this world to run everyone’s life. Now we are heading backward, and we find ourselves in a world where, more and more, our fates are not in our own hands but in the hands of arrogant politicians.

Thomas Sowell  
The *New York Post*, November 19, 1993.

713. To the difficulty the Romans encountered in overcoming neighboring peoples and some far-off provinces, nothing contributed so much as the love of liberty which the people of those times had. So obstinately did they defend it that they could never have been subjugated except by unusual prowess, for by many examples we know the dangers they faced to preserve it or regain it. From the reading of history we also learn how harmful servitude was to peoples and cities.

It is easy to understand whence this love of liberty derives among people, for experience shows that no city ever grew in dominion or wealth except when it was free. And it is indeed a wonder to realize how great Athens became within a century after it had thrown off the tyranny established by Pisistratus. But it is even more extraordinary to note the greatness which Rome attained after she was free of her kings. The reason is easy to understand, for it is not the welfare of individuals, but the common welfare that makes cities great. And doubtless this common welfare cannot be pursued except in republics because they undertake whatever action may be needed to promote it. However harmful its pursuit may be to this or that individual, those who stand to gain are so numerous that they can pursue it in spite of the few who may be harmed.

The contrary is true where there is a prince. In such a case the things which are of advantage to him more often than not are harmful to the city, and the things which are of advantage to the city are harmful to him. Thus, wherever tyranny replaces freedom, the least that can happen is that the city will no longer increase in either power or wealth. Most often, indeed always, it will decline. And if by chance a very capable tyrant appears by whose courage and military skill the city's territories are increased, it will not be a gain for the republic, but only for him, because he cannot advance any of those good and valiant citizens over whom he tyrannizes, for they will then become dangerous.

It is no wonder then that the people of antiquity despised tyrants, loved living in freedom, and exalted the name of liberty. . . . It is also no wonder that the people take extraordinary vengeance upon those who deprive them of their freedom. . . . So we see that a freedom that has been lost is avenged with far more fury than one that has only been threatened.

Niccolò Machiavelli  
*Discourses Upon the First Ten Books of Titus Livy*  
Quoted on CompuServe by John Rich, Houston, Texas.

### Free Speech

714. The very purpose of the First Amendment is to foreclose public authority from assuming a guardianship of the public mind through regulating the press, speech, and religion. In this field every person must be his own watchman for truth, because the forefathers did not trust any government to separate the true from the false for us.

Ricardo Urbina, Federal Judge  
Quoted by John K. Keppler, The Institute for Justice  
Email article, June 22, 1999.

715. The opinions of men are not the object of civil Government, nor under its jurisdiction, . . . to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on the supposition of their ill tendency is a dangerous fallacy, which at once destroys all religious liberty, because he being of course of that tendency will make his opinions the rule of judgement, and approve or condemn the sentiments of others only as they shall square with or differ from his own.

Thomas Jefferson  
Quoted in *The Constitutional Thought of Thomas Jefferson*  
By David N. Mayer, page 160  
University Press of Virginia.

716. Persecution for the expression of opinions seems to me perfectly logical. If you have no doubt of your premises or your power and want a certain result with all your heart you naturally express your wishes in law and sweep away all opposition. But when men have realized that time has upset many fighting faiths, they may come to believe even more than they believe the very foundations of their own conduct that the ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas — that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out. That at any rate is the theory of our Constitution.

Oliver Wendell Holmes  
Dissent in *Abrams v. U.S.*, ca. 1920  
Quoted by Wendy Kaminer  
“The End of the Government’s Copyright on Truth”  
IntellectualCapital.Com, December 23, 1999.

717. Every time somebody says something that somebody else finds offensive, the first reaction is overwhelming fear. What if that person has an audience that will agree? The audience must be kept from hearing the speaker at all costs. The audience must not be allowed to make up its own mind. The audience cannot be *trusted* to make up its own mind.

Olga Gardner Galvin  
“Every Tom, Huck and Harry”  
Liberzine.com, September 29, 2000.

718. The Government’s power to censor the press was abolished so that the press would remain forever free to censure the Government. The press was protected so that it could bare the secrets of government and inform the people. Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government. And paramount among the responsibilities of a free press is the duty to prevent any part of the government from deceiving the people and sending them off to distant lands to die of foreign fevers and foreign shot and shell.

Hugo Black  
*New York Times Company v. United States*, 403 U.S. 713, 717  
(1971)  
Quoted in *The Costs of War* by John V. Denson, page 34.

719. Who ever knew truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?

John Milton  
*A New Dictionary of Quotations*, 1989, page 1221.  
Quoted by Morgan Reynolds in “9/11 Skepticism”  
LewRockwell.com, September 16, 2004.

720. Freedom is the right to question and change the established way of doing things. It is the continuing revolution of the marketplace. It is the understanding that allows us to recognize shortcomings and seek solutions. It is the right to put forth an idea, scoffed at by the experts, and watch it catch fire among the people. It is the right to dream — to follow your dream or stick to your conscience, even if you’re the only one in a sea of doubters. Freedom is the recognition that no single person, no single authority or government has a monopoly on the truth, but that every individual life is infinitely precious.

Ronald Reagan  
Speech at Moscow State University, May 31, 1988.  
Quoted in *The Cato Journal*, Volume 14, # 1-2, back cover.

### Free Trade

721. Free trade, one of the greatest blessings which a government can confer on a people, is in almost every country unpopular.

Thomas Babington, Lord Macaulay (1800-1859)  
*On Mitford’s History of Greece* (1824)  
Quoted in *Bartlett’s* 14th edition, page 594.

722. No nation was ever ruined by trade.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)  
*Thoughts on Commercial Subjects*  
From *Bartlett’s*, 15th edition, page 348.

723. Mr. Buchanan believes that tariffs protect domestic producers, but what they really protect is ill-considered government policies, such as costly regulations and high taxes on labor and capital, that make our goods uncompetitive in international markets.”

Paul Craig Roberts  
Quoted by *The American Sentinel*, October 1995, page 5.



724. Perhaps the removal of trade restrictions throughout the world would do more for the cause of universal peace than can any political union of peoples separated by trade barriers.

Frank Chodorov, "The Humanity of Trade"

*The Freeman*, July 1956

Reprinted in *Free Trade: The Necessary Foundation for World Peace*, edited by Joan Kennedy Taylor (Foundation for Economic Education, 1986)

Quoted by Sheldon Richman

*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 233.

725. NAFTA is not about free trade. It is about setting up a centrally controlled trade bloc not unlike the European Community.

Ludwig von Mises Institute

Quoted in "Less Government, Freer Trade"

*Investors Business Daily* editorial, May 12, 1998

726. The North American Free Trade Agreement, for instance, initially was supposed to cut trade barriers. NAFTA's market results aren't fully in. Yet there's no denying the deal fattened government trade managers.

The 2,000- page pact includes: 900 pages of tariffs; onerous environmental protection rules; child labor, health and safety rules; and job-killing minimum- wage rules. To administer this Byzantine mess, the accord set up an international Commission for Labor Cooperation with a Secretariat; administrative offices in three nations; evaluation committees of experts; dispute settlement panels; and a Ministerial Council.

To pay for all this bureaucracy, U.S. taxpayers have put up \$7.5 billion in loan guarantees and foreign aid.

"Less Government, Freer Trade"

*Investors Business Daily* editorial, May 12, 1998

727. Genuine free trade requires no negotiations, treaties, superpower creations, or presidential summits. All that's needed is to cut tariffs and quotas, as well as taxes and regulations.

Get government out of the way, and U.S. businesses will really compete — and everyone will benefit.

"Less Government, Freer Trade"

*Investors Business Daily* editorial, May 12, 1998

728. Why are we so frightened of competition? We live in the richest nation in history, we're the world's largest exporter, we attract the most investment, we lead in nearly every category (cars, microchips, agriculture, etc.). Yet millions of Americans are afraid to lower our trade barriers.

James Glassman  
Syndicated column  
*The Nashville Banner*, September 18, 1997, page A19.

729. Our free trade plan is quite simple. We say that every [citizen] shall have the right to buy whatever he wants, wherever he wants, at his own good pleasure, without restriction or discouragement from the State. That is our plan. . .

In pursuit of this simple plan there came last year into [our country], from every land and people under the sun, millions' worth of merchandise, so marvelously varied in its character that a whole volume could scarcely describe it.

Why did it come? Was it to crush us, or to conquer us, or to starve us, or was it to nourish and enrich our country? It is a sober fact that every single item, however inconsiderable, in all that vast catalogue of commodities came to our shores because some [citizen] desired it, paid for it, and meant to turn it to his comfort or his profit.

Winston Churchill, 1903  
Quoted by Michael McMenamin  
*Reason*, January 1991, p. 36.

730. There's a feeling that England has only to retaliate and foreign tariff walls will immediately collapse. Well, but all the great nations of the world are Protectionist; they have been for 100 years past, and perhaps for many years before that, endeavoring by every dodge of reciprocity or negotiation to force each other to reduce their tariffs in each other's respective interests.

Where have they come to? Have they reached Free Trade? On the contrary, their tariffs have risen higher and higher, and at this moment Free-trade England, which does nothing, Free-trade England, with masterly inactivity, occupies in regard to the nations of the world so far as tariffs are concerned, a position of advantage to which few of the Protectionist countries have attained and which none of them have surpassed.

Winston Churchill, 1903  
Quoted by Michael McMenamin  
*Reason*, January 1991, p. 37.

731. Free-traders declare that both the selling and the buying of these things were profitable to us; that what we sold, we sold at a good profit, for a natural and sufficient return; that what we bought, we bought because we thought it worth our while to buy, and thought we could turn it to advantage.

And in this way commerce is utterly different from war, so that the ideas and the phraseology of the one should never be applied to the other; for in war both sides lose whoever wins the victory, but the transactions of trade, like the quality of mercy, are twice blessed, and confer a benefit on both parties.

Furthermore, the fact that this great trade exists between nations binds them together in spite of themselves, and has in the last thirty years done more to preserve the peace of the world than all the Ambassadors, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Secretaries and Colonial Secretaries put together.

Winston Churchill, 1903  
Quoted by Michael McMenemy  
*Reason*, January 1991, p. 39.

732. If one truly believes in free trade, one never argues a need for reciprocity or bureaucratic management of trade. If free trade is truly beneficial, as so many claim, unilateral free trade is an end in itself and requires neither treaties nor international management by politicians and bureaucrats. A country should promote free trade in its own self-interest — never for the benefit of someone else.

Ron Paul, Republican Congressman, Texas  
Quoted by Bill Barnwell  
LewRockwell.com, May 15, 2000.

*See also* Protectionism.

## Freedom

733. Economic liberty is absent to whatever extent a person is prohibited from using his talents and his property to produce and sell (or exchange) anything he desires, at whatever price is agreeable to him and to the buyer. If he is prohibited from doing this, by another person or by any combination of persons who are not direct parties to the deal, his liberty is thereby transgressed.

F.A. Harper  
Quoted in *Freedom Daily*, January 1990.

734. Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.

Albert Einstein, *Out Of My Later Years*, 1950  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

735. The spirit of truth and the spirit of freedom — they are the pillars of society.

Henrik Ibsen [1828-1906]  
*Pillars of Society* [1877], act III.

736. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

II Corinthians 3:17.

737. Anybody who believes that “the freest country in the world” could have government agencies like the IRS, FBI and BATF has to be a complete idiot.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1995 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

738. Nobody has ever explained what the “free” world is free from. Certainly not big government.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1994 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

739. They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)  
*Historical Review of Pennsylvania* (1759)  
From *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 348.

740. Many politicians of our time are in the habit of laying it down as a self-evident proposition that no people ought to be free till they are fit to use their freedom. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story who resolved not to go into the water until he had learnt to swim. If men are to wait for liberty till they become wise and good in slavery, they may indeed wait forever.

Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-59)  
English historian, Whig politician.  
“Milton,” *Edinburgh Review*, Aug. 1825;  
Reprinted in *Critical and Historical Essays*, 1843.

741. Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.

William Pitt, speech to Parliament, 1783  
Quoted by Robert S. Nakamoto  
*The Nashville Banner*, February 11, 1997, page A6.

742. In a free society we citizens ought to have the right to decide for ourselves which risks to take and which to avoid — and to take full responsibility for the consequences of our actions.

By James T. Bennett & Thomas J. DiLorenzo  
“Government should butt out”  
*USA Today*, November 16, 1998  
Reprinted by the Mises Institute

743. Is the USA is the land of the free? I am free to do anything I like as long as the government does not object and as long as I have paid all the required fees, taxes, licenses, registrations, inspections, and permits, that the activity calls for.

Hprinze in Libertarian forum of America Online  
January 5, 1999.

744. It is time we woke up to the fact that we are each a miracle — that we were not born to wear leashes and be told what to do. We are born free, and we must take back our birthright.

Matthew Vest  
Email to Harry Browne, February 15, 2000.

745. An assault on liberty is seldom direct. One does not stand against liberty, but for something else, something that, as it turns out, can only be achieved at the expense of liberty. This something else is the "higher good."

Every tyranny in history has been justified in the name of the higher good. What constitutes the higher good changes from place to place and time to time, and depends on who you talk to. It might be social justice, traditional values, national greatness, or anything else. But whatever it is, the basic pattern is always the same: *“Freedom is important, but there are other things that are more important. These other things constitute the higher good. When a conflict arises, it is necessary and appropriate to sacrifice freedom in the name of the higher good.”*

Most political discourse is little more than quibbling over what constitutes the higher good, and what specific freedoms should be sacrificed accordingly. Most political activism is nothing but an attempt to define the grounds on which to justify persecution.

Freedom's Nest rejects this argument regardless of what is passed off as the higher good, and asserts the following:

Individual liberty is itself the highest possible social good.

There can be no moral justification for persecution.

Those who advocate persecution in the name of some cause do not really care about the cause, but are merely using it to give moral pretense to their otherwise immoral demands.

Statement of Principles  
Freedom's Nest website

746. American war planners and their “Iraq and roll” cheerleaders on 24/7 news channels already are on to other justifications for the war, emphasizing that the real purpose for bombing, maiming and killing people in a country far from U.S. soil is to bring them democracy and freedom.

You know, like the freedoms we have in California? The freedom to hand over more than 50% of your income to the government to dispense with as it pleases, the freedom to build anything you want on our property provided you first get 17 government agencies to agree to the project, the freedom to run your business exactly the way the state labor department thinks you ought to run it.

Steve Greenhut  
“No Freedom or Independence without Peace”  
LewRockwell.com, April 17, 2003.

747. Taxpayers bear a dual relationship to government, neither half of which has anything at all to do with democracy. Taxpayers pay tribute to the government and they receive services from it. So does every subject of a totalitarian regime.

Sam Smith  
“The Coalition of the Shilling”  
*The Progressive Review*, May 5, 2003.

748. At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.

1992 From the Supreme Court opinion in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*,  
Quoted by David Frum, “1917 and All That”  
*The Weekly Standard*, April 28, 1997, page 26  
and by Joseph Sobran, “The Court Can Do No Wrong”  
*Sobran’s*, July 1, 2003.

749. The latest trend in the marketing of citizen harassment is billboards with one or more cops striking a tough pose underneath haughty verbiage about “deadbeat dads” and “click it or ticket” scams. The people of America have fallen to an ambient subordination where “zero tolerance” tyranny and busybody piety are embraced as a religion. Whether concerning cigarettes, guns, or seatbelts, the best way to an American’s heart is now through a billy club or the threat of it. Fear is the engine of America’s entrenched and growing tradition for servile conformity, while all ’round come shouts “Let Freedom Ring!”

Sofreh-ye Pretta Aghd  
“Mandatory Tooth Brushing”  
LewRockwell.com, June 16, 2004.

## Freedom — Motivations

750. Each person has his own reasons to work to make this a free society.

Many people begin their trek down the path because of one painful experience with government — an IRS audit, asset forfeiture, having their health food store raided by the FDA, or simply standing in line way too long at the Post Office.

Others may choose the freedom trail because of a single, touchstone issue: free speech on the Internet, the right to keep and bear arms, or a burning desire that their children be educated — not indoctrinated — by government-run public schools.

But there are countless paths to freedom. A utilitarian, wanting the greatest good for the greatest number, would choose freedom. A pragmatist, wanting a society that works, would choose freedom. An ethical egoist, wanting a society where he can pursue his interests, would choose freedom. An altruist, wanting a world that benefits others, would choose freedom.

Some may choose the freedom path because they have logically derived it from the non-aggression axiom.

Each of us has his own reasons for choosing freedom. But in every case it is because freedom is a means to an end.

Michael Cloud  
In a letter to Harry Browne, February 13, 1997.

## Freedom Defined

751. The only freedom that deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it.

John Stuart Mill  
Quoted in *Voice of Freedom*, LP of Tennessee  
Spring 1997; David Carew, editor.

752. Freedom is the societal condition wherein each individual has 100% control over his own property and 0% control over anyone else's.

Andrew Galambos  
Heard by Harry Browne in Galambos' classes.

## Freedom to Choose

753. If you don't have the right to be wrong, you don't have any rights at all.

Gene Burns  
Speech in Boston, September 29, 1996.

754. If you are not free to choose wrongly and irresponsibly, you are not free at all.

Jacob Hornberger  
Speech, July 29, 1995, Montgomery, Alabama.

755. The nature of man is such that each individual person must, in order to act, choose his own ends and employ his own means in order to attain them. . . . Since men can think, feel, evaluate, and act only as individuals, it becomes vitally necessary for each man's survival and prosperity that he be free to learn, choose, develop his faculties, and act upon his knowledge of value. This is the necessary path of human nature; to interfere with and cripple this process by using violence goes profoundly against what is necessary by man's nature for his life and prosperity. Violent interference with a man's learning and choices is therefore profoundly "antihuman;" it violates the natural laws of man's needs.

Murray Rothbard, *For a New Liberty*  
Quoted by Ethan O. Waters  
*Liberty*, September 1992, page 64.

### Friendship

756. It is easy enough to be friendly to one's friends. But to befriend the one who regards himself as your enemy is the quintessence of true religion. The other is mere business.

Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)  
*Non-Violence in Peace and War*, vol. 2, ch. 248 (1948).

### Galbraith & The Affluent Society

757. Professor Galbraith analyzes the problems of the affluent society as "private affluence and public squalor." His solution: extend public squalor.

Ralph Harris, British economist  
Quoted by John O'Sullivan  
*National Review*, March 15, 1993, page 6.

758. John Kenneth Galbraith said our homes and gardens were lovely, but our streets and other public facilities were in terrible disrepair. His solution was to nationalize our homes and gardens.

Fred Smith, President, Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Speech to the Conservative Leadership Conference, broadcast on  
C-SPAN, November 25, 1991.



## Gambling

759. The theory of the law that made lotteries illegal was this: Betting is bad for people and sinful. Now in 1997, betting on government-run lotteries is legal. Nothing has changed as to whether or not betting is bad or sinful. What has change is that the government gets the revenue instead of small-business people. . . .

Government nowadays is not only willing to profit from people's betting, but also to promote it. . . . What the government formerly hunted down with the police and courts when done privately, it now not only tolerates but actively engenders — simply because government and officials benefit.

Even worse are the diabolical devices appealing to the fantasies of have-nots with the hope of huge hits. If there ever was a get-rich-quick scam, this is it — perpetrated by government. All in the "public interest," of course.

Julian L. Simon  
*The Houston Chronicle*, March 23, 1997, page 1C.

## Gay Rights

*See Homosexuality.*

## Global Warming

760. There is not a shred of persuasive evidence that humans have been responsible for increasing global temperatures. During the past 50 years, as atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have risen, scientists have made precise measurements of atmospheric temperature. These measurements have definitively shown that major greenhouse warming of the atmosphere is not occurring and is unlikely ever to occur.

Arthur Robinson & Zachary Robinson  
Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine  
*The Wall Street Journal*, December 4, 1997.

761. Doesn't something as serious as global warming warrant extraordinary measures? The issue is not that simple. While believers in global warming get most of the attention, there is substantial literature from climatologists and other scientists pointing out the lack of evidence for warming.

Sheldon Richmond  
Quoted in Libertarian Party press release, December 11, 1997.

762. Unfortunately for the [global warming] theoreticians, computer models they have constructed predict one thing, while the climate keeps doing other things. Although temperatures have gone up something more than one degree Fahrenheit over the past century, the increase took place prior to the spewing of so-called greenhouse gases from cars and the like, meaning that the rise is most likely natural. During the past 20 years, weather satellites inform us, atmospheric temperatures have actually cooled some.

Jay Ambrose, Chief Editorial Writer  
Scripps Howard News Service  
August 2, 1997.

763. Predictions of a greenhouse effect by computer models have been dropping fast as the models improve. In 1990, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change claimed global temperatures would increase more than 3° Celsius by 2100 if we didn't make steep cuts in our use of coal and oil for energy. Today, the same group says it might warm as little as 1° Celsius. The trend suggests that the fear of global warming has been overblown, if not misplaced entirely. What about the predictions of melting ice caps and flooding in Florida? According to U.N. experts, "there is no evidence that extreme weather events or climate variability has increased in the global sense through the 20th century." The facts simply do not support the idea of more floods, harsh weather, or a global warming threat due to burning fossil fuels.

Jeffrey Salmon  
Executive Director, George C. Marshall Institute  
*The Wall Street Journal*, October 29, 1997.

764. A new front has just been opened in what promises to become one of the greatest battles of the late 20th Century: the Luddite Clinton-Gore campaign to subject the U.S. economy to potentially crippling international regulation in the name of reducing global warming — a threat that remains, at best, unproven, at worst nonexistent.

Frank Gaffney, Jr.  
Director, The Center for Security Policy  
*The Washington Times*, September 16, 1997.

765. A heat wave? Ah, clearly global warming in action — except that even scientists convinced the earth is heating up generally concede it's happening so slowly that attributing to it sudden sharp temperature increases is preposterous. More so is blaming global warming for terrible winter weather. But there it was on the cover of Newsweek: "Blizzards, Floods & Hurricanes: Blame Global Warming."

Likewise, global warming has taken the rap for long- term water levels both rising and falling, and for both droughts and floods. Vice President Al Gore blamed it for the recent forest fires in Florida, as if this were some new phenomenon.

Michael Fumento  
"With Frog Scare Debunked, It Isn't Easy Being Green"  
*The Wall Street Journal*  
Reprinted in *Center-Right*, May 31, 1999

766. The blame for global temperature rise in the last century is often laid on civilization and its genius for generating clouds of greenhouse gases that trap sunlight in the atmosphere. But another possible culprit is fast emerging. For centuries, scientists have known that the sun is less steady than sunbathing and casual observation suggest. It has seasons and storms and rhythms of activity, its sunspots and flares appearing in cycles roughly 11 years long. But only in the past decade or so have these and other kinds of solar variations begun to be tied to climate shifts on Earth — first tenuously, but more solidly of late. Today, a growing number of scientists contend that the sun's fickleness might rival human pollution as a factor in climatic changes. And some research, although sketchy and much debated, suggests that the sun's variability could account for virtually all of the global warming measured to date.

William J. Broad  
*The New York Times*, September 28, 1997.

767. The climate warming of the past 100 years, which occurred mainly before 1940, in no way supports the results of computer models that predict a drastic future warming. Even [the U.N.'s] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Chairman Bert Bolin has admitted that the pre-1940 warming is likely a natural recovery from a previous, natural cooling.

S. Fred Singer, President  
The Science & Environmental Policy Project  
*The Wall Street Journal*, July 25, 1997.

768. We know that [environmental] activists are misusing science in demanding Draconian energy restrictions to avert global warming. In fact, there is no consensus among climatologists that uncontrolled human-induced warming threatens our planet.

Doug Bandow  
Senior Fellow, Cato Institute  
Syndicated column, October 24, 1997.

769. The notion that global warming is a fact and will be catastrophic is drilled into people to the point where it seems surprising that anyone would question it, and yet, underlying it is very little evidence at all. Nonetheless, there are statements made of such overt unrealism that I feel embarrassed. I feel it discredits science. I think problems will arise when one will need to depend on scientific judgment, and by ruining our credibility now you leave society with a resource of some importance diminished.

Richard S. Lindzen, Meteorologist, MIT  
Quoted in brochure for Cato Institute environmental conference,  
June 1991.

## Gold

770. The modern mind dislikes gold because it blurts out unpleasant truths.

Joseph Schumpeter (1883-1950)  
Quoted in World Gold Council booklet.

### Gold Standard

771. Investors will, on occasion, make misjudgments, and borrowers will, at times, misread their capabilities to service debt. When market prices and interest rates adjust promptly to evidence of such mistakes, the consequences of the mistakes are generally contained and, thus, rarely cumulate to pose significant systemic risk.

There was some evidence of that process working in the latter part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century when international capital flows were largely uninhibited. Losses, however, in an environment where gold standard rules were tight and liquidity constrained, were quickly reflected in rapid increases in interest rates and the cost of capital generally. This tended to delimit the misuse of capital and its consequences. Imbalances were generally aborted before they got out of hand. But following World War I such tight restraints on economies were seen as too inflexible to meet the economic policy goals of the twentieth century. . . .

In the late twentieth century, however, fiat currency regimes have replaced the rigid automaticity of the gold standard in its heyday. More elastic currencies and markets, arguably, are now less sensitive to and, hence, slower to contain the misallocation of capital. Market contagion across national borders has consequently been more prevalent and faster in today's international financial markets than appears to have been the case a century ago under comparable circumstances.

Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve Chairman  
Testimony before the House Banking Committee  
Sept. 16, 1998

### Gore, Al

772. Al Gore may be dull-witted, and his speech slow and stiff. But despite this pathetic demeanor, Gore is a formidable defender of government. His program to "reinvent" government was a brilliant maneuver to hide a massive increase in government size and power in a guise of phony cuts in government employees and improved government efficiency.

Mark Thornton  
"Gored by Universal Service"  
The Ludwig von Mises Institute  
www.mises.org, May 3, 1999.

773. The House and Senate on Tuesday triumphantly produced a tax cut bill, pulling together moderates and conservatives in a miraculous legislative success. Predictably, President Clinton has vowed to veto the bill, and Al Gore energized a Democratic rally with the words: “So tell me again, what is the purpose of blowing the surplus on a huge gigantic risky tax scheme?” . . . Under the plan, taxpayers would see no change before April 15, 2002. And even that change would not be significant: For a taxpayer in the 28% bracket, taxes would fall to 27.9%, for a tax savings of \$47 on a \$65,000 income for a family of four. Gore’s view that a 0.1 percentage point tax cut three years from now is “gigantic” reveals, perhaps more than any other recent statement, his real attitude about tax cuts of any stripe.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth & Kevin Hassett  
“Your Surplus Checks Aren’t in the Mail Yet”  
*The Los Angeles Times*, August 5, 1999.

774. It is my opinion that Al Gore does not have a true self. He has played too many roles and feigned too many personas. He does not know who he is, nor does anyone else know who he is. It may be that there is no “real” Algore, just as if you peel an onion in search of its core, you will find that at the center, beneath all those layers, there is nothing at all.

Linda Bowles  
“Recovering from Clinton/Gore”  
Syndicated column, December 19, 2000.

## Government

775. The best government is the one that charges you the least blackmail for leaving you alone.

Thomas Rudmose-Brown, Professor at Trinity College  
Mentor of Samuel Beckett  
Quoted by Michael Valdez-Moses  
*The Weekly Standard*, December 9, 1996, page 33.

776. The only thing preventing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is the government created to protect them.

Murray  
Headline on Ad for *What It Means to Be a Libertarian* by Charles  
*National Review*, January 27, 1997, page 55.

777. Government is a cartel organized to monopolize the practice of theft and extortion.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1993 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

778. My own prescription for federal encouragement of the sublime in America is a time-tested one: Just get out of the way.

Karl Zinsmeister, Editor, *American Enterprise* magazine  
Quoted by James K. Glassman  
Syndicated column, November 18, 1997.

779. The best way to understand this whole issue is to look at what the government does: it takes money from some people, keeps a bunch of it, and gives the rest to other people.

Dave Barry  
Quoted by David D. Boaz in *Libertarianism*.

780. The worst evils which mankind ever had to endure were inflicted by bad governments.

Ludwig von Mises  
*Omnipotent Government*  
Arlington House, 1969, page 46  
(originally Yale University Press, 1944).

781. The best government is that which governs least.

John L. O'Sullivan  
*The United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, 1837.  
(Falsely attributed to Thomas Jefferson. See also #788, #831)

782. I heartily accept the motto, "That government is best which governs least." . . . Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which I also believe, "That government is best which governs not at all;" and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)  
*On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*, page 1.  
(Falsely attributed to Thomas Jefferson. See also #787, #831)

783. The era of big government is over, but the government doesn't seem to know it yet.

David D. Boaz  
"Competition, Cooperation, and Community,"  
Speech, The Eris Society, August 8, 1997

784. There is, in fact, no law or government at all; and it is wonderful how well things go on without them.

Lord Byron (1788 — 1824), English poet.  
Writing about Italy during a period of great revolutionary ferment  
Letter, 2 Jan. 1821, to the poet Thomas Moore.  
*Byron's Letters and Journals*, vol. 8, edited by Leslie A. Marchand,  
1973 — 81.

785. . . . the state is a vast enterprise for declaring all sorts of things legal for itself that would be illegal for us, such as burning down religious communities, extorting and bribing businesses, and skimming off a third of people's income without their permission.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr., "Abolish the Presidency"  
e-mail release, September 10, 1998

786. Distrust of government can be taken to paranoid extremes. But trust in government is truly crazy. Your own government is your natural enemy. That is why the framers built all the safeguards we have torn down.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, August 10, 1995  
Reprinted in *Sobran's*, September 1995 .

787. The office of government is not to confer happiness, but to give men opportunity to work out happiness for themselves.

William Ellery Channing (1780-1842)  
*The Life & Character of Napoleon Bonaparte*.

788. Government is a unique product: the less you pay for it, the higher the quality.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1996 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

789. We don't need government to protect us from ourselves; we do need ourselves to protect us from government.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1997 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

790. Expecting government to protect liberty is like expecting a fox to protect the chickens.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1997 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

791. If we want a War on Drugs in this country, it should be a war on the drug of government.

Neal Boortz  
Speech, Libertarian Party convention, July 3, 1998.

792. The ideal government would be small enough to fit in my apartment kitchen.

Frank Chodorov (paraphrased)  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 228.

793. See, when the *government* spends money, it creates jobs; whereas when the money is left in the hands of *taxpayers*, God only knows what they do with it. Bake it into pies, probably. Anything to avoid creating jobs.

Dave Barry  
In Mike Holmes quotation file, no source.

794. Government is the only institution that can lose money year after year and not go out of business. In fact, the more it loses, the bigger it gets.

Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published.

795. Fundamentally, there are only two ways of coordinating the economic activities of millions. One is central direction involving the use of coercion — the technique of the army and of the modern totalitarian state. The other is voluntary cooperation of individuals — the technique of the marketplace.

Milton Friedman (1912- )  
*Capitalism and Freedom* [1962], ch. 1  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 880.

796. Government is actually the worst failure of civilized man. There has never been a really good one, and even those that are most tolerable are arbitrary, cruel, grasping and unintelligent.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956), U.S. journalist.  
*Minority Report: H. L. Mencken's Notebooks*, no. 68 (1956).

797. “The end of big government” is used by politicians as a pretext for bigger, and worse, government.

Richard A. Epstein  
In an ad for *Libertarianism: A Primer* by David D. Boaz.

798. In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other.

Voltaire (1694-1778), French philosopher, author.  
*Dictionnaire Philosophique*, “Money” (1764).



799. . . . I think this ploy is a variation of the idea that if the private sector did ABCDE and G to accomplish a particular technological achievement, and the government did F, then the government gets all the credit. In this case, however, the government did ABCDE and G to implement a particular . . . piece of legislation and some private citizens did F, and so the private citizens get all the blame.

Brian G. Patterson  
On CompuServe, July 31, 1996.

800. This government never of itself furthered any enterprise, but by the alacrity with which it got out of its way. It does not keep the country free. It does not settle the West. It does not educate. The character inherent in the American people has done all that has been accomplished; and it would have done somewhat more, if the government had not sometimes got in its way.

Henry D. Thoreau (1817-1862)  
*On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*, 1849.

801. The gravest threat to America today is the complacent mediocrity and petty meddling of the nanny state.

William Kristol & David Brooks  
“What Ails Conservatives?”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, September 15, 1997, page A22.

802. Thou cam'st out of thy mother's belly without government, thou hast liv'd hitherto without government, and thou may'st be carried to thy long home without government, when it shall please the Lord. How many people in this world live without government, yet do well enough, and are well look'd upon?

Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616), Spanish writer.  
Statement by Teresa Panza (Sancho's wife)  
*Don Quixote*, pt. 2, bk. 5, ch. 37 (1615; tr. by P. Motteux).

803. The State claims and exercises the monopoly of crime. . .it forbids private murder, but itself organizes murder on a colossal scale. It punishes private theft, but itself lays unscrupulous hands on anything it wants.

Albert J. Nock  
Quoted in *War, Peace and the State* by Murray N. Rothbard  
Reprinted in *The Classical Liberal*  
The Center for the Study of Market Alternatives.

804. You can't increase the state's power over anyone without increasing the state's power over everyone.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, September 10, 1992.

805. Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.

Source unknown  
Falsely attributed to George Washington.

806. Government cannot make man richer, but it can make him poorer.

Ludwig von Mises  
*A Critique of Interventionism*, Page 23, Arlington House edition  
Quoted by Ron Paul  
Mises & Austrian Economics: A Personal View, page 16.

807. Government always means coercion and compulsion and is by necessity the opposite of liberty.

Ludwig von Mises  
Quoted in Investment Rarities newsletter  
(Editor said it's from *Human Action*).

808. Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

P.J. O'Rourke, *Parliament of Whores*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

809. When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators.

P.J. O'Rourke, *Parliament of Whores*, page 210.

810. What is this oozing behemoth, this fibrous tumor, this monster of power and expense hatched from the simple human desire for civic order? How did an allegedly free people spawn a vast, rampant cuttlefish of dominion with its tentacles in every orifice of the body politic?

P.J. O'Rourke, *Parliament of Whores*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

811. One recent estimate has it that 197 million people have died at the hands of governments in the 20th century. . . .

The one thing our government does worst is govern, in the sense of protecting us from violence. You might think that a government whose size and powers have multiplied would be proportionately more effective at controlling crime. But the opposite is true. A State that devotes most of its energy to inessentials is bound to neglect essentials. Ours is too intent on policing taxpayers and businesses to police robbers.

Put otherwise, the state crowds us into unwanted relations with each other. We are forced to bear responsibility for unseen strangers, to associate with people from whom we might prefer to keep our distance, and even to account for our personal finances and private motives. No wonder so many people hate it [government].

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, May 17, 1995.

812. From the 1930s to the 1990s, American public life has been dominated by the notion that government is a magical entity that can take money from all of us and give back more than it took, making us all richer in the process. Stated baldly like that, this theory seems crazy. But it was seldom stated baldly.

This belief underlies all sorts of government policy, from subsidies to farmers to “free” college tuition, from Social Security to deficit spending to the Great Society to military adventures overseas. This faith dominated American political culture while most of us grew up — dominated so powerfully and so totally that it needed no name. It just passed as common belief. But it went by many names: modern liberalism, left-liberalism, the middle of the road. It has been tempered only by the American tradition of an open society, which provided limited protection for freedom of speech and religion.

R.W. Bradford  
*Liberty*, January 1995, page 19.

813. A government that is big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take it all away.

Barry Goldwater, October 1964  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

814. Throughout these years, the power of the state to do evil expanded with awesome speed. Its power to do good grew slowly and ambiguously.

Paul Johnson, *Modern Times*  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

815. Whenever something has been separated from the state, it has proven to be better for the people involved, for the activity itself, and for society. Consider religion. The King was once considered God's representative. How dare anyone suggest that virtue could exist in society if the state didn't force religion on everyone. Surely there would be chaos and barbarism. But look what happened when church and state were separated. Churches blossomed and grew. Society was much better off once the government's Crusades ended. And when the church-state Inquisition ended. And when the state no longer burned "witches" at the stake.

Sharon Harris  
"The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand"  
Speech, California Libertarian Party, February 22, 1998.

816. The single most exciting thing you encounter in government is competence, because it's so rare.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, *New York Times*, March 2, 1976  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

817. Nobody spends somebody else's money as carefully as he spends his own.

Milton Friedman  
*Cato Policy Report*, July/August 1993, cover.

818. If a private venture fails, it's closed down. If a government venture fails, it's expanded.

Milton Friedman  
*Cato Policy Report*, July/August 1993, page 14.

819. The most dangerous man, to any government, is the man who is able to think things out for himself, without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane and intolerable, and so, if he is romantic, he tries to change it. And even if he is not romantic personally he is very apt to spread discontent among those who are.

H. L. Mencken  
Quoted in *The State of the Onion*, page 2 (date not indicated, probably 1993).

820. Still one thing more, fellow citizens — a wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government, and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicities.

Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1801.

821. As [government] power grows, so security diminishes.

Montesquieu  
Quoted by James Bovard  
*The American Spectator*, February 1997, page 79.

822. The more that government tries to protect everyone from everything, the more cause that Americans have to fear the government. The more power that politicians seize to supposedly protect people, the more power that government agents have to accost, arrest, plunder, and harass innocent citizens.

James Bovard  
*The American Spectator*, February 1997, page 79.

823. I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

Will Rogers , quoted in *Saturday Review*  
Cited in Infopedia's *Merriam Webster Dictionary of Quotations*.

824. [From the perspective of government] the ideal Society then is presented like a colony of ants, all identical, no one individual important on its own, interchangeable and expendable.

Joe Smolinski, on CompuServe, July 9, 1995.

825. The less government we have, the better — the fewer laws, and the less confided power.

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*Essays: Second Series* [1844], "Politics."  
See also #787, #788.

826. Society in every state is a blessing, but Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one: for when we suffer, or are exposed to the same miseries *by a Government*, which we might expect in a country *without Government*, our calamity is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer.

Thomas Paine (1737-1809)  
*Common Sense* [1776]  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 384.

827. Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.

Frédéric Bastiat (1801-50)  
"The State"  
*Selected Essays on Political Economy*, part 2.

828. Nothing is so galling to a people not broken in from the birth as a paternal, or in other words a meddling government, a government which tells them what to read and say and eat and drink and wear.

Thomas, Babington Macaulay (1800-1859), English historian,  
Whig politician.

“Southey’s Colloquies on Society,” in *Edinburgh Review* (Jan.  
1830; reprinted in *Critical and Historical Essays*, 1843).

829. To be governed is to be watched, inspected, spied upon, directed, law-ridden, regulated, penned up, indoctrinated, preached at, checked, appraised, seized, censured, commanded, by beings who have neither title, nor knowledge, nor virtue. To be governed is to have every operation, every transaction, every movement noted, registered, counted, rated, stamped, measured, numbered, assessed, licensed, refused, authorized, endorsed, admonished, prevented, reformed, redressed, corrected.

Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, 1849  
Quoted by Sharon Harris  
“The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand”  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998.

830. Our kids, the ones who cannot identify their constitutional rights, are growing up in an America where, thanks largely to the Drug War, such niceties are increasingly becoming irrelevant. Drug-sniffing dogs roam their schools; curfew laws forbid their appearance in public for all but a few hours between the end of the school day and the onset of night; doors are kicked in as a matter of course based upon the flimsiest of evidence obtained from the shadiest of characters; property is seized upon mere suspicion of wrongdoing; private, consensual conduct is widely banned; the military is deployed domestically; the chemical composition of one’s urine or blood or hair is the business of the state; purveyors of the arts and of entertainment are beseeched by the government to parrot the accepted ideology; citizens who have never harmed a soul save themselves sit in cages for long years with no discretion allowed the sentencing judge; children are urged, directly and indirectly, to turn in their parents; patients are forbidden their choice of treatment, their doctors threatened, spied upon and harassed; juries are forbidden from learning that they have the right to disregard the law if they feel that the outcome under its dictates would offend justice; and politicians and bureaucrats continuously urge that we, the people, give them even greater power so that they might protect us from each other.

Adam J. Smith  
“From Ignorance to Tyranny”  
DRCNet, September 4, 1998

831. Government is actually the worst failure of civilized man. There has never been a really good one, and even those that are most tolerable are arbitrary, cruel, grasping and unintelligent.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956), U.S. journalist.  
Minority Report: *H. L. Mencken's Notebooks*, no. 68 (1956).

832. In the marketplace, businesses spend and plan, upgrade and develop, create and reallocate, for their self-interest and those of their customers. Government has no 'customers' and hence is rudderless and unpredictable.

Hugh Butler  
Personal message, February 2, 1999

833. Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them.

Ronald Reagan (b. 1911)  
Speech, 11 Dec. 1972  
*Speaking My Mind: The Wit and Wisdom of Ronald Reagan*, 1989.

834. Collecting data on democide (the murder of any person or people by a government, including genocide, politicide, and mass murder) was an horrendous task. I soon was overwhelmed by the unbelievable repetitiveness of regime after regime, ruler after ruler, murdering people under their control or rule by shooting, burial alive, burning, hanging, knifing, starvation, flaying, beating, torture, and so on and on. Year after year. Not hundreds, not thousands, not tens of thousands of these people, but millions and millions. Almost 170,000,000 of them [since 1900], and this is only what appears a reasonable middle estimate. The awful toll may even reach above 300,000,000, the equivalent in dead of a nuclear war stretched out over decades.

R.J. Rummel  
At his website, <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~rummel/note5.htm>

835. "Every government is run by liars, and nothing they say should be believed," journalist I.F. Stone observed long ago. His judgment may seem harsh — but it continues to be verified in the real world.

Norman Solomon  
"American Journalists Have No Reason to be Smug"  
Creators Syndicate, April 8, 1999.

836. Government is not your friend. It is the enemy of freedom. Government is not Santa Claus. It is the Grinch. Government is not your servant. It tends, all too often, to be our master. Government seldom helps people. It often enslaves them.

Joseph Farah  
"The forced march to Bethlehem"  
WorldNetDaily, December 22, 1999.

837. Government must be viewed as one individual doing things to other individuals which he is too cowardly to attempt in a face-to-face encounter.

Jody Gammar  
Unpublished letter.

838. Many people who are sympathetic to the notion of minimizing institutionalized coercion are still skeptical about how, or even if, the world would work without government. Who, they ask, would build the roads and run the schools? Who would keep order in society and protect it from predators? Some of these questions reflect beliefs as quaint and silly as those of inner-city children who believe that milk naturally comes from cartons.

Doug Casey  
“Imagine a World without Government”  
WorldNetDaily, September 6, 2001.

839. The art of politics is to separate actions from consequences.

Alexander Cockburn  
*CounterPunch*, November 1, 2002.

840. There is a basic weakness in governments, however massive their armies, however wealthy they are, however they control the information given to the public, because their power depends on the obedience of citizens, of soldiers, of civil servants, of journalists and writers and teachers and artists. When these people begin to suspect they have been deceived, and withdraw their support, the government loses its legitimacy and its power.

Howard Zinn  
“The Opposition and the Death Count”  
TomPaine.com, February 28, 2003.

841. Left or right, statism is an intellectual disease that transcends party attachments. It stems from the false hope that men with guns can make an end run around all the problems in the world.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Send in the Marines?”  
LewRockwell.com, May 3, 2003.

842. Organized crime, or even outright terrorism, can do far less harm than the most well-meaning government. It’s a matter of power, not intention.

Joseph Sobran  
“Phantom Enemies”  
*Sobran’s*, April 2003, page 10.



843. Government is a social body which is based on compulsion. It cannot be used to improve things, other than by enforcing property rights and the rule of law. All that a government can do is threaten, and threats will never make people think more rationally. The Scientific Revolution didn't spread by waving clubs at the alchemists and mystics.

Stefan Molyneux  
Letter to *The New York Times*, June 1, 2003  
Copy sent to Harry Browne.

844. The kind of man who wants the government to adopt and enforce his ideas is always the kind of man whose ideas are idiotic.

H.L. Mencken  
Quoted by R. Cort Kirkwood.  
“Disobey the ‘Law’”  
LewRockwell.com, September 13, 2003.

845. What has made the State a hell on earth has been that man has tried to make it his heaven.

Friedrich Hölderlin  
Quoted by F.A. Hayek  
*The Collected Works of F.A. Hayek*, page 175  
Cited by John V. Denson in “A Century of War,” page 2  
*Studies in Classical Liberalism* series  
Ludwig von Mises Institute.

846. Nine tenths of the laws passed every winter at the Federal Capitol, and all the State Capitols, are not only unneeded laws, but positive nuisances, jobs got up for the service of special classes or persons.

Walt Whitman  
*The Eighteenth Presidency*, page 36  
Cited by Bill Kauffman in “American Writers Confront War”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 336.

847. By any objective standard, government is a dreadful idea. Its rules are arbitrary and illogical. Its force is often extreme, and wielded carelessly. It imposes a tremendous burden upon those who subscribe to it, and an even greater one on those who don't. It complicates all human activity, and plunders and loots productivity at every stage. It helps a few at the cost of the many, although referring to itself as “democratic.” For the benefit of its adherents and cronies it sends our sons off to die, if necessary, in places we've never heard of, and which present no threat to us. Why do we put up with it?

Paul Hein  
“Government: An Atavism”  
LewRockwell.com, December 15, 2003.

848. When the U.S. was founded, people could live their lives and earn their money and protect themselves without ever having any contact with this thing called the federal government. So it was for generations. But today, this government is inescapably huge, managing as much of our lives and taking as much of our property as it can get away with.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Five Smooth Stones”  
LewRockwell.com, June 3, 2004.

849. There is an inherent tendency in all governmental power to recognize no restraints on its operation and to extend the sphere of its dominion as much as possible. To control everything, to leave no room for anything to happen of its own accord without the interference of the authorities — this is the goal for which every ruler secretly strives.

Ludwig von Mises  
*Liberalism*, “Private Property and the Government”

850. There are those who still think they are holding the pass against a revolution that may be coming up the road. But they are gazing in the wrong direction. The revolution is behind them. It went by in the Night of Depression, singing songs to freedom.

Garet Garrett  
*The Revolution Was* (1938)

851. Few of us can easily surrender our belief that society must somehow make sense. The thought that the state has lost its mind and is punishing so many innocent people is intolerable. And so the evidence has to be internally denied.

Arthur Miller, playwright  
Quoted by John Pilger  
“The Most Important Terrorism Is ‘Ours’”  
LewRockwell.com, September 17, 2004.

852. Government is a way of not having to think.

Kathleen Brazil  
Conversation with Harry Browne, 2005

*See also Bureaucracy* and other Government categories.

### Government & Its Results

853. It’s such a beautiful dream — a world where no one hungers — that becomes such a ghastly nightmare when government is the principal instrument for achieving the same.

Don Feder  
Syndicated column; date not available.

854. Policies designed to increase production increase employment; policies designed to increase employment do everything but.

C. Northcote Parkinson  
Quoted in "C. Northcote Parkinson: An Appreciation" by John  
Train  
*The American Spectator*, June 1993, page 56.

855. We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and then bid the geldings to be fruitful.

C.S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

*See also* other Government categories.

### Government & Rationalism

856. The rationalist tries to derive practice from theory, instead of letting the theory emerge from intimacy with the practice. In another splendid image, [Michael] Oakeshott pointed out that cooking came before cookbooks. It was a fruitful practice long before anyone bothered formulating it: Cooking could never have originated in a theory of food.

The most typical form of rationalism was socialism, "a vision of human activity coordinated and sent going in a single direction and of every resource being used to the full." For people in the grip of rationalism, "to govern is to turn a private dream into a public and compulsory manner of living." But, says Oakeshott in his mildly scathing way, "their dreams are no different than those of anyone else; and if it is boring to have to listen to dreams of others being recounted, it is insufferable to be forced to re-enact them."

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, December 25, 1990.

*See also* other Government categories.

## Government & Reformers

857. To some people, “government” appears as a vast reservoir of power which inspires them to dream of what use might be made of it. They have favorite projects, of various dimensions, which they sincerely believe are for the benefit of mankind, and to capture this source of power, if necessary to increase it, and to use it for imposing their projects upon their fellows is what they understand as the adventure of governing men. They are, thus, disposed to recognize government as an instrument of passion; the art of politics is to inflame and direct desire.

Michael Oakeshott (English philosopher)  
Quoted by Joseph Sobran  
*National Review*, Oct 15, 1990, page 92.

*See also other Government categories.*

## Government & Security

858. A bank account will give you a feeling of security — until you realize that it is insured by an agency of a federal government that is \$3 trillion in debt.

Ann Landers  
*San Francisco Examiner*, May 13, 1994, D-17.

*See also other Government categories.*

## Government Borrowing

*See Government Budgets and other Government categories.*

## Government Budgets

859. An economy hampered by restrictive tax rates will never produce enough revenue to balance our budget, just as it will never produce enough jobs or enough profits.

John F. Kennedy, New York, December 14, 1962  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993

860. . . . (“the federal government will accumulate more than \$4.5 trillion in surpluses over the next 15 years”). Who do they think they’re kidding? Claims by governmental planners to possess such clairvoyant powers was appropriately labeled a “fatal conceit” by Nobel laureate Friedrich Hayek and should not be taken seriously by anyone.

Thomas DiLorenzo  
Professor of economics, Loyola College  
Letter to the editor  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 2, 1999.

861. If government spent money for productive purposes, borrowing to finance their deficits would be like private borrowing. The borrowing would be repaid from the earnings of the productive enterprise. Of course, if the activity were productive, it would not require a government to do it.

Allan H. Meltzer  
*Los Angeles Times*, May 30, 1993, page D2.

862. Accrual accounting is the gold standard for the private sector because it forces long-term liabilities to be recognized when they are incurred and can be controlled. The federal government is increasingly in the business of making long-term promises to its citizens. Until the federal government adopts principles of accounting that recognize these promises, the federal budget will remain the most misleading document in Washington. And that's saying a lot.

Howell E. Jackson, Harvard Law School Professor  
"It's Even Worse than You Think"  
*New York Times*, October 9, 2003.

### Government Can Do for/to the People

863. The government can do something for the people only in proportion as it can do something to the people.

Thomas Jefferson  
Quoted by William F. Buckley  
*National Review*, March 1, 1993, pg. 71.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government Costs More Than it Gives

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government Doesn't Stop with What You Want

864. A national identity card would not only permit even greater government snooping into people's private lives, the information gathered would almost inevitably lead to more laws forcing more people to do more things the way the politicians want them done. It is a down payment on totalitarianism.

Thomas Sowell  
Quoted by William F. Buckley, Jr.  
Syndicated column, July 25, 1995.

865. When once a man imbibes the principle that the government was instituted to regulate all things, social and domestic, as well as political, it is the most natural error in the world that he should not stop where he began. He wants to apply it to every imaginable case of wrong . . . until there are no personal rights left to the people.

Rutherford B. Hayes  
Quoted by Marc. C. DeSaussure, letter to the editor  
*San Francisco Examiner*, February 25, 1993, page A-12.

866. Every reform, however necessary, will by weak minds be carried to an excess, which will itself need reforming.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), English poet, critic.  
*Biographia Literaria*, ch. 1 (1817).

867. Start with the proposition that even the smallest, weakest government will be badly run, and then you see the folly of giving bad managers even more power. An increase in power is an increase in the power to do evil as well as to do good.

Charley Reese  
“The thing about wars is that they always leave such a mess”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, August 17, 1999

868. If a private enterprise is a failure, it closes down — unless it can get a government subsidy to keep it going; if a government enterprise fails, it is expanded. I challenge you to find exceptions.

Milton Friedman  
*Why Government Is The Problem*, page 9.

869. Once a bad law is passed, it has proved difficult, generally impossible, to erase it from the statute books. The result is that one bad law leads to additional bad laws.

Milton Friedman  
*The Wall Street Journal*, June 1, 1993, page A12.

870. If men believe that Government is responsible for their welfare, the increasing poverty increases their demand that men in public office control the individual's affairs. This demand increases the use of force against productive energy. This use of force must progressively destroy all the protections of an American citizen's natural human rights, and eventually — if at last he protests — his life.

Rose Wilder Lane  
Quoted in *Freedom Daily*, January 1990.

871. Once the principle is admitted that it is the duty of government to protect the individual from his own foolishness, no serious objections can be raised against further encroachments.

Ludwig von Mises  
Quoted by Thomas DiLorenzo  
*FreeMarket*, September 1994, page 7.

872. When the State has granted one privilege, its character as a purveyor of privilege is permanently established, and natural law does not permit it to stop with the creation of one privilege, but forces it to go on creating others . . . which in turn culminates in the decay and disappearance of the society.

Albert Jay Nock  
*The Disadvantage of Being Educated*  
Quoted in *Laissez Faire Catalog*, February 1997, page 7.

873. I believe our present predicament exists because we have gradually developed governmental institutions in which the people effectively have no voice. A recent study by James Payne brought this home to me very clearly. Examining fourteen different government hearings dealing with spending issues, Payne found that “1,014 witnesses appeared in favor of the spending. Only 7 could be classified as opponents. In other words, pro-spending witnesses outnumbered anti-spending witnesses 145 to 1.” Striking as that is, an even more important finding was that “of the 1,060 witnesses who appeared, 47% were federal administrators, and another 10% were state and local officials. An additional 6% were congressmen themselves.” Thus 63% of the witnesses in favor of the spending were from government. They were telling us that they should spend our money, I won’t say for their benefit but for what they believed, or said they believed, was our benefit. Payne added, “*Overwhelmingly, Congress’s views on spending programs are shaped by government officials themselves.*” What is true of spending proposals is equally true of other governmental measures: sugar quotas, the tax exemption of medical care provided by employers, the agricultural subsidies, and so on down the line.

Milton Friedman  
*Why Government Is The Problem*, pages 11-12  
Quoted by James L. Payne  
“Why Congress Can’t Kick the Tax and Spend Habit,”  
*Imprimis* (Hillsdale College) 20, no. 5. May 1991.

874. The schemes of the new statism have certain similarities. The idea in each case is for politicians to identify a vaguely defined but universally supported good (minorities should not be discriminated against, disabled people should have a chance to work, children should not smoke), and then to exploit public approval of this good to win acceptance of a new and vast expansion of the state’s powers, and finally to render illegal the opposition to this expansion.

Michael Kelly, *The New Republic*, July 14, 1997 .

875. Government grows by solving the problems government creates.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1994 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

876. When the ADA was debated a decade ago, nobody suggested that it might one day be used to force employers to accept disruptive and insubordinate workers or sales people who curse the customers. Discussion focused on people with severe and mostly visible disabilities. Almost no one thought that backers of the ADA would push to include neurosis, drug habits, bad backs or high blood pressure. And when school boards passed zero-tolerance policies on weapons in schools, nobody predicted that offenders would include tots with water pistols, rubber knives, key chain ornaments and chicken fingers.

John Leo  
“Reasonable Principles Extend to Far-Reaching Social Change”  
Syndicated column, February 19, 2001.

877. One danger of the anti-flag-burning amendment is the slippery slope. If the amendment is enacted, even without a clause for the Confederate flag, many people will be energized to try to ban other symbols that offend them. Think of it as “censorship envy” — if my neighbor gets to ban symbols he dislikes, why shouldn’t I get to do the same? This kind of misplaced desire for equality of repression is a powerful psychological force.

Eugene Volokh  
“What’s Wrong With the Flag-burning Amendment?”  
*Center-Right*, Issue 169, July 23, 2001.

878. Conservative defenders of the Bush administration must remember that the powers they are willing to grant to George W. Bush and John Ashcroft today may be exercised by — let’s say — President Hillary Rodham Clinton and Attorney General Alan Dershowitz tomorrow. Indeed, since the Bush administration has claimed that the “war on terrorism” will last for decades, there will be plenty of time for these extraordinary powers to be “strengthened by exercise” — and for overtly left-wing administrations to use them against targets of their own choosing.

William Norman Grigg  
“The Perils of Totalitarian ‘Patriotism’”  
*Review of the News Online*, December 2, 2001.

*See also other Government categories, and see also Precedent.*



## Government Doesn't Work

879. In one part of our lives — the part run by private enterprises — we have become accustomed to a level of responsiveness and service that is often astonishing. We can order just about any product from our home, expect it to show up on our doorstep the next day, and take it for granted that if we don't like it we can return it, no questions asked. . . .

In another part of our lives, the part run by government, we have to fill out our tax returns, renew our driver's license, try to get a pothole fixed, try to correct an overcharge in the water bill, try to get an answer to a question about the zoning laws, or apply for a permit. Something that in the private sector can be done in minutes over the phone, 24 hours a day, can be done by the government only from ten until three, Mondays through Fridays, in person, and it takes three visits to get it right. . . .

The reality of daily life is that, by and large, the things the government does tend to be ugly, rude, slovenly — and not to work. Things that private organizations do tend to be attractive, courteous, tidy — and to work. That is the way America really is.

Charles Murray  
*What It Means to Be a Libertarian*, page 146.

880. Even at its best, the Clinton program has an answer for every economic problem except problem Number One: The government does not work. Instead of trying to figure how to fix the blasted thing, Mr. Clinton would load it down with more and more responsibilities.

*The Wall Street Journal* editorial  
October 28, 1992.

881. You'd think that after 60 years on the receiving end of big government, the suckers (i.e., Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Voter) would finally get the message. Where has government provision of any product or service (be it mail, education, sanitation or welfare) ever resulted in efficiency, economy or innovation? As Constance Horner, former deputy secretary of Health and Human Services, so aptly put it: "We should be careful before we adopt a system with the compassion of the IRS, the efficiency of the post office, and Pentagon pricing."

Don Feder  
Syndicated column, November 11, 1991.

882. I saw that the State was half-witted, that it was timid as a lone woman with her silver spoons, and that it did not know its friends from its foes, and I lost all my remaining respect for it, and pitied it.

Henry David Thoreau [1817-1862]  
*Civil Disobedience* [1849].

883. If there is one supreme irony and one real “paradox of politics,” it is that every bit of raw sewage floating in our waters, every drop of unpotable water from a public system, and every commuter waiting in the rain for a train that never comes represents a failure of government. And yet, like colonial-era doctors who used bloodletting to treat anemic patients, the only cure we can imagine for these failures is more of the same — more agencies, more authorities, more taxes, more “czars,” more government — and, inevitably, more failures.

Andy Barniskis  
“The ‘Paradox of Politics,’ Solved”  
*The Pragmatist*.

884. You cannot solve a problem when you start with a faulty premise. If you believe the earth is flat, your attempts at navigation will fail. If you believe government should solve your problems, you will always be disappointed when it doesn’t.

Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published.

885. The therapeutic state is necessarily a totalitarian state, if only because it does so much of what it should not do and so little of what it should do that it finally must do everything it possibly can do. The condoms don’t work, so the schools provide daycare. The anti-gun laws fail, so the police arbitrarily search law-abiding citizens for them. When darkness creeps over the Potomac, criminals rule the streets, so the mayor declares a curfew to keep everyone inside until a new day dawns.

R. Cort Kirkwood  
*Chronicles*, October 1994, page 8.

886. Whether the issue is crime, the integrity of the family, educational standards, poverty, the environment, sexual morality, or freedom of speech, the results are the same: The anointed promise us paradise and deliver squalor, disintegration, moralistic posturing, and social chaos. It has happened again and again and again. Indeed, what is most remarkable is the very predictability of the scenario.

Roger Kimball  
In review of Thomas Sowell’s *The Virtue of the Anointed*  
*The American Spectator*, October 1995, page 75.

887. We as a nation refuse to recognize the principle of unintended consequences. When we went to Vietnam, it was half communist. Today, it’s all communist. When Nixon declared War on Drugs, heroin was expensive, obscure, and impure. Today, heroin is cheap, ubiquitous, and potent.

Peter McWilliams  
StopTheWarNow.com  
April 28, 1999

888. Can anybody point to any social or business problem the government has solved yet?

Ray Kraft  
Letter to the Editor  
*San Francisco Examiner*, March 9, 1993.

889. If you look truthfully at the situation, you will see that none of the social problems the government has undertaken to solve, at the price of treasure and liberty, has ever actually been solved.

Charley Reese  
“No Big Difference”  
Syndicated column, May 14, 2003.

890. You know the Post Office doesn’t work, you know the IRS doesn’t work, you know the DMV doesn’t work, and you know Blockbuster Video works far better than your local public library. Why do you think the parts of government that you *don’t see* work any better than the parts you *do* see?

Geoff Braun  
Emailed to Harry Browne.

*See also* other Government categories.

## Government Research

*See* Research, Government.

## Government Fosters Dependence

891. The State also takes care to arrogate to itself the compulsory monopoly of various critical services needed by society: thus keeping the people in dependence upon the State for key services, keeping control of the vital command posts in society, and also fostering among the public the myth that *only* the State can supply these goods and services. Thus the State is careful to monopolize police and judicial service, the ownership of roads and streets, the supply of money, and the postal service, and effectively to monopolize or control education, public utilities, transportation, and radio and television.

Murray N. Rothbard, *War, Peace and the State*  
Reprinted in *The Classical Liberal*  
The Center for the Study of Market Alternatives

892. [I]t is certainly no part of the duty of government to protect a free people against their own lack of intelligent discrimination.

Austin Willard Wright, "Unwanted Government Interference"  
*Electric Engineering*, July 1896  
Reprinted in *Durrell Journal of Money and Banking*  
May 1990, page 31.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government Is a Political Enterprise

893. [Regarding tax-code industrial policy] That is, if you learn by divine revelation that the secret key to growth is guava juice, you can legislate tax incentives for guava farming. While the real issue usually is which Congressman has guava contributors.

Robert L. Bartley, Editor  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 5, 1992, page A12.

894. Activist, interventionist, regulating, subsidizing government is generally a servant of the strong and entrenched against the weak and aspiring.

George Will  
Syndicated column, February 4, 1993.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government Is Force

895. Government can't do anything for us without first taking from us the means to do it. Its only tool is force — usually the worst possible tool to apply in social matters.

George Roche, president, Hillsdale College, *Imprimis*  
Quoted in *Forbes*, February 13, 1995, page 30.

896. Government implies the power of making laws. It is essential to the idea of a law, that it be attended with a sanction; or, in other words, a penalty or punishment for disobedience.

Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804)  
*The Federalist*, No. 15.

897. Laws are laws only because government can use coercion against anyone who violates them.

Sharon Harris  
"The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand"  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998.

898. Government always means coercion and compulsion and is by necessity the opposite of liberty.

Ludwig von Mises  
Quoted in Investment Rarities newsletter  
(Editor said it's from *Human Action*).

899. Any society of force — whether ruled by criminal bands or by an organized state — fundamentally means the rule of the jungle, or economic chaos.

Murray N. Rothbard (1926-1995)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997.

900. On the free market, every man gains; one man's gain, in fact, is precisely the consequence of his bringing about the gain of others. When an exchange is coerced, on the other hand — when criminals or governments intervene — one group gains at the expense of others.

Murray N. Rothbard (1926-1995)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997.

901. The purification of politics is an iridescent dream. Government is force.

John James Ingalls (1833-1900)  
Article in the *New York World*, 1890.

902. The end move in politics is to pick up a gun.

Buckminster Fuller  
Quoted by Sharon Harris  
"The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand"  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998.

903. He who says: There should be a law concerning this matter, means: The armed men of the government should force people to do what they do not want to do, or not to do what they like. He who says: This law should be better enforced, means: The police should force people to obey this law.

Ludwig von Mises  
*Omnipotent Government*  
Arlington House, 1969, page 46  
(originally Yale University Press, 1944).

904. Laws involve force. Always, and without exception. (That's why it's called law enforcement.)

Paul Myers  
*TalkBiz News* (an ezine), July 14, 1999.

905. Individuals debate. Governments dictate.

Paul Myers  
*TalkBiz News* (an ezine), July 14, 1999.

906. What, exactly, is the state and political power? Regardless of how political theorists and apologists may have tried over the centuries to describe it, the state and political power ultimately means one and one thing only: coercion. When everything else is stripped away and the state is left bare, its fundamental nature is the claim to have the right to threaten and if necessary to use physical force. And those who control the reins of political power claim the right to threaten and use force against their fellow human beings.

Richard Ebeling  
Book Review of *Freedom in Chains* by James Bovard  
*Freedom Daily*, June 1999.

907. It is important to remember that government interference always means either violent action or the threat of such action. The funds that a government spends for whatever purposes are levied by taxation. And taxes are paid because the taxpayers are afraid of offering resistance to the tax gatherers. They know that any disobedience or resistance is hopeless. As long as this is the state of affairs, the government is able to collect the money that it wants to spend. Government is in the last resort the employment of armed men, of policemen, guards, soldiers, prison guards, and hangmen. The essential feature of government is the enforcement of its decrees by beating, killing, and imprisoning. Those who are asking for more government interference are asking ultimately for more compulsion and less freedom.

Ludwig von Mises  
*Human Action*,  
XXVII "The Government and the Market"  
"The Intervention".

908. [S]tatist ideology must render the violence of the state invisible, in order to disguise the affront to equality it represents. Hence statist tend to treat governmental edicts as though they were incantations, passing directly from decree to result, without the inconvenience of means; since in the real world the chief means employed by government is violence, threatened and actual, cloaking state decrees and their violent implementation in the garb of incantation disguises both the immorality and the inefficiency of statism by ignoring the messy path from decree to result.

Roderick T. Long  
“Equality: The Unknown Ideal”  
Speech, Ludwig von Mises Institute  
September 29, 2001.

909. The government does not, indeed, waylay a man in a lonely place, spring upon him from the roadside, and holding a pistol to his head, proceed to rifle his pockets. But the robbery is none the less a robbery on that account, and it is far more dastardly and shameful.

The highwayman takes solely upon himself the responsibility, danger, and crime of his own act. He does not pretend that he has a rightful claim to your money, or that he intends to use it for your own benefit. He does not pretend to be anything but a robber.

He has not acquired impudence enough to profess to be merely a “protector,” and that he takes men’s money against their will, merely to enable him to “protect” those infatuated travelers, who feel perfectly able to protect themselves, or do not appreciate his peculiar system of protection. He is too sensible a man to make such professions as these.

Furthermore, having taken your money, he leaves you, as you wish him to do. He does not persist in following you on the road, against your will, assuming to be your rightful “sovereign,” on account of the “protection” he affords you. He does not keep “protecting” you, by commanding you to bow down and serve him, by requiring you to do this, and forbidding you to do that, by robbing you out of more money as often as he finds it for his interest or pleasure to do so, and by branding you a rebel, a traitor, and an enemy to your country and shooting you down without mercy if you disrupt his authority or resist his demands. He is too much of a gentleman to be guilty of such impostures and insults and villainies as these.

In short, he does not, in addition to robbing you, attempt to make you either his dupe or his slave.

Lysander Spooner  
*No Treason: The Constitution of No Authority*, page 17  
Quoted by Hans-Hermann Hoppe  
“Time Preference, Government, and the Process of De-

Civilization”

In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, pages 401-402.

910. The end move in politics is to pick up a gun.

Buckminster Fuller  
Quoted by Sharon Harris  
“The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand”  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998.

911. The great myth that all public officials carry around in their heads is that the world will conform to any dictate so long as it is backed by the threat of force. Governments have always believed this because force and the threat of force are their only tools. If force does not work, government does not work.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Five Smooth Stones”  
LewRockwell.com, June 3, 2004.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government Knows Best

912. The very smart people in the White House think that they know how much pharmaceutical drugs should cost, what kind of cars Detroit should build, how information should be transmitted to our homes, how much Japanese consumers should buy from each of our industries, and how to “match the skills of the workforce against the things we have to produce in the next 20 years.”

David D. Boaz  
*Human Events*, August 12, 1994, page 9.

913. It is the highest impertinence and presumption . . . in Kings and ministers to pretend to watch over the economy of private people. . . . Let them look well after their own expense, and they may safely trust private people with theirs. If their own extravagance does not ruin the state, that of their subjects never will.

Adam Smith  
Source unknown

914. Mr. [Bernie] Richter [California legislator] not only challenged the [emission control] mandate but did so in fiery, even Randian rhetoric. He alluded to the command Soviet economy and spoke of a “big lie” by which “the very people who make cars can be discredited so that their advice and opinions count for nothing, but some bureaucrat in the CARB [California Air Resources Board] or the Environmental Protection Agency or some politician in the Legislature, all of whom have never in their lives produced anything . . . shall order these large companies to produce what they think they should produce.”

Tim W. Ferguson  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 29, 1994, page A15.

915. In the Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, people sit around in large rooms reading paper reports from people they’ve never met on topics they’ve never seen, involving towns they’ve never visited. Why would you think such a system could possibly work?



Newt Gingrich  
Essay published in *Newsweek*, ca. April 7, 1995  
Quoted by David Warsh of *The Boston Globe*  
Reprinted in *Chicago Tribune*, April 9, 1995, section 7, page 9.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government Not Necessary

916. Two old Soviet women were standing in a kerosene line. "I can't bear it any longer, waiting for three hours to buy a gallon of kerosene!" one said. "Yes, but still, we're lucky," the other responded, "at least our government supplies us with the kerosene. Who does it for the people in the capitalist countries?"

Cited by Leon Steinmetz  
*Chronicles*, November 1988, page 20.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government Policies

917. Muddle-headed policies require muddle-headed people to champion them.

Matt Taibbi  
"Back at the Wheel"  
*The New York Press*, November 12, 2003.

### Government Programs

918. When a system pays too high a price for too much of a product, I conclude that the actual beneficiaries are not those who allegedly "need" that product, but the providers of that product.

Terry McIntyre, on LPUS, January 16, 1997.

919. Most of the energy of political work is devoted to correcting the effects of mismanagement of government.

Milton Friedman, *Firing Line*, PBS, October 9, 1988  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

920. Cures were developed for which there were no known diseases.

Ronald Reagan  
Commenting on Congress and the federal budget, 1981  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

921. Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program.

Milton Friedman  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 12.

922. Once a bad law is passed, it has proved difficult, generally impossible, to erase it from the statute books. The result is that one bad law leads to additional bad laws.

Milton Friedman  
*The Wall Street Journal*, June 1, 1993, page A12.

923. Go through the list of social welfare programs enacted over the past 65 years, examine their initial target populations, then examine the populations they serve today. Welfare, unemployment insurance, disability payments, food stamps, Medicare — whatever the program, the original small pool of truly needy beneficiaries has been replaced by a mob.

Charles Murray  
“The Perils of GOP Activism”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, February 20, 1998.

924. . . . politicians cannot be “isolated from political pressures” any more than daylight can be isolated from the sun. As former U.S. Sen. William Proxmire (D., Wis.) stated during a 1983 Senate debate over federal industrial policy, if government is given the authority to allocate capital, “Money will go where the political power is . . . It will go where the union power is mobilized. It will go where the campaign contributors want it to go. It will go where the mayors and governors as well as congressmen and senators have the power to push it. Anyone who thinks government funds will be allocated . . . according to merit has not lived or served in Washington very long.”

Thomas DiLorenzo  
Professor of economics, Loyola College  
Letter to the editor  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 2, 1999.

925. The government actively encourages people in need to look to the government for assistance, and then wonders why they do.

Richard Shepard  
AOL Libertarian Forum, August 5, 1998

926. After saying that Littleton could, in effect, have a blank check from Washington to aid in recovering from the massacre, Clinton went on to offer some specifics. He dispatched a “crisis response team” to Colorado to make sure there were enough counselors to handle the grief. Enough counselors? In the greater Denver area? I should think there would be enough — several thousand, I would guess, for every person directly touched by this crime.

What Clinton really meant, though, was he wanted to make sure that no one would have to pay for counseling. Later, he expanded his offer to include \$1.5 million to pay for funerals, uninsured medical expenses, lost wages and counseling.

The question America should be asking is “Why?” Why should Americans in all 50 states — some without medical insurance themselves, some facing funeral expenses of their own and others in need of counseling over the loss of loved ones — be forced to pay for the needs of those in Littleton?

Joseph Farah  
“Federal aid for funerals?”  
WorldNetDaily, April 28, 1999

927. Never support any government program unless you would be completely comfortable with your worst enemy running it.

Tim King  
On Harry Browne radio show, December 19, 1999.

928. . . . Economist Albert O. Hirschman [has] classified . . . three basic forms of conservative argument against government social programs in general: futility, perversity, and jeopardy. The *futility* thesis says government help won't really help. The *perversity* thesis says government will do the opposite of what it intends. The *jeopardy* thesis says that in its efforts to accomplish something, government will place other important goals in peril.

Jacob Weisberg  
“Leap of Faith”  
*Slate*, February 1, 2001.

929. For every action there is an equal and opposite government program.

Bob Wells  
Quoted by Bryan Lauritzen, November 9, 2001.

930. Fighting wars is incredibly stupid. They waste huge amounts of money that could otherwise be spent on ineffective social programs.

Fred Reed  
“Free Will, If Any,” August 11, 2003.

931. It is not possible to experiment with a society and just drop the experiment whenever we choose. The experiment enters in the life of the society and never can be got out again.

William Graham Sumner  
*Essays of William Graham Sumner*, volume 2, page 473.  
Cited by in “War and Leviathan in the Twentieth Century”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 321.

*See also* other Government categories.

### Government Spending

932. What does it mean when Republicans and Democrats alike warn us about all the “pain” involved in cutting government spending? Where’s the pain in *their* spending less of *our* money? Maybe it’s painful for the politicians, but for the average citizen, what pain is there in keeping more of his own money to invest the way he wants?

Theodore J. Forstmann  
*Cato Policy Report*, March/April 1995, page 11.

933. Republicans are wrong when they insist that government deficits crowd our private investment and lead to higher interest rates. . . . If anything, for the past twenty years, deficits and interest rates have run in opposite directions. How can this seeming paradox be explained? Because — and almost all understanding of modern public finance must begin with this principle — it is government *spending*, not government *borrowing*, that crowds out private savings and investment.

Stephen Moore  
*National Review*, February 10, 1997, page 39.

934. Some people may get rich by stealing from others, but obviously a whole community cannot enrich itself by its members plundering each other.

Dudley Dillard  
*The Economics of John Maynard Keynes*, page 4.

935. We don’t have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven’t taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much.

Ronald Reagan  
Address to National Association of Realtors, March 28, 1982  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

936. We used to think that you could just spend your way out of a recession and increase employment by cutting taxes and boosting government spending. I tell you, in all candor, that that option no longer exists, and that insofar as it ever did exist, it only worked by injecting bigger doses of inflation into the economy followed by higher levels of unemployment as the next step. That is the history of the past twenty years.

James Callaghan, British Prime Minister  
Speech to Labor Party conference, September 28, 1976  
Quoted by Milton Friedman, *Newsweek*, December 6, 1976.

937. Max Gammon, a British physician and health-care researcher, discovered that as more money was poured into Britain's socialized system, the output of health services fell. Gammon concluded that in a bureaucratic system, "increase in expenditure will be matched by fall in production." Bureaucratic systems are "like 'black holes' in the economic universe, simultaneously sucking in resources and shrinking in terms of 'emitted' production."

Paul Craig Roberts  
"Compassionate Tyranny"  
Town Hall, June 27, 2002.

938. No matter how much more money the state spends, it is never enough.

Steven Greenhut  
"The State Gets the Gold Mine and You Get the Shaft"  
*Orange Country Register*, April 4, 2004.

*See also other Government categories.*

#### Government Wants to Enhance Its Own Power

939. The government, John Adams wrote, "views every contingency as an excuse to enhance power in itself."

William F. Buckley  
*National Review*, March 1, 1993, page 71.

#### Government Waste

940. There is plenty of waste in the federal budget, but most of this waste is there for the same reason that the programs are there — because someone wants it.

William A. Niskanen  
*Assessing the Reagan Years*, Cato Institute, page 10.

*See also other Government categories.*

#### Government — a Waste of Money

941. We don't think government wastes money; we think government *is* a waste of money.

Charles Murray  
*Reason*, October 1993, page 41.

*See also other Government categories.*

## Government — Do People Want the Programs?

942. Liberal pundits will tell you that the problem is that the public wants the goodies that government supposedly provides but is too stingy to pay for them. If only, liberals say, we could get those greedy, stingy people to provide us with more taxes, we could solve all these problems. They may be partly right, but only partly.

For example, that explanation cannot be the reason we have agricultural subsidies. Do the people of this country really want to pay farmers to grow goods and throw them away or give them away at low prices abroad? To say that the public wants the goodies that government supplies may be true for Medicare and Medicaid but surely not for agricultural subsidies or restrictions on the import of Japanese cars, restrictions that raised by perhaps \$2,000 or so the cost of a car to a member of the public and, incidentally, did not prevent the decline of the U.S. auto industry. It is not true for sugar import quotas. If you could have a public vote on whether consumers want to pay twice the world price for sugar, do you think that there would be an overwhelming vote saying yes?

On the contrary, when people have the opportunity to vote on those issues, they overwhelmingly vote the other way. The public at large thinks that government is too big. People know they are not getting their money's worth for the taxes they pay. In California, where I live and where propositions can be put on the ballot so that you can have direct democracy, the people voted for Proposition 13, which started the tax revolt. Later, they voted for what was called the Gann Limit on total government spending. Californians voted in 1991 to limit the terms of state legislators and, in 1992, the terms of members of Congress. Connecticut has a graduated income tax today not because the people voted for it but because [Lowell] Weicker is governor. Repeated ballot measures designed to increase graduation of the state income tax had earlier been defeated.

Milton Friedman  
*Why Government Is The Problem*, page 10.

*See also other Government categories.*

## Government — Legislating Good Things

943. We have got to break with the corrupting idea that we can legislate prosperity, legislate equality, legislate opportunity. All of these good things came in the past from free Americans freely working out their destiny.

Robert Taft  
Quoted by William Murchison, *Human Events*, Oct 10, 1992.

*See also other Government categories.*

## Government — Desired Functions Neglected

944. Something is amiss when a government that does not adequately deliver the mail delivers condoms to children. That is, government often is incompetent at basics and offensive regarding matters that are none of its business.

George Will  
Syndicated column, November 16, 1994.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government — What It Is Doing to You

945. Ask not what you can do for your country; ask what your government is doing to you.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, August 7, 1990.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government, Breakdown of

946. . . . At the end of the Modern Age the size of the state increases along with the decrease of its authority, because of the decreasing respect and efficiency of its powers.

Chilton Williamson, Jr.  
*Chronicles*, May 1993, page 35.

947. To an extent that many people have not yet grasped, our system has gone off the rails at every level, from the top of the Civil Service right down to the most petty official. Having lost touch with the real world, it is fast becoming little more than a gigantic protection racket, oiled by deception and self-deception, whose main purpose is simply to serve the interests of the officials themselves.

Christopher Booker, speaking of England  
Quoted by Wm. F. Buckley, Jr.  
*National Review*, March 7, 1994, page 78.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government, Distrust of

948. Distrust of government can be taken to paranoid extremes. But trust in government is truly crazy. Your own government is your natural enemy. That is why the framers built all the safeguards we have torn down.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, August 10, 1995  
Reprinted in *Sobran's*, September 1995.

949. Some people say that the people are alienated from their government. It's the government that is alienated. It is making war on the people.

Joseph Sobran, in conversation with Harry Browne

950. The man who does not hold suspicion towards and contempt of the government he lives under is invariably a fool or a peasant.

James Versluys  
“In Defense of Gore Vidal”  
*The Texas Mercury*, September 2, 2001.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government, Opposition to

951. It is very American behavior to question what our leaders tell us — especially when their so-called solutions would cost us trillions of dollars and dramatically increase the power of government.

Bill Winter, Libertarian Party Communications Director  
Press release, December 11, 1997.

952. Not a day goes by when I don’t see some commentator, left or right, bemoan the dramatic decline in the public’s confidence in the system of government that has waged war on economic and social liberty for much of this century.

They say we are losing our civic culture, when we are only regaining our private lives. They say we are losing our patriotism, when we are only recalling our love of liberty. They say we are losing hope in our nation’s future, when we are only recapturing our hope in freedom’s future. They say we are losing our faith in politics, when we are only restoring our faith in our families, our neighborhoods, our companies, ourselves, and our Creator.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
Speech at the Ludwig von Mises Institute  
June 5, 1998

953. I urge you to see through to the real agenda of the people who would restore a ‘30s-style loyalty in the central state. What they want is not just our allegiance, but our property and businesses to control, our children to indoctrinate, our culture to distort, our towns and cities to break down, and our futures to steal — for their own benefit.

To them we must say: No, you may not have our first loyalties. Our first loyalties are to things we love. And no, Mr. Clinton, despite your injunctions, we do not love the government.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
Speech at the Ludwig von Mises Institute  
June 5, 1998



*See also other Government categories.*

### Government, People Willing to Defraud

954. There is no kind of dishonesty into which otherwise good people more easily and frequently fall than that of defrauding the government.

Benjamin Franklin  
Quoted by Stu Sanders.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Government, Reinventing

955. Clinton is promising, once again, to “reinvent government.” But what he doesn’t understand is that the people don’t want government *reinvented*; they want it *reduced*. They don’t want bureaucracy *modernized*; they want it *minimized*.

Theodore J. Forstmann  
*Cato Policy Report*, March/April 1995, page 11.

*See also other Government categories.*

### Greed

956. What kind of a society isn’t structured on greed? The problem of social organization is how to set up an arrangement under which greed will do the least harm.

Milton Friedman  
*The Macmillan Book of Business and Economic Quotations*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

### Green Party, The

957. The Greens live in a world of pessimistic self-delusion and seek to foist their delusions on everyone else. They don’t trust people to make their own decisions. They don’t trust the economy to grow by virtue of investment and hard work. Their goal is control. Control over everyone’s life. To achieve that, they must convince people to return to a time in history when famine and disease ruled the earth, but history is about progress, about hope for a better tomorrow, about the quest for individual freedom.

Alan Caruba  
“Earth Day: Global Brainwashing”  
*Warning Signs*, April 21, 2000, Vol. 2, No. 16  
<http://www.anxietycenter.com/warning.htm>

## Growth

958. There are no such things as limits to growth, because there are no limits on the human capacity for intelligence, imagination and wonder.
- Ronald Reagan  
Address to the University of South Carolina, Columbia, September  
20, 1983
- Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

## Gulf War

. See *Iraq War*.

## Gun Control

959. Even in the wildest mining towns of the Old West, however, the murder rate was less than in contemporary Washington, D.C., with its strict gun-control laws. Robbery and other crimes were vastly less common in the Old West than in contemporary America. Rape was virtually unheard of and women walked freely through Dodge City and such towns, even at night, without fear of abusive language, let alone physical assault. Historically, an armed population was not seen as a threat to peace and order in America but quite the reverse.

The point is brought out through contrasts with other countries, where civilian gun ownership has been largely suppressed. Kopel argues, with much persuasiveness, that tight governmental control on gun ownership in other countries has reflected the hierarchical, statist character of these societies, even as the prevalence of guns in America reflects its own individualistic and egalitarian culture.

Jeremy A. Rabkin, reviewing David B. Kopel's *The Samurai, The Mountie and The Cowboy: Should America Adopt The Gun Controls of Other Democracies?*  
*The American Spectator*, August 1993, page 67.

960. All government power is ultimately gun power and serves the interests of those who despise or do not comprehend the principles of liberty. The gun in the hands of law-abiding citizens serves to hold in check arrogant and aggressive government. Guns in the hands of the bureaucrats do the opposite. The founders of this country fully understood this fact.

Ron Paul, Congressman (R — Texas)  
Speech in the House of Representatives  
September 17, 1997.

961. Far from “getting rid” of guns, anti-gun laws merely divide society into two strata, with a yawning gulf between them: an upper class of the armed elite, employed by the government, who *can* defend themselves, and a much larger lower class, composed of all the rest of us, who *cannot* defend ourselves — at least not legally.

Patrick L. Lilly  
“Contradictions and Conundrums in Gun Prohibition”  
*The Libertarian Enterprise*, July 15, 1999.

962. No matter how “bad” you may think guns are (and no matter why), they have already been invented, and the genie simply cannot be put back in the bottle. The question is not whether there will be guns or not. It is only whether *everyone* (or, at least everyone who wants to) will have them, or only *some* people will have them. Those who back anti-gun laws implicitly sign on to the principle of only some people having them. That means that they implicitly sign on to the principle of most people — which strangely enough, often includes those people themselves — being left completely at the mercy of the elite they create.

Patrick L. Lilly  
“Contradictions and Conundrums in Gun Prohibition”  
*The Libertarian Enterprise*, July 15, 1999.

963. The Swiss attitude towards firearms is reflected in two common sayings: “if weapons are a token of power, then in a democracy they belong in the hands of the people,” and “if the government cannot trust the people, the people cannot trust the government.”

Clark Stooksbury, reviewing David B. Kopel’s book *The Samurai, the Mountie, and the Cowboy: Should America Adopt the Gun Controls of Other Democracies?*  
*Liberty*, January 1994, page 67.

964. Guns don’t kill people. Postal workers kill people.

Damon (screen name Stingrayzr on America Online).

965. Criminals by definition don’t obey laws. Murderers, robbers, and rapists will not be deterred by some new law restricting their already nonexistent right to acquire and use firearms. Elected officials know that. While not always wise, elected officials are rarely stupid. So when they propose restrictions on the ownership of firearms, they are aiming those restrictions not at criminals but at the general public. And that tells us something which is very important for us to know about those officials.

It tells us that the people the public officials and gun control advocates fear are not criminals but us honest folks. It tells us that these people who claim to represent us in fact don’t trust us.

Charley Reese, syndicated column, July 3, 1995.

966. In the course of their crimes, [Eric] Harris and [Dylan] Klebold [the Littleton, Colorado, student killers] broke more than a dozen gun laws already on the books. There were, nonetheless, calls for still more gun control, as though there were some magic number of regulations that would suddenly make a potential schoolhouse killer junk his plans.

Jesse Walker  
“Empty Lessons”  
*Reason*, July 1999.

967. The politicians always say that they are only after the criminals, not hunters and not people who only desire self-protection. But by definition, criminals aren't interested in regulations. Legal restrictions on gun sales only make it more difficult for people who scrupulously keep the law to defend themselves against those who do not.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“The Clinton Gun Boom”  
*WorldNetDaily*, June 14, 1999.

968. Where are the gun control advocates when it comes to preventing politicians from the unrestrained use of violence and weapons of mass destruction? They avert their eyes, because what they want is not a disarmed America, but an America in which only criminals in the public sector own guns. In short, the attempt to strip regular Americans from owning guns is a totalitarian agenda unaffected by any amount of facts and data that contradict their claims.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“The Clinton Gun Boom”  
*WorldNetDaily*, June 14, 1999.

969. The danger to a free society is not the guns owned by the citizens but an unconstrained government, especially one that is better armed than the public. An armed society is a self-governing society, just as a disarmed people are vulnerable to arbitrary power of every kind.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“The Clinton Gun Boom”  
*WorldNetDaily*, June 14, 1999.

970. How many times have we heard that thanks to the Brady law thousands of felons were thwarted in their attempts to acquire guns? Nothing of the kind has occurred. If a lawbreaker can't get a gun at the local sporting-goods shop, he'll go into the black market or break into someone's home to get one. He hasn't been thwarted, merely inconvenienced. That doesn't stop the intellectual primitives who run the government and anti-gun organizations from claiming that they are doing something about violent crime.

Sheldon Richman  
“Politics by Incantation”  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, June 29, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation

971. It hasn't yet dawned on the gun controllers that people who would get guns to break laws would break laws to get guns. Gun locks, background checks, and higher age limits will probably not stop a single crime from being committed. But they may well *keep* someone from stopping a crime.

Sheldon Richman  
"Politics by Incantation"  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, June 29, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation

972. America may be obsessed with guns, but much of what passes as fact simply isn't true. The news media focus on tragic outcomes, while ignoring tragic events that were avoided. Rarely do we hear about the more than two million times each year that people use guns defensively — including cases in which public shootings are stopped before they happen. Dramatic stories of mothers using guns to prevent their children from being kidnapped by car-jackers seldom even make the local news.

John R. Lott, Jr.  
*The Wall Street Journal*, November 11, 1998.

973. We must not lose sight of the ultimate question: Does allowing citizens to own guns on net save lives? The evidence strongly indicates that it does.

John R. Lott, Jr.  
*The Wall Street Journal*, November 11, 1998.

974. It would not take pistols out of the hands of rogues and fools; it would simply take them out of the hands of honest men.

H.L. Mencken  
*The Baltimore Evening Sun*, 1925  
Quoted by Charley Reese  
"Same stuff, different time"  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, July 11, 1999.

975. After a shooting spree, they always want to take the guns away from the people who *didn't* do it. I sure as hell wouldn't want to live in a society where the only people allowed guns are the police and the military.

William Burroughs (b. 1914), U.S. author.  
"The War Universe," taped conversation  
(published in *Grand Street*, no. 37; reproduced in *Painting and Guns*, 1992, in a slightly different form).

976. Together with my colleague William Landes, I have studied multiple-victim public shootings in the U.S. from 1977 to 1995. These were incidents in which at least two people were killed or injured in a public place; to focus on the type of shooting seen in Arkansas we excluded shootings that were the byproduct of another crime, such as robbery. The U.S. averaged 21 such shootings per year, with an average of 1.8 people killed and 2.7 wounded in each one. . . .

The effect of “shall-issue” concealed handgun laws — which give adults the right to carry concealed handguns if they do not have a criminal record or a history of significant mental illness — has been dramatic. Thirty-one states now have such laws. When states passed them during the 19 years we studied, the number of multiple-victim public shootings declined by 84%. Deaths from these shootings plummeted on average by 90%, injuries by 82%. Higher arrest rates and increased use of the death penalty slightly reduced the incidence of these events, but the effects were never statistically significant.

John R. Lott, Jr.  
“The Real Lesson of the School Shootings”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 27, 1998.

977. Regarding proposals to mandate child-proof locks on all guns: What is the trade-off? If innocent bystanders are in a restaurant when a nut comes in to perform a multiple shooting, won't a gun lock make it more difficult for these bystanders to defend themselves and, incidentally, everyone else in the restaurant? A woman who is on the verge of being raped will see no benefit to having a gun lock. Nor will anyone else who needs to respond quickly in order to preserve his life, which is the purpose of having a gun in the first place.

Dwayne of Albany, New York  
Caller to Harry Browne's radio show, May 30, 1999.

978. Kosovo is a perfect example of why Clinton's and Congress' dream for America is a living nightmare. In Kosovo, only the police and the Army had “legal” guns. When armed thugs told Kosovar Albanians that they had only ten minutes to leave their homes, the residents were powerless to resist. If the Albanians of Kosovo had our Second Amendment right to bear arms, they would have done something other than run when confronted with armed intruders. If the Albanians of Kosovo had exercised their right-to-carry, most of them would still be living in their homes.

John N. Doggett  
“The war is over”  
*WorldNetDaily*, May 21, 1999.

979. The shocking killings of school children in Littleton, Colorado, has once more illustrated Hegel's view that tragedy is often followed by farce. Immediately after the shootings, loudmouth talk show hosts and demagogic politicians have leaped front and center, proclaiming a need for more gun control.

Where do the gun controllers think the 200 million guns in this country are going to go if they pass more gun control laws? Will these vast numbers of firearms simply vanish into thin air somehow? Will criminals line up at police stations to turn in the tools of their trade?

Or does it matter what will actually happen? Is it enough for the gun controllers that they will have “made a statement” and taken a stand on the side of the angels — regardless of what the consequences might be?

The most likely consequence of stronger gun control laws is the same as the consequences of international disarmament agreements in the 1920s and 1930s: Those who are no threat to anybody will be disarmed, shifting the balance of power in favor of those who remain armed and dangerous. It took a Second World War for us to learn that lesson internationally, but we have yet to learn it domestically — or even to consider it as a possibility.

Thomas Sowell  
“Tragedy and Farce”  
*Jewish World Review*, April 28, 1999

980. When an airplane crashes, costing hundreds of lives, does anyone suggest banning planes? When thousands die in automobile accidents, does anyone suggest banning cars? But let a fraction as many people die from guns and shrill cries for banning guns ring out across the land.

Thomas Sowell  
“Tragedy and Farce”  
*Jewish World Review*, April 28, 1999

971. Typical of the demagoguery on this issue is the phrase “assault weapons” — a term that nobody has been able to define legally with any precision. Instead, ugly-looking weapons have been banned by name, while equally deadly weapons that don’t look so bad are still sold.

All weapons are for assault. That is what makes them weapons, whether they are guns, bows and arrows or boomerangs. Because they are capable of assault, they are also capable of deterring assault, usually just by being pointed at a potential assailant. They are a lot better for protection than phoning 911 and waiting for the police to arrive after the crime has been committed and the criminal is long gone.

Thomas Sowell  
“Tragedy and Farce”  
*Jewish World Review*, April 28, 1999

972. Do you know that out of all the privately owned handguns in this country, out of all of them (and I run these figures every single year), in 1997, 99.9998% were not used in any sort of a crime or an assault on an innocent victim?

Neal Boortz  
Speech, Libertarian Party convention, July 3, 1998

973. Unfortunately, much of the public policy debate is driven by lopsided coverage of gun use. Tragic events like those in Arkansas receive massive news coverage, as they should, but discussions of the 2.5 million times each year that people use guns defensively — including cases in which public shootings are stopped before they happen — are ignored. Dramatic stories of mothers who prevented their children from being kidnapped by carjackers seldom even make the local news.

John R. Lott, Jr.  
“The Real Lesson of the School Shootings”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 27, 1998.

974. Consider: If the 1st Amendment were “interpreted” like the 2nd is, we would have entire cities and counties in this country where it was illegal to speak or sell newspapers. In other areas we could speak or buy the latest *Sports Illustrated*, but only after a mandatory-15 day “cooling off period.” In all areas of the country, every newspaper, magazine, and book publisher and retailer would be required to obtain a federal license, insure that their proposed articles and features conform to pre-imposed federal limits, and face federal prison sentencing if they failed to maintain a record of the names addresses, and forms of identification presented for every customer to whom they sold a paper, book, or magazine. Compare the way the government treats the 2nd Amendment to the way the 1st is treated, and I think the hypocrisy becomes obvious.

B.K. Shotton III  
America Online Libertarian Forum  
May 10, 1999.

975. Laws that forbid the carrying of arms disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.

Thomas Jefferson, 1764  
Quoted by David  
(screen name ProLiberty on AOL), Jan 13, 1995.

976. You may not need an assault weapon or a silencer. But neither do you “need” television, fatty foods, music, tobacco products, fresh lobster flown in from the coast to posh inland seafood eateries, any variation in the cut or color of clothing, the ability to speak out against government activities we disagree with, and so on. We can all survive physically without these things. The question isn’t one of “need,” but rather do we have the personal liberty to make these decisions for ourselves. We should be prosecuted for what we do, not for what we own.

B.K.S. on America Online (embellished by Harry Browne).



977. Proponents of the Brady Bill claim that criminal background checks kept guns out of the hands of 100,000 felons. But according to the U.S. Department of Justice, only seven people who failed the background check were brought to trial — and only three served time in prison. That means either that the Brady Bill put 99,997 felons back out on the streets to terrorize innocent Americans, or that many of these 100,000 people were actually law-abiding citizens erroneously identified as felons.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, 1996.

978. Since passage of Florida's law allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons, more than 258,000 people have received permits. FBI reports show that the murder rate in Florida has fallen 22%, while the national rate has risen 14% in the same period, he noted.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, 1996.

979. In 1991 Bonnie Elmasri of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, tried to buy a handgun to protect herself from an abusive husband, but she was told that local officials had imposed a 48-hour waiting period. The next day, she and her two sons were killed by her husband.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, 1996.

980. Freedom persists only so long as the government fears the people.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1993 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

981. Yesterday morning (April 21, 1999, as I write this) an 11 year old boy had called in to a morning radio show. He explained that he knew exactly who to go to at his school if he wanted drugs. According to the Office for National Drug Control Policy (<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/budget-1.html>), we are spending \$17.1 billion for fiscal year 1999 on the drug war. We, the people, are spending \$17.1 billion a year to make it easier for 11-year-olds to score drugs.

The hosts then asked the boy if it was that easy for him to get a gun at school. He said that he probably knew who he could go to at his school to get a gun if he wanted one.

So, will someone please tell me, when prohibition is supposed to start making it *harder* for kids to get drugs and guns at school?

archer7@mindspring.com  
Letter to *The Libertarian Enterprise* #45, May 1, 1999.

982. The adult criminals who shot up the school violated numerous state and federal laws against illegal short barreled shotgun manufacturing, bomb-making, and committing murder and mayhem on a school property. They were responsible for their actions, not the individual firearm(s). They committed suicide to avoid the responsibility for their actions. In no way can any force short of a police state deter a determined suicide squad from such actions. Some in the U.S. wish for such a “village.” I do not.

Donald B Beeler  
Referring to the Littleton, Colorado, school massacre  
Letter to *The Libertarian Enterprise* #45, May 1, 1999.

983. The Columbine murderers violated at least 17 state and federal weapons control laws, and none of the proposals for trigger locks, waiting periods or gun show restrictions would have stopped Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold from obtaining either their guns or bomb-making materials.

John R. Lott, Jr.  
“Clinton Shoots From Hip With Loaded Claims”  
*The Los Angeles Times*, March 19, 2000.

984. A tool increases the amount of force an individual can deliver. An automobile jack is a tool. A jack lets one person lift an entire car. A firearm is a tool. A firearm allows a weaker individual to defend against groups of stronger assailants.

In many cases simply displaying the firearm is enough to end a criminal’s attack. Although the gun has been “used,” no shots are fired. There are no multi-victim massacres. No innocent children shot. No new orphans or blood and bodies. Instead a woman thwarts a rapist or a man prevents a massacre by possessing a firearm.

Ever hear about these cases? Of course not. These stories are not titillating enough to make the evening news. And there is no way the media will report honestly on the 2.5 million annual defensive uses of firearms by law-abiding citizens.

Anonymous  
<http://dencity.com/iamunarmed/Mas3pg3.htm>

985. Mothers mad at murder might do well to study the success of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). MADD has been effective because the organization went after the people doing harm not the instruments of their destruction.

MADD didn't demand more alcohol controls, nor did it seek to get rid of cars, which, incidentally, kill far more children each year than guns do. (In 1998, 2,600 children ages 1-14 died in car accidents, while 110 died from gun accidents.) MADD went after the root of the problem — the drunken driver.

Kathleen Parker  
“Gun control? Million Mom March is off on the wrong foot”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, May 14, 2000.

986. When I was 14-years-old, I used to walk down the street with a rifle over my shoulder, on my way to go hunting. Kids used to take guns to school with them, on the bus. The same in New York City — the city schools had gun clubs, too. Nobody thought anything of it. There weren't any accidents that I ever heard of — everybody knew how to handle their guns. Have people changed so much, that they can't be trusted with the rights they had 40 years ago? I don't believe it.

Anonymous

Quoted by John Derbyshire

“Aux Armes Citoyens!: You'd be surprised who you'll meet at a gun rally”

National Review Online, September 26, 2000.

987. What the Democrats want is obvious: more laws, because somehow 20,001 will be more effective than the 20,000 that the country already has. The Republicans keep harping on enforcement of those existing laws, but in reality, those laws do more to keep citizens of good intent from being able to protect themselves than they keep criminals from getting guns.

J.R. Labbe

“Libertarians Are Starting to Look Good”

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, September 27, 2000.

988. When gun control laws are passed, it is law-abiding citizens, not would-be criminals, who obey them. Unfortunately, the police cannot be everywhere, so these laws risk creating situations in which the good guys cannot defend themselves from the bad ones.

John R. Lott, Jr.

“What we can do after Wakefield”

*The Boston Globe*, December 28, 2000, page A15.

989. After a shooting spree, they always want to take the guns away from the people who didn't do it.

William Burroughs, 1992

Quoted by Alan Korwin

<http://www.gunlaws.com>

990. In Britain, a man's home may be his castle where the king of England cannot enter without a warrant, but robbers and rapists enter at will. It is easier and less risky for a criminal to have his way with a victim in the privacy of the victim's home than in public. Gun control has made home invasion safe for criminals.

Paul Craig Roberts

“Unarmed and unsafe”

Syndicated column, February 28, 2001.

991. As the 20th century came to a close, Canadian Justice Minister Allan Rock fended off criticisms of a gun-registration bill his government was pushing by giving assurances that “there is no reason to confiscate legally owned firearms.”

Within 10 months of the minister’s assurances, 553,000 legally registered handguns were confiscated. Now, rifles and shotguns must be licensed and registered. Having learned that the only purpose of registration is to tell the government where the guns are, compliance has collapsed. Large numbers of law-abiding Canadians prefer to risk five years in prison than to register their guns.

Paul Craig Roberts  
“Unarmed and unsafe”  
Syndicated column, February 28, 2001.

992. Gun registration databases cannot prevent crimes or aid in their solving, because criminals do not register their guns.

Paul Craig Roberts  
“Unarmed and unsafe”  
Syndicated column, February 28, 2001.

993. Why is it we have guns in our banks protecting our money, but not in our schools protecting our children? Is our money worth more than our children? What message does this send to our children?

E.M.  
“Guns and butter, no kids”  
Letter to the Editor  
WorldNetDaily, March 12, 2001.

994. I wondered why all of the school shootings in the news the past few years seemed to be in schools located in the “better neighborhoods”. I never heard of any shootings in inner city schools — supposed hotbeds of mayhem and violence. Then I realized that the reason is exactly what the defenders of the Second Amendment claim.

Criminals avoid targets that may fight back. If some potential shooter in an inner city school pulled a gun and threatened to shoot anyone, how many guns would be drawn by members of rival groups to prevent the shooting? The original shooter would not do such a thing because he or she would only expect their own death before any “statement” could be made.

An armed society is a safe society.

Peter Arroyo  
*The Libertarian Enterprise*, March 26, 2001.

995. Next time some socialist complains that “only America allows people to own guns”, tell him that’s because only America has a Bill of Rights to keep us from being slaves. The Bill of Rights is what makes America different from other countries, it’s the one thing that keeps America from becoming the world’s largest banana republic.

L. Neil Smith and Aaron Zelman  
“A Blueprint for Ending Gun Control”  
Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, Inc.  
August 15, 2001.

996. The U.S. victim survey rate for *robbery* was nearly double England’s in 1981, but in 1995 the English robbery survey rate was 1.4 times America’s. The English victim survey rate for *assault* was slightly higher than America’s in 1981, but in 1995 the English assault survey rate was more than double America’s. The U.S. victim survey rate for *burglary* was more than double England’s in 1981, but in 1995 the English burglary survey rate was nearly double America’s. The English victim survey rate for *motor vehicle theft* was 1.5 times America’s in 1981, but in 1995 the English survey rate for vehicle theft was more than double America’s.

“Crime and Justice in the United States and in England and Wales,  
1981-96 ”

Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice  
[England outlawed all private ownership of guns in the 1990s.]

997. In the Second Amendment, we said the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. In our day, if private citizens hadn’t owned guns there would have been no Lexington and Concord.

Why would we bother guaranteeing a collective right to arm state militias? The rights enumerated in the first 10 amendments are restraints on government, not grants of power to it.

Don Feder  
“A Letter from the Founding Fathers”  
Syndicated column, July 4, 2001.

998. Suppose you or your family are being stalked by a criminal who intends on harming you. Would you feel safer putting a sign in front of your home saying “This Home is a Gun-Free Zone”?

It is pretty obvious why we don’t put these signs up. As with many other gun laws, law-abiding citizens, not would-be criminals, would obey the sign. Instead of creating a safe zone for victims, it leaves victims defenseless and creates a safe zone for those intent on causing harm.

John R. Lott, Jr.  
“There Are No Gun-Free, Safe Zones”  
LewRockwell.com, June 10, 2003.

## PART III

### Hatred

999. It sometimes happens that men who preach most vehemently about evil and the punishment of evil, so that they seem to have practically nothing else on their minds except sin, are really unconscious haters of other men. They think the world does not appreciate them, and this is their way of getting even.

Thomas Merton (1915 — 68), Roman Catholic monk  
*Seeds of Contemplation*  
Quoted by Joseph H. Saylor, letter to editor  
*The American Spectator*, April 1997, page 84.

### Health Care

1000. If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free.

P.J. O'Rourke, Speech to the Cato Institute, 1993  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1001. I don't get it. Why do they have to screw around with health care for middle-class people? Why not just assure health coverage for the poor or those unable to get health coverage at their jobs, and then leave everyone else alone? Why do they have to get me to join a Bolshevik experiment where my doctor — if I can still see him — is going to be watched and harassed by a "gatekeeper"? If my insurer and I can pay for it, why torture us by making us peons of a bureaucrat in a gray building? Let's face it: this is raw dictatorship, slipping under the tent by controlling us through the most vulnerable, scary part of our lives: our health and that of our families.

Benjamin Stein  
*The American Spectator*, December 1993, page 68.

1002. Much corruption comes from the ignorant and greedy hope that the government's guarantees of security mean we will get more than we have paid for. Wrong. Among the most blatantly false guarantees is President Clinton's claim that government-organized medical benefits "can never be taken away." Of course they can! Throughout Europe, the government has long since taken "free" medical care away through ever-rising taxes, ever-rising user charges, and ever-lengthening waiting lines. In Canada you stand a greater chance of dying while waiting for a heart operation than you do of dying on the operating table. We should have learned our lesson from Social Security. The government now takes 15% of our income throughout our working lives in exchange for a promise that our benefits will "never be taken away." Then it spends the money. At retirement it gives us chicken feed, and then taxes *that*. How much will we have to pay to learn that government cannot create wealth, and that its attempts to guarantee benefits impoverish everyone?

Malcolm Wallop  
*National Review*, February 7, 1994, page 38.

1003. In a world of scarce resources, for example, there can be no such thing as “universal access” to any and all medical care; some people and some services must be competed out under any system.

Benjamin Zycher  
*Reason*, February 1993, page 17.

1004. The argument that we are the only major industrial nation without government health insurance is another incredibly superficial argument on an issue that is literally a matter of life and death. We are also the only major industrial nation with a privately owned telephone system — and it is the best phone system in the world.

Thomas Sowell, syndicated column  
March 17, 1993.

1005. We are present at the birth of a great new popular myth. However big a disaster socialized medicine proves to be, history will credit Bill Clinton only with the “vision,” not the results. Those will be blamed on incompetent or venal administrators, congressional penny-pinching, unanticipated technological costs, overwhelming (and unreasonable) public demand, and similar acts of God. Within a relatively few years, voters will begin arriving on the scene who have no personal recollection of what medicine in America used to be like, and of what, accordingly, has been thrown away.

William A. Rusher  
*Human Events*, October 23, 1993, page 12.

1006. . . . both [Rep. Charlie] Norwood [(R., Ga.)] and [Rep. Richard] Armey [(R., Tx.)] make the same error: they think that the dominance of HMOs [health maintenance organizations] results from market forces. One would regulate those forces; the other defends the HMOs. They should instead unite to change the tax bias that makes other forms of medical provision so difficult to sustain.

*National Review* editorial, February 23, 1998; page 13..

1007. We all agree that something must be done about health care, because that is the only acceptable preface to any conversation on the subject. I have heard people in restaurants say, “I agree that something has to be done about health care, but I think I will have the salmon.”

James Lileks, columnist for Newhouse News Service  
*San Francisco Examiner*, July 13, 1994, page A-17.

1008. The need for free drugs is not an excuse for a government program any more than the need for sex is an excuse for rape.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“The Principle of Need”  
WorldNetDaily, March 1, 2001.

1009. If socialism does not deliver the goods like bread and automobiles in large numbers and in high quality, why does anyone believe that the practice of medicine is an exception?

William L. Anderson  
“Health Care in Prison”  
LewRockwell.com, March 4, 2004.

### Heresy

1010. We all know that Socialist sects hate each other more than the enemy, or attack each other as if they do; we all know that the more extreme the dogma, the more extreme the attack. Just as Christians spent centuries killing each other for the correct interpretation of a word, a phrase, a sentence from the Bible, so now Socialist sects revile each other, judge each other. Nosing out and extirpating heresy is the first concern.

Doris Lessing  
*Prisons We Choose To Live Inside*  
Quoted by Michael Cloud, email message, April 3, 1998.

### Heroism

1011. I took no bullets in defense of our country. I fought no wars. I have no Omaha Beaches. I shed no blood. I lost no limbs in defense of this great country or our liberties. The least I could do is to accept calumny and libelous insults without complaint.

Clarence Thomas, Supreme Court Justice  
Speech at the Goldwater Institute, November 19, 1999.

### History

1012. The best use of history is as an inoculation against radical expectations, and hence against embittering disappointments.

George Will  
*The Pursuit of Happiness and Other Sobering Thoughts*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1013. Like traumatized people, we have been cut off from the knowledge our past. Like traumatized people, we need to understand the past in order to reclaim the present and the future.



Judith Lewis Herman  
*Trauma and Recovery*  
Quoted by Gar Alperovitz  
*The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb.*

### Homeless, The

1014. That millions of ordinary people — “just like you and me” — are without homes and sleeping on our streets is pure myth, a lie propagated by special interest groups pursuing their own agenda. There are far fewer homeless than advocates claim, and the medical and psychological problems of many of the homeless are far more severe than commonly admitted.

Theodore Pappas  
*Chronicles*, May 1992, page 4.

### Homestead Act, the

1015. Of course, the public lands should have gotten into private hands for settlement and development. But that is not what the Homestead Act was really about. In fact, less than 20% of the lands given away went to *bona fide* settlers, and many of them were foreigners lured here for that purpose. The rest went to railroad and mining corporations amidst vast corruption and at the expense of the taxpayer. Here we have the origins of the widespread American folk prejudice against business corporations, of which demagogues have made such good use.

Clyde Wilson  
“War, Reconstruction, and the End of the Old Republic”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 162.

### Homosexuality

1016. The gay activists of yesteryear demanded that government get out of the bedroom. Today a new generation of gay leaders is inviting government back in.

Justin Raimondo  
“Gay Victimology and the Liberal *Kulturkampf*”  
AntiState.com, 2001.

1017. How in the world did we become a country in which gays’ getting married is considered an abomination, but torture is O.K.?

Bob Herbert  
“Torture, American Style”  
*New York Times*, February 11, 2005.

### Hoover, Herbert

1018. We didn't admit it at the time, but practically the whole New Deal was extrapolated from programs that Hoover had started.

Rexford Tugwell, one Roosevelt's "brain trust," 1974  
Quoted by Morgan Reynolds  
"Economics and Propaganda"  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, November 13, 2003.

1019. Bravely [Hoover] used every modern economic "tool," every device of progressive and "enlightened" economics, every facet of government planning, to combat the depression. For the first time, *laissez-faire* was boldly thrown overboard and every governmental weapon thrown into the breach.

Murray Rothbard  
*America's Great Depression*  
Quoted by Morgan Reynolds  
"Economics and Propaganda"  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, November 13, 2003.

### Human Beings as Political Guinea Pigs

1020. The human being must not be involuntarily subjected to experiments decreed by politicians or even by a democratic majority.

John Chamberlain, *The Turnabout Years*.  
Quoted in *Human Events*, Feb 15, 1992, p. 11.

### Human Rights

1021. The U.S. [keeps] dictatorial regimes in power across the Mideast, while championing human and political rights in economically unimportant places like Burma and Haiti.

Eric Margolis  
"Reaping the Terrorist Whirlwind"  
*The Toronto Sun*, August 30, 1998

1022. The coverage of Iraq has been supine and pathetic in the American press and television. Basically, Americans are not being told the realities of the situation. For example, we're told constantly by George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld that this [potential war] is partly about human rights. "Saddam has used gas against his own people. He's used gas against the Iranians. There are human rights abuses. There are torture chambers . . ."

It's all true, but it was just as bad in 1983. Saddam started using gas against the Iranian army in 1983. When he was doing that, President Reagan decided to reopen the American Embassy in Baghdad. And the man he sent to reopen the American Embassy was Donald Rumsfeld. So Donald Rumsfeld was shaking hands with Saddam when Saddam was using gas, but now expresses his horror that Saddam is using gas. So why did he shake hands with him? Why did he reopen the American Embassy?

So what the question is, what is all this nonsense about human rights? We didn't care about it then. Suddenly we're supposed to care about it now as an excuse to go to war.

Robert Fisk  
"Fisk Criticizes U.S. Media in Interview"  
*The Stanford Daily*, December 4, 2002.

### Humanitarians

1023. He believed in mankind but distrusted all men.

David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister  
Speaking of Woodrow Wilson  
*Peace Conference*, volume I, page 149  
Cited in *The Illusion of Victory* by Thomas Fleming, page 363.

### Idealists

1024. An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956), U.S. journalist.  
*A Book of Burlesques*, "Sententiae" (1920).

### Identity Card

1025. A national identity card would not only permit even greater government snooping into people's private lives, the information gathered would almost inevitably lead to more laws forcing more people to do more things the way the politicians want them done. It is a down payment on totalitarianism.

Thomas Sowell  
Quoted by William F. Buckley, Jr.  
Syndicated column, July 25, 1995.

### Ideology

1026. Ideology [is] a set of beliefs, infused with passion, [that] seeks to transform the whole of a way of life.

Daniel Bell, *End of Ideology*  
Quoted by James Nuechterlein (no indication of journal, etc.).

## Immigration

1027. President Clinton proposed to restore the availability of food stamps to legally resident aliens — a benefit cut by the 1996 welfare bill. . . . President Clinton seems to desire the worst of all possible worlds: open borders, with an open bar.

*National Review* editorial, February 23, 1998; page 14

1028. The danger that “a poorer class” might come from Asia or Africa or Southern and Eastern Europe and contaminate our society undoubtedly seems real to any person who thinks of himself as a member of a superior class or race. Such a person, like any good disciple of Marx, is assuming the existence of classes and is convinced that he is qualified to judge others and to sort them into these classes.

Oscar W. Cooley & Paul Poirot  
*The Freedom to Move*  
(Foundation for Economic Education, 1951), page 16.  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 234.

1029. Without a welfare state, immigration attracts exactly the kind of people who should be called Americans.

Charles Murray  
CompuServe Libertarian Forum chat session  
February 11, 1997

1030. Pat Buchanan wants to build a wall along the Mexican border, to keep immigrants out of the U.S. We want to build one around Washington, D.C., to keep the Feds out of America.

Michael Cloud

1031. In 1914 Europe was a single civilized community. . . . A man could travel across the length and breadth of the Continent without a passport until he reached. . . . Russia and the Ottoman empire. He could settle in a foreign country for work or leisure without legal formalities. . . . Every currency was as good as gold.

A.J.P. Taylor  
Quoted by Joseph R. Stromberg  
“The Meaningless Catastrophe of 1914-18”  
Mises Institute website, [www.Mises.org](http://www.Mises.org)  
May 19, 1999  
Reprinted from *The Rothbard-Rockwell Report*.

1032. The bosom of America is open to receive not only the opulent and respectable stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions.

George Washington, 1783

1033. Like almost every middle-class homeowner in Southern California I have “employed” illegal aliens from time to time. In almost every town, large and small, in this area there is a place where people recently arrived from Mexico hang out early in the morning, looking for work. If you have let your yardwork languish for a while, or need to get a handle on the weeds (as many will again this Spring after the rains) or want to get the house painted, it’s usually pretty easy to drive up, find a few people who understand the concept of “\$7 an hour” and get the help you need. . . .

I turn out to have been the unintended beneficiary (I think it’s unintended although it might not be entirely) of this country’s overly restrictive immigration laws. If the laws did not have such absurdly low quotas for immigration from Mexico, most of the people hanging around on street corners looking for menial work would probably be in some more systematic form of employment.

Alan W. Bock  
“Hypocrisy reigns in Chavez withdrawal”  
WorldNetDaily, January 12, 2001.

1034. Now why should that be illegal — to want a better life, to travel to a different country to try to get it, to endure hardship, disappointment and occasional cruel exploitation and work your tail off in search of opportunity? That’s exactly what most of our ancestors did, but most of them weren’t burdened by absurdly restrictive immigration laws. And there’s no reason those who want to come now should be so burdened.

Believe, me, the communication/intelligence system is efficient. If the economy in the United States ever gets so lousy that there’s no work for immigrants they will stop coming. There was no immigration “problem” during the Great Depression — except for some boatloads of Jews trying to escape Nazi Germany and cruelly turned back because restrictive and fairly comprehensive immigration laws had been enacted for the first time in this country’s history in the 1920s.

Alan W. Bock  
“Hypocrisy reigns in Chavez withdrawal”  
WorldNetDaily, January 12, 2001.

1035. Eliminate all quotas. How does Congress know how many immigrants Southern California or any other part of the country “needs” or can absorb? Instead of a band of thugs, make the Immigration and Naturalization Service a welcome wagon that checks for infectious diseases and active membership in terrorist groups (real ones, not opposition parties in dictatorships) and does one other thing. It would exact a signed promise from every new immigrant not to apply for any kind of government benefit — welfare, unemployment, rent subsidies, low-interest loans, anything with the possible exception of bona fide disability benefits — for a given period of time, whether five years, 10, 15 or 20, on pain of instant deportation. . . .

But that simple solution is politically unlikely. Far too many unthinking conservatives (some bigots, some not), who don’t understand that the real problem is the welfare state, not immigrants, would oppose it. And most liberal and ethnic political organizations wouldn’t endorse it either. Where would LULAC [League of United Latin American Citizens] and other groups be if they didn’t have a steady supply of “victims” who require “advocacy” to make it?

Alan W. Bock  
“Hypocrisy reigns in Chavez withdrawal”  
WorldNetDaily, January 12, 2001.

1036. If the United States wasn’t such a non-discriminating whore, supinely welcoming any deadbeat in search of a handout; if the United States eliminated “public assistance” and “public health care” and “public education,” whereby larcenous scum can rob my wallet, keep most of what they steal and pass the rest along to “those less fortunate than I”; then the flow of illegals would evaporate.

Please don’t mistake the trees for the forest — the problem is not on the border; it’s in Washington, D.C.

Eric C. Sanders  
Letter to the Editor  
WorldNetDaily, February 6, 2001.

### In God We Trust or Mind Your Own Business?

1037. I would also like to take this opportunity to launch my own modest crusade: to have the words “In God We Trust” removed from the currency, and replaced with the motto “Mind Your Own Business,” which I think is much more in keeping with the principles this nation was founded on. Wish me luck.

Charles E. Chace, Williamstown, Massachusetts  
Letter to the Editor, *The American Spectator*  
January 1991, page 9.

## Income Tax

1038. The only beneficiaries of income taxation are the politicians, for it not only gives them the means by which they can increase their emoluments but it also enables them to improve their importance. The have-nots who support the politicians in the demand for income taxation do so only because they hate the haves; . . . the sum of all the arguments for income taxation comes to political ambition and the sin of covetousness.

Frank Chodorov  
Quoted in *Freedom Daily*, January 1990.

1039. The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.

Attributed to Albert Einstein  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1040. The tax that was supposed to soak the rich has instead soaked America. The beneficiary of the income tax has not been the poor, but big government. The income tax has given us a government bureaucracy that outnumbers the manufacturing work force. It has created welfare dependencies that have entrapped millions of Americans in a dependent underclass that is forced to live in a sordid existence of trading votes for government handouts.

Paul Craig Roberts  
Syndicated column. April 6, 1995.

1041. An economy hampered by restrictive tax rates will never produce enough revenue to balance our budget, just as it will never produce enough jobs or enough profits.

John F. Kennedy, New York City, December 14, 1962  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

1042. The IRS has a new program called Compliance 2000. Its goal is to have everyone in jail by the year 2000. (Only kidding.)

Source unknown.

1043. While the existing rich thrived in the inflationary, high-tax environment of the late 1970s and early 1980s, the move to lower tax and inflation rates after 1982 reversed this concentration of financial power. High taxes, after all, do not stop you from being rich; they stop you from getting rich and challenging existing wealth. After the Reagan tax cuts went into effect, for example, some 60 percent of the previous incumbents fell out of the Forbes 400 Richest Americans list, displaced by insurgent new wealth.

George Gilder  
The American Spectator, July 1993, page 34.

1044. Although most Americans honestly believe that the income they earn in their jobs and investments belongs to them, nothing could be further from the truth. By having the power to determine how much money people are permitted to keep, the federal government, not the people, has become the ultimate owner of everyone's income.

Jacob G. Hornberger  
"The Nationalization of Income"  
FFF E-Mail Update, August 3, 1999

1045. Congress [in implementing the Sixteenth Amendment] went beyond merely enacting an income tax law and repealed Article IV of the Bill of Rights, by empowering the tax collector to do the very things from which that article says we were to be secure. It opened up our homes, our papers and our effects to the prying eyes of government agents and set the stage for searches of our books and vaults and for inquiries into our private affairs whenever the tax men might decide, even though there might not be any justification beyond mere cynical suspicion.

T. Coleman Andrews, former IRS Commissioner  
The Utah Independent, March 29, 1973  
Quoted by W. Cleon Skousen  
"The History of the Sixteenth Amendment"

1046. The income tax is bad because it was conceived in class hatred, is an instrument of vengeance and plays right into the hands of the communists. It employs the vicious communist principle of taking from each according to his accumulation of the fruits of his labor and giving to others according to their needs, regardless of whether those needs are the result of indolence or lack of pride, self-respect, personal dignity or other attributes of men.

T. Coleman Andrews, former IRS Commissioner  
The Utah Independent, March 29, 1973  
Quoted by W. Cleon Skousen  
"The History of the Sixteenth Amendment"

1047. As matters now stand, if our children make the most of their capabilities and training, they will have to give most of it to the tax collector and so become slaves of the government. People cannot pull themselves up by the bootstraps anymore because the tax collector gets the boots and the straps as well.

T. Coleman Andrews, former IRS Commissioner  
The Utah Independent, March 29, 1973  
Quoted by W. Cleon Skousen  
"The History of the Sixteenth Amendment"



1048. As to the general policy of an income tax, I am utterly opposed to it. I believe with Gladstone that it tends to make a nation of liars. I believe it is the most easily concealed of any tax that can be laid, the most difficult of enforcement, and the hardest to collect; that it is, in a word, a tax upon the income of honest men and an exemption, to a greater or lesser extent, of the income of rascals . . .

Congressman Sereno E. Payne (R - New York)  
During 1913 Congressional debate on the income tax.  
Quoted by W. Cleon Skousen  
“The History of the Sixteenth Amendment”

1049. All an income tax does is raise the tax burden on Tennesseans and create a way to finance the easy and endless expansion of government. Tennessee does not need a state income tax.

Don Sundquist, Governor, Tennessee  
State of the State/Budget Address, February 8, 1999.  
(He proposed an income tax the next year.)

1050. You can't tinker with the tax code. You can't reform it. You must kill it, drive a stake through its heart, bury it and hope it never rises again to terrorize the American people.

Steve Forbes  
Quoted by Janet Hook, *Los Angeles Times*  
“Tax Code Haters Hope to Ride It Into the Sunset”  
March 9, 1998.

1051. A flat tax or a national sales tax is not an alternative. Merely changing the method by which the overgrown weed of government extracts its billions from us does nothing to rein in the empire builders. Every issue for every libertarian must have the same ultimate goal: forcing the genie of big government back into the bottle of the Constitution. Anything less is meaningless. We must take away their allowance and make them stand in the Constitution's corner.

Garry Reed  
“Heeling Our Leaders”  
*Free Cannon*, October 1, 2001.

### Individualism

1052. Live and let live.

Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805)  
*Wallensteins Lager* (Wallensteins Camp, 1798), section 6  
Quoted in *Bartlett's* 14th edition, page 497.  
*Bartlett's* 15th edition, page 919, says the quote is an anonymous  
Scottish proverb (which may have preceded Schiller).

1053. I believe — and I conceive the Constitution of the United States to rest upon, as does religion — the fundamental proposition of the integrity of the individual; and that all government and all private institutions must be designed to promote and protect and defend the integrity and the dignity of the individual; that that is the essential meaning of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as it is essentially the meaning of religion.
- . Any form of government, therefore, and any other institutions which make men means rather than ends, which exalt the state or any other institutions above the importance of men, which place arbitrary power over men as a fundamental tenet of government, are contrary to that conception, and, therefore, I am deeply opposed to them.

David E. Lilienthal  
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
Testimony to a Senate committee, February 3, 1947  
Quoted in *A Treasury of the World's Great Speeches*  
Edited by Houston Peterson, 1954

1054. More and more, when faced with the world of men, the only reaction is one of individualism. Man alone is an end unto himself. Everything one tries to do for the common good ends in failure.

Albert Camus (1913-60), French-Algerian philosopher, author  
*Notebooks* 1935-1942 (1962), March 1940 entry.

1055. In the name of the best within you, do not sacrifice this world to those who are its worst. In the name of the values that keep you alive, do not let your vision of man be distorted by the ugly, the cowardly, the mindless in those who have never achieved his title. Do not lose your knowledge that man's proper estate is an upright posture, an intransigent mind and a step that travels unlimited roads. Do not let your fire go out, spark by irreplaceable spark, in the hopeless swamps of the approximate, the not-quite, the not-yet, the not-at-all. Do not let the hero in your soul perish, in lonely frustration for the life you deserved, but have never been able to reach. Check your road and the nature of your battle. The world you desired can be won, it exists, it is real, it is possible, it's yours.

Ayn Rand, *Atlas Shrugged*, page 1069  
Quoted by Ada Coddington on CompuServe  
November 23, 1998.

1056. I believe in individual rights with all my heart and soul. I believe it is one of the cornerstones of true freedom, as articulated by our founding fathers. I am not ready to sell short the American Dream. I still believe in old-fashioned freedom, in self-government, in the inalienable rights of the individual and the limited powers of the state.

Joseph Farah  
"Bush and the 'Third Way'"  
WorldNetDaily, September 3, 2001.

## Industrial Policy

1057. I guess Mr. Clinton's advisers are so pleased with what welfare has done for the inner cities that they want to try it out on high-tech industries.

John Rutledge  
*The Wall Street Journal*, October 28, 1992, editorial page.

1058. Fascism is government and big business working together for the Fatherland.

Charles Biderman  
Editor, *Market Trim Tabs* (investment newsletter), Santa Rosa  
*Contra Costa Times*, November 2, 1992, page 2C.

## Inflation

1059. Inflation is repudiation.

Calvin Coolidge  
Speech, Chicago, January 11, 1922  
*Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 14th edition.

## Internal Revenue Service

1060. Force and intimidation are the tools of tyrants. Intimidation with government guns, the threat of imprisonment, and the fear of harassment by government agents puts fear into the hearts of millions of Americans. Four days after Paula Jones refused a settlement in her celebrated suit, she received notice that she and her husband would be audited for 1995 taxes. Since 1994 is the current audit year for the IRS, the administration's denial that the audit is related to the suit is suspect, to say the least.

Ron Paul, Congressman (R — Texas)  
Speech in the House of Representatives  
September 17, 1997.

1061. The IRS spends God knows how much of your tax money on these toll-free information hot lines staffed by IRS employees, whose idea of a dynamite tax tip is that you should print neatly.

Dave Barry  
In Mike Holmes quotation file, no source.

1062. If somebody comes to you — and there's the income tax sitting over there — and they say we're going to abolish the IRS, what are they doing? They're playing games with your head. As long as we have an income tax, we are going to have an IRS. They can call it by another name. They can put some fancy bill in, pretending they've gotten it under control. But basically, as long as you have a tax that requires that people report to the government their income, you are going to have to have an agency that oversees those reports, checks them for accuracy, and enforces laws against people who don't tell the truth.

You can call it by whatever name you like, but it's going to be there, abusing power, because inherent in the tax itself is the necessity to do something the government has no right to do — probe into your personal and private affairs, and find out the sources of your material strength as individuals and families.

That is not because of the nature of the IRS; it is because of the nature of the income tax.

Alan Keyes  
Syndicated radio show, October 2, 1997.

1063. The IRS has a new program called Compliance 2000. Its goal is to have everyone in jail by the year 2000. (Only kidding.)

Source unknown.

### Intelligence, Military

1064. I could write a whole column about all the things American intelligence did not know about the Middle East. It did not know that Anwar Sadat was going to Jerusalem; it did not know that he was going to be assassinated; it did not know that our embassy in Beirut was going to be bombed; it did not know that our Marines were going to be attacked; it did not know that the Iranians would seize our embassy.

More recently, it certainly did not know where Osama bin Laden was in Afghanistan. It did not know that the pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum was, in fact, a pharmaceutical factory with no ties to either bin Laden or Iraq.

And, of course, it did not know that our embassies in Africa would be bombed, despite someone telling it that they would be. An Israeli newspaper has reported that, when Americans asked Israeli intelligence about the informant, the Israelis said they had not found him to be reliable. Hence, his warning was disregarded.

Charley Reese  
"American intelligence in Middle East a contradiction in terms"  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, September 13, 1998

1065. The intelligence that you get is driven by the policy, rather than the policy being driven by the intelligence.

Former Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Indiana)  
Quoted by Scott Peterson  
“In War, Some Facts Less Factual”  
*Christian Science Monitor*, September 6, 2002.

### International Monetary Fund

1066. The IMF is welfare for the very rich investors, and serves only to keep afloat reckless political institutions which have policies that destroy their own economies. The big bankers and investors quite correctly support the notion of less government and economic liberty when we talk about their profits, but when losses occur they are quick to call for the government to socialize the burden.

Ron Paul, (R-Texas)  
January 28, 1998  
Quoted in *The New York Times*, February 1, 1998.

### Investment Markets

1067. The concept of insider information is a witch-hunter’s dream. It’s a natural for envy-driven losers, government lawyers, and the like.

Douglas Casey  
*Liberty* magazine, January 1991, page 51.

### Iraq

1068. “We were invited in not only by the Kuwait government, but by several of the legitimate governments of the area.”

So we were justified in slaughtering thousands of Iraqi citizens (civilians as well as military) because the Kuwaitis invited us to do so? The Croats and Muslims in Bosnia have been *begging* us to come in. So why the deaf ear with them? Not enough oil wells in Bosnia? (Note: I don’t think we should go into Bosnia, but I didn’t think we should have invaded Iraq either).

Sean Cavanaugh  
CompuServe, June 18, 1995.

1069. To personalize the war, describing it as not against the Iraqi people but against Saddam, is morally equivalent to bombing a prison because one has a grievance against its sadistic warden.

Robert Higgs  
*Liberty* magazine, February 1991, page 19.

1070. We call Saddam Hussein or Manuel Noriega a serious threat to our interests because he is manifestly not a serious threat at all. If there were any chance that he could light up the skies over Washington as we are lighting up the skies over Baghdad, Mr. Bush would not be taunting him and calling him a Hitler; he would be negotiating and posing for photographers with him, and calling him “our partner in the peace process.”

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, January 24, 1991

1071. This is machismo military intervention at its worst, and the first reaction — a gruesome Dutch auction in jingoism — is giving way to deep worry as the full stupidity of our conduct becomes clear. We have exposed our cities and civilian planes to the risk of terrorist counter-attack; we are earning the hatred of the Arab world; we have undermined the legitimacy of the United Nations; we compromise ourselves in Europe; and we have set in train possible revenge against Israel whose shock waves could radiate beyond the region and menace the world. And for what?

The (London, England) Guardian/Observer  
Editorial: “This colossal misjudgment”  
December 20, 1998

1072. Saddam is not a nice man, I’d agree, but we did back him in the Iran war and it is silly to say we didn’t know about his biological and chemical efforts when we helped him in those programs. There is also no evidence he ever gassed his own people, no matter how many times Abe Rosenthal and Bill Safire insist he did.

Jude Wanniski, “Memo on the Margin”  
November 4, 1998

1073. At least one million people have died in the various phases of this struggle, making it the third-most-bloody American confrontation since World War II — and the first I can remember in which we used mass starvation of a civilian population as a deliberate policy.

David Sylvester, Assistant Business Editor  
*San Jose Mercury News*  
Quoted by Joe Firmage, “Truth & Love”  
www.TheWordIsTruth.org, December 25, 1998.

1074. The Draft Dodger as warrior is obscene, especially when bombing a country that cannot defend itself. Tony Blair — also a liar but not in Clinton’s league — followed him like a poodle. Let’s see. Sure, Saddam makes war on his people, but who inflicts the greatest suffering — Saddam or Clinton and Blair? 239,000 children have perished since 1990 because of the American-led embargo. And what does the truly grotesque [Secretary of State] Madeleine Albright answer when asked about 239,000 infant deaths? “You cannot lay that guilt trip on me,” she snaps.

Iran, Pakistan, India, Syria, Israel, North Korea, and perhaps Turkey are building weapons of mass destruction, but the two smiling cowards are telling us that Iraq, with no airforce, no navy, and no ICBMs, is the greatest threat.

Taki

*The Spectator* (London), January 2, 1999.

1075. It's a bizarre feature of our present relations with the Arab world that Saddam is the only leader whose overthrow President Clinton has called for in the name of "democracy", demanding that the Iraqis should have a government that "represents its people and respects them". A likely tale. How many other Arab governments, for heaven's sake — with their secret police and their torture chambers — "represent" their people? And how many of them has President Clinton sought to depose? Not one. However, we are supposed to believe that Clinton really — really — wants democracy in Iraq. How fortunate, then, are the starving, dying civilians of Iraq.

Robert Fisk

"The West's Favorite Despots"

*The Independent* (London), January 28, 1999.

1076. To hear the news media tell it, the recent assault on Iraq was profoundly significant because of possible impacts on partisan power struggles inside the Beltway. In sharp contrast, the people under the bombs were trivial to the punditocracy. In Medialand, the anguish of Washington's powerful men is much more important than the lives of the human beings they are in the process of killing.

Norman Solomon

"Bombing And Bombast"

December 22, 1998, [mediabeat@igc.org](mailto:mediabeat@igc.org).

1077. May 12, 1996: On *60 Minutes*, Lesley Stahl asks [Secretary of State Madeline] Albright: "We have heard that a half a million children have died [in Iraq, because of the sanctions]. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. Is the price worth it?" Albright responds: "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price — we think the price is worth it."

"Autopsy of a Disaster: The U.S. Sanctions Policy on Iraq"

Institute for Public Accuracy (<http://accuracy.org/iraq/index.htm>)

Quoted by Jude Winniski

"Memo on the Margin," December 17, 1998.

1078. When the missiles and bombs rained down on Iraq in December, the irony was striking, and painfully obvious: To force Iraq to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning weapons inspections, the United States and Great Britain violated the U.N. Charter with an illegal attack. To enforce international law, Clinton and Blair violated international law.

Robert Jensen  
“Covering the Naked Emperor”  
*The Texas Observer*, January 15, 1999

1079. Is there anything Iraq has done in the past decade which threatened peace, endangered life, or caused violence that could possibly compare with the violence and calumny the U.S. has visited on Iraq?

Ramsey Clark  
Letter to UN ambassadors, December 11, 2001  
Quoted by Jude Wanniski  
“Ramsey Clark, Peacenik,” December 12, 2001.

1080. The Gulf War amounted to a mugging of the expeditionary force of a Third World country. It is no great military feat for 1,200 advanced warplanes, 600,000 troops and a fleet of modern ships to drive 200,000 draftees out of Kuwait, where inhabitants had neither air support nor cover.

Charley Reese  
“We Evade Reality at our Own Peril”  
February 11, 2000.

1081. Millions of Europeans — and Americans — who want to prevent this war are chiefly driven by humane concern for everyone who is likely to suffer. They are anti-war for pro-American reasons. If you try to stop a friend from getting into a drunken brawl, you don’t become his enemy.

Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran’s*, January 28, 2003.

1082. Many Americans simply don’t understand their leadership is about to plunge the nation into an open-ended, dangerous colonial war. All the propaganda about democracy, human rights and regional stability is the same kind of double-talk used by the 19th century British and French imperialists who claimed they were grabbing Africa and Asia to bring the benefits of Christian civilization to the heathens.

Eric Margolis  
“Bush’s War Is Not about Democracy”  
*The Toronto Sun*, March 2, 2003.

1083. The only super-power in the world has attacked a little country of 26 million people, starved for years by sanctions. A mighty and well-fed army, equipped with the most sophisticated arms the world has ever seen, confronted an army that has been largely disarmed before the fighting even started. The powerful air force that controls the skies without opposition was sent against a country whose air defenses have been bombed for years beforehand.



Uri Avnery  
“This Is Only the Beginning”  
*CounterPunch*, April 14, 2003.

1084. One child, Ali Ismaeel Abbas, the boy who lost his parents and his arms in a missile attack, has been flown to a modern hospital in Kuwait. Publicity has saved him. Tony Blair says he will “do everything he can” to help him. This must be the ultimate insult to the memory of all the children of Iraq who have died violently in Blair’s war, and as a result of the embargo that Blair enthusiastically endorsed. The saving of Ali substitutes a media spectacle of charity for our right to knowledge of the extent of the crime committed against the young in our name.

John Pilger  
“The Unthinkable Is Becoming Normal.”  
*The UK Independent*, April 29, 2003.

1085. Combining the techniques of Madison Avenue and of totalitarianism, President George Bush has evaded those truths, and endlessly reiterated the names of Saddam and 9/11 together. With a wondrous piece of suggestio falsi, he spoke of Saddam’s links with “al-Qaida-type organizations” (or “al-Qaida types”, or “a terrorist network like al-Qaida”), and in one speech about Iraq, he mentioned September 11 more than 10 times. As a result of this subliminal persuasion, a majority of Americans now say they believe that Saddam was linked to the attack on New York, a falsehood which even the White House has never dared assert in plain terms.

Geoffrey Wheatcroft  
“Saddam Was a Despot. True. This Justifies the War. False”  
*The Guardian*, April 22, 2003.

1086. President Bush may be the smartest military president in history. First, he gets Iraq to destroy all of its own weapons. Then he declares war.

Jay Leno

1087. If DC is any example, real liberation for Iraq is at least two hundred years off.

Sam Smith  
“The Coalition of the Shilling”  
*The Progressive Review*, May 5, 2003.

1088. Our intelligence failure indicates that this was a “spec” war, rather than a legitimate preemptive strike launched with hard evidence of a pressing danger. This should make us very uneasy as citizens of a democracy. Either our government lied or it pursued a costly war against a resource-wealthy, militarily weak paper tiger based on vague hopes that incriminating evidence would turn up after the fact.

Robert Sheer  
"The Only Law West of the Tigris"  
*Los Angeles Times*, May 7, 2003.

1089. Another of the hawks' favorite epithets, applied not only to the French and Germans but to millions of peace marchers, is *appeasers*. The plain fact is that the French and German governments are staunchly refusing to appease the greatest power on earth: the U.S. Government. If anyone deserves to be called an appeaser, you'd think it would be Britain's Tony Blair, Bush's shameless lackey.

Joseph Sobran  
"The Big Peacenik"  
*Sobran's*, April 2003, page 10.

1090. What has become painfully clear in the aftermath of war is that Iraq was no immediate threat to the U.S. Ravaged by years of sanctions, Iraq did not even lift an airplane against us. Iraq's threatening death-dealing fleet of unmanned drones about which we heard so much morphed into one prototype made of plywood and string. Their missiles proved to be outdated and of limited range. Their army was quickly overwhelmed by our technology and our well trained troops.

Senator Robert Byrd (Democrat - West Virginia)  
Senate speech  
May 21, 2003.

1091. Democracy and Freedom cannot be force fed at the point of an occupier's gun. To think otherwise is folly. One has to stop and ponder. How could we have been so impossibly naive? How could we expect to easily plant a clone of U.S. culture, values, and government in a country so riven with religious, territorial, and tribal rivalries, so suspicious of U.S. motives, and so at odds with the galloping materialism which drives the western-style economies?

As so many warned this Administration before it launched its misguided war on Iraq, there is evidence that our crack down in Iraq is likely to convince 1,000 new Bin Ladens to plan other horrors of the type we have seen in the past several days. Instead of damaging the terrorists, we have given them new fuel for their fury. We did not complete our mission in Afghanistan because we were so eager to attack Iraq. Now it appears that Al Queda is back with a vengeance. We have returned to orange alert in the U.S., and we may well have destabilized the Mideast region, a region we have never fully understood.

We have alienated friends around the globe with our dissembling and our haughty insistence on punishing former friends who may not see things quite our way. The path of diplomacy and reason have gone out the window to be replaced by force, unilateralism, and punishment for transgressions. I read most recently with amazement our harsh castigation of Turkey, our longtime friend and strategic ally. It is astonishing that our government is berating the new Turkish government for conducting its affairs in accordance with its own Constitution and its democratic institutions.

Senator Robert Byrd (Democrat - West Virginia)  
Senate speech  
May 21, 2003.

1092. Not only did the U.S. and UN inspectors fail to find those “weapons of mass destruction”: in his hour of need, apparently Saddam Hussein couldn’t find them either.

Joseph Sobran  
“Well-hidden”  
*Sobran’s*, May 2003.

1093. We now see more clearly the genius of the Bush Administration's hawks: threaten your enemy with war if he fails to disarm — send inspectors to make sure he has disarmed — and then attack him because the weapons inspectors failed to turn up anything.

Bill Bonner  
“War Monuments”  
*The Daily Reckoning*, April 11, 2003.

1094. The U.S. has no more right to invade Iraq than does China, or India, or Russia. I wonder what the U.S. reaction would be if one of those countries launched a unilateral attack against Iraq, followed by a long occupation.

Doug Casey  
“Why We Are in Iraq”  
*Doug Casey’s International Speculator*, April 4, 2003.

1095. Studies now put the death toll [in the 2003 Iraqi war] at as many as 10,000 civilians and 20,000 Iraqi troops. If this does not constitute a “bloodbath,” what was the massacre of 3,000 people at the twin towers?

John Pilger  
*The New Statesman*, July 31, 2003.

1096. What I am condemning is that one power, with a president who has no foresight, who cannot think properly, is now wanting to plunge the world into a Holocaust.

Nelson Mandela  
Quoted by Claudia King  
“Malicious Joy In Media’s Coverage Of Germany”  
*Media Tenor*, February 2003.

1097. At the inconclusive end of the war in Afghanistan, there was a hiatus. The terrorist threat was still there, but it was nebulous. It had to be furnished with a field of combat and a rationale. Iraq was the obvious choice for many reasons, among them a nasty government, oil, weak defenses, and no allies.

Mike Seccombe  
“How the War Was Spun”  
*Sydney Morning Herald*, August 2, 2003.

1098. I’m glad Americans got rid of Saddam, but conquering us was not a good idea. Americans have harmed this country, and traces of the occupation will remain a long time. You never thought how to save Iraq, only how to conquer it in order to terrorize and warn the entire world. I can’t believe that four months after they won the war they have still not restored basic services like electricity and water. So who’s worse, Saddam or the Americans?

Rasim Mansour, Iraqi actor  
“Ignited Iraq”  
*The Nation*, August 28, 2003.

1099. The war is lost. By most measures of what the Bush administration forecast for its adventure in Iraq, it is already a failure. The war was going to make the Middle East a more peaceful place. It was going to undercut terrorism. It was going to show the evil dictators of the world that American power is not to be resisted. It was going to improve the lives of ordinary Iraqis. It was going to stabilize oil markets. The American army was going to be greeted with flowers. None of that happened. The most radical elements of various fascist movements in the Arab world have been energized by the invasion of Iraq. The American occupation is a rallying point for terrorists.

James Carroll  
“Facing the Truth about Iraq”  
*Boston Globe*, September 2, 2003.

1100. George W. Bush . . . failed to explain how a nation under near-total occupation before the war, crushed by sanctions, devoid of weapons of any merit whatsoever, unable to even launch a fighter aircraft in its own airspace, and completely lacking in any connections to Osama bin Laden or al Qaeda, could have managed to challenge the most powerful nation on the face of the earth.

William Rivers Pitt  
“Situation Excellent, I Am Attacking”  
Truthout.com, September 24, 2003.

1101. With no weapons, no ties, and no truth, the capture of Saddam was merely the most massive and irresponsible police raid in modern times. We broke in without a search warrant. Civilian deaths constituted justifiable homicide. America was again above the law. We have taught the next generation that many wrongs equal a right. In arrogance, we boasted, “We got him!” The shame is that we feel none for how we got him. The capture of this dictator, driven by the poison of lies, turned America itself into a dictator.

Derrick Z. Jackson  
“Still No Weapons, No Ties to 9/11, No Truth”  
*Boston Globe*, December 17, 2003.

1102. That war on Iraq was illegitimate . . . it was a criminal and immoral conspiracy. No provocation, no link with al-Qaeda, no weapons of Armageddon. Tales of complicity and Osama were self-serving bullshit. It was an old colonial war dressed up as a crusade for Western life and liberty, and it was launched by a clique of war-hungry Judaeo-Christian geopolitical fantasists who hijacked the media and exploited America's post-Nine Eleven psychopathy.

John Le Carre  
*Absolute Friends*  
Quoted by Robert McCrum  
"A Master's Voice"  
*The UK Guardian*, December 7, 2003.

1103. You may not realize that we have a 51st state, but we do. It is called Iraq. We acquired it on the lofty principle of international relations that Thomas Friedman calls the Pottery Barn principle: "You break it, you buy it." And so now that we possess it, we have to figure out just how much it costs and how to fix it.

Fareed Zakaria  
"Bringing Liberal Democracy to Iraq"  
*Cato's Letter*, Fall 2003.

1104. How is it that in a country with such a heritage of individual liberty like the United States, one can smoke in a restaurant in Baghdad, but not in Manhattan? How is it that in a country with a Christian heritage like the United States, one can buy a gun in Baghdad, but not in Washington D. C.?

Lawrence M. Vance  
"Eight Facts about Iraq"  
LewRockwell.com, January 2, 2004.

1105. Today we face an extraordinary moment in United States history. The president of the United States launched a premeditated, first-strike invasion of another country, the likes of which this nation has never before seen. This massive military operation sought to conquer and occupy Iraq for an indefinite period of time. This was not a random act of raw power. It was the first salvo of a new and dangerous U.S. doctrine, a doctrine which advocates the unprovoked invasion and occupation of sovereign nations. This new doctrine threatens to destabilize the world, creating a new world order of chaos and lawlessness.

John C. Bonifaz  
"The First Lie"  
TomPaine.com, January 2004.

1106. The nature of another sovereign state's internal regime is not the business of either Britain or America. To admit the opposite principle that pre-emptive war is legitimized by moral and political disapproval would be to open the way to international anarchy.

Correlli Barnett  
“Blair and Bush must take the blame”  
*The UK Spectator*, February 28, 2004.

1107. U.S. soldiers went to their deaths in Iraq thinking that they were avenging 9/11, when Iraq had nothing to do with it. . . . They died for the president's own agenda, which had nothing to do with the war on terrorism.

Richard Clarke, former CounterTerrorism Czar  
*Good Morning America*, March 22, 2004.

1108. “At least Saddam is gone.” The kernel of truth here is that most all nations — save a few tiny monarchies in old Europe that serve mostly as tax havens — would be better off without their respective heads of state. Yes, Iraq benefits from being without Saddam, just as Britain would benefit from being without Blair and the US would benefit without Bush. But by what standard of international law can one state dislodge the head of another state on such a utilitarian calculus?

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Just Say Mea Culpa”  
LewRockwell.com, April 1, 2004.

1109. There exists today a hatred of Americans never equaled in the region. In the beginning, some people thought the Americans were helping them. There was no hatred toward Americans. After what happened in Iraq, there is an unprecedented hatred and the Americans know it.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak  
Statement to French newspaper *Le Monde*  
Quoted by Patrick J. Buchanan  
“What This War Is All About”  
LewRockwell.com, June 30, 2004.

1110. Saddam was brutal but with the same tendencies of all governments everywhere: the overt violence was focused against enemies of the regime. Otherwise, Saddam cut deals to make Iraqi society work and to keep himself in power.

Like all stable governments everywhere, his rule was maintained by a complex balance of payoffs and propaganda, along with selected areas of liberality to give Iraq a comparative advantage over neighboring states: Christianity was legal and protected, women dressed in Western clothes and enjoyed full economic rights, gun ownership was widespread, and liquor stores and nightclubs operated freely. There were symphony orchestras playing Western music. This was a civilized country, even if the government was pre-modern in its methods.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“The Wanna-Be State”  
LewRockwell.com, August 19, 2004.

1111. From the beginning, the American invasion and “liberation” of Iraq has been little but a set of fantasies concocted by dreamy imperialists inside Washington’s Beltway, aided and abetted by exiled Iraqi tale-spinners who knew a group of suckers when they spotted one. Not surprisingly, then, almost any American postwar “plan” has proven to be no less fantastical.

Tom Engelhardt  
“America’s Fallujan Dystopia”  
LewRockwell.com, December 18, 2004.

1112. What’s the difference between the U.S. destroying the rebellious Iraqi city of Fallujah and Saddam destroying rebellious Halabja? What difference does it make if you’re killed by poison gas, artillery or 2,000-pound bombs?

Eric Margolis  
“West Has Bloodied Hands”  
*Toronto Sun*, December 19, 2004.

1113. Quite literally every liberated Iraqi I’ve gotten to know from my earliest days in the country has either had a family member or a friend killed by U.S. soldiers or from the effects of the war/occupation. These include such everyday facts of life as not having enough money for food or fuel due to massive unemployment and soaring energy prices, or any of the countless other horrors caused by the aforementioned.

Dahr Jamail  
“Iraq: The Devastation”  
LewRockwell.com, January 8, 2005.

1114. One of the tragic ironies of the decision to invade Iraq is that the Iraqi WMD declaration required by security council resolution 1441, submitted by Iraq in December 2002, and summarily rejected by Bush and Blair as repackaged falsehoods, now stands as the most accurate compilation of data yet assembled regarding Iraq’s WMD programs (more so than even Duelfer’s ISG report, which contains much unsubstantiated speculation). Saddam Hussein has yet to be contradicted on a single point of substantive fact. Iraq had disarmed; no one wanted to accept that conclusion.

Scott Ritter, former UN Weapons Inspector  
“The Source Duelfer Didn’t Quote”  
*The UK Guardian*, October 9, 2004.

1115. Emperors and rulers are prone to great blunders. Yet the power structures often survive because the losses are made good by the subjects. Bush went into Iraq on the theory that creating a pliant satellite would be easy and that the whole region could then be brought under firmer U.S. control. However, he has tied down American soldiers for years to come, exposed them to constant threat of death and injury, exacerbated the terrorist problem, created an expensive liability, raised the price of oil, impelled other countries like China to seek oil in places like Venezuela, encouraged smaller countries to seek atomic weapons, and set in motion political forces that involve every other country in the region. So far, there is no perceptible gain.

Michael Rozeff  
“Malevolent Hegemony”  
LewRockwell.com, October 29, 2005

*See also* Foreign Policy.

### Isolationism

*See Foreign Policy.*

### Italy

1116. We are the shame of Europe. Our economy has gone to pieces. In Italy, we have the most outrageous tax system — that’s where my money goes. I work eight months out of the year for the government and four months for me. I have to pay researchers, assistants, secretaries, and a lawyer. It’s a disaster. Our economy might blow up any minute if we don’t do something serious. And it’s such a pity, because Italy is such an extraordinary country. It’s so thick with beauty and culture, you could cut it with a knife. We need to leave the citizens with their earnings so they can reinvest their money in jobs and the country.

Franco Zeffirelli, movie & opera director, Italian Senator  
*W Magazine*, May 1996, page 62

### Journalists

1117. The “herd of independent minds.”

Harold Rosenberg  
Quoted by Chilton Williamson, Jr.  
*Chronicles*, October 1991, page 28.

1118. “The Hive.”

Joseph Sobran  
Quoted by Chilton Williamson, Jr.  
*Chronicles*, October 1991, page 28.



1119. The difference is that when a witness testifies for the government in court, his testimony is tested, by cross-examination, against hard evidence. Journalists are freer to accept fantasy as fact, and to allow such witnesses to run rampant.

Alan M. Dershowitz  
*The Wall Street Journal*  
October 16, 1991, page A16

### Judiciary

1120. When it established the office of federal judge, the Constitution of the United States made that position only a little more powerful than God, at least in the Constitutional scheme of things.

Paul Greenberg, syndicated column  
*The Nashville Banner*, January 21, 1998, page A-11

### Kennedy, John F.

1121. [Robert] McNamara goes so far as to inform us that it was “highly probable” that President Kennedy would have had us out of Vietnam if he had lived. Those who seek an understanding of Kennedy’s view of Vietnam can learn from his intervention in McNamara’s Defense Department. JFK threw out the ghost-written boilerplate designed for loved ones whose family members were casualties in Vietnam and himself wrote to the sister of a casualty: “Americans are in Vietnam because we have determined that this country must not fall under communist domination. It is also apparent that the communist attempt to take over Vietnam is only part of a larger plan for bringing the entire area of southeast Asia under their domination. Though it is only a small part of the area geographically, Vietnam is now the most crucial. Your brother was in Vietnam because the threat to the Vietnamese people is, in the long run, a threat to the Free World community, and ultimately a threat to us.”

William F. Buckley, Jr.  
Syndicated column, May 3, 1995

### Labels

1122. If you want government to intervene domestically, you’re a liberal. If you want government to intervene overseas, you’re a conservative. If you want government to intervene everywhere, you’re a moderate. If you don’t want government to intervene anywhere, you’re an extremist.

Joseph Sobran  
Mentioned to Harry Browne, September 18, 1995

## Labor Policy

1123. On this theme, [C. Northcote] Parkinson, visiting Sweden, once startled his hosts with a “Swedish Law:” “Policies designed to increase production increase employment; policies designed to increase employment do everything but.”

John Train, “C. Northcote Parkinson: An Appreciation”  
*The American Spectator*, June 1993, page 56

## Law, Rule of

*See also* Rule of Law.

## Law Enforcement

1124. Can the police legally kill someone simply because he resists arrest? Why are the police permitted to break the laws they allegedly enforce? They are permitted to speed, trespass, and rob in the name of cracking down on speeding, trespassing, and robbing. There is something about the institutionalization of this hypocrisy that cries out for correction.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“That Cincinnati Beating”  
LewRockwell.com, December 4, 2003.

1125. The very core of liberty secured by our Anglo-Saxon system of separated powers has been freedom from indefinite imprisonment at the will of the Executive.

Justice Antonin Scalia  
Referring to the Bush administration’s indefinite imprisonment of  
terrorism suspects  
*Hamdi* (J. Scalia, dissent), part I, para. 1  
Quoted by Jennifer van Bergen  
“Hamdi and the End of Habeas Corpus”  
CounterPunch online, July 19, 2004.

1126. The federal government and many states have rendered themselves immune (called “sovereign immunity”) from such lawsuits if the lawsuit attacks the exercise of discretion by government employees. That is nonsense. You can sue your neighbor for negligence if his car runs over your garden or your dog. You can sue your physician if he leaves a scalpel in your belly. You should be able to sue the local police, state police, and the FBI under the same legal theories if they torment you, prevent you from speaking freely, bribe witnesses to testify against you, steal your property, or break the law in order to convict you.

Andrew P. Napolitano  
“How the Government Breaks the Law”  
Cato Policy Report, November/December 2004.

## Laws

1127. Laws and police regulations can be compared to a spider's web that lets the big mosquitoes through and catches the small ones.

Julius Wilhelm Zinegref (1591-1635)  
*Apophthegmata, Book ii* (1628)  
*Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 15th edition, page 267.

1128. [Anacharsis] laughed at [Solon] for imagining the dishonesty and covetousness of his countrymen could be restrained by written laws, which were like spiders' webs, and would catch, it is true, the weak and poor, but [would] easily be broken by the mighty and rich.

Anacharsis  
*Plutarch, Lives, Life of Solon*  
*Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 15th edition, page 63.

1129. Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through.

Jonathan Swift  
*A Critical Essay upon the Faculties of the Mind* (1707)  
*Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 15th edition, page 321.

1130. In a free society, you have very few laws and they are all taken very seriously. In our society, we have thousands of laws that no one knows, no can possibly know, and we are a nation of law-breakers.

Charles Murray  
Eris Society speech, August 7, 1997.

1131. One of the less noticed but most profound consequences of governmental activism since 1964 has been the geometric expansion of law that it created. Today there are more thousands of ways in which Americans can break federal law than anyone can count; not just as misdemeanors either, but as criminal felonies.

The result is that millions of good Americans must reasonably fear their national government. Just about every employer can be found in violation of some regulation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Environmental Protection Administration, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or one of dozens of other bureaucracies. Just about every taxpayer can be found to have violated the tax code. Nor is the government reluctant to enforce this sprawling edifice of law. The handful of cases that make the news (e.g., the farmer who loses his land for killing a rodent protected by the endangered species act) are only extreme examples of the widespread harrying, pestering, hectoring, obstructing and fining that afflict citizens who not only were unaware of breaking the law but in fact have done nothing wrong in any substantive or ethical sense.

These objects of the government's wrath believe in their hearts that they are just trying to make an honest living and take care of their families — the old definition of being a good American. But now the government is telling them they are criminals. They quite reasonably construct a rationale that leaves their sense of their own good citizenship intact — which means blaming the federal government instead.

Charles Murray  
*The Wall Street Journal*, December 23, 1997.

1132. It would be wonderful if we could simply declare by constitutional amendment that from this day forward the air would be clean, the streets free of drugs and the budget forever in balance. But merely saying those things in the Constitution does not make them happen.

Walter Delinger, Solicitor General (1997)  
Quoted by Albert R. Hunt  
*The Wall Street Journal*, February 20, 1997, page A21.

1133. When a law is in need of continual revision to close a series of ever-changing “loopholes,” it is probably the law, and not the people, that is in error.

Bradley A. Smith, Associate professor  
Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997, op-ed page..

1134. One of the greatest delusions in the world is the hope that the evils in this world are to be cured by legislation.

Thomas B. Reed , speech (1886)  
Cited in *Infopedia's Merriam Webster Dictionary of Quotations*.

1135. In a year or two Iceland will celebrate the millennium of its conversion to Christianity, and we will therefore soon be hearing a great deal, or at least a certain amount, about Iceland's contributions to Western civilization. Iceland's parliament, the Althing, came into existence more than a thousand years ago, and is widely acknowledged to be Europe's oldest legislative body. The Althing was ahead of its time in one other important respect: it was empowered to keep no more laws on the books than the presiding speaker could commit to memory. The rule was enforced every year by means of a public recitation by the speaker upon the Law Rock, a lava promontory overlooking the plains of Thingvellir.

This procedure, and the limitations it implies, hold great appeal. Modern America represents, of course, an advanced technological society, and it would be simplistic to adopt the Thingvellir Protocol without some modification: we really do need more laws than did tenth-century Iceland. An updated version of the protocol would permit the speaker of the House to supplement his memory with that of one other person — maybe the House minority leader. (Alternatively, my wife suggests the person occupying the center space on Hollywood Squares.)

Cullen Murphy  
“Back to Basics”  
*The Atlantic*, December 1998.

1136. When a law is in need of continued revision to close a series of ever-changing loopholes, it is probably the law, and not the people, that is in error.

Bradley Smith  
Professor of Law, Capital University, Ohio  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 1997  
Quoted in “Taking Aim at Mr. Smith” by Byron York  
*The American Spectator*, February 2000, page 24.

1137. Campaign finance reform is just one of many causes being pushed because they make people feel good, rather than because of any actual net benefit to the public. Nor are liberals the only ones doing this. Conservatives are sponsoring Congressional legislation to promote moral training in the public schools. Whatever chance such legislation has of getting passed by Congress and signed into law by the president, it has virtually no chance whatever of accomplishing what its sponsors proclaim to be its goal — strengthening traditional morality, including sexual abstinence, through school-based programs.

Thomas Sowell  
“‘Feel Good’ Laws”  
Syndicated column, April 5, 2001.

1138. One thing you can count on is that any piece of legislation that passes unanimously or overwhelmingly will always be bad legislation, because nobody will have taken the time to read it. You don’t have to read it if everyone else is voting for it, because you’re going to be covered no matter how stupid it turns out to be.

Fred Smith  
Quoted by John Berlau  
“Sarbanes-Oxley Is Business Disaster”  
*Insight*, February 3, 2004.

*See also* Rule of Law.

## Lawyers

1139. The welfare state cannot avoid becoming the judiciary state.

Jacques Barzun  
*From Dawn to Decadence*  
Quoted by John Leo  
“The Year's Best Quips on Life, Politics — and Golf”  
*Jewish World Review*, January 3, 2001.

1140. Loyalty to friends, to family, is an important value. So what happens to the person who gets set up by some desperate informant who'll say anything to save his own skin? Now that person is in the same position, being asked to give up friends, family, anybody to save themselves. The system acts like this is the highest virtue. And if someone has too much loyalty to do this, or simply doesn't have anyone to give up anyway, the system will then destroy him. I really don't want to be a part of that system any longer.

Joel Rudin, giving up as a defense attorney after 25 years  
Quoted by Craig Horowitz  
"The Defense Rests — Permanently"  
*New York Magazine*, March 4, 2002.

1141. We went through a twenty-year war on crime and a twenty-year war on drugs. And the result is what I call the Tyranny of Small Decisions. Everything has gone their way. From the appointment of conservative judges to the extraordinary budgets for every aspect of law enforcement, to the astonishing volume of criminal-justice legislation put forward every year by politicians frightened of being labeled soft on crime, each decision has pecked away at citizens' rights and served to promulgate the multifaceted intimidation of the defense bar.

Gerry Lefcourt, defense attorney  
Quoted by Craig Horowitz  
"The Defense Rests — Permanently"  
*New York Magazine*, March 4, 2002.

1142. Once a year a neighbor or a friend or someone I know will come to me and say their son or their nephew or their co-worker got arrested.. And they will invariably say they can't believe how they were treated. It's always somebody who's pro-police and pro-law-and-order — until it comes home and they see how things actually work. They're always shocked.

Diarmuid White  
Quoted by Craig Horowitz  
"The Defense Rests — Permanently"  
*New York Magazine*, March 4, 2002.

## Leaders

1143. The superior individual, whether in politics, literature, science, commerce or industry, plays a large role in shaping a nation, but so do individuals at the other extreme — the failures, misfits, outcasts, criminals, and all those who have lost their footing, or never had one, in the ranks of respectable humanity. The game of history is usually palyed by the best and the worst over the heads of the majority in the middle.

Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*  
Quoted by Michael Cloud, email message, April 3, 1998.

## Left, The

1144. One sometimes gets the impression that the mere words “Socialism” and “Communism” draw toward them with magnetic force every fruit-juice drinker, nudist, sandal-wearer, sex-maniac, Quaker, “Nature Cure” quack, pacifist, and feminist in England.

George Orwell  
Quoted by Norman Podhoretz  
*National Review*, January 27, 1997, page 50.

1145. *Stalin* star Robert Duvall told *TV Guide* that during Stalin’s reign, the hypocritical Party leadership was “living the Gucci life — like so many people of the Left do all over the world. It’s strange: Robert Duvall the Capitalist has come here to help the Gucci Left of Hollywood make this statement on the Gucci Left of Russia.”

*TV, etc.*, January 1993, page 7.

1146. The root of all leftism is the hatred of one’s own kind.

Thomas Fleming  
Quoted (paraphrased) by Chilton Williamson, Jr.  
*Chronicles*, October 1991, page 29

## Legal Tender Laws

1147. No legal tender law is ever needed to make men take good money; its only use is to make them take bad money.

Stephen T. Byington, 1895  
Quoted by Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX)  
Cited by Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran’s*, October 2003, page 9.

## Liberalism

1148. Liberal activism . . . views life as a series of problems to be solved by government.

Brit Hume  
*National Review*, November 29, 1993, page 21.

1149. . . . we live in a land laid waste by drugs, savage crime, uncontrolled appetites (“human rights”), and a dehumanizing welfare state, the ideal of which, George F. Kennan fears, “is not that more people should live really well, but that no one should.”

Lee Congdon, *Chronicles*, January 1990, page 41.

1150. A liberal is one who says that it's all right for an 18-year-old girl to perform in a pornographic movie as long as she gets paid the minimum wage.

Irving Kristol, *Two Cheers for Capitalism*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1151. The principle feature of American liberalism is sanctimoniousness. By loudly denouncing all bad things-war and hunger and date rape-liberals testify to their own terrific goodness. More important, they promote themselves to membership in a self-selecting elite of those who care deeply about such things. . . . It's a kind of natural aristocracy, and the wonderful thing about this aristocracy is that you don't have to be brave, smart, strong or even lucky to join it, you just have to be liberal.

P. J. O'Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Give War a Chance*, Introduction (1992)..

1152. Most liberals don't like to be called socialists [yet] at nearly every practical juncture, they take the left turn toward centralized government. The old socialism has been a flop. It could run concentration camps when the need arose, but it spectacularly mismanaged railroads and steel mills. Today the social impulse has shifted ground. It has moved from industry to culture.

President Clinton's conception of "voluntarism" means "partnership" between big government and private charity. "Federalism" now means the federal government subsidizing state and local governments. A "pro-family" policy means, of course, federal legislation mandating benefits for children, parents and "domestic partners."

No doubt "libertarianism" will soon come to mean federally subsidized liberty.

Joseph Sobran, "Cultural Socialism"  
Quoted in *LP News*, September 1997, page 13.

1153. The eternal diabolization of [George] Wallace, like that of Joe McCarthy and Spiro Agnew, is essential if the liberal establishment is to convince this generation it played a heroic role in that era. The left needs Wallace as a far more menacing figure than he was to justify its fake battle ribbons. Liberals may tell tales of how dark and dangerous Mississippi was, but by the murder rate, Washington, D.C., in the early '90s was 10 times as violent.

Pat Buchanan  
"Wallace, The Unforgiven,"  
Syndicated column, September 17, 1998

1154. Why not retake the term "liberal" from the Clintons? No one is inclined to let them keep the White House furniture. Why let them keep the title to a philosophical tradition?

David Dieteman  
National Review Online, March 6, 2001.



1155. In all our well-meaning, progressive concern for the community as a whole, we had completely overlooked big government's threat to our individual liberty.

Nessie  
“Basic Freedoms, R.I.P.”  
*The Nessie Files*, May 14, 2003.

### Libertarian Party

1156. As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Libertarian Party platform.

1157. People ask us to compromise our principles all the time. Presumably, those same people would compromise their own principles for pragmatic reasons, or else why ask us to do something that they would not? Why, then, can they not be pragmatic enough to overlook the 10 or 20% of the Libertarian Party platform, with which they disagree, in order to help us reach critical mass necessary to make a real difference across the board?

Jim Merritt  
On America Online, August 29, 1997.

1158. Nobody knew about the Libertarian Party 15 years ago . . . but Libertarian ideas are actually very much now a part of our general political discussion.

Lisa Schiffren  
Contributing editor, *The American Spectator*  
On ABC's *Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher*  
August 20, 1997.

1159. Fortunately, many Americans were outraged at [the Know Your Customer] proposal. Much of the credit must go to the Libertarians. Of some 253,000 e-mail messages, letters, and faxes to the FDIC, more than 170,000 were . . . generated by the party's DefendYourPrivacy.com Web site.

*The Indianapolis Star*  
Editorial, March 22, 1999.

1160. We aren't going to achieve radical change, or even gradual change, by advocating safe programs and sounding like Republicans and Democrats; there are plenty of candidates willing to advocate the popular. Our goal as Libertarian candidates is to change people's minds, and that frequently means calling for the politically impossible.

Jack Dean  
from *Sons of Liberty Award* criteria.

1161. John J. Miller of *National Review* blames the Libertarian Party for several important Democratic victories: indeed, he charges, the Libertarians are virtual "Democratic Party operatives." Their vote totals in several recent races, you see, would have been enough to elect the Republican hopefuls. And aren't Libertarians closer to Republicans than to Democrats? What's wrong with these sour spoilers? Of course this works two ways. You can argue just as logically that if all the people who voted Republican had voted Libertarian instead, the Libertarians could have won. And there would be this difference: if the Libertarians controlled both houses of Congress, there might be some hope of limited government.

Joseph Sobran  
"Post-Election Journal"  
*Sobran's*, December 2002.

*See also* Libertarians & Libertarianism.

### Libertarians & Libertarianism

1162. This country is a one-party country. Half of it is called Republican and half is called Democrat. It doesn't make any difference. All the really good ideas belong to the Libertarians.

Hugh Downs  
*Politically Incorrect* TV show, March 31, 1997..

1163. [Libertarians are criticized because they don't say "Under our system, racism will no longer exist," as others say on behalf of theirs.]

Shame on us for not being willing to make up a good story like that.

What, no smiley-face in sight? Then there must be a Mr. Yuk sticker somewhere. What, no promised solution for racism? Then it must mean we're "soft on racism." Perhaps we admit we can't force someone else's thoughts to move in the direction we think is proper. What, no way to enforce kindness? Worse yet — no *willingness* to enforce it? Oh, Woe: Then it must be cruelty. What, no promise of utopia? Then it must be Somalia.

Mike Arst  
CompuServe Libertarian Forum, July 28, 1995.

1164. Live and let live.

Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805)  
*Wallensteins Lager* (Wallensteins Camp, 1798), section 6  
Quoted in *Bartlett's* 14th edition, page 497  
*Bartlett's* 15th edition, page 919, says the quote is an anonymous  
Scottish proverb (which may have preceded Schiller).

1165. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

Libertarian Party platform, "Preamble."

1166. Has anyone ever said to you, "You libertarians have some good ideas, but you go too far"? You might ask — gently of course — to examine what it means to go too far. Can we be too pure or too consistent? You might ask, "How pure would you want a transfusion from the blood bank to be? 80% pure? 90% pure? 97%?" People don't say that Mother Theresa went too far in demonstrating her love and compassion for her fellow humans.

Sharon Harris  
"The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand"  
Speech at California Libertarian Party convention  
February 1998

1167. The basic insight of libertarianism is simple: If you treat people like adults, they will tend to act like adults.

Ronald Bailey  
*The Washington Times*, March 19, 1997.

1168. [The definition of libertarianism:] Let us be happy. Let us be free. Leave us in peace and leave us alone.

Michelle Malkin.  
*The Seattle Times*, January 21, 1997.

1169. What libertarians want is to be left alone. They want to stop being forced, under threat of jail, to turn over an ever-larger portion of their income to an ever-growing, arrogantly unresponsive, colossally incompetent and frequently corrupt complex of local, state, and federal government entities, spewing billions on programs that don't work, pork-barrel projects, and endless payoffs to endless special-interest groups. Libertarians also want the government to stop "protecting" them by forcing them to obey more laws and regulations than any actual human being could ever comprehend, laws that govern virtually every facet of our business and personal lives, with new, increasingly intrusive ones coming all the time.

Dave Barry  
Column on Oceania in the *Miami Herald*  
ca. March/April 1994.

1170. Libertarians are believers in small government who really mean it — no excuses, no exceptions. As a rule, libertarians believe that any task the state undertakes will be done badly, and only at an unacceptable cost in citizens' rights.

Richard Brookhiser  
Senior Editor, *National Review*  
*Sky* magazine, Delta Airlines, July 1997.

1171. [For libertarians], the excesses of government are their best recruiters.

Richard Brookhiser  
Senior Editor, *National Review*  
*Sky* magazine, Delta Airlines, July 1997.

1172. Libertarianism is the moderate position between the extremes of compulsion and prohibition.

Marshall Fritz  
Quoted by Tom Isenberg in 1/3/95 E-mail message.

1173. The truth of the matter is that this country's founding fathers were on the libertarian scale of the political continuum. And the country is swinging back to those core principles.

Dan E. Way  
*Delta Democrat Times* (Greenville, Mississippi), June 22, 1997  
Reprinted in *LP News*, September 1997, page 20.

1174. America is essentially a Libertarian country; one based on democracy, private property, personal liberty and free markets. We were the first nation ever found on those ideals. The vast majority of Americans are at least selectively libertarian. But libertarianism is more than a vague, occasional impulse. It's also a coherent and hard-headed political philosophy that offers persuasive answers to a range of problems.

Stephen Chapman  
*The Chicago Tribune*, January 26, 1997  
Reprinted in *LP News*, September 1997, page 20.

1175. Libertarians are willing to change their *plans*, but never their *principles*. Those who would so carelessly toss aside their principles for the good of [whatever], have no principles, just whims.

Jeff Livingston (CheffJeff) on America Online.

1176. The critics of libertarianism claim that in our hearts, we hope the state will fail. That's not precisely true. What we know is that the state *will* fail. Its alleged victories are always a myth in the long run. It takes no leap of faith to see the mess that power has made of the world. The glories of peace and freedom, on the other hand, are evident for all those willing to take off the blinders of statism.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
"Send in the Marines?"  
LewRockwell.com, May 3, 2003.

*See also* Libertarian Party.

## Liberty

*See Freedom.*

## Liberty or Death

1177. The gentlemen may cry, "Peace, peace!" but there is no peace. The war has actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that the gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

Patrick Henry  
Speech in Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775

## Life

1178. Human life is fragile and short in the scheme of things, precious. The flower wilts soon enough on its own without crushing it under a boot heel.

Joe Smolinski, on CompuServe, July 9, 1995

### Lifestyle Monitors, the

1179. “I switched from coffee to diet soda when I became pregnant,” says Carrie Dolan, a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*. “My friends said the Nutrasweet wasn’t good for the baby, so I switched to tonic water and then someone said the quinine could be a problem.”

Leslie Goldberg  
*San Francisco Examiner*, February 18, 1992, page B-1.

### Lincoln, Abraham

1180. Let us recall that Lincoln in 1860 received the suffrages of only 38.9% of the American electorate, that his public statements were deliberately ambiguous, that he was by a large measure the most unknown and undistinguished man who had ever entered the White House, and the first entirely sectional candidate. And that the vote against him in the North increased by 10% in 1864. Lincoln only carried that election by engaging in the arbitrary warrantless arrests of political opponents, suppression of hundreds of newspapers, conducting the count at bayonet point in the border states, New York City and other places, and the hasty admission of several new States.

Clyde Wilson  
“War, Reconstruction, and the End of the Old Republic”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 158.

*See also* Civil War, Secession.

### Litigation

1181. A society that designates spilled coffee and workplace flirtations as financial catastrophes is a society whose citizens live in fear. America’s businesses exist in a climate where their investments and life savings are a crapshoot, dependent upon the capriciousness of an unpredictable tort system.

Sarah J. McCarthy, co-owner, Amel’s Restaurant, Pittsburgh  
*Human Events*, March 31, 1995, page 11.

### Lobbyists

1182. Lobbyists, special interest groups, and tainted money are drawn to political power like flies to garbage. The only way to get rid of the flies is to clean up the garbage — by cleaning up Washington, D.C., by taking away from the federal government the ability to grant favors.

William Winter  
Source unknown

1183. The only politician that cannot be bought is one who has nothing to sell.

Mike Kerner Lenexa, KS  
Signature tag on his email (*merner@CompuServe.com*)

### Lotteries

1184. People who think government can be financed “voluntarily” by a lottery don’t realize that a government lottery has excess profits only because competition is prohibited. Competitive Las Vegas casinos routinely operate on margins of about 3% or so, while government lotteries generally have a margin around 40%. If you opened lotteries to competition, not only would the government lottery have no profits to divert to school programs, it most likely would operate at a loss — just like other government programs.

Source unknown

### Mandatory Minimum Sentences

1185. One-size-fits-all solutions designed by a legislative body that sits far away from the instance of a specific case does not make sense.

Thomas M. Finneran, Massachusetts Speaker of the House  
Quoted in “Mandatory sentencing a big-time bust”  
*The Boston Globe*, November 11, 1998

1186. I am resigning from the bench for a number of reasons, but the main reason has to do with the sentencing guidelines. Before we had unlimited discretion in fashioning sentences to fit individual cases. But the guidelines have taken away from judges all such discretion. Most of the judges I’ve spoken with agree with that position, but I don’t know of any who have resigned. . . . I think I may be the first. It really tugs at your heart when you have to sentence a first-time offender to a mandatory minimum sentence of say 10 years, 15 years with no parole.

J. Lawrence Irving, federal judge  
Appointed to the federal bench by President Reagan  
Upon resigning from the bench in 1982.  
Quoted by Robert W. Pratt, U.S. district judge for the Southern

District of Iowa

“Senseless Sentencing: A Federal Judge Speaks Out”  
*Des Moines Register*, January 10, 1999.

1187. Mandatory minimums for nonviolent (and arguably victimless) drug crimes insult justice. Most mandatory sentences were designed as weapons in the drug war, with an awful consequence: we now live in a country where it’s common to get a longer sentence for selling a neighbor a joint than for, say, sexually abusing her. (According to a 1997 federal report, those convicted of drug trafficking have served an average of almost seven years, nearly a year longer than those convicted of sexual abuse.) Several new books, including Michael Massing’s *The Fix*, point out that the tough-on-drugs policies of the past 15 years haven’t had much impact on the heart of the drug problem, abuse by long-term urban addicts.

John Cloud  
*Time*, February 1, 1999, page 48.

1188. John Dunne, a former Republican legislator who helped devise the Rockefeller Drug Laws, the mandatory-sentencing legislation promulgated in the 1970s by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, is lobbying to end them. "This was a good idea 25 years ago, but the sad experience is that it has not had an effect," says Dunne, who also served in the Bush Administration. "Behind closed doors, virtually everyone will say these drug laws are not working, but they cannot say that publicly."

John Cloud  
*Time*, February 1, 1999, page 48.

1189. Many prosecutors argue that they can use their virtually unchecked de facto sentencing power to pressure small fish to finger bigger fish in the hope of being rewarded with reduced prison time. There is some truth in this. But even so, the prosecutors' leverage does not seem to have had much real impact on crime. After years of filling prisons with small fish, law enforcement officials still find most kingpins out of reach, and the drug trade flourishing.

Stuart Taylor Jr.  
"Thank God For Maxine Waters (No, Really)"  
*The National Journal*, July 17, 1999.

### Marijuana, Medical

1190. The federal drug warriors have turned "just say no" into "just let 'em suffer."

Paul M. Bischke, co-director  
Drug Policy Reform Group, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Letter to the editor  
*USA Today*, November 4, 1998.

1191. The only way you can die from medical marijuana is if a bale falls on you from a great height. All the research shows that this stuff's not lethal and I'm getting really tired of people saying it is.

Michael Cloud  
Radio broadcasts, 1998.

1192. As far as I can tell, torture is not a family value. And that's what we're doing when we tell people suffering from AIDS and cancer that they can't have a medication proven to relieve their pain.

Michael Cloud  
Radio broadcast, 1998.



1193. Critics say there is a dearth of serious studies documenting marijuana's value. But that's because the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the only legal supplier of cannabis, has been reluctant to facilitate such research. Little clinical work can be done until the federal government makes it a priority. But funding and cooperating in such studies would require elected officials and bureaucrats to concede that cannabis may not be an unmitigated evil. So far, such open-mindedness is far more common among ordinary people than among those who make policy.

"Groundswell for Medical Marijuana"  
*Chicago Tribune* editorial, November 8, 1998

1194. Everyone wants to talk about what marijuana does, but no one ever wants to look at what marijuana *prohibition* does. Marijuana never kicks down your door in the middle of the night. Marijuana never locks up sick and dying people. Marijuana does not suppress medical research. Marijuana does not peek in bedroom windows. Even if one takes every reefer madness allegation of the prohibitionists at face value, marijuana prohibition has done far more harm to far more people than marijuana ever could.

Richard Cowan  
Quoted by Mark Steyn, "Call Off the Drug War"  
*The American Spectator*, April 1999, page 52.

1195. How often have we heard that a woman's body is her own and no government agency should interfere with the decisions she and her physician make for her medical treatment?

Steve Kubby, referring to use of marijuana for medical purposes  
Speech at rally for Todd McCormick  
April 13, 1998.

1196. I cannot understand why the federal government should interfere with the doctor-patient relationship, nor why it would ignore the will of a majority of voters who have legally approved such [medical marijuana] legislation.

Abigail Van Buren  
"Battle Lines In Drug War Not So Easily Drawn"  
*The Chicago Tribune*, March 1, 1999.

1197. Hey, if the patient says it helps and his doctor says it helps, why isn't that good enough for compassionate congresspersons?

F.T. Rea  
"Situational Conservatives"  
Richmond.com, May 21, 2001

*See also Drug War, Mandatory Minimum Sentences..*

## Marketplace

*See Free Market.*

## Marxism

1198. Marxism Socialism must always remain a portent to the historians of opinion — how a doctrine so illogical and so dull can have exercised so powerful and enduring an influence over the minds of men, and, through them, the events of history.

John Maynard Keynes  
*The End of Laissez-Faire* (1925), chapter 3  
In *Bartlett's Book of Quotations*, page 783.

## Matching Funds

1199. We can never be criticized for refusing matching funds. We can always be criticized for accepting them.

Jon Kalb, *LP News*, February 1998, page 21.

## Meddling

1200. A virtucrat (the term, I believe was coined by the writer Joseph Epstein) is someone who combines smarminess, moralism, and an incurable compulsion to meddle in other people's affairs.

Roger Kimball  
*The American Spectator*, October 1995, page 75

1201. We are told that if we can just get rid of tobacco, and guns, and people who "hate," and red meat, and research on animals, and pornography, and polluters, and lumber companies, and feminists, and nuclear power plants, and people with religious convictions, and drug use, and homosexuality, and (the list is endless), all of our social problems will be resolved. If we can just purify our world, to make it perfectly safe, healthy, moral, and clean, we can then get on with living.

Butler Schaffer  
"World War II Is Finally Over: Hitler Won!"  
LewRockwell.com, October 31, 2001.

## Mental Hospitals

1202. Involuntary mental hospitalization is like slavery. Refining the standards for commitment is like prettifying the slave plantations. The problem is not how to improve commitment, but how to abolish it.

Thomas Szasz (b. 1920), U.S. psychiatrist.  
*The Second Sin*, "Mental Hospitalization" (1973).

## Microsoft Case

*See* Antitrust Laws.

## Middle East

1203. The best thing America can do for the security of Israel is to stop arming its enemies.

Michael Cloud.

1204. Is it too much to hope that our imperial do-gooders might simply remove themselves from the [peace] process and tell the Israelis and Palestinians to settle the problems as best they can? Nah! That wouldn't give them a chance to pretend they can buy peace in the Middle East with promises of yet more money extracted from American taxpayers as the diplomatic equivalent of a signing bonus.

Alan Bock  
"Lessons in Failing Interventions"  
Anti-War.com, July 22, 1999  
<http://www.antiwar.com/bock/b072299.html>.

*See also* Iraq.

## Military, The

1205. By profession I am a soldier and take great pride in that fact, but I am prouder, infinitely prouder, to be a father. A soldier destroys in order to build; the father only builds, never destroys. The one has the potentialities of death; the other embodies creation and life. And while the hordes of death are mighty, the battalions of life are mightier still.

Douglas MacArthur  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

1206. Our military power is mainly nuclear, and nuclear weapons are suicidal. We have not won a real war since 1945. We had a stalemate in Korea and defeat in Vietnam. The Gulf War amounted to a mugging of the expeditionary force of a Third World country. It is no great military feat for 1,200 advanced warplanes, 600,000 troops and a fleet of modern ships to drive 200,000 draftees out of Kuwait, where inhabitants had neither air support nor cover.

We've become a nation that deludes itself with hype. We called that a great victory, and we conveniently forget that a truck bomber drove us out of Lebanon. The barefoot soldiers of a Somali warlord drove us out of Somalia. We have since taken to using \$1 million missiles to blow up an aspirin factory in Sudan and some tents and outhouses in Afghanistan.

The war against Yugoslavia was a failure. We bombed a little country of 10 million souls. Their army, however, emerged unscathed. And we drove out the people we intended to protect. In the end, Russian diplomacy saved our face. Now our own inept diplomacy has American troops sitting in armed compounds for an indefinite period of time and with no hope of solving the political problems.

Charley Reese  
“We evade reality at our own peril”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, February 12, 2001.

1207. When I was a youngster, World War II was conducted by the “War Department.” But after the war, when the political establishment embarked upon a crusade to take over the world, that agency’s name was changed to the “Defense Department.”

Butler Shaffer  
“When Didn’t They Know It, and What About You?”  
LewRockwell.com, June 13, 2002.

1208. If you are trained to be uncritical of the military, you can easily go a little further and learn to be uncritical of government and authority, and even to be uncritical of all established and received institutions. The ultimate result is the death of the mind, the transformation of the higher learning and independent scholarship into a cheering section for whatever popular notions and superstitions prevail at the moment.

Paul Fussell  
“The Culture of War”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 355.

1209. Everyone agrees that the nation needs defending. If you believe it can't be done privately, that government should just do it, you run the risk of unleashing Hell. Thus has the US government presumed the right to shell out half a trillion of other people’s money every year, build and threaten the use of weapons of mass destruction, place troops in nearly 130 countries, and generally build the most well-funded, destructive, expansive, meddlesome military empire in all of human history. The result has been ever more threats, ever less actual defense, ever higher costs.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“The National Defense Myth”  
LewRockwell.com, October 23, 2003.

*See also and Intelligence, Military.*

## Military Spending

1210. *See* Defense, National.

## Militias

1211. The militias are 180 degrees opposite from libertarians when they advocate initiating the use of force. The group that libertarians most resemble in their ethics is not a militia, but Quakers. Libertarianism is a deeply peaceful, cooperative way of looking at the world.

Charles Murray  
CompuServe Libertarian Forum chat session  
February 11, 1997

## Milken, Michael

1212. In a nutshell, Milken and his colleagues, by financing numerous hostile takeovers to the great profit of all concerned, probably did more in a few years to clean up corporate misdealing than all the scores of regulators in history have done. He achieved this while earning a profit, in sharp contrast to the regulators, whose failures were financed by taxpayers forced to pay their salaries.

Douglas Casey  
*Liberty* magazine, January 1991, page 53.

1213. Mr. [James B.] Stewart's descriptions of personal shortcomings of Mr. [Michael] Milken are no more accurate. Take, for example, assertions that Mr. Milken had become greedy and megalomaniacal. To prove this, Mr. Stewart claims that Mr. Milken asked, while chatting with salesman Gary Winnick, "What do you think it'd cost to buy every building from here to the ocean?"

That story is a twisted retelling of a version of a standard speech that Mr. Milken liked to deliver concerning often-expressed American fears in the 1970s that oil sheiks would soon own the entire country. The transcript of his speech shows that he said that after calculating the assets available to the sheiks, "we discovered these Middle Eastern countries did not have enough money to buy all of Fifth Avenue, Michigan Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard. Therefore it was unlikely that they were going to be able to buy the whole country." On other occasions, he used as the example the value of all buildings from his office "to the ocean."

Alan M. Dershowitz [Milken's attorney]  
*The Wall Street Journal*, October 16, 1991, page A16.

## Minimum Wage Laws

1214. Minimum wage laws are the most anti-black laws on the book.

Milton Friedman  
Paraphrased by Larry Elder  
Speech at Libertarian Party convention, July 3, 1998

1215. If in the absence of minimum-wage laws, employers would pay only subsistence wages or less, then why do so many businesses today pay their employees more than the minimum wage? Competition in the labor market, not kindness or generosity, forces employers to pay the higher wages.

Jacob Hornberger  
“The Minimum Wage: Enemy of the Poor”  
*FFF E-Mail Update*  
Future of Freedom Foundation, January 4, 1999.

1216. If poverty could be eradicated with minimum-wage laws, everyone in the world would be rich. All that legislators would have to do is raise the minimum wage to match what they make. Come to think of it, why haven't they?

Jacob Hornberger  
“The Minimum Wage: Enemy of the Poor”  
*FFF E-Mail Update*  
Future of Freedom Foundation, January 4, 1999.

### Monetary Policy & the Demand For Money

1217. Monetarist strategies depend on the assumption that the demand for cash is more or less stable. If the demand for cash becomes unstable, the monetarists, like Archimedes, are left trying to move the earth without a place to stand: It becomes impossible for the Federal Reserve Board to predict what effect open-market operations will have on the supply of money and the price level.

True, the monetarists had gathered compelling empirical evidence that the demand for cash balances is fairly stable. But this evidence came substantially from periods of fixed exchange rates based on gold convertibility. A theory based on a world of gold convertibility ceases to apply in a world of floating currencies.

Lewis E. Lehrman  
*The Wall Street Journal*, Nov 6, 1990, Op-Ed page.

### Money

1218. There are few ways in which a man can be more innocently employed than in getting money.

Samuel Johnson (1709 — 84), English author, lexicographer.  
Quoted in: James Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*  
27 March 1775 (1791).

1219. Money, which represents the prose of life, and which is hardly spoken of in parlors without an apology, is, in its effects and laws, as beautiful as roses.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

*Essays: Second Series* [1844] *Nominalist and Realist*.

1220. The possession of gold has ruined fewer men than the lack of it.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836-1907)  
Quoted in *World Gold Council* booklet

### Monopolies

1221. Clearly the biggest monopolist of all is the U.S. government. In a range of its goods and services, we find all the classic signs of monopoly power. No competition is allowed, the quality of output is continually falling, the prices are continually rising, and the consumer is treated shabbily.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Here’s a real monopoly,” *Journal of Commerce*, June 4, 1998

### Morality

1222. If we learned anything from the failure of communism, it should have been that when freedom disappears, so do security, morality, and civility. We become wards of the state, and our future depends not on our own actions but on the actions of government. Without freedom of choice and without individual responsibility, life loses meaning and there is no real morality or virtue.

James A. Dorn, “The Moral State of the Union,”  
in *The Cato Handbook for Congress*, page 11.

1223. Let everyone do good at his own expense.

James A. Dorn, “The Moral State of the Union,”  
in *The Cato Handbook for Congress*, page 16.

1224. Teachers of morality discourse like angels, but live like men.

Samuel Johnson  
Quoted by Wilson on the TV show *Home Improvement*.

1225. Moral indignation is envy with a halo.

H.G. Wells  
Quoted in *Albert Jay Nock Forum* newsletter  
No source given

1226. The worst government is the most moral. One composed of cynics is often very tolerant and humane. But when fanatics are on top there is no limit to oppression.

H.L. Mencken  
*Minority Report: H.L. Mencken’s Notebooks*  
Cited in *Infopedia’s Merriam Webster Dictionary of Quotations*.

1227. The only purpose for which power can rightfully be exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant.

John Stuart Mill

Quoted by Jacob Sullum in *For Your Own Good*

Review of that book  
Requoted by Joshua Wolf Shenk, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," a

*The Washington Post*, Sunday, May 10, 1998; Page X05

1228. More government is not the solution to our social, economic, or cultural problems. The task is not to reinvent government or to give politics meaning; the task is to limit government and revitalize civil society. Government meddling will only make matters worse. If we want to help the disadvantaged, we do not do so by making poverty pay, by restricting markets, by prohibiting school choice, by discouraging thrift, or by sending the message that the principal function of government is to take care of us. Rather, we do so by eliminating social engineering and welfare, by cultivating free markets, and by returning to our moral principles.

James A. Dorn, "The Moral State of the Union,"  
in *The Cato Handbook for Congress*, page 11.

1229. When government devotes itself to enforcing moral regimes, tyranny is around the corner.

James K. Glassman

Syndicated column, November 18, 1997.

1230. Government does a hideous job of molding souls. The state is good at simple tasks, like killing people and seizing their wealth. It has far more trouble reaching inside individuals and making them good.

Doug Bandow

*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997.

1231. Once government becomes keeper of the nation's moral code, those who hold traditional values have no principled complaint if the morals advanced are not their own.

Doug Bandow

*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997.

1232. Concentrated power in the hands of sinful man is more likely to produce sin than anything else. To encourage virtue, we must protect freedom.

Doug Bandow

*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997.



1233. I am always surprised at thoughtful conservatives who argue passionately that bureaucratic solutions will never eliminate poverty, or improve medical care or end racism overnight, but who nonetheless believe that a government program can somehow succeed in the delicate task of raising the moral tone in this country.

Expanded censorship is not the answer, and attempts to move in that direction will invariably prove counter-productive. People on our side of the current culture wars should be calling consistently for less governmental involvement, not more.

Michael Medved (movie critic)  
*Between the Lines*, April 15, 1991, pages 3,5

1234. There are always people who think you can legislate paradise on Earth. There are always people unwilling to allow others to be free, if what those others want to do with their freedom (drink or snort) doesn't meet the do-gooders' high standards for OPB — other people's behavior.

Charley Reese  
"Same stuff, different time"  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, July 11, 1999.

1235. Man is a fallen, sinful critter, but there is no salvation to be found in a law book or the courthouse. Nor will any paradise ever be created by legislation. Attempts at perfecting society through coercion have produced human-rights disasters on a unprecedented scale.

Charley Reese  
"Same stuff, different time"  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, July 11, 1999.

1236. Religion is based on voluntary association; government is not. In government, everyone must obey the laws, or else. When a voluntary association is mandated by law, no matter how "ideal" or "deeply rewarding" that voluntary association may be, civil society is not strengthened but threatened.

Peter McWilliams  
Email, February 24, 1999.

1237. It is not the business of government to make men virtuous or religious, or to preserve the fool from the consequences of his own folly.

Henry George, *Social Problems*, page 173  
Quoted by Todd, AOL Libertarian Forum, September 20, 1998

1238. Moral relativism? You bet. We've come a long way since only a chosen few could impose on everybody else their knowledge of what's allowed and what's forbidden.

Olga Gardner Galvin  
“Every Tom, Huck and Harry”  
Liberzine.com, September 29, 2000.

1239. The most serious problem facing humanity is *not* atomic bombs or bio-terrorism and so on. It is the most pernicious idea ever conceived: That I am right and you are wrong (that I have the right god and you the wrong; that my country is right and yours is wrong). This idea leads to the most dangerous sort of extremism and fanaticism. It is, as anyone can see, the underlying idea of the terrorists as well as of the U.S. government, Israel, etc.

Derek Kelly  
WorldNetDaily letter to editor, December 5, 2001.

### Mud-Slinging

See *Epithets, Political*

### National Service

1240. As the proponents of national service see it, someone “serves” only when engaged in an activity that no one values enough to pay for.

David R. Henderson  
*Reason*, February 1993, page 41

### Nationalism

1241. The less justified a man is in claiming excellence for his own self, the more ready is he to claim all excellence for his nation, his religion, his race or his holy cause.

Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*  
Quoted by Michael Cloud, email message, April 3, 1998.

### NATO

1242. The expansion of NATO and use of NATO to bully and punish sovereign, independent nations for having the audacity to disobey the orders of foreigners is a strategic blunder of catastrophic proportions.

Charley Reese  
“The Real Crime in Kosovo Is NATO’s Bullying Interference”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, February 25, 1999.

1243. Now if NATO were just a club for white people of non-Slavic origin, a place for them to gather over sherry and reminisce about the fun times at Normandy and Ypres, what would it matter how big it got? But it is of course a military alliance, meaning a kind of armed gang, and the first thing new members have to do is take a sacred oath to increase their military budgets. This is called “modernizing” and is justified by the need to have all members, including the paupers among them, achieve “NATO-compatible” levels of armaments. As noted by many in the press, the biggest U.S. supporters of NATO expansion were not the Polish-derived citizens of Chicago, but the manufacturers of missiles and fighter jets.

Barbara Ehrenreich  
“Cold War II: Kosovo’s Legacy”  
*L.A. Weekly*, June 25 — July 1, 1999.

### Natural Rights

1244. . . . it is metaphysical nonsense to link together the “slippery” and vague notion of liberty and the unchangeable absolute law of cosmic order. Thus the fundamental idea of liberalism (that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights) is unmasked as a fallacy. . . . There is no room left in the framework of an experimental observation of natural phenomenon for such a concept of natural rights. . . .

The utilitarians do not combat arbitrary government and privileges because they [the latter] are against natural law but because they are detrimental to prosperity. They recommend equality under the civil law not because men are equal, but because such a policy is of benefit to the commonweal. In rejecting the illusory notions of natural law and human equality[,] modern biology only repeated what the utilitarian champions of liberalism and democracy long before had taught in a more persuasive way. It is obvious that no biological doctrine can invalidate what utilitarian philosophy says about the social utility of democratic government, private property, freedom and equality under the law.

Ludwig von Mises, *Human Action*, pages 174-175  
Quoted by Ron Paul  
*Mises & Austrian Economics: A Personal View*, page 23.

### Neoconservatives

1245. [A neoconservative is] a liberal who has been mugged by reality.

Irving Kristol, *Two Cheers for Capitalism*  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

### Nixon, Richard

1246. Indeed, one more remarkable achievement of Richard Nixon is how he earned the special affection and admiration of U.S. conservatives without ever significantly advancing their cause.

William F. Buckley, Jr.  
*National Review*, May 16, 1994, page 22

1247. Affirmative action, the EPA, the CPSC, the CFTC, destruction of the gold standard, massive inflation, welfarist ideology, huge deficits, price controls, and a host of other D.C. monstrosities were Nixon creations — not to mention the bloodiest years of the war. Nixon’s carpet bombing of Cambodia, for example, destroyed the monarchy and brought the Khmer Rouge to power. Nixon, Kissinger, and the rest have the blood of millions on their hands.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
Interview with Brian Doherty  
Published by SpinTech, May 12, 1999.

### Now

1248. We need huge spending cuts now, huge tax cuts now, a balanced budget now.

Michael Cloud

1249. We need a President who will “just say now” to Congress.

Michael Cloud.

### Omelets & Eggs

1250. I can see the broken eggs, but where is the omelet?

Panait Istrati, Romanian novelist  
Quoted by Hazel Sample Guyol  
*Human Events*, July 13, 1991, Page 10

### Order

1251. A great part of that order which reigns among mankind is not the effect of government. It had its origin in the principles of society, and the natural constitution of man. It existed prior to government, and would exist if the formality of government was abolished. The mutual dependence and reciprocal interest which man has in man, and all the parts of a civilized community upon each other, create that great chain of connection which holds it together.

Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*  
in *The Complete Political Works of Thomas Paine*  
Belford, Clarke and Co., 1885, page 348.  
Quoted by Jerry Millett (Pmill32182) on AOL, Dec 25, 1996.

1252. Which causes more dislocation — a community in which each individual has maximum freedom to achieve his or her dreams? Or one in which the values of an elite are imposed by force and conformity on everybody? Conservatives tend to see individualism as a philosophy of “Every man for himself.” Libertarians tend to see its worldview as “Live and let live” and “Freedom is the mother, not the daughter, of order.” A social order created out of dynamic freedom will appear more chaotic, but in fact be more stable, than an imposed unnatural order.

Lowell Ponte  
“Conservative of What?”  
FrontPagemag.com, December 8, 1999  
<http://www.frontpagemag.com/archives/ponte/default.htm>.

1253. As the study of “chaos” is teaching us, the world is inherently *anarchistic*. It runs itself, if we can only get out of the way of its orderly processes. It is our *minds* that insist upon the self-deception that order can be planned for and directed by central authorities. When events demonstrate the inherently unpredictable nature of complex systems, it is time for us to confront our thinking, and to discover more ways in which we can live within decentralized networks of independent, cooperating individuals.

Butler Schaffer  
“Power to the People!”  
LewRockwell.com, August 19, 2003.

### Organizations

1254. The question is not whether the Catholic leadership is enlightened but whether Catholicism is true. A College of Cardinals filled with psychopathic tyrants provides no answer one way or another to that question. Search for the perfect church if you will; when you find it, join it, and realize that on that day it becomes something less than perfect.

Fr. Andrew Greeley  
Quoted by William F. Buckley, Jr.  
*National Review*, September 15, 1997, page 87.

### Ozone Layer, the

1255. What was the ozone content of the stratosphere over Antarctica in 5000BC? Or 1970, for that matter? How do you know there wasn't *always* an ozone hole over Antarctica? Why is there an overabundance of ozone in the urban troposphere, but for some reason it can't be transported to the stratosphere while urban CFCs can? And how did the CFCs get transported all the way to Antarctica without being mixed back down into the lower atmosphere? These questions, and the fanciful at best answers the scientists have come up with, lead me to be gravely skeptical of the “overwhelming scientific backup.”

Mark Adair, on CompuServe, December 16, 1996.

## Parenthood

1256. We refused to assume . . . one of the central obligations of parenthood: to make ourselves the final authority on good and bad, right and wrong, and to take the consequences of what might turn out to be a life-time battle.

Midge Decter, *Liberal Parents, Radical Children*  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 12.

## Parties, Political

See *Political Parties*

## Paternalism

1257. The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.

Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)  
Essays [1891]. *State Tamperings with Money Banks*.

1258. [I]t is certainly no part of the duty of government to protect a free people against their own lack of intelligent discrimination.

Austin Willard Wright, "Unwanted Government Interference"  
*Electric Engineering*, July 1896  
Reprinted in *Durrell Journal of Money and Banking*, May 1990,  
page 31.

## Patriotism

1259. It's a grand old flag, but I like it better when it's not wrapped around a politician. When a bunch of Congress members loudly proclaim their love of Old Glory, the glory they care about is their own — not our nation's flag and certainly not our nation's heritage as the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Joanne Jacobs, Columnist, *San Jose (CA) Mercury News*  
Reprinted in the *Nashville Banner*, July 7, 1995, page A-15.

1260. "My country, right or wrong" is a thing that no patriot would think of saying except in a desperate case. It is like saying "My mother, drunk or sober."

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936), British author.  
*The Defendant*, "Defence of Patriotism" (1901).

1261. To make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely.

Edmund Burke (1729-97), Irish philosopher, statesman.  
*Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790).

1262. Where liberty dwells there is my country.

Latin Phrase of Unknown Authorship.  
Adopted as a motto by U.S. patriot and orator James Otis (1725-1783), and before him by Algernon Sydney (c. 1640).

1263. Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.

Samuel Johnson (1709-84), English author, lexicographer.  
Quoted in: James Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson*  
7 April 1775 (1791).

1264. In Dr. Johnson's famous dictionary patriotism is defined as the last resort of a scoundrel. With all due respect to an enlightened but inferior lexicographer, I beg to submit that it is the first.

Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914), U.S. author.  
*The Devil's Dictionary* (1881-1906).

1265. Patriot: The dupe of statesmen and the tool of conquerors.

Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914), U.S. author.  
*The Devil's Dictionary* (1881-1906).

1266. I've seen a lot of patriots and they all died just like anybody else if it hurt bad enough and once they were dead their patriotism was only good for legends; it was bad for their prose and made them write bad poetry.

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961), U.S. author.  
Letter, 12 Jan. 1936  
(published in *Selected Letters*, ed. by Carlos Baker, 1981).

1267. Very few of those who maintain that it is sweet to die for one's country have ever done it.

*Saturday Evening Post* editorial, 1941  
Quoted by Bill Kauffman, *Liberty*, January 1997, page 23.

1268. Our dignity, our free institutions, and the peace and welfare of this and coming generations of Americans will be secure only as we cling to the watchword of *true* patriotism: "Our country — when right to be kept right; when wrong to be put right."

Carl Schurz  
"The Policy of Imperialism"  
Address at the Anti-Imperialist Conference  
Chicago, October 17, 1899.

1269. History has shown us that “evil” can be much more successful when it can color its deeds with patriotism, duty, and honor.

Ben Mauldin

“E-mail to the Editor,” WorldNetDaily, January 17, 2000.

1270. Fairfax County Democrat Sen. Leslie Byrne recalled something her father — a proud Marine — taught her. They had gone to a public meeting where 100 or so people got up and said the pledge, and she was stunned when her father remained silent. She asked him why.

“He said, ‘Those people were just going through the motions. Don’t *ever* say the pledge unless you mean it,’” she said.

Holly A. Heyser

“Senate passes bill to make students pledge allegiance”

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, January 31, 2001.

1271. Insecure governments usually impose symbols of patriotism on their youth. Totalitarian governments always impose symbols of patriotism on their youth.

Virginia State Senator Leslie Byrne

Quoted by Holly A. Heyser

“Senate passes bill to make students pledge allegiance”

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, January 31, 2001.

1272. People who claim their country to be right even when they know it is wrong are either liars, fools, opportunists, or all three. There comes a time when one has to follow one’s conscience.

Taki

“The Bum Frum”

*The American Conservative*, April 21, 2003.

1273. Our country, right or wrong. When right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right.

Carl Schurz, 19th century immigrant

Quoted by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

“Embracing the True Nature of Patriotism”

*The Seattle Times*, May 29, 2003.

1274. Patriotism is not the love of air conditioning or the interstate highway system or the government or the flag or power or money or munitions. It is the love of country.



Wendell Berry  
Quoted in “Author Edward Abbey Is Remembered”  
*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, May 23, 1989, page C10  
Cited by Bill Kauffman in “American Writers Confront War”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 338.

1275. “My country, right or wrong” is on the same moral level as “My mother, drunk or sober.”

G.K. Chesterson  
Quoted by George Orwell  
*New York Herald Tribune*  
December 24, 1943.  
Cited at LibertarianRant.com, October 28, 2003.

### Paying Paul to Rob Peter

1276. But the only ones who now regret the Reagan tax cuts are ideologues who want to punish wealth no matter what the consequences (paying Paul in order to rob from Peter, as Joseph Sobran has put it) and Keynesians whose understanding of *Homo oeconomicus* is singularly lacking in psychological insight.

George Sim Johnston  
reviewing *The Growth Experiment: How the New Tax Policy Is Transforming the U.S. Economy*  
*National Review*, no date, page 48 (?)

### Peaceful Coexistence

1277. What can safeguard durable peace is not simply government by the people, but government by the people under unlimited laissez faire. What is needed to make peace durable is neither international treaties and covenants nor international tribunals and organizations . . . If the principle of the market economy is universally accepted, such makeshifts are unnecessary; if it is not accepted, they are futile. Durable peace can only be the outgrowth of a change in ideologies.

Ludwig von Mises  
Quoted by Jeffrey Herbener, Grove City College  
Letters section, *The Wall Street Journal*, May 7, 1999.

### Planning

1278. What is politically defined as economic “planning” is *the forcible superseding of other people’s plans* by government officials.

Thomas Sowell  
Quoted by Virginia I. Postrel, *Reason*, May 1993, page 7.

1279. . . . to the prophets of doom, [Scott Adams] replies, “Any doom that can be predicted won’t happen.” Why? Because there is a natural market for solutions to problems. Central Planning, however, removes the incentives to solve problems and the feedback that a market naturally provides.

Jeremy Lott in “Scott Adams: Closet Libertarian”  
*SpinTech*, March 12, 1999, [[www.SpinTechMag.com/jl0399.htm](http://www.SpinTechMag.com/jl0399.htm)].

### Pledge of Allegiance

*See* Flag, the American.

### Police Force, Federal

1280. Under the constitution, there was never meant to be a Federal police force. Even an FBI limited only to investigations was not accepted until this century. Yet today, fueled by the Federal Government’s misdirected war on drugs, radical environmentalism, and the aggressive behavior of the nanny state, we have witnessed the massive buildup of a virtual army of armed regulators prowling the States where they have no legal authority. The sacrifice of individual responsibility and the concept of local government by the majority of American citizens has permitted the army of bureaucrats to thrive.

Ron Paul, Congressman (R — Texas)  
Speech in the House of Representatives  
September 17, 1997.

1281. It is ironic that the proliferation of guns in the hands of the bureaucrats is pushed by the anti-gun fanatics who hate the second amendment and would disarm every law-abiding American citizen. Yes, we need gun control. We need to disarm our bureaucrats, then abolish the agencies. If government bureaucrats like guns that much, let them seek work with the NRA.

Ron Paul, Congressman (R — Texas)  
Speech in the House of Representatives  
September 17, 1997

### Political Activism

1282. Liberal activism . . . views life as a series of problems to be solved by government.

Brit Hume  
*National Review*, November 29, 1993, page 21

1283. All that is necessary for the triumph of waste and destruction is for good men and women to attempt to do good through the power and authority of government.

Michael Cloud  
Email to Harry Browne, December 4, 2003.

### Political Correctness

1284. But what exactly is “racism”? It may be scientifically false to believe, for example, that Asians are more intelligent than whites, but can it really be sinful?

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
*Rothbard/Rockwell Report*, May 1990, page 8.

1285. Most of the universities and communities that have enacted these codes are upscale and sophisticated. The incidence of crude and vulgar racism is most likely relatively low in such settings. I doubt, for example, whether there are any large number of students at Harvard or Stanford who refer to blacks by the n-word or who openly dismiss the rights of women to pursue a variety of careers. More likely — and this is borne out by many reported examples, not merely by speculation — what are intended to be proscribed are serious viewpoints regarding matters of race, gender, sexuality, literature, and the role and nature of Western civilization, to recite just a few current red-flag issues. In today’s intellectual climate, it does not take long for even dull students and faculty to pick up the fact that if you can brand your opponent as racist, sexist, Eurocentric or homophobic, you’ve won half of the battle. Hell, in many instances you’ve won it all.

Wm. Phillips Moulton  
*Liberty*, September 1992, page 9.

1286. The new fascism is sensitivity. . . . I think that it’s another example of the Left in this country, the people who purport the right to do what they want with their own bodies, now trying to deny me the right to do what I want to do with my voice and vocabulary.

Rush Limbaugh (referring to efforts by a NOW chapter to get WHAM, Rochester NY, to cancel his show)  
Quoted in *The American Spectator*, July 1990, page 50.

1287. In Europe, the fascists goose-stepped; in America, they jog.

John O’Sullivan, former editor of *National Review*  
Quoted by Barbara Lerner, “Abuse of Power”  
*National Review*, July 20, 1998, page 40.

1288. This politically enforced correctness is what Alexis de Tocqueville described as democratic despotism: “It covers the surface of society with a network of small complicated rules, minute and uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate. . . . The will of man is not shattered, but softened, bent, and guided; men are seldom forced to act, but they are constantly restrained from acting. Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence; it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies the people, till each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd.”

Virginia I. Postrel  
*Reason*, October 1993, page 46.

1289. Like the Pentagon, our social science often reduces all phenomena to dollars and body counts. Sexuality, family unity, kinship, masculine solidarity, maternity, motivation, nurturing, all the rituals of personal identity and development, all the bonds of community, seem “sexist,” “superstitious,” “mystical,” “inefficient,” “discriminatory.” And, of course, they are — and they are also indispensable to a civilized society.

George Gilder  
*Sexual Suicide*, Introduction

1290. People are more violently opposed to fur than to leather because it is safer to harass rich women than motorcycle gangs.

John Behnke  
Email message, March 5, 1999.

## Political Epithets

See *Epithets, Political*

## Political Issues

1291. At a Washington reception the other day, Jack Kemp complained that we *Journal* editors were writing more about breast implants than about the administration’s anti-recession package. The difference, I responded, is that breast implants are a serious issue.

Robert L. Bartley, Editor  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 5, 1992, page A12

## Political Parties

1292. All political parties die at last of swallowing their own lies.

John Arbuthnot (1667-1735), Scottish writer, physician.  
Quoted in: Richard Garnett, *Life of Emerson*, ch. 7 (1888).

1293. The two-party system has given this country the war of Lyndon Johnson, the Watergate of Nixon, and the incompetence of Carter. Saying we should keep the two-party system simply because it is working is like saying the Titanic voyage was a success because a few people survived on life rafts.

Eugene J. McCarthy (b. 1916), U.S. senator.  
*Chicago Tribune* (10 Sept. 1978).

1294. The U.S. has a single political party masked as a two-party system. Both parties are firmly entrenched in the centralist camp — committed to making us all the same. Most of their alleged differences are only cosmetic. The Democrats like the big cities, big public works projects, and big social welfare programs; the Republicans like big business, big military, and big prisons.

Thomas N. Naylor  
Professor Emeritus of economics, Duke University  
“A Declaration of Independence from the United States”  
*Vermont Green Mountains — A Voice*  
Date unknown.

1295. In the final analysis, both parties share a common moral philosophy more compatible with cannibals than with civilized beings. For such politicians, the only question remaining is who is the chosen and who is the damaged, or who is the diner and who is the dinner.

Jay Cochran, III, Arlington, Virginia  
Letter to the editor  
*The Wall Street Journal*, October 10, 1997.

1296. The two real political parties in America are the Winners and the Losers. The people don't acknowledge this. They claim membership in two imaginary parties, the Republicans and the Democrats, instead.

Kurt, Jr. Vonnegut (b. 1922), U.S. novelist.  
*Wampeters, Foma and Granfallons*  
“In a Manner that Must Shame God Himself” (1974).

1297. The old corrupt political parties are not like cars. You can't simply replace the transmission, clean the carburetor, and be on your way. It's better to think of them as bad food in the refrigerator — rotten to the core. It's time to throw them away.

Dan Litwin  
Spoken to Harry Browne, Los Angeles, February 14, 1998

1298. It is amazing to watch all these “liberal” congress members line up behind the President [to support the war in Yugoslavia]. In a way, I’m glad it’s happening, if only to show the American people there is little difference between the Democrats and the usually war-loving Republicans. Aren’t you getting a kick watching the Pat Buchanans and the Henry Hydes sounding like pacifists! These politicians can change stripes at the drop of a hat (or bomb) because, ultimately, they are the same animal, participants in a one-party system that tries to fool the people by going by two names (“Democrat” and “Republican”).

Michael Moore  
“The Bombing of Kosovo,” April 15, 1999.

1299. Democrats and Republicans have been reduced to yelping angrily at one another over differences so comically trivial that one wonders seriously about their sanity.

Tony Snow  
“The Best Break?”  
Syndicated column, June 1, 2001.

1300. Trying to end misgovernment in Washington merely by changing the ruling political party is like an alcoholic trying to solve his problem by switching from whiskey to rum. It will take more than a change in quack doctors to solve the problems of the American Republic.

James Bovard  
*The Bush Betrayal*, page 278.

1301. Under democracy, each party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule — and both commonly succeed, and are right.

H.L. Mencken  
Quoted by Scott Sutton  
“John Kerry’s Pure Wind”  
AntiWar.com, July 31, 2004.

1302. I grew so rich that I was sent  
By a pocket borough into Parliament.  
I always voted at my party's call,  
And I never thought of thinking for myself at all.  
I thought so little, they rewarded me  
By making me the Ruler of the Queen's Navee!

William S. Gilbert (of Gilbert and Sullivan)  
*H.M.S. Pinafore*

## Politicians

1303. They have the usual Socialist disease; they have run out of other people's money.

Margaret Thatcher  
Speech to a Conservative Party Conference, October 10, 1975  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 14.

1304. A politician [is] someone who can accuse his opponent of deviousness without seeming envious.

Henry Hyde  
Quoted in *National Review*, Jan 27, 1997, page 6.

1305. They use thought only to justify their injustices, and speech only to disguise their thoughts.

Voltaire (1694-1778), French philosopher, author.  
Le Chapon, in *Dialogues*, "Le Chapon et la Poularde" (1765),  
describing the ways of men.

1306. Legislators have strong vested interests that lead them to mistake what is good for them with what is good for the country.

Bradley A. Smith, Associate professor  
Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997, op-ed page.

1307. As a key supporter of the current government program to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, [Al] Gore has already shown he's ready and willing to put your money where his mouth is.

Jake Kirchner  
*PC Magazine*, December 1, 1998, page 30.

1308. When a man in office lays out a dollar in extravagance, he acts immorally by the people. . . . A Democratic thief is as bad as a Republican thief.

Grover Cleveland, U.S. president, 1885-1889, 1893-1897,  
Quoted in "Odyssey of a Statesman" by Matthew Hoffman  
*FreeMarket*, January 1991, page 6.

1309. Politicians can't be bought. They can only be rented — and only for a few months at a time.

John Dizard  
Letter to Harry Browne

1310. To achieve power, the successful politician will say anything. It doesn't matter to him if he draws from the Left or Right, or anything in between. Whether the slogan is "protect Social Security," "protect our children," or "protect American interests abroad," the goal is the same: to bamboozle the public.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
"The Politics of Cultural Decline"  
WorldNetDaily, June 25, 1999

1311. The truth is that nearly half the nations of the globe are run by thugs whose pictures belong on the walls of the world's post offices.

Smith Hempstone  
*Human Events*, June 21, 1986, page 6.

1312. I am not among those pining for a return of the days when every child aspired to be president. Let our children aim to think great ideas, found great companies, create ingenious software, make great investments, build great fortunes, run excellent schools and charities, have large families, raise great children, become great religious and moral leaders. But may we not fritter away another generation in the bankrupt field of politics and public administration. A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
Speech at the Ludwig von Mises Institute  
June 5, 1998

1313. By its very nature, politics tends to attract venal people who crave power, who want to control the lives of other people, and who think they are above the law.

Bill Winter  
"From wife-beaters to drunk drivers, Congress is a crime wave,  
study says"  
Libertarian Party press release, October 29, 2005.

1314. I've never heard so many lies. It's like sitting through an election campaign.

"Inspector Morse"  
*The Second Time Around* by Colin Dexter.

1315. Leadership is more likely to be assumed by the aggressive than by the able.

Bergen Evans  
Quoted by Ben C. Toledano  
*National Review*, August 17, 1992, page 56.



1316. . . . of those men who have overturned the liberties of republics the greatest number have begun their career, by paying an obsequious court to the people, commencing Demagogues and ending Tyrants.

Alexander Hamilton  
*Federalist Papers*, #1

Quoted by Eric Johnson on CompuServe, Jan. 9, 1997.

1317. When people say [Bill] Clinton is disgracing the office of the presidency, let's remember the upside. The desanctification of the executive is an important step in the depoliticization of society.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
Speech at the Ludwig von Mises Institute  
June 5, 1998

1318. The theory is that election to Congress is tantamount to being dispatched to Washington on a looting raid for the enrichment of your state or district, and no other ethic need inhibit the feeding frenzy.

George Will  
*Oread Review*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1319. An angry politician who thinks his "dignity" has been offended is pretty ridiculous.

John Dizard  
*National Review*, September 1, 1997, page 29.

1320. They can take every penny we earn, including the clothes off our backs. There isn't enough wealth in this great, rich country of ours to satisfy the wants of the plundering, grasping, greedy, unscrupulous, thieving gangsters and scoundrels who have been bred and nurtured by the income tax and have seized control of our government.

Vivien Kellems, 1952  
Quoted in *Liberty!*, San Diego Libertarian Party  
March 1996, Page 7.

1321. There is nothing noble about public service. It's about expropriation and control. When the public servants aren't taking our money, they are telling us how to live: Don't smoke, don't use drugs, don't gamble, don't talk to your business competitors, don't think up your own way to educate your kids. They are control freaks when it comes to our lives. And it gets worse all the time.

So enough of the adulation of public servants. There's nothing noble about what they do. They aren't servants; they're masters. We're the servants.

Sheldon Richman  
“The Myth of ‘Public Service’”  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, July 27, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation.

1322. If lying is so damnable, let’s say we decide to impeach every politician who lies to the American people. They’d be dropping like flies. I forget how the chain of command works, but I think that after the President and the Vice President, you have the Speaker of The House, and then members of the cabinet, and on from there. It would take about two months before a near-sighted postal clerk has the nuclear launch codes.

Scott Adams, “Induhviduals and Zippergate”  
Dilbert Newsletter 21.0, September 1998

1323. [Senator Claiborne Pell] concludes his remarks by recalling the story of a senator who dreamt he was making a speech on the Senate floor and then awoke to find that he was.

Thomas Mallon  
*The American Spectator*, January 1991, page 18.

1324. Two hundred years ago the country had only 7 million people. Among them were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Tom Paine. Terrific. Today we have 250 million people and the three top guys they can come up with are Bush, Clinton, and Perot. What does that tell you? Darwin was wrong!

Mort Sahl, in 1992.  
Quoted by Dean Ahmad, LPUS, June 7, 1997.

1325. If a tree falls in a forest and lands on a politician, even if you can’t hear the tree or the screams, I’ll bet you’d at least hear some applause.

Paul Tindale  
Quoted by Patrick L. McHargue  
(mchargue@mlode.com) email message.

1326. Nobody spends somebody else’s money as carefully as he spends his own.

Milton Friedman  
*Cato Policy Report*, July/August 1993, cover.

1327. They talk like lions, but they sacrifice like lambs.

Sean Cavanaugh  
CompuServe Political Forum, July 26, 1995.

1328. There's a price to pay for a nation that follows evil. We've seen it over and over again through history. We look back and wonder how nations could have blinded themselves to the evil of their leaders. We ask ourselves why nations have all but committed collective suicide behind bad leadership. Then we overlook, rationalize and excuse the truly evil deeds of our own leaders.

Joseph Farah  
"The Face of Evil"  
*WorldNetDaily*, April 20, 1999

1329. I remain just one thing, and one thing only — and that is a clown. It places me on a far higher plane than any politician.

Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977)  
Quoted in: *Observer* (London, 17 June 1960).

1330. Politicians are the same all over: they promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.

Nikita Khrushchev (1894-1971), Soviet premier.  
Press conference, Oct. 1960, Glen Cove, N.Y.  
Quoted in "Thoughts on the Business of Life"  
*Forbes*, January 18, 1993, page 124.

1331. We assume that politicians are without honor. We read their statements trying to crack the code. The scandals of their politics: not so much that men in high places lie, only that they do so with such indifference, so endlessly, still expecting to be believed. We are accustomed to the contempt inherent in the political lie.

Adrienne Rich (b. 1929), U.S. poet.  
"Women and Honor: Some Notes on Lying"  
Paper read at Hartwick College, New York, June 1975  
First published 1977; reprinted in *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence*,  
1980.

1332. A politician's words reveal less about what he thinks about his subject than what he thinks about his audience.

George Will (b. 1941), U.S. political columnist.  
Quoted in: Richard Reeves, *A Ford, Not a Lincoln*, ch. 1 (1975).

1333. All political careers end in failure.

Enoch Powell, English Member of Parliament  
Quoted in *National Review*, March 9, 1998; page 22.

1334. When small men begin to cast big shadows, it means that the sun is about to set.

Lin Yutang  
Source unknown; in Bill Holmes' quotation file.

1335. As some day it may happen that a victim must be found,  
I've got a little list, I've got a little list.  
Of society offenders who might well be underground,  
And who never would be missed, who never would be missed.

William S. Gilbert  
*The Mikado*, Act I  
Quoted in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, 15th edition, page 629.

1336. Don't fall in love with politicians, they're all a disappointment. They can't help it, they just are.

Peggy Noonan (b. 1950), U.S. author, presidential speechwriter.  
*What I Saw at the Revolution*, "Another Epilogue" (1990).

1337. Authority has always attracted the lowest elements in the human race. All through history mankind has been bullied by scum. Those who lord it over their fellows and toss commands in every direction and would boss the grass in the meadow about which way to bend in the wind are the most depraved kind of prostitutes. They will submit to any indignity, perform any vile act, do anything to achieve power. The worst off-sloughings of the planet are the ingredients of sovereignty. Every government is a parliament of whores. The trouble is, in a democracy the whores are us.

P. J. O'Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Parliament of Whores*, (1991)  
"At Home in the Parliament of Whores."

1338. Amazing how well-meaning, how virtuous, how *good* the people in authority always are. . . . Censorship, genocide, the Volstead Act, wholesale expropriations of private property, segregation, religious persecution, mass deportations, and vaporizing Nagasaki have all been "for the good of the nation," "good for mankind," "good for us in the long run," "good for future generations."

P.J. O'Rourke  
*The American Spectator*, May 1995, page 22.

1339. It is difficult for men in high office to avoid the malady of self delusion. They are constantly, and for the most part, sincerely assured of their greatness. They live in an artificial atmosphere of adulation and exhilaration which sooner or later impairs their judgment. They are in grave danger of becoming careless and ignorant.

Calvin Coolidge, 1929  
Quoted by Richard Bodisco, author of proposition for 2-term limit  
for SF supervisors, approved June 1990,  
*San Francisco Examiner*, Oct. 10, 1990.

1340. The single most exciting thing you encounter in government is competence, because it's so rare.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, *New York Times*, March 2, 1976  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1341. No sooner did the U.S. Senate reconvene after its spring recess than it passed a resolution condemning the bombing in Oklahoma City.

Really, ladies and gentleman of the Senate, don't you have better things to do? I believe all Americans know that none of you approve of mass murder. You do not need to go on record on that score. It is also a safe assumption that people callused enough to kill innocent people do not give a fig whether you condemn them or not.

You wasted time. You postured. You accomplished nothing, except to remind people that you are prone to posturing.

Charley Reese  
Syndicated column, May 17, 1995.

1342. The greatest danger to liberty today comes from the men who are most needed and most powerful in modern government, namely, the efficient expert administrators exclusively concerned with what they regard as the public good.

Friedrich Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty*, 1960  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

1343. These gents are full of clever programs and policies. [None] of them, as far as I know, has proved he can manage a mutual fund or a boutique successfully, but they are eager to manage a national economy. There's nothing like starting at the top.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, October 27, 1992.

1344. If I had my way we would put into government the *least* idealistic, energetic and creative people. That they would command a lower salary is the smallest of the advantages. They couldn't figure out how "best" to regulate our lives and businesses, or figure out how to figure it out. Maybe they would be humble enough to realize they can't, and would leave us in peace. Or maybe they'd be too lazy to try. Or too busy grafting petty amounts for themselves and their cronies to conjure up trillion-dollar spending programs to overhaul society.

Jorge Amador  
*The Pragmatist*, page 4 (no date indicated).

1345. The fallacy of legislative omniscience.

Alfred Regnery, Jr.  
In conversation with Harry Browne, 1995.

1346. Generosity is a part of my character, and I therefore hasten to assure this Government that I will never make an allegation of dishonesty against it wherever a simple explanation of stupidity will suffice.

Leslie Lever (Baron)(1905-77), British solicitor, Labour politician.  
Speech, to House of Commons, London.  
Quoted in: Leon Harris, *The Fine Art of Political Wit*, ch. 12  
(1964).

1347. The typical lawmaker of today is a man devoid of principle — a mere counter in a grotesque and knavish game. If the right pressure could be applied to him he would be cheerfully in favor of polygamy, astrology, or cannibalism.

H. L. Mencken  
Quoted by Brian G. Patterson on CompuServe (72144,2517)  
February 20, 1998.

1348. Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are busy driving taxicabs and cutting hair.

George Burns , quoted in *Life*  
Cited in *Infopedia's Merriam Webster Dictionary of Quotations*.

1349. . . . the gray mishmash of compromise legislation: Universal Coverage, dispensed by Something, paid for by Someone. Sounds great! Let's vote!

James Lileks, Newhouse News Service  
*San Francisco Examiner*, May 6, 1994, page A-23.

1350. Americans have long had a mixed view of politics. They venerate officeholders while making them the butt of jokes. Many citizens would go out of their way to shake hands with their mayor or congressmen, but then would count their fingers to make sure none were missing.

Sheldon Richman  
Future of Freedom Foundation Op-Ed article  
September 28, 1998

1351. Politicians go to Washington thinking it's a cesspool. Once they get there, they think it's a hot tub.

M Stanton Evans  
Source unknown

1352. As always, the lesson of political history is the same: Save us from our saviors.

James Bovard  
"Time Out for Justice"  
*Playboy*, December, 1997.

1353. Someone once said that Congress would take 30 days to make instant coffee.

Thomas Sowell  
"Housing Needs Clash with Politics," January 3, 2000.  
HotCoca.com, Contra Costa Newspapers.

1354. Does the heady atmosphere of Congress turn honest men and women into a criminal class? Or is elected office simply a magnet for those who lie, cheat and steal for a living?

Jack Sharp, Marilyn Crosslyn, and James Hargill  
"A Long Tradition of Corruption and Ambivalence"  
Politics Live!, *Capitol Hill Blue*.

1355. Being instructed on fairness and accuracy by a member of Congress is a bit like being tutored in hygiene by a buzzard.

Steve Chapman  
"Who Asked Congress to Serve as Editors?"  
Syndicated column, February 18, 2001.

1356. We love to believe that simple actions beget profound changes — that a president can wipe away such grand and incomprehensible ills as "racism" with a simple stroke of a pen. None of this is lost on officeholders, who naturally revel in the presumption that they possess talismanic powers.

Tony Snow  
"Where's Al?"  
Syndicated column, March 26, 2001.

1357. This is the worst disaster in California since I was elected.

Will Rogers  
Quoted in "The Lighter Side of Politics"  
*LP News*, January 2003, page 13.

1358. Some of the same people who are pleased to finger greed and avarice as the root cause of all accounting problems on Wall Street are loath to consider that similar impulses might inspire politicians and bureaucrats as well.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“A Capitalist War?”  
LewRockwell.com, January 1, 2003.

1359. Money with them is nothing but trash when it is to come out of the people. But it is the one great thing for which most of them are striving, and many of them sacrifice honor, integrity, and justice to obtain it.

Davy Crockett  
Quoted in *The Life of Colonel David Crockett* by Edward S. Ellis  
Cited in “Sockdolager”  
NoPC website, May 2, 2003.

1360. When we imagine that the powers that be are somehow “above all that,” we are sadly deluded. That’s how they came to power. To them, we are livestock, nothing more. The ruling class, the so-called “elite,” are pastoralists by trade. They herd us. They fleece us. They sell us. They rustle us. They breed us. They experiment on us without our knowledge or consent. They slaughter us at will. They own us and they own our land. That’s how it is. That’s how it’s going to be, at least for as long as we play along. . . . Politics! It’s enough to gag a maggot.

Nessie  
“About Nessie”  
*The Nessie Files*, September 27, 1999.

1361. As our own politicians have lately discovered, the American people tend to believe little of what they hear from their government; they tend to assume that whatever they are told by political leaders is a pack of lies. And as we have seen, and continue to see, remarkably often they are right.

David Brinkley  
“On Being an Anchorman”  
*New York Times*, June 14, 2003.

1362. It’s important to remember that ideology plays a very small role in legislative affairs except as a kind of public relations gloss. If a farming bill is passed by a Republican Congress, it is called the “Freedom To Farm Act.” If it is passed by a Democratic Congress, it is called the “Family Farm Fairness Act.” The text can be identical; only the coloring changes.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Libertarianism and the Old Right.”  
SpintechMag.com, May 12, 1999.



1363. Seeking and holding office is called “public service,” though it’s generally a career of self-service that would bore most of us to death.

Joseph Sobran  
“Hillary’s Abiding Commitment”  
*Sobran’s*, June 10, 2003.

1364. Office means a kind of patent drill  
To force an entrance to the Nation’s till.

James Russell Lowell  
*The Complete Poetical Works*, page 491  
Cited by Bill Kauffman in “American Writers Confront War”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 338.

1365. I want nothing to do with politicians — they are not men; they cease to be men in becoming politicians. Their hearts wither away, and die out of their bodies.

Nathaniel Hawthorne  
Quoted in “Hawthorne and Politics”  
*New England Quarterly*, volume 5, 1932, page 240  
Cited by Bill Kauffman in “American Writers Confront War”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 338.

1366. Of course politicians in Washington like to talk about the need for fiscal restraint, but they never vote for it. Talk is one thing; the true test of any politician is how he votes. The only real measure of any member of Congress who claims to want smaller government is whether he votes *no* on every appropriations bill. If he votes yes, he's voting for bigger government. It's that simple. A true fiscal conservative votes for less spending, not more.

Congressman Ron Paul  
Source unknown

1367. It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong.

Thomas Sowell  
Quoted by Brad Emonds  
“Freedom Quotes”  
LewRockwell.com, December 29, 2003.

1368. Politicians are rarely so fortunate as when a great tragedy (that can be blamed on foreigners) occurs, since all that is required of them, apparently, is that they not publicly wet their pants.

Ryan McMaken  
“Corpses on the Campaign Trail”  
LewRockwell.com, March 9, 2004.

## Politics

1369. Politics: A strife of interest masquerading as a contest of principles.

Ambrose Bierce  
Quoted in “Thoughts on the Business of Life”  
*Forbes*, January 18, 1993, page 124.

1370. Ideology, politics and journalism, which luxuriate in failure, are impotent in the face of hope and joy.

P. J. O’Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
“The Death of Communism”  
*Rolling Stone* (New York, Nov. 1989)  
Reprinted in *Give War a Chance*, 1992.

1371. The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed — and hence clamorous to be led to safety — by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.

H.L. Mencken  
Quoted by *The Economist*, editorial, December 20, 1997.  
Also a *Washington Times* editorial, April 22, 1998.

1372. The art of politics is to promise people they will get what they want and that somebody else will pay for it.

Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published.

1373. One always picks the easy fight,  
One praises fools, one’s mother’s light;  
One shifts from left to right;  
Politics — the art of the possible.

Tim Rice, *Evita*.

1374. I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy.

John Adams (1735-1826), U.S. statesman, president.  
Letter, 12 May 1780, to his wife Abigail Adams.

1375. Being in politics is like being a football coach; you have to be smart enough to understand the game, and dumb enough to think it's important.

Eugene McCarthy  
Quoted in "Thoughts on the Business of Life"  
*Forbes*, January 18, 1993, page 124.

1376. Half a truth is better than no politics.

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936), British author.  
*All Things Considered*, "The Boy" (1908).

1377. To rely upon conviction, devotion, and other excellent spiritual qualities — that is not to be taken seriously in politics.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870-1924)  
Address to the 11th Party Congress, March 1922.

1378. Politics are for foreigners with their endless wrongs and paltry rights. Politics are a lousy way to get things done. Politics are, like God's infinite mercy, a last resort.

P. J. O'Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist. *Parliament of Whores*,  
Author's Preface to the British Edition (1991).

1379. Politics is the diversion of trivial men who, when they succeed at it, become important in the eyes of more trivial men.

George Jean Nathan  
Quoted in "Thoughts on the Business of Life"  
*Forbes*, January 18, 1993, page 124.

1380. Politics is taking money away from people who don't support you to give to people who do.

Alfred Regnery, Jr.  
In conversation with Harry Browne

1381. There are always people who think you can legislate paradise on Earth. There are always people unwilling to allow others to be free, if what those others want to do with their freedom (drink or snort) doesn't meet the do-gooders' high standards for OPB — other people's behavior.

Charley Reese  
"Same stuff, different time"  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, July 11, 1999.

1382. In political warfare, the aggressor usually prevails.

David Horowitz  
*The Art of Political War and Other Radical Pursuits*  
Quoted by Mark Hemingway  
“America's Sun Tsu Offers the GOP a Cojones Transplant”  
*The American Spectator*, December/January 2001.

1383. There's going to be an election in twelve months. It's probably the most important election in twenty years. . . . You have less than thirty seconds to reach the average undecided voter who, by the way, is completely uninterested in the political process, and thinks all politicians are interchangeable, not to mention low on the scale of beings you can put your trust in. What are you going to say to them to get *their* vote?

David Horowitz  
*The Art of Political War and Other Radical Pursuits*  
Quoted by Mark Hemingway  
“America's Sun Tsu Offers the GOP a Cojones Transplant”  
*The American Spectator*, December/January 2001.

1384. Politics is the art of looking trouble, finding it, misdiagnosing it, and then misapplying the wrong remedies.

Groucho Marx  
Quoted in “The Lighter Side of Politics”  
*LP News*, January 2003, page 13.

1385. The people who ascend to power on the promise of doing things differently end up making the same unforced errors their predecessors did.

Maureen Dowd  
“National House of Waffles”  
*New York Times*, July 13, 2003.

## Polls

1386. The lack of support for the Constitution probably stems from the high levels of public disgust with government and politics today. Recent surveys have found that 72% of Americans now view the federal government as a special interest group that looks out primarily for its own interests. Only one-out-of-four Americans believe their own representative in Congress is the best person for the job. Less than 40% think the government today reflects the will of the people.

Scott Rasmussen, Rasmussen Research  
Quoted by Joseph Farah  
“The desecration of the Constitution, Part 2”  
*WorldNetDaily*, June 29, 1999.

## Poor, The

1387. Humanitarians often look around the world and see overwhelming and heartbreaking poverty and wonder why so many people are poor. They ask the wrong question. The normal human condition throughout history has been for human beings to be poor and to live at subsistence levels.

The question we ought to be asking is: *Why are there a few countries, most prominently the United States, that are rich?* What is the formula for economic success and prosperity?

Stephen Moore  
*Government: America's #1 Growth Industry*, page 28.

1388. We know the Democrats love the poor because they just created so many more of them.

*The American Spectator*, November 1993, page 23,  
Author & article title missing

## Postal Service

1389. Without the Post Office, how would people in the mountains get their mail? I don't know, how do they get their food and milk?

Jacob Hornberger  
Speech, July 29, 1995, Montgomery, Alabama.

1390. Fifteen cents of every twenty-cent stamp goes for storage.

Louis Rukeyser  
Quoted by Stu Sanders

## Poverty

*See War on Poverty.*

## Power

1391. Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men.

Lord Acton (1834-1902), English historian.  
Letter, 3 April 1887, to Bishop Mandell Creighton  
Published in *The Life and Letters of Mandell Creighton*, 1904.

1392. Power is poison. Its effect on Presidents has always been tragic.

Henry B. Adams (1838-1918), U.S. historian.  
*The Education of Henry Adams*, ch. 28 (1907).

1393. Unlimited power is apt to corrupt the minds of those who possess it.

William Pitt the Elder  
Speech to the House of Lords, 9 Jan. 1770  
(*Microsoft Bookshelf*, addendum to Acton quote).

1394. Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship.

George Orwell (1903-50)  
O'Brien to Winston Smith  
*Nineteen Eighty-Four*, page 266 (1949 edition).

1395. Those who have been once intoxicated with power, and have derived any kind of emolument from it, even though but for one year, never can willingly abandon it. They may be distressed in the midst of all their power; but they will never look to anything but power for their relief.

Edmund Burke (1729 — 97)  
Irish philosopher, statesman.  
*A Letter to a Member of the National Assembly*, 19 Jan. 1791.

1396. It is a strange desire, to seek power, and to lose liberty; or to seek power over others, and to lose power over a man's self.

Francis Bacon (1561 — 1626)  
English philosopher, essayist, statesman.  
*Essays*, "Of Great Place" (1597 — 1625).

1397. It is difficult to find a reputable American historian who will acknowledge the crude fact that a Franklin Roosevelt, say, wanted to be President merely to wield power, to be famed and to be feared. To learn this simple fact one must wade through a sea of evasions: history as sociology, leaders as teachers, bland benevolence as a motive force, when, finally, power *is* an end to itself, and the instinctive urge to prevail the most important single human trait, the necessary force without which no city was built, no city destroyed.

Gore Vidal (b. 1925), U.S. novelist, critic.  
"Robert Graves and the Twelve Caesars"  
In *Rocking the Boat* (1963).

1398. When power replaces truth as the goal, assertion replaces reason as the path.

Marshall Fritz  
Letter to Harry Browne.

1399. The hand entrusted with power becomes . . . the necessary enemy of the people.

Wendell Phillips, 1852  
Quoted by Christopher Jack  
In “Remember Manzanar with a Monument”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 19, 1992, A16.

1400. You cannot have power for good without having power for evil too. Even mother’s milk nourishes murderers as well as heroes.

George Bernard Shaw (1856 — 1950)  
Anglo-Irish playwright, critic.  
Cusins, in *Major Barbara*, act 3.

1401. I hope our wisdom will grow with our power, and teach us that the less we use our power the greater it will be.

Thomas Jefferson (1743 — 1826).  
Letter, 12 June 1815.

1402. Power is the great aphrodisiac.

Henry Kissinger (b. 1923)  
Quoted in: *New York Times* (January 19, 1971).

1403. Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.

Mao Zedong (1893 — 1976)  
“Problems of War and Strategy,” speech, 6 Nov. 1938  
published in *Selected Works*, vol. 2, 1961.

1404. Absolute power is inevitably subject to political pressure and favoritism.

Mike Gray  
*Drug Crazy*  
Quoted by Dan Sutherland  
“Looking for a Fix”  
*The Washington Post Book World*, February 21, 1999.

1405. The problem isn’t the abuse of power; it is the power to abuse.

Michael Cloud

1406. The only way to make sure that government doesn't abuse its power is to not grant power in the first place.

Tom DeWeese  
"Losing Our Liberty in the Name of Fighting Terrorism"  
MichNews.com, August 6, 2003.

1407. All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

*The Bible*, Matthew 26:52.

1408. Good intentions will always be pleaded for any assumption of power. . . . [T]he Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

Daniel Webster  
Quoted in "Perspective," *The Freeman*, July 1993, page 243.  
Cited in *Forfeiting Our Property Rights* by Henry Hyde, page 29.

1409. . . . politicians talk a better game of strict construction and limited government when they are out of power than when they are in — and we can think of many examples in our own century. Civil liberties, states rights, and freedom are much less appealing once one has those famous "responsibilities" of office. Many a man who might have been fairly inoffensive in private life has grown into a monster upon entering the White House. This is usually referred to as "growth" of character.

Joseph Stromberg  
"The Election of 1800"  
Mises Institute, January 4, 2001.

1410. One would expect by now that every adult on the planet would have learned that even if saints are in control of a government's coercive tools today, sociopaths may gain control of those tools tomorrow. And thus every centralized government is a potential democide — government murder — waiting to happen.

Glen Allport  
"Government Is 'Compassion'"  
*LP News*, July 2001, page 12.

1411. . . . the seductive belief that overwhelming force confers unlimited power to determine good and evil . . .

Gar Alperovitz  
*The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb*, page 14.



1412. Power always thinks it has a great soul and vast views beyond the comprehension of the weak; and that it is doing God's service when it is violating all his laws.

John Quincy Adams  
Quoted at QuoteWorld.org.

### Prejudice

1413. Without the aid of prejudice and custom, I should not be able to find my way across the room.

William Hazlitt  
Quoted by Murray N. Rothbard, *Chronicles*, April 1990, page 31.

### Precedent

1414. Every man of public experience knows how powerful and seductive precedent is as an argument in the interpretation of laws and of constitutional provisions, or in justification of governmental practices. When a thing, no matter how questionable, has once been done by the government, and approved, or even acquiesced in, by the people, that act will surely be used as a justification of its being done again. In nothing is the authority of precedent more dangerous than in defending usurpations of governmental power. And it is remarkable how prone the public mind is, especially under the influence of party spirit, to accept precedent as a warrant for such usurpations, which, judged upon their own merits, would be sternly condemned. And every such precedent is apt to bring forth a worse one. It is in this way that the most indispensable bulwarks of free government, and of public peace and security may be undermined. To meet such dangers the American people should, if ever, remember the old saying that “eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”

Carl Schurz  
“The Policy of Imperialism”  
Address at the Anti-Imperialist Conference  
Chicago, October 17, 1899.

1415. We cannot expect all our future Presidents to be models of public virtue and wisdom, as George Washington was. Imagine now in the Presidential office a man well-meaning, but, it may be, short-sighted and pliable, and under the influence of so-called “friends” who are greedy and reckless speculators, and who would not scruple to push him into warlike complications in order to get great opportunities for profit; or a man of that inordinate ambition which intoxicates the mind and befogs the conscience; or a man of extreme partisan spirit, who honestly believes the victory of his party to be necessary for the salvation of the universe, and may think that a foreign broil would serve the chances of his party; or a man of an uncontrollable combativeness of temperament which might run away with his sense of responsibility — and that we shall have such men in the presidential chair is by no means unlikely with our loose way of selecting candidates for the presidency.

Carl Schurz  
“The Policy of Imperialism”  
Address at the Anti-Imperialist Conference  
Chicago, October 17, 1899.

### Presidency, The

1416. When was the last time a president didn't disappoint? It's not the man; it's the office. Everywhere the president goes, he's doted on like some third-world autocrat. He's told by pundits that the national soul resides in his very person. He's convinced that he is “leader of the free world,” even while the government he heads conspires every day to take away freedom. He knows that “history” is kindest to presidents who start wars, centralize the economy, and generally run roughshod over the democratic process, so he aspires to be like them.

The presidency is the head of a vast bureaucratic empire with trillions of dollars to pass out. And we are surprised when the political appointees get entangled in conspiracy and graft? That's what politics is about. That's what power is about. That's what the presidency is about.

The office obeys no rule of law. The presidency allows a person to order up bombings on foreign medicine factories on a whim. Worse, it grants the power to issue executive orders that contradict the Constitution, to bail out foreign governments it likes and impose sanctions on those it doesn't. It's the office that permits one man to H-bomb the world, if he's so inclined.

No one should have such power, especially not in a country conceived in liberty.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr., “Abolish the Presidency”  
e-mail release, September 10, 1998

1417. When the president travels with a 1,200-man entourage worthy of a Ming Emperor, when the world breathlessly awaits White House pronouncements, it's time to return this office to modesty, as intended by the Founding Fathers.

Eric Margolis  
“Bomb The Usual Iraqis,”  
*The Toronto Star*, December 17, 1998.

1418. The idea that the president actually “runs the country” and would somehow be distracted from that job, leading all of us to suffer should he face impeachment, seems to have taken firm root in popular folklore. It's a thoroughly untrue and thoroughly unhealthy sentiment in a free society, more suited to an absolutist monarchy than to a free republic or even a democracy.

Actually, absolute monarchs and supreme dictators never actually “ran” the countries they ruled. It would be a physical impossibility. If a country even the size of Luxembourg had to rely on the decisions of a single person to “run” it, nothing would get done. Rulers certainly influence how the inhabitants of a country go about their daily routines, and can become the determining factor in most peoples’ lives when there’s a war or other all-consuming political crisis. But a country is run by those who go to work, do their jobs, create goods, services and profits, create homes for their families and support networks for their loved ones, independently of what a president does — independently, even, of whether there is a president at all.

Alan Bock  
*The Orange County (California) Register*  
ca. December 2, 1998

1419. The US government is not a candy store. It can function very well for a while without the president or Congress. In fact, their temporary inactivity is of benefit to the republic. America needs less government, not more activist intervention. New laws, regulations, and pork can wait. The nation will somehow survive a month without new Clinton photo-ops, or hugely expensive made-for-TV military demonstrations.

Eric Margolis  
“Bomb The Usual Iraqis,”  
*The Toronto Star*, December 17, 1998.

1420. [Constitutional scholar Raoul] Berger’s general conclusion, then, is that the Constitution envisions a President who a) receives ambassadors, b) appoints heads of departments (to be approved by the Senate), c) commands the armed forces once a war has been declared or enemy armies actually invade US territory, d) “makes treaties” which have no force unless ratified by two-thirds of the Senate, and e) sees that the laws are “faithfully executed.”

Thus the President is the head beadle, the top janitor, the chief administrator, a host at gatherings of foreign potentates, and the leader of all those “subaltern clerks” that Ludwig von Mises used to write about. It is hard to wrench from this short list of duties any believable doctrine of inherent Presidential power.

That such a doctrine exists and has swept the field bears witness to the bad faith and ambition of those who can’t achieve their goals by ordinary constitutional means and therefore prefer the backing of an elected monarch (responsible to “everyone” and therefore to no one) and the Supreme Court sitting as a French Revolutionary sovereign Convention with a license to do good.

Joseph Stromberg  
“‘War Powers’: Vague, Undefined, And Post-Constitutional?”  
<http://www.antiwar.com/stromberg/s-col.html>, July 20, 1999.

1421. To be a “great” leader, a politician must win a war; no one becomes great by avoiding war. In America, the three top presidents are generally regarded as Washington, Lincoln, and FDR, all victorious war presidents. So a politician who aspires to greatness needs a war.

Quoted by Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, May 2002.

1422. I had supposed until recently that it was the duty of senators . . . to vote and act according to their convictions. Quite another doctrine has recently been promulgated by certain newspapers . . . and that is the doctrine of “standing back of the president” without inquiring whether the president is right or wrong.

Senator Robert LaFollette, 1917  
Quoted by David Greenberg  
“Advise and Dissent”  
*Slate*, March 26, 2003.

1423. A President’s “greatness” is now reckoned chiefly by his success in increasing the power of his office and of the Federal Government as a whole. By this measure, Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt are regularly deemed the “greatest” American Presidents for their ability to surmount constitutional obstacles (or should we say the obstacle of the Constitution?); with honorable mention to Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Lyndon Johnson.

Joseph Sobran  
“Jefferson’s Disciple”  
*Sobran’s*, October 2003, page 6.

1424. The kind of people who survive in the game of politics long enough to become president are, almost necessarily, pathological liars.

Doug Casey  
“Nostalgia for Caligula”  
*WorldNetDaily*, January 15, 2004.

1425. Self-aggrandizement is the most worthy and agreeable occupation of sovereigns.

Louis, XIV  
Quoted by Don Murray  
“The Monarch”  
CBC News Viewpoint, February 24, 2005.

Press, The

1426. Having earlier charmed the *New York Times*, Masson sees before him an even more glamorous opportunity, in the person of a writer for the *New Yorker*, willing to listen with rapt attention. He holds forth expansively, for forty hours, spurred on by what seems to be her total fascination, and what instead turns out to be the cat gazing carefully at the canary.

Joseph Adelson, referring to Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson  
*Commentary*, December 1960, Page 62.

1427. In the case of news, we should always wait for the sacrament of confirmation.

Voltaire (1694-1778)  
French philosopher, author. Letter, 28 Aug. 1760.

1428. [TV news is] show-biz with furrowed brow.

David Brudnoy  
*National Review*, August 12, 1991, page 48.

1429. When was the last time something that we in the media predicted was going to happen, actually happened?

James Coates, *Chicago Tribune* computer writer  
“Predictors of Y2K meltdown may be let down”  
January 1, 1999.

1430. When a news-writer or media pundit thinks of “government,” he does not think of taxes, coercion, and subsidized self-righteousness. He thinks about a bunch of guys he went to college with. It is not pleasant to think about guys like that — guys you *know* — being accused of doing horrible, painful things.

Stephen Cox  
*Liberty*, July 1995, page 18.

1431. On May 4, the *Wall Street Journal* ran a front-page story under the headline, “Amid Record Profits, Companies Continue to Lay Off Employees.” Ah, music to my capitalist ears. Actually, there was nothing new here: only the umpteenth story on corporate downsizing in the 1990s. But the headline I’m still eagerly awaiting is this: “Amid Record Losses, Government Continues to Hire Employees.”

John Dizard  
*National Review*, May 29, 1995, page 29.

1432. The First Amendment protects their [journalists'] right to report the truth free from government throttling. It does not protect their right to violate other laws.

Tom Lee, media critic  
*The Nashville Banner*, January 29, 1997, page A9.

1433. [Journalism is] lower than brothel keeping or liquor selling, for these make no pretense to respectability, while the journalist pretends to be a public guide and teacher; and the spectacle which he presents, peddling out moral precepts with one hand and scandal, vulgar gossip, and family secrets with the other, is most revolting.

William Bushnell, 1886  
Quoted by David Brooks, *The Weekly Standard*  
December 2, 1996, page 33.

1434. No event is so unique or horrific that it cannot instantly be reduced to an editorialist's cliché.

Jesse Walker  
"Empty Lessons"  
*Reason*, July 1999.

1435. I preach a good line, but I practice what most people in my profession practice. Once in a while, I like to think that I get a little bit further down the road, but so do other reporters. As a rule, we are, if not handmaidens of the establishment, at least blood brothers to the establishment. We end up the day usually having some version of what the White House . . . has suggested as a story.

Sam Donaldson  
Quoted by Norman Solomon  
"Let Us Now Praise 'Unfamous' Journalists"  
Syndicated column, distributed by Creators Syndicate  
April 29, 1999.

1436. Our good relationship with the media continues to this day. They respect us as professional, call us for relevant opinions, and call back if we leave a message. Why? Because we took the time to sell them, not on Libertarian positions, but on the fact that we are serious, well organized, and determined. And it's because we treat them with respect, return their calls, give them "scoops," and make news.

Barbara Goushaw, Campaign Manager  
Jon Coon for State Representative, Michigan, 1994  
*LP News*, February 1997, page 6

1437. After nine years as a Capitol Hill press secretary and six years in public relations, I have pitched hundreds of reporters. Remarkably, reporters are among the least intellectually curious people there are. My advice to young people is to keep it extremely simple for reporters. Talk as if you have a 12 year old on the other side of the phone. Do not try to educate reporters. They think they know everything. Just tell them how you can make things easier for their lazy asses.

Steven Schlein  
Email to Howard Kurtz  
Published in *The Washington Post*, February 9, 2001.

1438. A press catering to the masses needs to establish an obvious culprit, preferably one of complete evil with no complexities or irritating notions about justice. [Timothy] McVeigh is resisted as a human being in direct proportion to the press' need to keep him simple, stupid, and thoroughly wicked. The real McVeigh — an honorable, compassionate man driven to complete despair and murder by his ideological views — is something far too terrible to contemplate, even as an aside. So the press must have a bogeyman, and a crew cut is the perfect cover, making McVeigh impervious to any subtlety or human motives that don't spring from a mean daddy. All we children of Hollywood know that crew cuts and discipline equal stupidity.

James Versluys  
"In Defense of Gore Vidal"  
*The Texas Mercury*, September 2, 2001.

1439. One sign that the news media feel cowed is the lack of resistance to Condoleeza Rice's suggestions on how TV should be covering Osama bin Laden. Ms. Rice, the national security adviser, wants the networks to abridge any future videotapes supplied by bin Laden and to remove his inflammatory language. But why? News executives are entitled to present an entire rant from the world's most famous mass murderer if they think it is news. And where is the harm? Arab-speakers are going to see the whole diatribe on Al Jazeera anyway, and Americans are unlikely to defect to al-Qaeda because they see an unabridged version of hate from the cave. The fact that bin Laden is trying to use our media against us is galling, but it doesn't justify the government's calling in network executives for "suggestions" on how to report the war.

John Leo  
"The Public's Right To Know Exists Even in Wartime"  
Town Hall, November 13, 2001.

1440. Politicians are lying to you. One of our big problems is that reporters themselves are helping amplify the lies.

John R. Mac Arthur, publisher, *Harper's* magazine  
"Censorship and Propaganda in the Gulf War"  
Speech at Independent Policy Forum  
San Francisco, October 7, 1993.  
Stephen Gowans  
"Getting the Pipeline Map and Politics Right"  
*Swans* (Internet publication), November 12, 2001.

1441. Journalists in America like being very close to power. They [cozy] up to people in the administration, the politicians. There is a very unhealthy osmotic, incestuous relationship between journalists and power. You just look at a press conference given by Condoleezza Rice or George Bush: "Barb, your turn to ask a question. Thank you very much, but I don't want to get into that right now. John." It's all first-name terms, right?

American correspondents often arrive for the first time in a foreign country, and what do they do? They go to the U.S. Embassy for a briefing. There is this feeling that [questioning] U.S. foreign policy is somehow subversive at a time of crisis. Where, in fact, at a time of crisis is the one time you must question and challenge your own government's statements. You have a duty to the public.

Robert Fisk  
"Fisk Criticizes U.S. Media in Interview"  
*The Stanford Daily*, December 4, 2002.

1442. Since 9/11, Americans have been subjected to the most intense propaganda campaign from their government since World War I. Much of the mainstream U.S. media have been intimidated by the Bush administration into unquestioningly amplifying its party line.

Or, in the worst tradition of yellow, jingoist journalism, they act as cheerleaders for war. I am reminded of the sycophantic Soviet media during the days of Chairman Leonid Brezhnev.

Eric Margolis  
"Bush's War Is Not about Democracy"  
*The Toronto Sun*, March 2, 2003.

1443. Reporters argue that they have no choice. They'll say they can't protest or boycott the staged format, because they risk being stripped of their seat in the press pool. For the same reason, they say they can't write anything too negative. They can't write, for instance, "President Bush, looking like a demented retard on the eve of war . . ." That leaves them with the sole option of "working within the system" and, as they like to say, "trying to take our shots when we can."

Matt Taibi, commenting on the staged Bush press conference  
"Cleaning the Pool"  
*The New York Press*, March 12, 2003.



1444. With a straight face, and with scant willingness to raise fundamental questions, American networks uncritically relay a nonstop barrage of statements from U.S. officials that portray deadly Iraqi actions as heinous and deadly American actions as positive. They have “death squads,” and we have noble troops. Their bullets and bombs are odious; ours are remedies for tyranny.

Norman Solomon  
“The Thick Fog of War on American Television”  
Media Monitors Network, April 4, 2003.

1445. Fox News, a network as slavishly pro-government as any state-run channel in the old Soviet bloc, . . .

Julian Borger  
“Bush Prepared for another Test of Strength”  
*UK Guardian*, May 7, 2003.

1446. Editors and reporters don't like to diverge too sharply from what everyone else is writing. When a president is popular and a consensus prevails, journalists shrink from challenging him.

Michael Massing  
“Now They Tell Us”  
*New York Review of Books*, January 29, 2004.

### Price controls

1447. If we set the price on the service and convenience of ATM machines, how long will it be before we set the price of bread at the local market?

Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.)  
Quoted by James K. Glassman  
*The Washington Post*, August 5, 1997; Page A15

### Principles

1448. What is the use of being elected or re-elected unless you stand for something?

Grover Cleveland, U.S. president, 1885-1889, 1893-1897,  
Quoted in “Odyssey of a Statesman” by Matthew Hoffman  
*FreeMarket*, January 1991, page 8.

1449. It is true that in the end corruption wins not more than honesty, that there is a public conscience — that all the greed and scoundrelism and prejudice and folly of our political, race, and business sides, massed into one grand desperate effort for control, are not able to stand before the simple weight of an honest man and an upright cause.

Anonymous friend of Grover Cleveland  
Quoted in “Odyssey of a Statesman” by Matthew Hoffman  
*FreeMarket*, January 1991, page 8.

1450. Whatever you say, tell the truth.

Grover Cleveland, U.S. president, 1885-1889, 1893-1897,  
Quoted in “Odyssey of a Statesman” by Matthew Hoffman  
*FreeMarket*, January 1991, page 7.

1451. The other side can have a monopoly on all the dirt in this campaign.

Grover Cleveland, U.S. president, 1885-1889, 1893-1897,  
Quoted in “Odyssey of a Statesman” by Matthew Hoffman  
*FreeMarket*, January 1991, page 7.

### Prices Reflect Future Conditions

1452. In a free market, prices always reflect anticipated rather than present economic conditions.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell  
*Rothbard-Rockwell Report*, October 1990, page 13

### Privacy

1453. . . . the poorest man may in his cottage bid defiance to all the forces of the Crown. It may be frail — it’s roof may shake — the wind may blow through it — the storms may enter — but the king of England cannot enter — all his force dares not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement.

William Pitt  
Quoted by Sharon Harris  
“The Invisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand”  
Speech, California Libertarian Party convention  
February 22, 1998.

1454. The house of everyone is to him as his castle and fortress.

Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634)  
Semayne’s Case. 5 Report 91

1455. While the unanimous vote by the Senate and the likely withdrawal of the “Know Your Customer” proposal at the FDIC are developments worth cheering about, they will represent nothing more than temporary victories for freedom and constitutional rights. The government will be back. There will be new attempts to find out how you are spending the small amount of money your “public servants” permit you to keep. When you least expect it, they will be back in your pocket and snooping in your private affairs once again.

Joseph Farah  
WorldNetDaily, ca. March 17, 1999.

1456. I am deeply concerned about reports that the Administration is trying to set up a new Washington bureaucracy to protect the private sector from hackers and computer terrorists. What we really need is protection from government Peeping Toms.

Richard Armey (R-TX)  
“Mr. President, Stay out of My Inbox”  
July 28, 1999  
<http://freedom.house.gov/library/technology/s990728.asp>.

1457. A government performing at the level envisioned by the Founders represents no threat to our privacy. But we have asked this government to birth our children, insure our health, fund our retirement, clean up our back yard, etc, etc, etc. Oh, and we want them to do all this without any fraud or cheating. For this they need information. As the Libertarians ease us back to a constitutional level of federal government, the privacy issue will absolutely disappear.

SHvnDave@southhaven.net  
IntellectualCapital.com forum  
August 27, 1998.

1458. Those who are willing to allow the government to establish a Soviet-style internal passport system because they think it will make us safer are terribly mistaken. Subjecting every citizen to surveillance and screening points actually will make us less safe, not in the least because it will divert resources away from tracking and apprehending terrorists and deploy them against innocent Americans!

Ron Paul  
December 2004  
Quoted by Steven Yates  
“National ID Red Alert!”  
LewRockwell.com, December 18, 2004.

## **Problems**

1459. “Problems” become problems only when there is some chance of solving them; until then they are accepted as quite natural conditions.

*Isabel Paterson*, quoted by Stephen Cox  
*Liberty*, October 1993, page 40

### Production

1460. On the market of a capitalistic society, the common man is the sovereign consumer whose buying or abstention from buying ultimately determines what should be produced.

Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997

### Progress

1461. As Ayn Rand once wrote, the man who discovered how to make fire was probably burned at the stake.

James Ostrowski  
*Liberty*, September 1992, page 27

### Propaganda

1462. A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanation.

Saki  
Quoted by George Will, syndicated column  
*Nashville Banner*, December 14, 1995, page A18

1463. . . . the true object of propaganda is neither to convince nor even to persuade, but to produce a uniform pattern of public utterance in which the first trace of unorthodox thought immediately reveals itself as a jarring dissonance.

Alan Bullock  
*Hitler and Stalin: Parallel Lives*  
Quoted by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
Email message, May 27, 1999.

1464. Most people prefer to believe their leaders are just and fair even in the face of evidence to the contrary, because once a citizen acknowledges that the government under which he lives is lying and corrupt, the citizen has to choose what he or she will do about it. To take action in the face of a corrupt government entails risks of harm to life and loved ones. To choose to do nothing is to surrender one's self-image of standing for principles. Most people do not have the courage to face that choice. Hence, most propaganda is not designed to fool the critical thinker but only to give moral cowards an excuse not to think at all.

Michael Rivero  
Quoted by Jeff Rense  
“Dubya Dubya Three”

1465. When one watches some tired hack on the platform mechanically repeating the familiar phrases — *bestial atrocities, iron heel, bloodstained tyranny, free peoples of the world, stand shoulder to shoulder* — one often has a curious feeling that one is not watching a live human being but some kind of dummy: a feeling which suddenly becomes stronger at moments when the light catches the speaker’s spectacles and turns them into blank discs with no eyes behind them.

George Orwell  
Quoted by David Olive  
“Language Always One of War’s First Casualties”  
*The Toronto Star*, March 23, 2003.

1466. When a well-packaged web of lies has been sold gradually to the masses over generations, the truth will seem utterly preposterous and its speaker a raving lunatic.

Dresden James, American writer  
Quoted by John Pilger  
“Britain’s Deadliest Secrets”  
*The New Statesman* (UK), May 22, 2003.

1467. The government’s war strategy seems to have been threefold:

1. In order to whip up public support for war, tell lies so outrageous that most people will believe that no one would have dared to make them up.
2. When the conflict is over, dismiss questions about the continued lack of evidence as ‘irrelevant’ and stress alternative ‘benefits’ from the military action, e.g., ‘liberation’ of the people.
3. Much later on, when the truth is finally revealed, rely on the fact that most people have lost interest and are now concentrating on the threat posed by the next new Hitler.

Neil Clark  
“How the Battle Lies Were Drawn”  
*The Spectator*, June 14, 2003.

1468. If people really knew, the war would be stopped tomorrow. But of course they don’t know and they can’t know.

David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister  
December 28, 1917 (referring to what British troops were enduring  
in World War I)  
Quoted in *The History of the Times*, Volume 4, page 345.  
Cited in *The First Casualty* by Phillip Knightley, pages 116-117.

1469. Once you call something evil, it's easy to justify anything you might do to harm that evil. Evil has no rights, it has no human dignity, it has to be destroyed. That's how you get your Fallujahs, your Abu Ghraibs, your shock-and-awes.

Ramsey Clark  
Quoted by Lizzy Ratner  
"Why I'm Taking Saddam's Case"  
*Colorado Springs Independent*, February 10-16, 2005.

### Property Rights

1470. Whoever prefers life to death, happiness to suffering, well-being to misery must defend without compromise private ownership in the means of production.

Ludwig von Mises  
From a 1920 article on socialism  
Paraphrased by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
*The Economics of Liberty*, page 313.

1471. Either you have the right to own property, or you are the property of a tyrannical government.

Wayne Hage, rancher harassed by federal government  
Quoted by Margaret H. Gabbard of Stewards of the Range  
Letter to the editor, *The Wall Street Journal*, May 4, 1995.

1472. The free exchange of goods and services between individuals depends on the idea that a person has the right to own property. If a person has the right to own property, it follows that he has the right to use or dispose of his property as he wishes, so long as he does not infringe on the same right of others.

W.M. Curtiss  
Quoted in *Freedom Daily*, January 1990.

1473. The most pacific of all institutions is private property, so long as all citizens have a fair chance to acquire it. This is a truth that has nearly been forgotten in this socialistic century. But it's no less true for that. The stablest societies have been those in which personal ownership has been a quiet constant, like a growing of grass. The more a man trusts the law to protect his property, the deeper his loyalty to the government. But if the state abets the violation of his property rights, or simply denies them, it will make him his enemy.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, March 22, 1989.

1474. The dichotomy between personal liberties and property rights is a false one. Property does not have rights. People have rights. In fact, a fundamental interdependence exists between the personal right to liberty and the personal right in property. Neither could have meaning without the other.

Potter Stewart, Supreme Court Justice, 1972  
Quoted by Gideon Kanner  
*The Wall Street Journal*, August 25, 1993, page A11.

1475. The right to enjoy property without unlawful deprivation, no less than the right to speak out or the right to travel, is, in truth, a “personal right.”

Potter Stewart, Supreme Court Justice  
Lynch vs. HFC, 1972  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1476. Now what liberty is this when property can be taken without permission?

Samuel Adams  
Quoted by Tom Saunders (tom@isc-durant.com)  
On the Internet (phone: 405-965-4867).

1477. Next to the right of liberty, the right of property is the most important individual right guaranteed by the Constitution and the one which, united with that of personal liberty, has contributed more to the growth of civilization than any other institution established by the human race.

William Howard Taft (1857 — 1930)  
*Popular Government*, ch. 3 (1913).

1478. Property is surely a right of mankind as real as liberty. The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence.

John Adams  
*Legal Papers of John Adams* (L. Wroth & H. Zubel, editor, 1965)  
Cited in *Forfeiting Our Property Rights* by Henry Hyde  
Cato Institute, page 20.

1479. If we're entitled to the labor of others, that makes slaves of those others.

Marilyn vos Savant  
Syndicated column, “Ask Marilyn,” December 31, 1995  
Noticed by Mike Arst

1480. By abolishing all private property, communism makes me even more dependent on others, on the generality or totality (of society), and, in spite of its attacks on the State, it intends to establish its own State . . . a state of affairs which paralyzes my freedom to act and exerts sovereign authority over me.

Max Stirner  
Quoted by Jeff Murray  
*The Pitt News*, University of Pittsburgh, July 25, 2001.

### Prosperity

1481. Prosperity percolates up from free enterprise, it doesn't trickle down from Big Government.

Michael Cloud  
Radio broadcasts, 1998.

### Protectionism

1482. Six million Americans work in steel-using industries. That's more than 30 times the number who work making steel.

*The Wall Street Journal* editorial opposing protectionism for  
domestic steel  
March 30, 1992, page A16.

1483. Or if those steps don't work, the government should require Japanese luxury cars to be imported with their steering wheels on the right. This would truly create a "level playing field," because most of the Big Three cars exported to Japan still have their steering wheels on the left. (The Japanese, like the British, drive on the wrong side of the road.) Sales of Infinitis in America would plunge to the level of Chryslers in Japan.

Paul Ingrassia,  
"U.S. Auto Policy On Japan Could Drive You Crazy,"  
*Wall Street Journal*, May 25, 1995, page A14.

1484. I find it ironic that our government restricts imports to other countries to *punish* them, while restricting imports to our own country to *protect* us!

Richard J. Hrebic  
In Libertarian Forum of CompuServe, May 15, 1995.

1485. Does anyone really think that American car buyers would be better off today if Japanese imports had been banned in the '70s and '80s?



*Investors Business Daily*  
Editorial “Bad Barriers”  
November 20, 1998

1486. The myth of fair trade is that politics and bureaucrats are fairer than markets — that government coercion and restriction can create a fairer result than voluntary agreement. . . . [We should ask] not whether foreign governments treat American companies fairly, but whether American citizens receive fair treatment from the U.S. Government.

James Bovard, *The Fair Trade Fraud*  
Quoted by Douglas Bandow, *National Review*  
January 20, 1992, page 56.

*See also* Free Trade.

### Public Broadcasting

1487. If PBS Won’t Do It . . . Who Cares?

Kerry Pearson (email: LuxLucre@direct.ca)  
In email posting, April 1, 1997

### Public Utilities

1488. It has been said that if Thomas Edison were alive, he’d easily recognize today’s electric utility service. It has changed so little despite enormous advances in technology and the broad diversity of consumer preferences. In an era of fax machines, cell phones and personal computers this \$200 billion a year industry still sends someone climbing over your back fence to read an analog meter.

No one can seriously contend that government-enforced monopoly is better than individual choice and competition. We trample on individual rights when we let any government tell citizens that they cannot choose an electric power supplier because of where they live. The only tactic left to the utilities is delay, delay, delay. This type of foot-dragging costs money — and the American consumer is paying for it every day we delay — \$200 million a day.

Jeffrey K. Skilling, President, Enron Corp.  
Testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural  
Resources, March 6, 1997  
Quoted in *LP News*, September 1997, page 13.

## Πυβλιχ Οπινιον Πολλσ

1489. “I am always amazed at the results of public opinion polls. The proportion of people who answer ‘Don’t know’ is usually something like 1% when it really should be something like 100%. I believe that if you asked a sample of Americans ‘What is the temperature of Mars?’ about 8% would say that they don’t know.”

Herbert Stein  
*The Wall Street Journal*, June 11, 1993, page A10

## Public Servants

1490. The self-interest of people in government leads them to behave in a way that is against the self-interest of the rest of us. You remember Adam Smith’s famous law of the invisible hand: People who intend only to seek their own benefit are “led by an invisible hand to serve a public interest which was no part of” their intention. I say that there is a reverse invisible hand: People who intend to serve only the public interest are led by an invisible hand to serve private interests which were no part of their intention.

Milton Friedman  
*Why Government Is The Problem*, page 18.

1491. As Armen Alchian always says, there’s one thing you can count on everybody in the world to do, and that’s to put his self-interest above yours.

Milton Friedman  
*Cato Policy Report*, July/August 1993, page 14

## Puritanism

1492. Puritanism: The haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956), U.S. journalist.  
*A Book of Burlesques*, “Sententiae” (1920).

## PART IV

### Racism

1493. Only the lunatic fringe buys racist tracts written by whites, but black racism sells.

Abigail Thernstrom  
*National Review*, Nov 16, 1992; page 58.

1494. But what exactly is “racism”? It may be scientifically false to believe, for example, that Asians are more intelligent than whites, but can it really be sinful?

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
*Rothbard/Rockwell Report*, May 1990, page 8.

1495. It's harder to be a racist if you spent your childhood cheering for, and marveling at, Michael Jordan.

Paul Gigot  
*The Weekly Standard*, January 27, 1997, page 19

1496. Larry King: Do you feel that you're an influence on young blacks?

Tiger Woods: Young children.

King: Just young *children*? Don't you think you've attracted a lot more blacks to the game [of golf]?

Woods: Yeah, I think I've attracted minorities to the game, but you know what? Why limit it to just that? I think you should be able to influence people in general, not just one race or social-economic background. Everybody should be in the fold.

Quoted in *The Weekly Standard*, June 22, 1998, page 2.

1497. There is a class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Having learned that they are able to make a living out of their troubles, they have grown into the settled habit of advertising their wrongs — partly because they want sympathy and partly because it pays. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs.

Booker T. Washington  
Quoted by Walter Williams  
"Problem Profiteers"  
WorldNetDaily, July 21, 1999

[http://www.worldnetdaily.com/bluesky\\_williams/19990721\\_xcwwi\\_problem\\_pr.s.html](http://www.worldnetdaily.com/bluesky_williams/19990721_xcwwi_problem_pr.s.html).

1498. When a Negro girl learns to cook, to wash dishes, to sew, to write a book — or a Negro boy learns to groom horses, or to grow sweet potatoes, or to produce butter, or to build a house, or to be able to practice medicine as well or better than someone else, they will be rewarded regardless of race or color. In the long run, the world is going to have the best, and any difference in race, religion, or previous history will not long keep the world from what it wants. I think that the whole future of my race hinges on the question as to whether or not it can make itself of such indispensable value that the people in the town and the state where we reside will feel that our presence is necessary to the happiness and well-being of the community. No man who continues to add something to the material, intellectual, and moral well-being of the place in which he lives is long left without proper reward. This is a great human law which can not be permanently nullified.

Booker T. Washington, 1901  
Quoted by Larry Elder  
Speech, Libertarian Party convention, July 4, 1998.

1499. I have come here today not in anger or to anger, though my mere presence has been sufficient, obviously, to anger some. Nor have I come to defend my views, but rather to assert my right to think for myself, to refuse to have my ideas assigned to me as though I was an intellectual slave because I'm black. I come to state that I'm a man, free to think for myself and do as I please.

Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court  
Speech to National Bar Association in Memphis  
Wednesday, July 29th, 1998

1500. The 30 million people of African descent in the United States together boast a combined income of nearly one trillion American dollars — in other words, almost 50% more than that of the 30 million people who live in Canada.

David Frum  
"Tax Oppression Has Parallels to Racism"  
Canadian *National Post* online, January 15, 2000.

1501. We damn sure are not about to let white folks buy up all the property in D.C.

Natalie Hopkinson  
"I Won't Let D.C. Lose Its Flavor"  
*The Washington Post*, June 17, 2001; page B01.

1502. I guess it had to happen, but UCLA has initiated separate victim group graduation ceremonies. There are now individual ceremonies for gays (sorry, members of the "LGBT community"), Iranians, Asian Pacific Islanders, Latinos and, of course, blacks. At the All African People's graduation, they have dropped "Pomp and Circumstance" in favor of the theme from the "Panther" movie soundtrack. They also sing the Black National Anthem and have a libation ceremony for their racial ancestors. Yes, they can all go to the main graduation ceremony as well — and these do not replace the big one. But this is a sad development — a version of separate lunch-tables taken to a logical conclusion. No word yet on whether white students want their own ceremony as well. But I see no reason why not. They'll be a minority soon in California. Come to think of it, if you're going to have separate graduations, why not just have separate colleges altogether? Or separate high schools? Didn't they once have that in this country? Oh, never mind.

Andrew Sullivan  
"Forget Pomp and Circumstance"  
AndrewSullivan.com, June 19, 2001.

1503. Banks don't turn down good loans because of skin color. A bank that turned down a creditworthy black customer in order to lend to a high-risk white customer would not long be in business.

Paul Craig Roberts  
"Shaking Down the Law"  
*The Washington Times*, August 17, 2001.

### Rationality

1504. It is said that we can't appeal to people's rationality, because most people are not rational beings. But the only asset we have is whatever rationality they retain. To pander to their irrationality puts us in the camp of the Republicrats, who are much better at it than we are. We must address ourselves to people's better selves, not to their worse.

From Steve Heller  
CompuServe Libertarian Forum, 1996.

### Reagan, Ronald

1505. . . .a national press or media coverage that refused to treat the Reagan administration as a legitimate government. . .

M.E. Bradford  
*Policy Review*, Summer 1991, page 79.

1506. With Ronald Reagan, they [conservatives] had a leader like Homer's Menelaus, who was "good at the battle cry" but rarely up to a good fight against the most powerful enemies.

Thomas Fleming  
*Chronicles*, June 1992, page 12.

1507. He ran on a quasi-libertarian platform. He immediately betrayed all of the libertarian aspects of his program and successfully blamed this on the Democrats. Then he ran for re-election to "complete" his program. The faithful bought it all the way.

Howard S. Katz  
*Libertarian Party News*, February 1998, page 22.

1508. Ronald Reagan is a hero to pro-lifers, but he gave them eight years of lip service.

Bill Pascoe  
Political Director, American Conservative Union  
Quoted by Alan Greenblatt, *CQ* staff writer, March 2, 1998  
<http://allpolitics.com:80/1998/03/02/cq/reagan.html>.

1509. According to a recent Treasury Department study, there have been 15 major tax bills since 1980. Of these, 11 were tax increases. Ronald Reagan, the arch tax cutter, signed into law 6 of them, including the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, one of the largest tax increases in history. And of the 4 tax cuts, only the Economic Recovery Act of 1981 was significant.

Bruce Bartlett  
Statement before the House Budget Committee  
March 8, 2001.

1510. Let someone else be Reagan.

Joseph Sobran  
Referring to the conservative slogan “Let Reagan Be Reagan”  
Quoting himself in “Looking Back at Reagan”  
*Sobran’s*, October 2, 2003.

1511. Ronald Reagan is moving us further ahead, and not very gradually or moderately either, in the direction of Big Government and collectivism. He is not moving gradually in the right direction, but at a smart clip in the wrong direction. He has not turned the country around, except in the mistaken notions and fantasies of the media, of deluded rank-and-file conservatives, and of our right-wing libertarians. Only his rhetoric, not his actions, can be called libertarian in any sense. In an age of hype, Reagan’s public-relations success was — very temporarily — astounding.

Murray N. Rothbard  
“Are We Being Beastly to the Gipper?”  
*The Libertarian Forum*, Volume XVI, No. 2, March 1982.

1512. There was no “Reagan Revolution”: The Federal Government kept growing steadily throughout those eight years. Both his partisans and his enemies promoted, for opposite reasons, the myth that he was slashing government with his conservative cutlass.

Joseph Sobran  
“The Great Comedian”  
*Sobran’s*, July 2004, page 12.

## Recessions

1513. Recessions are not the symptoms of an instability inherent in the free market, although alleged market instability often is the excuse given for government intervention. Recessions flow from the actions of governments, in particular from the expansion of credit that the government achieves when it expands the money supply. Government policies in general interfere with the decisions of individuals, and the interference distorts the economy. When the interference takes the form of a credit expansion, the distortions that result eventually climax in a recession.

Alexander P. Paris  
“An Austrian Interpretation of the Elusive Recession”  
*Harry Browne’s Special Reports*, November 9, 1979, page 37-8.

## Recycling

1514. There is nothing inherently virtuous about recycling, anymore than saving string is inherently virtuous. We should recycle only if recycling allows more to be produced than the use of new materials would. If that’s the case, there will be a demand for recycled materials — and someone will be eager to pay to get them. But if we have to be forced or urged to recycle, with no remuneration for doing so, it must be that the people using the recycled materials want to get something for nothing.

Source unknown.

1515. One argument for recycling is that we are running out of landfill space. A “public service” advertisement on Nickelodeon shows images of a city being buried in its own trash. This is typical of what passes for environmental education. Just as hysterical are American Education Publishing’s “Comprehensive Curriculum” series and *50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save the Earth*.

In fact, there is no landfill shortage. If all the solid waste for the next *thousand years* were put into a single space, it would take up 44 miles of landfill, a mere .01% of the U.S. land space.

Roy E. Cordato  
“Don’t Recycle: Throw It Away!”  
*The Free Market Newsletter*  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, December 1999.

1516. How about the claim that recycling paper saves trees? Every school kid knows it does. Paper is made from trees. Why not make new paper from old paper and save more trees from being cut down?

Actually, that doesn’t work. Supply meets demand. If tomorrow we suddenly stopped making bread from wheat, there would be less wheat in the world one year from now. The supply would have fallen drastically. If everyone stopped eating chicken, the chicken population would not grow but fall.

The same logic applies to the relationship between paper and trees. If we stopped using paper, there would be fewer trees planted. In the paper industry, 87% of the trees used are planted to produce paper. For every 13 trees “saved” by recycling, 87 will never get planted. It is because of the demand for paper that the number of trees has been increasing in this country for the last fifty years. The lesson is this: if your goal is to maximize the number of trees, don’t recycle.

Roy E. Cordato  
“Don’t Recycle: Throw It Away!”  
*The Free Market Newsletter*  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, December 1999.

1517. Recycling is garbage.

John Tierney  
*New York Times Magazine*, 1996  
Quoted by Chris Mooney  
“Libertarian Rhapsody”  
*The American Prospect*, September 10, 2001.

### Reform & Reformers

1518. I came into this world, not chiefly to make this a good place to live in, but to live in it, be it good or bad.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)  
*On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*, page 8.

1519. Radical, dramatic reform, if that’s what we really want, involves curing the malaise. It involves, that is, restraining government itself.

William Murchison  
*Human Events*, June 5, 1993, page 15.

1520. [Speaking of Woodrow Wilson: He was] a man driven by a vision for reconstructing human life; and, whether thrusting his country into war, suppressing its constitutional liberties, or imposing an administrative state upon his fellow citizens, he was working to give flesh to that vision.

Paul Gottfried  
*Chronicles*, October 1992, page 34.

1521. The enemy will not appear among us as an enemy. He will appear as one who wishes to save us from disaster.

Jozsef Mindszenty, 1892 — 1975  
Hungarian primate, Roman Catholic cardinal.  
Quoted in the movie, *Guilty of Treason* (1950).

1522. No arrogance compares to that of the do-gooder. He is so consumed with self-righteousness, that if he cannot persuade you to accept his point of view, he’s quite willing to force you by government mandate.



Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published.

1523. An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956), U.S. journalist.  
*A Book of Burlesques*, “Sententiae” (1920).

1524. The humanitarian with the guillotine.

Isabel Patterson, quoted by Murray Rothbard  
*Rothbard-Rockwell Report*, July 1991, page 4.

### Regulation

1525. We were told about laid-off meat inspectors and air traffic controllers, of poisoned consumers and airline crashes. We were supposed to think, I guess, that Hormel is just waiting to sell unhealthy ham.

Llewellyn Rockwell  
Referring to the potential budget sequester of 1990  
*Rothbard-Rockwell Report*, November 1990.

1526. The fallacy of socialism is not the economics, but the belief that bureaucrats are more honest than business people.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1998 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

1527. Modern man seems to spend more time thinking of ways to avoid government intrusion in his life than he does producing things people want.

Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published.

1528. To suppose all consumers to be dupes, and all merchants and manufacturers to be cheats, has the effect of authorizing them to be so, of degrading all the working members of the community.

Anne Robert Jacques Turgot (1727-1781)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997.

1529. The technological revolution continues, even accelerates, partly because capital investment and innovation flow to the least-regulated parts of the economy.

David D. Boaz  
Speech, Libertarian Party convention, July 3, 1998.

1530. All told, in 1999, every American family paid about \$7,400 a year for the privilege of being watched, controlled, prodded, nannied and governed. That is essentially a separate income tax of almost 20% per household.

Doug Bandow  
“Clinton’s Regulatory Miasma”  
*The Washington Times*, June 6, 2000.

1531. Four years ago, Congress enacted the Congressional Review Act, which requires all agencies to submit their rules to Congress. Lawmakers then have 60 days to use an expedited process to block the proposals. Not once has Congress acted.

Perhaps every regulation advanced by the administration has been a good one. All 4,684 final rules issued in 1999. And the 4,899 implemented the year before. And the 4,584 imposed in 1997. More than 14,167 new regulations passed after Congress approved the CRA, and apparently not one warranted rejection.

Doug Bandow  
“Clinton’s Regulatory Miasma”  
*The Washington Times*, June 6, 2000.

1532. Politicians pass bills expressing popular sentiments (e.g., cleaner air and water). Unknown staffers buried within the bowels of the bureaucracy then write the real law.

Doug Bandow  
“Clinton’s Regulatory Miasma”  
*The Washington Times*, June 6, 2000.

1533. One of the most frequent statist tricks is the following: (1) The government assumes the responsibility of X. (2) The government screws up horribly. (3) The government cites the mess as proof of the necessity for government action. (For example, after every plane crash, people demand the FAA get more funding. After the “accidental” bombing of the Chinese Embassy, an ex-CIA agent wrote an Op-Ed piece explaining that budget hikes were necessary to update the maps. Imagine if Firestone, after the recall fiasco, explained that it needed to raise its prices in order to provide safer tires. I’m sure Ralph Nader would give them a thumbs-up.)

Bob Murphy  
“Chaos Theory”  
LewRockwell.com, December 1, 2000.

1534. If you had asked me whether singing “Sweet Georgia Brown” in Polish would be funny, I would have said “No.” But, when Mel Brooks and Anne Bancroft sang it as a duet in Polish, I laughed so hard that my sides literally hurt. That is why Mel Brooks is a genius of comedy and I am not. Most of us — if not all of us — are grossly incompetent at other people’s jobs. That is why it is so dangerous to have politicians telling doctors, farmers, bankers, entrepreneurs and others what to do.

Thomas Sowell  
“Random Thoughts”  
TownHall.com, March 8, 2001.

1535. It is the regulated who have an intense interest in shaping regulations to their benefit — an interest worth spending time and money on. They consult, they lobby, they power lunch, they cajole, they persuade — until gradually things come around to their liking. The intended beneficiaries of the regulations generally have a diffuse and less compelling interest in preventing this process — an interest not worth much of their time or money. So the regulations evolve without their participation, stabbing them in the backs as they luxuriate in the smug belief that the law is there protecting them.

Karen Selick  
“Don’t Trust Government to Protect the Environment”  
*Canadian Lawyer*, November/December, 1996.

1536. Unquestionably, there are some sleazy actors in the private sector. I’ve had troubles with retailers and loan officers and the like, but things have been worked out without the government’s involvement. Certainly, no regulatory agency could ever be counted on to help a consumer in a troubling spot. The court system is a necessary check on fraud and abuse, and for settling complicated claims. But realistically, the cost of going to court is so high that in lower-level disputes we’re left to our own devices anyway.

Steven Greenhut  
“It’s our Choice: Wal-Mart or the DMV”  
LewRockwell.com, May 3, 2003.

*See also* FDA.

### Regimentation

1537. We often allow ourselves to develop bad habits when we are free. We splurge when we go shopping; we do not save enough money for rainy days; we purchase goods that we do not really have much use for simply because this is what we did before, etc., etc. Indeed, free men and women often fall prey to temptations like this. . . .

Now all this is true but what of it? . . . what we need is common sense and friendly reminders, maybe a harsh talking to once in a while from social and religious leaders. The last thing we need to combat bad habits is for a bunch of people to arm themselves and enforce their idea of prudent living on the rest of us. They will be exactly what a free society must most seriously resist.

Tibor R. Machan  
“Misunderstanding Free Markets and Justice”

## Reinventing Government

*See Government, Reinventing.*

## Religion

1538. The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others. But it does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods, or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg.

Thomas Jefferson  
(source unknown)

1539. It is a horrible blight on Christianity that many of the preachers in America today who claim to be conservative Christians waste their time defending the president and upholding the Republican Party instead of defending the Bible and upholding Christianity. Instead of indoctrinating their congregations in the Christian faith, they propagandize them in government falsehood. Instead of exalting the name of Jesus Christ, they exalt the name of George Bush. Instead of diligently studying and giving their church members the truth, they indolently watch Fox News and give their church members government lies. Instead of helping their parishioners grow in their Christian life, they help them grow in their admiration for the state.

What an embarrassment that some preachers parrot Fox News instead of preach the gospel! What a shame to hear a sermon that glorifies the sacrifices of U.S. troops in Iraq instead of the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary! What a disgrace that some preachers are ministers of war instead of ministers of peace!

Laurence M. Vance  
“Vicesimus Knox: Minister of Peace”  
LewRockwell.com, October 24, 2005

## Republican Party

1540. Trying to be the chief intellectual in the Republican Party is probably a little like trying to be an admiral in the Swiss navy.

Samuel Francis  
*Chronicles*, October 1994.

1541. The most damaging trait of the Republican Party isn't intolerance — it's insincerity.

Brent Bozell  
Syndicated column, February 4, 1993.

1542. If the Republicans truly want to bring about a renaissance of the American spirit, they could start by agreeing with the Founding Fathers and asserting an individual's right to exist for his/her own sake and no other. If, however, they simply want power, privilege, and free postage, let them continue on their present course, in which case they will end up with nothing.

Jay Cochran, III, Arlington, Virginia  
Letter to the editor  
*The Wall Street Journal*, October 10, 1997.

1543. Congressional Republicans may tweak one or another program, but they will eliminate no government function, cut no department, end no entitlement program and block no regulation.

Doug Bandow  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997.

1544. If this just degenerates, after a historic election, back into the usual baloney of politics and pettiness in Washington, then the American people will move towards a third party in a massive way.

Newt Gingrich, after Congressional victory in 1994  
Quoted by Charles Oliver  
*Investors Business Daily*, March 18, 1998.

1545. Two years ago, the Republicans passed their Freedom To Farm Act, which was supposed to wean farmers off Depression-era government subsidies. Now, farmers are getting more money than they did before that so-called reform was passed.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, October 19, 1998.

1546. Republicans don't oppose massive federal spending. They just want the money spent on their own pet projects.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, October 19, 1998.

1547. The 1998 budget deal illustrates why you can't trust the GOP to cut, or even slow down, federal spending. If they couldn't do it in 1998, they'll never do it. If they can't even win a budget battle with a president who is an admitted liar and is weakened by scandal — and when they have majorities in both the House and Senate — when can they win?

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, October 19, 1998.

1548. When it comes to saving money, the Republicans have shown that they are fresh out of principles, out of effective political strategies, and out of excuses. They might as well make it official and go out of business.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, October 19, 1998.

1549. Republicans have controlled both houses of Congress for three years, but they have eliminated not a single major domestic program out of the thousands crammed into our \$1.8 trillion budget. This year Republicans won't even bother to try to ax programs that have been thorns in conservatives' sides for decades: the Legal Services Corporation, the National Endowment for the Arts, bilingual education, foreign aid. Things have deteriorated so much on Capitol Hill that a majority in the GOP now believes that it is better politics and economics to spend tens of billions of budget surplus dollars on a pork-barrel federal highway bill than to provide tax relief to working families.

Stephen Moore, The Cato Institute  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 20, 1998.

1550. There is nothing conservative about attempting to reestablish in America the police tactics of King George III. Those tactics are the reason the Fourth Amendment exists, and the reason it needs to be preserved. For the sake of gaining and keeping power, Republicans seem willing to promise segments of their coalition whatever they demand in terms of appearing "tough on crime," at whatever cost to the rights of others. In this respect, conservatives have become a grotesque companion to liberals, filling in the gaps of state power that liberals have left empty.

Robert Bauman  
*Reason*, May 1995, page 50.

1551. The new highway bill approved by the Republican-controlled Congress is 51% larger than the previous one passed by a Democratic Congress. Not surprisingly, the number of pork-laden, earmarked projects has skyrocketed by 1,000% in the last 10 years.

This bipartisan lard-fest shows the danger of trusting Washington politicians with your money: Billions of dollars clearly labeled transportation fund always seem to make a mysterious U-turn into their re-election fund instead.

The only way to be sure that these Congressional road hogs waste as little money as possible is to give them as little as possible to spend.

Bill Winter, Libertarian Party press releases.  
April 7, 1998.

1552. Hillary Rodham Clinton should have called her health bill “Freedom to Heal.” Then Congress might have passed it as restoring the free market in medicine. If you don’t believe such a trick would have worked, take a look at the “Freedom to Farm” bill that just sailed into law. . . . This farm bill is typical of a Congress that can’t bring itself to cut a dime of federal spending, yet passes reams of “revolutionary” laws promising to cut, slash, abolish, and otherwise establish a libertarian heaven on Earth — sometime in the next millennium. . . . Crop prices are at a 10-year high, and under the current subsidy formula, payments would be low. So by merest happenstance, this bill changes the price-based system into a flat subsidy.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
*The Los Angeles Times*, April 9, 1996

1553. If Republicans are not going to be the party of smaller government, if they are content simply to be the not-quite-so-fast branch of the Big Government Party, there is little reason for them to continue to exist as a distinct party, to pretend that they offer Americans a real alternative to Clintonism. If they are simply a different nose at the trough representing slightly different constituencies seeking to pick the taxpayers’ pockets for their own benefit, they could at least have the common decency to abandon the rhetoric about limited government, devolution of power and fiscal responsibility.

Alan Bock  
“Learning the Right Lessons,” *WorldNet Daily* column  
November 6, 1998

1554. Nothing better illustrates the loss of spine among Republican politicians than the various farm bailouts Congress has enacted since July, capped off by this week’s budget bill. Agricultural subsidies — supposedly in decline — are skyrocketing. Farmers will likely get over \$15 billion in federal handouts in the period around the November election. Direct handouts to farmers in 1998 could be more than double the level of 1995.

Without the 1996 law [the “Freedom to Farm” Act, which was supposed to phase out subsidies], farm subsidies would have fallen to their lowest levels in decades, thanks to historically high crop prices. Instead, subsidized farmers received more than three times as much in cash handouts over 1996 and 1997 than they would have received under the previous five-year farm bill. The *Des Moines Register* reports that wheat farmers got 50 times more in subsidies for their 1996 crop than they would have gotten under the previous law.

James Bovard  
*The Wall Street Journal*, October 21, 1998

1555. Since the Revolution of 1994, the Republicans have distinguished themselves for pettiness, duplicity, dissembling, and legal graft. And they add insult to injury by doing it in the name of free markets.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Grand Old Plunderers,” Op-Ed article  
October 21, 1998

1556. Democrats depressed that President Clinton has been diminished by scandal can relax. If he gets any weaker, Republicans may pass Hillary's health-care plan.

Paul Gigot  
*The Wall Street Journal*, October 23, 1998  
(After the Republican Congress passed a massive budget bill.)

1557. The worst news for conservatives is that, by doing so well [in the 1998 mid-term elections], liberal Republican governors are now being touted as the future of the party. Swell. I can't tell you how I'm looking forward to the privilege of being taxed to death by Republican politicians. So now the debate is not whether the state should take half of what I earn, but merely the best way to spend it?

Jay Severin  
MS-NBC commentary, November 4, 1998

1558. Republicans believe in free markets, so they opposed a bailout of Orange County when it faced bankruptcy from failed investments. Yet Republican leaders backed the \$41 billion bailout of a Jakarta regime that had robbed its own of billions and slaughtered 250,000 in East Timor, and supported the \$41 billion bailout of a Brazilian government that is still running a deficit of 8 percent of gross domestic product.

On both occasions, the GOP threw out free-market principles to stand beside Clinton and did so again when Clinton asked for \$18 billion to continue the socialist bailouts ad infinitum.

Patrick J. Buchanan  
"Malaise of the GOP — Is There a Cure?"  
Syndicated column, February 2, 1999

1559. Character matters, but the GOP doesn't have any. It is weak in both character and courage, and that's why it is losing.

Lawrence Kudlow  
Stated on National Review November 1998 cruise  
Quoted by Cal Thomas  
"Drifting with the GOP," syndicated column  
November 18, 1998

1560. The difference between the parties is that one wants to rob Peter to pay Paul, while the other wants to do the opposite.

David Nolan  
Source unknown

1561. If Republicans can't at the very least spend less than Bill Clinton requests, they don't deserve to maintain control of Congress.



Stephen Moore and Lawrence Kudlow  
Memo to the Republican congressional leadership, March 6, 1999.  
Quoted by Robert Novak, "GOP Lacks Nerve To Trim Spending"  
*Chicago Sun-Times*, March 29, 1999.

1562. With Republicans over the last generation trying to cut spending because of budget deficits rather than out of philosophical opposition to big government, they are at sea in this era of surpluses. Even before the windfall became obvious, the GOP-controlled Congress surpassed Clinton's spending requests in two of the last three years.

Robert Novak, "GOP Lacks Nerve To Trim Spending"  
*Chicago Sun-Times*, March 29, 1999.

1563. While expressing disdain with the Democrat Party, we somehow believe the Republican Party will provide the Moses to lead us to the Promised Land. So deep is our feeling in this regard that we are willing to ignore liberal, socialist proposals when Republicans promote them. To call attention to these betrayals is called "negative advertising." We have convinced ourselves that a political party, not immutable principles, provides the foundation for freedom and blessing.

Dr. Chuck Baldwin  
"God Is Not a Republican"  
WorldNetDaily, January 17, 2000.

1564. In 1996, Congress passed the Congressional Review Act, providing procedures for statutory disapproval of specific agency actions. . . . In the years since the act's passage, the executive branch has issued over 15,000 regulations. A total of eight resolutions of disapproval have been introduced; none has passed either chamber.

Christopher C. DeMuth  
"Why the Era of Big Government Isn't Over"  
*Commentary* magazine, April 2000.

1565. That's some campaign slogan: We promise to steal a little less of your money, use a little less of it to buy votes, and lie a little less while doing so. Vote Republican!

Doug Bandow  
"GOP Vote Buying"  
Cato Institute *Daily Commentary*, July 21, 2000.

1566. When a *Democratic* president obstructs justice, commits perjury, and violates federal sexual harassment guidelines he personally signed into law, the resulting conflagration results in not one, but *two* Republican speakers of the House resigning in shame. Not only is the Republican Party in a state of absolute crisis, it is so thoroughly incompetent its members remain oblivious to the trouble they're in.

Mark Hemingway  
“America's Sun Tsu Offers the GOP a Cojones Transplant”  
*The American Spectator*, December/January 2001.

1567. [In 1996] Congress passed the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, slapping a one-year statute of limitations on the filing of habeas corpus petitions in capital cases. Until then Americans had lived quite comfortably with the notion that there should be no time limit on habeas appeals — that the right to be free from illegal restraint never expired.

Alan Berlow  
“The Wrong Man”  
*The Atlantic Monthly*, November 1999.

1568. It has been noted here and there that the Democratic Party (dealing in stolen goods) does reward its followers, while the Republican Party (dealing in stolen goods) pretends to defend its voters' interests and invariably betrays them. The con has worked up to now because the lords of the GOP have been careful to allow their Southern and Western office-seekers to go about proclaiming the Party's deeply held faith in individual liberty, limited government, lower taxes, and economic freedom.

Joseph Stromberg  
“The Apostle Bush”  
LewRockwell.com, February 1, 2002.

### Ρεσεαρχη, Γοϋερνμεντ

1569. As an AIDS patient, if Bill Clinton had followed his campaign promise to get a Manhattan-Project-style federal project to end AIDS, I would not have AIDS today. I'd be dead.

Peter McWilliams  
Speech, 1998 Libertarian Party convention.

### Responsibility

1570. Is it possible to din into the heads of a whole generation that their problems are all other people's fault; that the world owes them an enormous debt; that everything they have yet to achieve is an injustice; that violence is excusable when the world is flawed — and yet expect it all to have no effect on attitudes? Is the arduous process of acquiring skills and discipline supposed to be endured for years by people who are told, by word and deed, that skills are not the real issue?

Thomas Sowell, *Washington Post* essay  
Quoted in a *Wall Street Journal* editorial, September 13, 1991.

1571. At the beginning of 1964, the country was at peace, the economy was humming, and vast tax revenues were burning a hole in Congress's pocket. Sound familiar? The rhetoric of that time sounds oddly familiar too, as a growing number of Republican legislators talk about the ways in which government programs can attack the nation's social problems. They assure us they won't fall into the mistakes the Democrats made in the Great Society — after all, they will be advancing conservative values, not liberal ones. But the hubris is the same.

Charles Murray  
"The Perils of GOP Activism"  
*The Wall Street Journal*, February 20, 1998.

1572. Many politicians lay it down as a self-evident proposition, that no people ought to be free till they are fit to use their freedom. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story, who resolved not to go into the water till he had learned to swim.

Lord Macaulay  
Quoted by ChrisToto on AOL, October 10, 1997

## Revolution

1573. The Revolution was effected before the War commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people; a change in their religious sentiments of their duties and obligations. . . . This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people, was the real American Revolution.

John Adams (1735-1826), Letter, 13 Feb. 1818.

1574. The hardest thing for a country to do is to cross the bridge of revolution. That's because no matter how bad things get on this side of the bridge, there's always the fear that things on the other side could be even worse. I believe that as we approach the 21st century, we need leaders who can tell us stories of the future — leaders with a vision of what life looks like on history's other side. Because in the final analysis, revolutions are fueled not just by frustration, not just by theories, not just by outrage, but by a vision of a better future and the will to cross the bridge.

Theodore J. Forstmann  
*Cato Policy Report*, March/April 1995, page 11.

1575. The revolution is like Saturn — it eats its own children.

Georg Büchner (1813-1837)  
*Danton's Death* (1835)  
Quoted in *Bartlett's* 15th edition, page 552.

1576. Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship.

George Orwell (1903-50)  
O'Brien to Winston Smith, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, page 266 (1949).

- . Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.

John Bradshaw (1602 — 59), English lawyer  
Inscription at Bradshaw's final burial place near Martha Bay,  
Jamaica. .

1577. I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain.

John Adams (1735-1826), U.S. statesman, president.  
Letter, 12 May 1780, to his wife Abigail Adams.

## Rich, The

See *Wealth*.

## Ridicule

1578. Resort is had to ridicule only when reason is against us.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)  
Letter to James Madison, 1813.

## Rights

1579. If you don't have the right to be wrong, you don't have any rights at all.

Gene Burns  
Speech in Boston, September 29, 1996.

1580. If you are not free to choose wrongly and irresponsibly, you are not free at all.

Jacob Hornberger  
Speech, July 29, 1995, Montgomery, Alabama.

1581. Unless men are free to be vicious they cannot be virtuous.

Frank Meyer, *In Defense of Freedom: A Conservative Manifesto*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1582. [Freedom] is not an endlessly expanding list of rights — the “right” to education, the “right” to health care, the “right” to food and housing. That’s not freedom, that’s dependency. Those aren’t rights, those are the rations of slavery — hay and a barn for human cattle.

There is only one basic human right, the right to do as you damn well please. And with it comes the only basic human duty, the duty to take the consequences.

P.J. O’Rourke, *The American Spectator*, July 1993, page 38.

1583. There are just two rules of governance in a free society: Mind your own business. Keep your hands to yourself.

P.J. O’Rourke, Speech to the Cato Institute, 1993  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1584. Respecting other people’s rights, even if you don’t like them or don’t trust them, is simply *not optional*. Nor it is conditional, coming and going with the flux of statistics of societal conditions. On the contrary, it is universal. Leaving other people alone, until and unless they actually intrude on your rights in some way, is the one obligation which you, like everyone else, owe to your fellow man or woman *a priori*, whether you like it or not.

Patrick L. Lilly  
“Contradictions and Conundrums in Gun Prohibition”  
*The Libertarian Enterprise*, July 15, 1999.

1585. Saying that people have a right as long as it is exercised in an acceptable way is to say that they don’t have that right at all.

T. Anthony Rowls, Cincinnati  
Letter to the Editor, *Reason*, November 1994, pg. 13.

1586. There has never been a rebellion in the name of “rights” that did not end up strengthening the central government at the expense of every institution that protects individuals from the brute power of the state.

Thomas Fleming  
*Chronicles*, April 1989, page 12

## Roosevelt, Franklin D.

1587. But for all the weepy tributes by Democrats (and not a few Republicans and neo-conservatives) to the godfather of American liberalism and its crippling legacies 50 years after his death, the truth is that the damage Roosevelt inflicted on this country and the world still cannot be calculated. If Republican leaders like Newt Gingrich solemnly invoke him as a model and a hero, it shows that they have not even begun to understand the ruin he left behind him.

Samuel Francis  
Syndicated column, May 3, 1995, page 13.

1588. It is all right with me if they want to disguise themselves as Karl Marx or Lenin or any of the rest of that bunch, but I won't stand for . . . allowing them to march under the banner of Jackson or Cleveland.

New Deal  
Al Smith, 1928 Democratic presidential candidate, referring to the  
Quoted by Marvin Olasky  
"Franklin D. Roosevelt: How his New Deal Undermined Charity"  
*Philanthropy Culture & Society*, April 1999  
Capitol Research Center  
<http://www.capitalresearch.org/pcs/pcs-0499.html>.

1589. His most famous soundbite, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself," arose partially out of ignorance; breadwinners unemployed for many months were staring at some cold realities, not phantasms.

Marvin Olasky  
"Franklin D. Roosevelt: How his New Deal Undermined Charity"  
*Philanthropy Culture & Society*, April 1999  
Capitol Research Center  
<http://www.capitalresearch.org/pcs/pcs-0499.html>.

## Roosevelt, Theodore

1590. On September 6, 1901, [President William McKinley] was assassinated. Theodore Roosevelt became President and went on to betray the pro-growth, pro-business party that had dominated the nation since the Civil War. He invoked the politics of envy and class hatred, called for imposing an income tax and a death tax, launched a destructive series of anti-trust attacks on his political enemies, vilified businessmen, interjected the federal government into labor disputes, and turned the conservationist movement in America into a drive to nationalize land in the West. His rhetoric and policies delegitimized the business class and its participation in politics through the Republican Party. Roosevelt was our first peacetime President to promote statism, and his anti-free-enterprise demagoguery has poisoned American politics for a century.

Grover G. Norquist  
“A Veep in our Future”  
*The American Spectator*, June 2000, page 64.

### Rule of Law

1591. The great aim of the struggle for liberty has been equality before the law.

F.A. Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty*, 1960  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1592. I would give the devil himself benefit of law for mine own safety sake.

Attributed to Thomas More  
by Robert Bolt in *A Man for All Seasons*  
quoted by Peter McWilliams  
email, February 20, 1999.

1593. Nothing distinguishes more clearly conditions in a free country from those in a country under arbitrary government than the observance in the former of the great principles known as the Rule of Law. Stripped of all technicalities, this means that government in all its actions is bound by rules fixed and announced beforehand — rules which make it possible to foresee with fair certainty how the authority will use its coercive powers in given circumstances and to plan one’s individual affairs on the basis of this knowledge.

F.A. Hayek  
*The Road to Serfdom*  
Quoted by Virginia I. Postrel, *Reason*, May 1993, page 6.

1594. It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man who knows what the law is today can guess what it will be tomorrow. Law is defined to be a rule of action; but how can that be a rule, which is little known and less fixed?

James Madison  
*The Federalist Papers*, No. 62

1595. Mr. Bush . . . is setting up a shadow court system outside the reach of either Congress or America’s judiciary, and answerable only to himself. Such a system is the antithesis of the rule of law which the United States was founded to uphold. In a speech on July 4th, Mr. Bush rightly noted that American ideals have been a beacon of hope to others around the world. In compromising those ideals in this matter, Mr. Bush is not only dismaying America’s friends but also blunting one of America’s most powerful weapons against terrorism.

Editorial, *The Economist*  
July 10, 2003.

## Sacrificing Others

1596. It stands to reason that where there's sacrifice, there's someone collecting sacrificial offerings. Where there is service, there is someone being served. The man who speaks to you of sacrifice speaks of slaves and masters. And intends to be master.

Ayn Rand  
Quoted by WyattsFire on America On Line, Dec 30, 1995.

1597. We all have strength enough to endure the misfortunes of others.

moralist. François, Duc de La Rochefoucauld (1613 — 1680), French writer,  
 Quoted by Stephen Chapman, syndicated column, February 19,  
 1998.

1598. In his Sunday speech President Bush made a call for unity: “We cannot let past differences interfere with present duties.” He also spoke, in a way he hasn’t before, about “sacrifice.” Yet, as always, what he means by unity is that he should receive a blank check, and it turns out that what he means by sacrifice is sacrifice by other people.

Paul Krugman  
 “Other People’s Sacrifices”  
*New York Times*, September 9, 2003.

## Sanctioning Evil & Not Sanctioning It

1599. And the simple step of a simple, courageous man is not to partake in falsehood. Not to support false actions. Let that enter the world, let it even reign in the world — but not with my help. But writers and artists can achieve more. They can conquer falsehood. . . . And no sooner will falsehood be revealed in all its ugliness — and violence, decrepit, will fall.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn  
Nobel Prize Address, 1972  
Quoted in *AIM Report*, September-A 1991

## Sanctions

1600. When Arab terrorists murder Israeli children, we Americans are rightly filled with horror and disgust. But what do Arab peoples think of us when U.S. sanctions bring death to literally thousands of Iraqi children every single month? Can a nation that declares piously it will never stoop to assassinating tyrants, but wields a sanctions sword that slaughters children, truly call itself “the home of the brave?”



Patrick J. Buchanan  
“Toward a More Moral Foreign Policy”  
Speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies  
December 16, 1999.

1601. A few years ago, Madeleine Albright was asked on *60 Minutes* if she believed that a policy that killed so many children was worth it. She answered: “We believe the price is worth it.” No, Madam Secretary, it is not worth it. A policy that sentences thousands of Iraqi children to death every month, because their parents will not rise up and overthrow a tyrant, is unrighteous and immoral.

Patrick J. Buchanan  
“Toward a More Moral Foreign Policy”  
Speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies  
December 16, 1999.

1602. If we believe the cause of peace is advanced when Israelis talk to Arafat, and British talk to the IRA, why should we not talk to Teheran?

Patrick J. Buchanan  
“Toward a More Moral Foreign Policy”  
Speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies  
December 16, 1999.

1603. Just last month, the U.S. imposed sanctions on Afghanistan, because the ruling Taliban refuses to deliver up Osama bin Laden. But rather than revolting against the regime, the Afghani people took to the streets of Kabul shouting “Death to America!” They burned our flag; six UN buildings were stoned or burned. Have we not learned from our own history, of British sanctions against the 13 colonies? Embargoes do not cow people into submission, they unite people in defiance.

Patrick J. Buchanan  
“Toward a More Moral Foreign Policy”  
Speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies  
December 16, 1999.

1604. At the moment, the United States has sanctions against Iraq, Iran, Cuba, and Serbia. We know that those sanctions are not achieving their stated objectives. The rulers of those countries are virtually unaffected. But that doesn’t mean the people aren’t suffering. They suffer from the lack of food, medicines, and vital services. An administration that claims to want to do so much “for the children” is starving children in other countries.

An economic embargo was once regarded as an act of war, and for good reason. It is slow-motion mass murder. We might have learned from history that inflicting mass starvation on a population can come back to haunt. During World War I the Allies inflicted a devastating hunger blockade on Germany that lasted for months after the armistice. The starving children that didn’t perish grew up to become Hitler’s soldiers.

Sheldon Richman  
“Breeding Terrorism”  
*FFF Email Update*, January 25, 2000  
The Future of Freedom Foundation.

## Science

1605. Extreme claims require extreme levels of proof or validation.

*The Skeptical Inquirer*, Summer 1990, page 401  
(author & title of article missing).

1606. This leads the followers of alternative medicine to try to mimic science and in the process they demonstrate the worst pitfalls of flawed reasoning. Rather than deny the reality of scientific findings, they eagerly distort and modify science to fit their moral views. They employ scientific metaphors and terminology and exploit scientific results that they believe support their philosophies, while freely rejecting those that contradict them. These people use the language of science, but the words don't mean the same thing to them as they mean to us. A dialogue doesn't seem possible, because they admire scientific validity only when results are consistent with their own preconceived ideas.

Erik Strommen  
“Illness as Meaning, But Not Much Else”  
A review of *Ritual Healing in Suburban America*  
*The Skeptical Inquirer*, Winter 1990, page 197.

1607. Science, in the public arena, is commonly used as a source of authority with which to bludgeon political opponents and propagandize uninformed citizens.

Richard S. Lindzen  
“The Press Gets It Wrong”  
*The Wall Street Journal*, June 11, 2001.

## Secession

1608. If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.

Thomas Jefferson  
First Inaugural Address  
Quoted by Thomas DiLorenzo  
“The Great Centralizer”  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1998.

## Security

1609. They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)  
*Historical Review of Pennsylvania* (1759)  
From *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 348

1610. The so-called safety net is a fiction designed by the depraved to palatize the enslavement of the gullible for the benefit of the depraved.

Alvin Lowi  
Letter to Harry Browne, September 3, 1998

1611. . . . I spent endless hours on an oil truck [with my grandfather], an unlettered man with brilliant lectures. I'd asked him some years later, I said — we called him Daddy — I said, "Daddy, why is it you never accepted welfare? You struggled out here with your oil business. We farmed to make ends meet."

He told me, "I never took a penny from the government because it takes your manhood away."

I asked him to explain, because he wasn't a particularly macho person. And he said that, "Once you accept it, they can ask you whatever they want to. They can tell you whatever they want to. They can come into your home whenever they want to. They can tell you who can come and who can go, and I'd prefer to starve to death first."

He believed implicitly, firmly, with all conviction, that the price of security, or the price for security, was too high, that it meant perhaps a meal but a meal without liberty.

Clarence Thomas, Supreme Court Justice  
Speech at the Goldwater Institute, November 19, 1999.

1612. It is not only dangerous, but illogical to expect the federal government to protect you. Federal courts have determined that even the state police have no responsibility for you. Furthermore, it is insane to expect the same institution which provides inferior schools and many other inferior services to provide superior security. It is worth remembering that the only effective defense measures on Sept. 11 [2001] were those taken by the private citizens on United Flight 93. This will, I suspect, only become more and more clear over time, and I hope that freedom-loving Americans will respond by embracing their responsibilities and refrain from turning in fear toward the only entity that is capable, in the end, of destroying their liberty.

Vox Day  
"Thinking the Unthinkable."  
WorldNetDaily, November 13, 2001.

## Self-Esteem

1613. We're told that we should build the self-esteem of minority groups by teaching them about the heritage of their culture. But what about *our* culture? Why aren't they teaching our children the cultural heritage of liberty and what it has done for America?

Source lost.

## Self-Government

1614. Men by their constitutions are naturally divided into two parties: (1) Those who fear and distrust the people, and wish to draw all powers from them into the hands of the higher classes. (2) Those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish and consider them as the most honest and safe, although not the most wise depository of the public interests.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)  
Letter to Henry Lee, August 10, 1824  
Quoted in *Bartlett's* 14th edition, page 473.

1615. Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the forms of kings to govern him?

Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1801  
Quoted in *Bartlett's* 14th edition, page 472.

1616. Those who talk so much about "fitting a people for self-government" often forget that no people were ever made "fit" for self-government by being kept in the leading-strings of a foreign Power. You learn to walk by doing your own crawling and stumbling. Self-government is learned only by exercising it upon one's own responsibility.

Carl Schurz  
"The Policy of Imperialism"  
Address at the Anti-Imperialist Conference  
Chicago, October 17, 1899.

## Self-Interest

1617. As Armen Alchian always says, there's one thing you can count on everybody in the world to do, and that's to put his self-interest above yours.

Milton Friedman  
*Cato Policy Report*, July/August 1993, page 14.

1618. Socialism proposes no adequate substitute for the motive of enlightened selfishness that today is at the basis of all human labor and effort, enterprise and new activity.

William Howard Taft (1857 — 1930)  
*Popular Government*, ch. 3 (1913).

1619. As UCLA economist Jack Hirshleifer once put it, "All the world is largely governed by self-interest, and all the world knows it."

Morgan Reynolds, Professor of Economics  
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas  
Letter to the editor, *The American Spectator*  
September 1993, page 84.

1620. It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our necessities but of their advantages.

Adam Smith (1723-90), Scottish economist.  
*The Wealth of Nations*, vol. 1, bk. 1, ch. 2 (1776).

1621. Self-interest is not myopic selfishness. It is whatever it is that interests the participants, whatever they value, whatever goals they pursue. The scientist seeking to advance the frontiers of his discipline, the missionary seeking to convert infidels to the true faith, the philanthropist seeking to bring comfort to the needy — all are pursuing their interests, as they see them, as they judge them by their own values.

Milton Friedman, *Free to Choose* (with Rose Friedman)  
Quoted in *Policy Review*, Fall 1993, page 8.

1622. Where self-interest is suppressed, it is replaced by a burdensome system of bureaucratic control that dries up the wellsprings of initiative and creativity.

Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993

1623. We are on strike, we, the men of the mind. We are on strike against self-immolation. We are on strike against the creed of unearned rewards and unrewarded duties. We are on strike against the dogma that the pursuit of one's happiness is evil. We are on strike against the doctrine that life is guilt.

Ayn Rand, *Atlas Shrugged*  
Quoted in *Policy Review*, Fall 1993, page 14

1624. Self-sacrifice is not a proper engine for driving an economy. Human beings, as a derivative of the instinct to survive, are innately driven to act in their own self-interest. Capitalism harnesses human self-interest; socialism exhausts itself trying to kill it. Any government or institution that runs head-on against the grain of this basic human drive is doomed, sooner or later, to fail.

Linda Bowles  
“Rich Cheer for Taxes”  
Syndicated column, February 20, 2001.

### Selling Liberty

1625. It can take [voters] 10 years or more to understand the philosophical and moral underpinnings to Libertarian ideas. We have to answer real problems right now — [for example,] jobs, gay rights, peace. Target the one issue that your audience is interested in. Give them the product they want. [And liberty is a] great product.

Jim Lewis, Libertarian activist  
Quoted in a Libertarian Party press release, March 3, 1997 .

1626. We must hold forth a vision of a freer, more tolerant America. We must show the American people the great benefits of a society based on mutual, voluntary exchange where coercion and fraud has been banished from society. We will only be satisfied when we have a truly free society. But we will not wait for that to happen — we will make it happen.

Jim Lewis, Libertarian activist  
Quoted in a Libertarian Party press release, March 3, 1997 .

1627. A small group that votes 95% for self-interest has far more power than a large group that votes 50-50 for vacuous ideologies.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1994 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

1628. Because truth can't be rebutted by truth, the closer you get to truth the more you reduce your adversary to falsehood, whether intended or not.

Marshall Fritz  
Letter to Harry Browne.

1629. My enemy is ignorance, not individuals.

Peter McWilliams  
Email, February 20, 1999.

1630. Any idiot with a gun can kill. It takes clever perseverance to make lasting change.

Peter McWilliams  
Email, February 20, 1999.

1631. I support the high road of truth, facts, debate, and education, even if I'm not along to walk that road much longer, and even if lies, deception, repression, and ignorance are the direct cause of my death.

Peter McWilliams  
Email, February 20, 1999.

1632. We can't force people to be free, and we can't trick them into it. No weapon but truth, no arsenal but vocabulary, no battlefield but nature. Does that doom you to obscurity? It makes you insurmountable.

Ken B. Hooper  
CompuServe Libertarian Forum, July 28, 1995.

1633. You should listen to me and address my personal concerns if you want my patronage. Even if I ask a larger question, about Liberty or foreign policy, you should bring the message back to something about me, my family, or my community. If I believe you have our interests at heart — and can do something helpful — I might be a buyer.

Hugh Butler  
Email to Harry Browne, June 30, 1999.

1634. Once the majority of the governed becomes convinced that it is necessary and possible to change the form of government and to replace the old regime and the old personnel with a new regime and a new personnel, the days of the former are numbered. The majority will have the power to carry out its wishes . . . even against the will of the old regime.

Ludwig von Mises  
*Liberalism*  
Quoted by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
Speech at the Ludwig von Mises Institute  
June 5, 1998

1635. If you fight fire with fire you'll get burned.

Bob Black  
Speech at Eris Society, Aspen, August 1984

1636. Other small parties, such as the Socialists, have had a major influence on politics while getting few votes and remaining a small party. But the Democrats and Republicans can't buy votes with libertarianism the way they can with socialism, so they'll never embrace it the way they did the socialist creed. Our program does not provide the same opportunities as those of other parties for politicians to appear generous and benevolent while accruing more and more power to themselves.

Tom Regnier  
Source unknown

1637. Self-sacrifice makes a poor example.

Alvin Lowi  
Source unknown

1638. The lesson is not to become even more “moderate” or more friendly to government programs, but to be even more devoted to the free market and limited government, but in a more intelligent way.

Alan Bock  
“Learning the Right Lessons,” *WorldNetDaily* column  
November 6, 1998

1639. I am aware, that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write this moderation. No! no! Tell a man whose house is on fire, to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest — I will not equivocate — I will not excuse — I will not retreat a single inch — and I will be heard.

William Lloyd Garrison  
*The Liberator*, first issue, 1831.

1640. Millions of people, only some of whom identify themselves as libertarians, now find themselves talking back to their TV sets when the news is on — shouting “That’s none of the government’s business!” The list is very long. It’s none of the government’s business whether I smoke, buy airbags, whether I work overtime or for how much. It’s none of the government’s business how much I charge for my services, whom I hire, whom I fire, or why. It’s none of the government’s business if I build an addition onto my house or work out of my home. It’s none of the government’s business who belongs to my clubs, whom I choose to marry, how I arrange for day-care for my children, or how I manage to support my family at all.

Charles Murray  
“The Eroding Legitimacy of the National Government”  
Speech at Libertarian Party convention, July 2, 1998.

1641. If you fight fire with fire you’ll get burned.

Bob Black  
Speech at Eris Society, Aspen, August 1984.



1642. Bush's political opponents are caught in a fantasy that they can win against him simply by proving the superiority of their ideas. However, people do not support Bush for the power of his ideas, but out of the despair and desperation in their hearts. Whenever people are in the grip of a desperate dependency, they won't respond to rational criticisms of the people they are dependent on. They will respond to plausible and forceful statements and alternatives that put the American electorate back in touch with their core optimism.

Renana Brooks  
"A Nation of Victims"  
*The Nation*, June 12, 2003.

1643. As long as there is one upright man, as long as there is one compassionate woman, the contagion may spread and the scene is not desolate. Hope is the thing that is left us in a bad time.

E.B. White  
Letter to Mr. Nadaeau, March 30, 1973.

### Sexual Harassment

1644. Consider the contradictions. An actor can, during prime time television, graphically discuss and portray all sorts of lascivious inventions. In the schoolyard, if a student displays the least unwelcome sexual gesture or utters an unwelcome sexual remark, he or she can be jugged or, worse, handed over to some morbid counselor. And the contradictions worsen. Some primitive, panhandling on a street corner, can befoul himself, expose himself, or utter any rude or smutty observation with impunity (the lout can act this way in public libraries and a dozen other public buildings too, for that matter), but in the workplace and elsewhere, any neurotic can charge a person, usually a male, with sexual misconduct of the mildest and most dubious variety, and put the poor wretch in hot water.

R. Emmett Tyrrell  
*The American Spectator*, August 1993, page 14

### Shortages

1645. Only government complains about excessive demand for something.

Tim O'Brien  
email message to Harry Browne, June 27, 1998

## Slogans vs. Truth

1646. These people take refuge in the pat and chauvinistic slogans because they are incapable of understanding any others, because these slogans are safer from the standpoint of short-term gain, because the truth is sometimes a poor competitor in the market place of ideas — complicated, unsatisfying, full of dilemmas, always vulnerable to misinterpretation and abuse. . . . And so the chauvinists of all times and places go their appointed way: plucking the easy fruits, reaping the little triumphs of the day at the expense of someone else tomorrow, deluging in noise and filth anyone who gets in their way, dancing their reckless dance on the prospects for human progress, drawing the shadow of a great doubt over the validity of democratic institutions.

George A. Lundberg  
*Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*, page 614

## Slander

- . See *Character assassination*.

## Smoking

1647. The current campaign against tobacco, which has reached hysterical proportions is deeply hypocritical. In the present climate of opinion it is difficult, if not impossible, to raise taxes. Politicians, however, want money to spend. So they have hit on the brilliant devices of soaking the tobacco companies for selling a perfectly legal product, and raising the “sin” tax on cigarettes — that is, soaking the poor in the name of virtue. The affluent don’t worry about a small tax.

Jeffrey Hart, King Features syndicated column  
August 11, 1997.

1648. The government lost the War on Poverty and the War on Drugs, so Bill Clinton has started a new war — the War on Teenage Smoking.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, August 23, 1996.

1649. Teen smoking is a problem that parents have to deal with. Hillary Clinton said it takes a village to raise a child. Now Clinton says it takes the entire federal government to do the job.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, August 23, 1996.

1650. Before Clinton began forcing cigarette companies to spend money on an anti-smoking campaign, the free market was already accomplishing the same goal. Once the FDA relaxed its restrictions on nicotine gum and nicotine patches, private companies started a \$100 million anti-smoking campaign to sell their stop-smoking products. But Clinton naturally prefers a coercive government mandate over a free-market solution.

Bill Winter  
Libertarian Party press release, August 23, 1996

1651. If cigarette smoke makes the air difficult to breathe, so does sanctimony.

Cathy Young, "Anti-Tobacco Pieties Pollute the Air, Too"  
*The Detroit News*  
Reprinted in *Center-Right*, an online newsletter, May 8, 1998.

1652. As Joe Bast says, anybody who believes they're using Joe Camel to get kids to smoke, probably thinks Metropolitan Life is using Snoopy and Woodstock to get kids to buy life insurance. They're trying to get kids hooked on annuities. (I understand they actually manipulate the interest rates to get them hooked quicker.)

Tim Slagle  
Minneapolis show, May 23, 1998

1653. Tobacco has become the most politically incorrect of all products, but so-called public health "activists" are already targeting the beer, wine, liquor, fast food, soft drink, beef, and other industries for similar attacks. Once a tobacco "settlement" is reached only the naive would believe that the same politicians, bureaucrats, trial lawyers, and public health activists who have orchestrated the anti-smoking campaign — and have benefited financially from it — will not declare a new "war" on other politically-incorrect products.

By James T. Bennett and Thomas J. DiLorenzo  
"Government should butt out"  
*USA Today*, November 16, 1998  
Reprinted by the Mises Institute

1654. It's ironic that Philip Morris, a generous contributor to drug-war propaganda via the Partnership for a Drug Free America, now finds itself the victim of the same absolutism that motivates policy on illegal drugs.

Joshua Wolf Shenk, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes"  
A review of *For Your Own Good* by Jacob Sullum  
*The Washington Post*, Sunday, May 10, 1998; Page X05

1655. Yes, many 6-year-olds can identify Joe Camel as a cigarette icon. But that doesn't mean they'll smoke any more than recognizing Saddam Hussein means they will grow up to be genocidal dictators.

Joshua Wolf Shenk, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes"  
A review of *For Your Own Good* by Jacob Sullum  
*The Washington Post*, Sunday, May 10, 1998; Page X05

1656. From 1990 to 1996 heroin use among high-school seniors was up one hundred percent. Imagine how bad things would be if the war on drugs weren't succeeding! A report published in the journal *Pediatrics* attributes the increase to the falling price and higher purity of heroin, and to the belief that snorting or smoking heroin is less dangerous than injecting it.

This is interesting, especially when we compare it to the tobacco war that is being fought simultaneously. As far as I know, there is no animated character, Daffy Drug, he might be called, hawking heroin from billboards. Heroin makers don't sponsor stock-car races. So maybe banishing Joe Camel won't have its promised effect. Kids are using drugs even though they can't be legally sold or promoted. That should tell us something.

Sheldon Richman  
"Policy Overdose"  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, December 21, 1998

1657. The vendetta against tobacco is the most disgusting hypocrisy. During WWII the tobacco companies were heroes for sending the GIs free cigarettes. Washington was very happy to have a nicotine fix to keep the soldiers fighting in a war that most Americans had wanted to avoid. Now this former friend is just another deep pocket to be picked.

Foster Morrison  
Email to Harry Browne, July 8, 1998

1658. Sometimes I get so embarrassed for my fellow human beings — some of them, anyway — that I can hardly bear the squirming discomfort of it. The latest such *deluminati* (in a year seemingly populated to the scuppers with them) are members of a Florida jury who decided that the makers of cigarettes are responsible for half a million bucketheads who somehow managed to mess their lives and health up with tobacco products despite warning labels on every package and 30 years of vile, incessant, nagging, anti-smoking propaganda on radio, TV, and jungle drums.

It's as if these companies had dispatched goon squads out across the country to sit on their prostrate victims' chests, screw cylinders of the Devil's weed into their unwilling mouths, whip out the Zippos, and hop up and down on their helpless torsos to get a good draft going — over and over again for half a century.

L. Neil Smith  
"The Smoking Goons"  
*The Libertarian Enterprise*, July 15, 1999.

1659. For 500 years, smokers and tobacco makers have risked torture and even death at the hands of tobacco's enemies, so it's unlikely that a bunch of lawyers and politicians and the looming threat of deadly disease will fell either the industry or the habit. When the smoke clears from the Tobacco Wars, the last man (or woman) standing may well be a smoker with a cigarette in his (or her) hands.

Tara Parker-Pope  
*Cigarettes: Anatomy of an Industry from Seed to Smoke*  
Quoted by Charles Freund  
"Ifs and Butts", *Reason*, August-September 2001

1660. We have experienced the rise of a nonsmoking enforcer class — Christopher Hitchens calls them "moral cretins" — of hectors and informers, people who cannot abide the presence of smokers even if they must use binoculars to find them.

Charles Freund  
"Ifs and Butts", *Reason*, August-September 2001

### Smuggling

1661. Why is the smuggler my hero? It's easy. People want to and have the right to engage in peaceable, mutually agreeable, voluntary exchange, and a third-party — government — tells them no. The smuggler thwarts the government's mission of interference.

Before we go bad-mouthing smugglers, we might consider that a number of the men we celebrate each Fourth of July, including John Hancock, the first signer of our Declaration of Independence, were smugglers. At that time, it was the British Parliament imposing confiscatory taxes — today it's federal, state and local governments.

Walter Williams  
"Cigarette Nazis on the march"  
WorldNetDaily, December 5, 2001.

### Social Engineering

1662. An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956), U.S. journalist.  
*A Book of Burlesques*, "Sententiae" (1920)

## Social Security

1663. [James] Carville claims that Social Security is worthwhile because it “ensures that older Americans have a guaranteed source of income after a lifetime of work” — which is a lot like saying slavery was a good institution because it benefited slave owners. In fact, more than any other program, Social Security illustrates how the government can be generous to some only by defrauding others. . . . [Y]oung Americans are forced to pay almost a sixth of their earnings (a 15.3% tax) to what amounts to a political slush fund designed to buy old people’s votes for incumbent politicians.

James Bovard  
*The American Spectator*, May 1997, page 62.

1664. The bill opens the door and invites the entrance into the political field of a power so vast, so powerful as to threaten the integrity of our institutions and to pull the pillars of the temple down upon the heads of our descendants.

We are taking a step here today which may be fateful. I ask you to consider it, to re-examine the fundamental philosophy of this bill, to estimate the future and ask yourselves the questions, “In what sort of country shall our grandchildren live? Shall it be a free country or one in which the citizen is a subject taught to depend on government?”

Senator James W. Wadsworth, 1935, arguing against the original  
Social Security Act  
Quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, January 16, 1997, page A18.

1665. To say that [privatizing Social Security] is risky is like saying we can’t get into life rafts from *The Titanic* because they may not be perfect.

Adam Dubitsky, Fund for a New Generation  
Quoted in *National Review*, February 24, 1997, page 36.

1666. When opponents attack [Social Security] privatization because they fear it would weaken “community,” what they really fear is that it would take government out of the picture. The point, it would seem, is not to expand the pie of benefits for each individual retiree; the point is to keep the public pie-cutters employed.

When I listen to the lofty sentiments used to defend government redistribution, I reluctantly have to conclude that nowadays only criminals are honorable enough to steal without rhetorical excuses.

Political discourse has become completely corrupted. The reason is that if you tell people directly that you want to raise their taxes, transfer their wealth, [or] count them by skin color, most will object. Statists know this and therefore are obliged to obfuscate.

Theodore J. Forstmann, *Imprimis* (May)  
*LP News*, September 1997, page 13.

1667. Bob Dole says he fixed Social Security in 1983, and he can do it again. But he “fixed” Social Security in the same way you “fix” your cat.

Howard Phillips  
Presidential debate, Stanford University, November 23, 1996.

1668. Benjamin Franklin once noted that a man has three great friends: An old wife, an old dog, and compound interest.

But it takes time for compound interest to accrue. Every day that passes without [Social Security] reform diminished the potential retirement benefits of young workers. The longer we wait, the most difficult the transition to a new system will be.

Today, Baby Boomers are in their peak earning years. Once that generation retires, any transition plan will become much more politically painful.

Public opinion polls show Americans of all ages and political philosophies recognize the need to reform Social Security. The only thing lacking is leadership from Washington. How much longer will elected officials saddle the American people with a Social Security system devised by Germany in the 19th century?

Michael Tanner, The Cato Institute  
*The Washington Times*, July 26, 1997  
Reprinted in *LP News*, September 1997, page 13.

1669. I would like to suggest one change, that Social Security be made voluntary, that if a person can provide better for himself, let him do it.

Barry Goldwater  
During 1964 presidential campaign  
Quoted by Walter Mears  
“From taboo to topic of discussion”  
*Nando Times*, December 30, 1999

<http://www.nandotimes.com/politics/story/body/0,1066,500148197-500179414-500721744-0,00.html>.

1670. From its beginnings in 1937 until well after WWII (1949), the maximum social security tax paid by a worker amounted to only \$30 a year, with another \$30 matched by his employer. In Social Security’s first year of operation (1937) only 53,236 beneficiaries received a grand total sum of \$1,278,000. Today’s maximum annual Social Security tax per worker is \$5,580, plus another \$5,580 matched by his employer, an increase of 186 times over the original “contribution” when Social Security first started.

Robert Anderson  
“Making Socialism Work Better?”  
LewRockwell.com, January 20, 2005.

## Socialism

1671. The difference between libertarianism and socialism is that libertarians will tolerate the existence of a socialist community, but socialists can't tolerate a libertarian community.

David D. Boaz  
"Competition, Cooperation, and Community,"  
Speech, The Eris Society, August 8, 1997

1672. Without economic calculation there can be no economy. Hence, in a socialist state wherein the pursuit of economic calculation is impossible, there can be — in our sense of the term — no economy whatsoever.

Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997.

1673. Socialism proposes no adequate substitute for the motive of enlightened selfishness that to-day is at the basis of all human labor and effort, enterprise and new activity.

William Howard Taft (1857 — 1930)  
*Popular Government*, ch. 3 (1913).

1674. Under capitalism people thrive by serving others; under socialism they resort to stealing from others. {Paraphrased by Harry Browne}

George Gilder  
*The American Spectator*, August 1995, page 82.

1675. Your "humanitarian" political philosophy is a sham, a lie based on other lies about how human beings are supposed to live. I believe that even as you wax a bit poetic about how your way of changing the rules of property ownership will be non-violent, in fact it would like other such socialist revolutions of the past — violent and murderous, with the socialists as the murdering aggressors.

No matter how much egalitarian goo you cover it with, your ideology reeks of fraudulence and totalitarianism. You justify theft in the name of making the world a better place for an "everybody" that I don't believe socialists truly care about. I think, rather, that most socialists harbor a deep envy and hatred of those who own things that the socialists do not own, and that most socialists would happily label such people criminals and subject them to whatever punishments suited their fancy at the time — starting with the theft of their properties.

Mike Arst  
On CompuServe, August 8, 1995.



1676. The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery.

Winston Churchill

Quoted by Don Feder, syndicated column, May 17, 1995.

1677. The fundamental error of socialism is anthropological in nature. Socialism considers the individual person simply as an element, a molecule within the social organism, so that the good of the individual is completely subordinated to the functioning of the socio-economic mechanism. Socialism likewise maintains that the good of the individual can be realized without reference to his free choice, to the unique and exclusive responsibility which he exercises in the face of good or evil. Man is reduced to a series of social relationships, and the concept of the person as the autonomous subject of moral decisions disappears.

Pope John Paul, II, *Centesimus Annus*

Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1678. In a country where the sole employer is the state, opposition means death by slow starvation. The old principle, "Who does not work shall not eat," has been replaced by a new one: "Who does not obey shall not eat."

Cited by Tom Bethell in *The Noblest Triumph: Property & Prosperity through the Ages*

Quoted by Jacob Sullum in a review of the book  
*National Review*, August 17, 1998, page 45

1679. Today there is wide agreement that socialism is a failure, and capitalism a success. Yet this apparent conversion of the intellectual community to what might be called a Hayekian view is deceptive. While the talk is about free markets and private property, the bulk of the intellectual community almost automatically favors any expansion of government power so long as it is advertised as a way to protect individuals from big bad corporations, relieve poverty, protect the environment, or promote "equality."

Milton Friedman

*Policy Review*, ca. Winter 1995.

1680. They have the usual Socialist disease; they have run out of other people's money.

Margaret Thatcher

Speech to a Conservative Party Conference, October 10, 1975

Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 14.

### Socially Responsible Investing

1681. The social responsibility of business is to increase profits.

Milton Friedman  
Quoted by T.J. Rodgers, *New York Times*, date unknown

### Society Affected by Government

1682. We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and then bid the geldings to be fruitful.

C.S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

### Somalia

1683. Operation Desert-Vú.

Jesse Walker  
*Liberty*, March 1993, page 10

### Space Program

1684. Can you imagine what it must have been like to empty chamber pots every day? Outhouses are creepy places, especially at night in bad weather. The inventor of the common indoor flush toilet has gifted mankind with an achievement of far greater significance and value than the massive government effort to walk a man on the moon. The moon has lain abandoned ever since, but the toilet is what has truly provided a great leap for mankind.

Joe Smolinski  
On CompuServe, March 4, 1997

1685. In almost 20 years, neither the space shuttle nor the space station has accomplished a single thing promised. NASA's space program has only ruined industries and handicapped national policy. America does not have a national airline, has turned away from a national health care plan, and today looks to privatize schools, air traffic control, and half a dozen other government functions. And yet, we continue to keep civilian space operations under NASA, one of the most dysfunctional agencies going.

Robert G. Oler, Richard Kolker, & Mark Whittington  
"Thirty Years of Ineptitude"  
*The Weekly Standard*, July 26, 1999, page 28.

1686. Many in the GOP who have poured scorn, justly, on plans for national health care system ignore their own free market principles when it comes to human space flight. And so, every year, without fail, NASA gets its money, makes new promises, and proceeds to break them.

Robert G. Oler, Richard Kolker, & Mark Whittington  
“Thirty Years of Ineptitude”  
*The Weekly Standard*, July 26, 1999, page 29.

1687. Yesterday NASA confirmed the loss of the \$165 million Mars Polar Lander. NASA’s next expenditure will be a mission to find and photograph the lost craft. NASA has existed for over 30 years and has continually pumped taxpayer’s hard-earned money into projects that have rendered mixed results at best and abject failure at worst. Why should the government be in the space business at all? Why not leave space exploration to the private sector? If society has a need, it will be addressed by investors and consumers in the marketplace. Silicon Valley is proof positive of that.

Andy Falkof  
*FFF Email Update*, January 18, 2000  
The Future of Freedom Foundation

### Speech, Freedom of

1688. The First Amendment doesn’t promise us speech we like, but the right to engage in speech that others may not like.

Bradley A. Smith, Associate professor  
Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio  
*The Wall Street Journal*, March 19, 1997, op-ed page.

1689. If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought — not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1841-1935), Supreme Court Justice  
*United States v. Schwimmer*, 279 U.S. 644, 653 [1928]  
Quoted in *Bartlett’s*, 15th Edition, page 645.

1690. When men have realized that time has upset many fighting faiths, they may come to believe even more than they believe the very foundations of their own conduct that the ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas — that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out. That at any rate is the theory of our Constitution. It is an experiment, as all life is an experiment.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1841-1935), Supreme Court Justice  
*Abrams v. United States*, 250 U.S. 616, 630 [1919]  
Quoted in *Bartlett’s*, 15th Edition, page 645.

1691. I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

Voltaire (1694-1778), French philosopher, author.

Paraphrase of Voltaire's sentiments in his "Essay on Tolerance," as  
stated in: Evelyn Beatrice Hall, under the pseudonym S. G.  
Tallentyre, *The Friends of Voltaire* (1907).

1692. Liberty of thought is the life of the soul.

Voltaire (1694-1778), French philosopher, author.  
Essay on Epic Poetry.

1693. The spirit of liberty is the spirit that is not too sure that it is right.

Learned Hand, Judge  
Quoted by Jack Dean, April 8, 1997.

1694. The idea that the First Amendment permits punishment for ideas that are 'offensive' to the particular judge or jury sitting in judgment is astounding. No greater leveler of speech or literature has ever been designed. To give the power of the censor, as we do today, is to make a sharp and radical break with the traditions of a free society.

The First Amendment was not fashioned as a vehicle for dispensing tranquilizers to the people. Its prime function was to keep debate open to "offensive" as well as to "staid" people.

The tendency throughout history has been to subdue the individual and to exalt the power of government. The use of the standard "offensive" gives authority to government that cuts the very vitals out of the First Amendment.

As is intimated by the Court's opinion, the materials before us may be garbage. But so is much of what is said in political campaigns, in the daily press, on TV, or over the radio. By reason of the First Amendment — and solely because of it — speakers and publishers have not been threatened or subdued because their thoughts and ideas may be "offensive" to some. . . . But our society — unlike most in the world — presupposes that freedom and liberty are in a frame of reference that makes the individual, not government, the keeper of his tastes, beliefs, and ideas. That is the philosophy of the First Amendment; and it is the article of faith that sets us apart from most nations in the world.

William O. Douglas  
Quoted by Diane Merriam, CompuServe, Dec. 15, 1995.

1695. If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve the Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.

Thomas Jefferson  
First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1801.

## Special Interest Groups

1696. The Clintons' "diversity" requirement for top government jobs means the administration has barely formed a government. But diversity is only one altar in the modern liberal temple. Women, minorities, Hispanics, the disabled, gays, lesbians, animals, trees, rivers, wetlands, the ozone, multiculturalism, AIDS, the homeless, date rape, recycling, offensive speech, innumerable entitlement programs, tax "fairness" — incense burns in front of them all. . . .

Liberals may have finally reached the point where they are beholden to so many shibboleths and sacred cows that they are virtually incapable of governing.

*The Wall Street Journal* editorial  
June 15, 1993, page A16.

## Speculation

1697. In a market economy, no man has the power to shape the world on his own. Entrepreneurs excel at anticipating consumer behavior and acting on it; they do not control the behavior itself. Speculators excel at predicting future values; they do not control those values.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
"Who's Soros Now?"  
WorldNetDaily, December 9, 1998

## Sports

1698. It may be said that there are things of more importance than striking a ball against a wall. There are things indeed that make more noise and do as little good, such as making war and peace, making speeches and answering them, making verses and blotting them, making money and throwing it away.

William Hazlitt, February 7, 1810  
Quoted by Robert D. Novak  
*The Weekly Standard*, January 27, 1997, page 16.

1699. Any country with more passion for sports than politics might not be slouching toward Gomorrah after all.

Paul Gigot  
*The Weekly Standard*, January 27, 1997, page 18.

1700. It's harder to be a racist if you spent your childhood cheering for, and marveling at, Michael Jordan.

Paul Gigot  
*The Weekly Standard*, January 27, 1997, page 19

## Statesmen

1701. Statesman: "A politician who is held upright by equal pressure from all directions."

Eric Johnston  
*Roget's Thesaurus*, item 746.2.

1702. Statesman: "A successful politician who is dead."

Thomas B. Reed  
*Roget's Thesaurus*, item 746.2

## Statistics, Economic

1703. It has long been said that if you torture statistics long enough, they will confess to anything.

Doug Bandow  
"Many Torts Later, the Case Against Implants Collapses"  
*The Wall Street Journal*, November 30, 1998

1704. The government are very keen on amassing statistics. They collect them, raise them to the  $n$ th power, take the cube root, and prepare wonderful diagrams. But you must never forget that every one of these figures comes in the first instance from the village watchman, who just puts down what he damn pleases.

Josiah Stamp  
Quoted by Gwynne Nettle, *Liberty*, May 1994, page 34.

## Statue of Liberty

1705. Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles.

From her beacon-hand glows world-wide welcome;  
Her mild eyes command the air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me;  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Emma Lazarus (1849-87), U.S. poet.  
*The New Colossus*, (1886)  
Written for inscription on the Statue of Liberty.

### Subjective Theory of Value

1706. The value of an article does not depend on its essential nature, but on the estimation of men, even if that estimation is foolish.

Diego de Covarrubias y Leiva (1512-1577)  
Quoted in *The Austrian School: A Family Album*, page 1  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, 1997.

### Subsidies

1707. If you treat a tax exemption or a tax credit as a 'subsidy,' you are assuming that the government owns all our earnings.

Ronald Trowbridge, Hillsdale College  
Speech, Nashville, October 20, 1997

### Success

1708. The common idea that success spoils people by making them vain, egotistic, and self-complacent is erroneous; on the contrary, it makes them, for the most part, humble, tolerant, and kind. Failure makes people cruel and bitter.

W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965)  
*The Summing Up*, ch. 48 (1938)  
Quoted by Caryn B. Cohen, Minnesota,  
cohe0006@gold.tc.umn.edu.

### Suicide, Assisted

1709. Even people who are dying have a right to hear and, if they wish, act on what others might wish to tell or suggest or even hint to them, and it would be dangerous to suppose that a state may prevent this on the ground that it knows better than its citizens when they should be moved by or yield to particular advice or suggestions.

Ronald Dworkin, in a Supreme Court brief, Jan 8, 1997  
Quoted in *The Weekly Standard*, January 20, 1997, page 9.

### Supply-Side Economics

- . See *Economics, Supply-Side*.

## Supreme Court

1710. Why have a Constitution at all, if a majority of an appointed Supreme Court — the organ of state least accountable to public opinion — can make the Constitution say whatever it wishes?

Eugene D. Genovese  
*The Southern Front: History and Politics in the Cultural War*  
Quoted in a review by Mark Falcoff  
*The American Spectator*, January 1996, page 69.

1711. Four of the most liberal justices to serve on the Court — Earl Warren, William Brennan, Harry Blackmun, David Souter — were appointed by Republicans.

Tom Bethell  
“Raising McCain”  
*The American Spectator*, February 2000, page 18.

## Switzerland

1712. What does it matter whether Switzerland has been able to give us the commercial advantages we desire, or has given too many to the Germans, to keep herself alive? Switzerland has remained a democratic state, standing for freedom in self-defense among her mountains, and in thought she has been, in spite of race, largely on our side.

Winston Churchill, December 1944  
Quoted by Arnold Koller, President, Switzerland  
*SP Focus* (published by JML), June/July 1997, page 3.

## Symbolism

1713. Our politics increasingly subsist on symbolism. We argue furiously over policies that purport to advance “family values” or to suppress obscenity or to honor some group, when these policies — whether adopted or not — wouldn’t affect most intended beneficiaries. These poisonous debates mainly encourage political breast-beating; each side flaunts its own moral superiority.

Robert J. Samuelson  
*Washington Post*, July 23, 1997, page A23.



1714. . . .for many academics in many settings. . . : There are certain policies, certain public activities, that have the property that they stem from benevolent intentions toward others less fortunate or in some way oppressed — policies intended to aid the poor, or to aid blacks or Hispanics or women. Any research that would hinder these policies is subject to disapproval and attack. These are policies intended to display, ostentatiously even, egalitarian objectives. For many academics they replace the patterns of conspicuous consumption that Thorstein Veblen attributed to the rich. They might be called policies of conspicuous benevolence. They display, conspicuously, the benevolent intentions of their supporters.

The consensus about such policies among academics stems from a general view that there is a single broad conflict in public policy and political affairs, between those with good intentions who want to help the disadvantaged and those who are selfish and opposed to any such aid. This view manifests itself in a thousand ways. It was the source of the widespread support of Communism among intellectuals in the 1920s and 1930s; it is the source of widespread support for sanctions against South Africa; for civil-rights measures; for school-busing policies; for generous welfare provisions; for bills to aid the handicapped; for the Equal Rights Amendment. Sometimes support is well-placed. Sometimes it is not.

James S. Coleman, Professor of Sociology  
University of Chicago  
*National Review*, March 18, 1991, page 34

1715. A noble purpose is a very queer guide to conduct . . . If only there were no such thing as consequences.

*Isabel Paterson*, quoted by Stephen Cox  
*Liberty*, October 1993, page 40

1716. The principle feature of American liberalism is sanctimoniousness. By loudly denouncing all bad things — war and hunger and date rape — liberals testify to their own terrific goodness. More important, they promote themselves to membership in a self-selecting elite of those who care deeply about such things. . . . It's a kind of natural aristocracy, and the wonderful thing about this aristocracy is that you don't have to be brave, smart, strong or even lucky to join it, you just have to be liberal.

P. J. O'Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Give War a Chance*, Introduction (1992).

1717. This flag burning amendment is the tip of a hypocritical iceberg. Reinstitution of the Ten Commandments in schools, requiring school kids to recite the Declaration of Independence, etc. are all parts of the same hypocrisy. It's symbolism. All symbolism. Only intended to pacify and hide fraud.

Think about it. We have elected representatives who then want to require us to behave patriotically or religiously? Bosh! Where's the freedom and liberty in that? My parrot can do better.

Tom Koman  
“Wave the Banner Upside Down”  
Letter to the Editor  
WorldNetDaily, June 29, 1999.

1718. Americans pride themselves on being modern and sophisticated, but in some important matters, we are no more advanced than primitive animists in southern Sudan. To see this, just witness so much of what passes for public affairs. Leaders and led alike behave as if words shape reality. Legislation is incantation. Pronouncements by politicians and editorialists are sheer wishful thinking. But people treat them as though they change things.

Sheldon Richman  
“Politics by Incantation”  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, June 29, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation

1719. The purpose of the Hate-Crimes Prevention Act is not to prevent hate-crimes, but to enable its proponents to score political points with their core constituencies. No one believes that it will curb violence of the type it outlaws. Yet they cynically manipulate the legislative process with symbolism over substance.

David Limbaugh  
“Hate-Crimes Bill: Cynical Symbolism”  
WorldNetDaily, July 27, 1999.

### Symptoms, Dealing with

1720. As Charles Manning, a British political philosopher, once said: You do not affect the position of a shadow by acting on the shadow.

Quoted by Adam Garfinkle  
*Reason*, July 1990, page 55.

### Target Groups

1721. The arts of power and its minions are the same in all countries and in all ages. It marks its victim; denounces it; and excites the public odium and the public hatred, to conceal its own abuses and encroachments.

Henry Clay  
Speech, U.S. Senate, February 18, 1935  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 14th edition, page 538.

### Tax, Income

- . See *Income Tax*.

## Taxes

1722. When millions of American couples need a second income, they need it not to support their children, but to support the government. Yes, we are indeed frighteningly close to serfdom.

Richard Armey, Congressman  
*Policy Review*, Summer 1994, page 14.

1723. The power to tax involves the power to destroy.

John Marshall (1755-1835), Chief Supreme Court Justice  
*McCulloch v. Maryland*, 4 Wheaton 316, 431 (1819).  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th Edition, page 402.

1724. In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other.

Voltaire (1694-1778), French philosopher, author.  
*Dictionnaire Philosophique*, "Money" (1764).

1725. In other words, a democratic government is the only one in which those who vote for a tax can escape the obligation to pay it.

Alexis de Tocqueville (1805 — 59), French social philosopher.  
*Democracy in America*, vol. 1, pt. 2, ch. 5 (1840).

1726. Nothing is so well calculated to produce a death-like torpor in the country as an extended system of taxation and a great national debt.

William Cobbett (1762 — 1835), English journalist, reformer.  
Letter, 10 Feb. 1804.

1727. No nation ever can or did make itself prosperous by taxation. Taxes prey upon national wealth and industry. Governments do not produce wealth. They consume it.

Ashton C. Shallenberger  
The American Taxpayers' League's *Handbook on Taxation* (1932)  
Quoted in article in *Free Market*, June 1990, page 5.

1728. Unquestionably, there is progress. The average American now pays twice as much in taxes as he formerly got in wages.

H. L. Mencken  
Quoted by Brian G. Patterson on CompuServe (72144,2517)  
February 27, 1998.

1729. We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much.

Ronald Reagan  
Address to National Association of Realtors, March 28, 1982  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1730. Raising taxes won't balance the budget; it will encourage more government spending and less private investment. Raising taxes will slow economic growth, reduce production and destroy future jobs, making it more difficult for those without jobs to find them and more likely that those who now have jobs could lose them. So I will not ask you to try to balance the budget on the backs of the American taxpayers.

Ronald Reagan  
State of the Union Address, Jan. 26, 1982  
In *The Triumph of the American Spirit* (a book of Reagan speeches)  
Quoted by Philip A. DiPippo  
*The Wall Street Journal*, Letters section, April 20, 1993.

1731. Perhaps the most disgusting and philosophically disgusting idea is that tax cuts "cost" the government. This misguided notion comes from defenders of a statist mindset, who believe that all things — ranging from the most common of items to the first fruits of our labor to our very lives — are owned by the government.

Ron Paul  
"Reducing the tax reduction"  
*Texas Straight Talk* (weekly email letter)  
July 26, 1999.

1732. Taxes come from the sweat of the American people.

Ron Paul  
"Reducing the tax reduction"  
*Texas Straight Talk* (weekly email letter)  
July 26, 1999.

1733. Whoever desires liberty should understand these vital facts, viz.: 1. That every man who puts money in the hands of a "government" (so called), puts into its hands a sword which will be used against himself, to extort more money from him, and also to keep him in subjection to its arbitrary will. 2. That those who will take his money, without his consent, in the first place, will use it for his further robbery and enslavement, if he presumes to resist their demands in the future.

Lysander Spooner  
*No Treason: The Constitution of No Authority* (1870), page 20.

1734. The nineteenth-century political philosopher and constitutional lawyer Lysander Spooner said he could see no difference between the government and a highwayman. Actually, he could find one difference: the highwayman does not hector his victim, insisting that the thievery was good for him.

Sheldon Richman  
*Your Money or Your Life*

1735. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that so-called tax fairness is really motivated by envy toward those who earn more. The rhetoric of fairness shrouds something far less attractive: a resentment against people with the talent, foresight, and ambition to succeed beyond the average and to be rewarded for it. When you come right down to it, envy is a major reason for the income tax.

Sheldon Richman  
*Your Money or Your Life*

1736. If you believe that government will use higher taxes to pay off its debts, you would probably also believe that Dracula wants only one more pint of blood and then he'll become a vegetarian.

Bob Breidenstein  
Book, self-published.

1737. "Taxes are the price we pay for civilization." So says an engraving on the IRS building in Washington. On the contrary, today taxes have become the price we pay to support people who deny our civilization. As government has grown, our civilization has declined.

Malcolm Wallop  
*National Review*, February 7, 1994, page 39.

1738. Oliver Wendell Holmes said in a Supreme Court decision, "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society." He had it exactly backwards. Taxes are in fact a reflection of our failure to achieve a fully civilized society. Civilized people get what they want by voluntary means, through persuasion or exchange. The use of force to acquire property is uncivilized, and the history of civilization is the history of limitations on the use of force.

David D. Boaz  
"Competition, Cooperation, and Community,"  
Speech, The Eris Society, August 8, 1997

1739. We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

Winston Churchill, 1903  
Quoted by Michael McMenamin in *Reason*, January 1991, p. 39.

1740. In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.

Benjamin Franklin (1706 — 90), U.S. statesman, writer.  
Letter, 13 Nov. 1789.  
Published in *Complete Works*, vol. 10, edited by John Bigelow,  
1887 — 88.

1741. If 10% is enough for God, it should be enough for Uncle Sam.

Source unknown.

1742. Taxes are forced extractions from productive people that are used to finance projects chosen by politicians. Most of these projects consist of transfers of wealth to favored constituencies of non-producers (some of whom are wealthy). Much of the money is taken from families, leaving them less not only for vacations, but for housing, education, medical care, and other priorities. Many people pay more in taxes than they do for food, clothing, and housing.

Sheldon Richman  
“Tax Cuts are Free”  
*FFF E-Mail Update*, August 31, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation.

1743. There is nothing compassionate about taxes. They are the price we pay for permitting the government to dismantle the civilization created by the market economy. Indeed, the great Spanish theologian Juan de Mariana said that the only civilized country is one in which no man is afraid of the tax collector. You can see where on the scale that puts the US of A.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“The Government’s Protection Racket”  
*WorldNetDaily*, March 8, 2001.

1744. Taxation is degrading to its victims and corrupting to those who impose it.

Karen Selick  
“Mean-Spirited, Not Public-Spirited”  
*Canadian Lawyer*, April 1999.

1745. Let me tell you how it will be  
There’s one for you, nineteen for me  
’Cause I’m the taxman, yeah, I’m the taxman

Should five per cent appear too small  
Be thankful I don’t take it all  
’Cause I’m the taxman, yeah I’m the taxman

If you drive a car, I'll tax the street  
If you try to sit, I'll tax your seat  
If you get too cold, I'll tax the heat  
If you take a walk, I'll tax your feet

Don't ask me what I want it for  
If you don't want to pay some more  
'Cause I'm the taxman, yeah, I'm the taxman

Now my advice for those who die  
Declare the pennies on your eyes  
'Cause I'm the taxman, yeah, I'm the taxman  
And you're working for no one but me.

George Harrison  
"Taxman"  
From the Beatles album *Revolver* (1966).  
Quoted in *The Lighthouse*  
December 3, 2001, Vol. 3, Issue 48

1746. The United States has constructed a society, the first in modern history, in which native-born productive citizens are the tax slaves of the welfare and immigrant lobbies. The 35 million taxpayers who carry the burden of the income tax have no more claim to their income than did medieval serfs or 19th century black slaves.

Paul Craig Roberts  
"Compassionate Tyranny"  
Town Hall, June 27, 2002.

1747. How can I complain about a tax cut? Because what matters is not cutting "taxes" but cutting taxes. That is, what needs to be cut is not what we call "taxes" but the total amount of money that government takes out of the economy — the real tax rate. Basically, this is what government spends and legally commits to spending in the future. Spending is based on what government "taxes" but also what government borrows and inflates. It's quite simple. If government spends it, we can't spend or save or invest it, and that's bad.

James Ostrowski  
"Is the Tax Cut for Real?"  
Ludwig von Mises Institute, May 29, 2003.

## Technology

1748. This is pretty much the standard anti-technology, anti-markets, anti-individual-freedom ranting by the usual suspects — the spoiled rich children of all ages, confident that they and only they know the right way to live and that all change not under their political control is bad. They're no good at inventing things and no good at creating wealth — but, boy, are they full of convictions about how the rest of us ought to live and what technologies ought to be "allowed."

Eric Raymond  
Quoted in "Techno-Dystopia" by Katharine Mieszkowski  
Salon.com, September 20, 2000.

### Term Limits

1749. Some say that term limits would give us a Congress of mediocrities. With all due respect, I think that would be an improvement.

Stephen Moore, Cato Institute  
Speech at Hillsdale College, March 12, 1997.

1750. Congressional Republicans recycle the left's mantra that term limits would purge Congress of its "experienced legislators." (They mean that as a criticism, by the way.)

Stephen Moore  
"Limit Terms, Not Contributions"  
*The Washington Times*, December 16, 1998.

1751. Congressional Republicans . . . complain that more power would wind up in the hands of unelected Congressional staffers, career bureaucrats, and Washington corporate lobbyists. The latter claim is particularly unconvincing, since polls reveal that the only people in America who oppose term limits are Congressional staffers, career bureaucrats, and Washington corporate lobbyists.

Stephen Moore  
"Limit Terms, Not Contributions"  
*The Washington Times*, December 16, 1998.

1752. Our current political institutions make it against the self-interest of those who control the levers of power to reduce the size and intrusiveness of government. The only viable reform that would change the self-interest of the powers that be is to limit the terms of members of Congress, as the term of the president is now limited.

Milton Friedman  
Statement to U.S. Term Limits, December 1997

### Terrorism

1753. It is hardly likely that Middle Eastern radicals would be hatching schemes like the destruction of the World Trade Center if the United States had not been identified for so long as the mainstay of Israel, the shah of Iran, and conservative Arab regimes and the source of a cultural assault on Islam.



Richard K. Betts  
Director of National Security Studies  
Council on Foreign Relations  
Professor of Political Science, Columbia University  
*Foreign Affairs*, Volume 77, No. 1, page 40.

1754. The events in Oklahoma City are a perfect example of the statist mentality in its finest flower: an attempt to “change minds” by changing the bodies of innocent people from alive to dead. It was state terror and nothing else, as practiced by a free-lance statist. That explosion had *nothing* to do with the quest for human liberty.

Gregory Stephen Swann  
CompuServe Libertarian Forum, May 2, 1995.

1755. This is why Greg Swann calls whomever set off the Oklahoma City bomb a “freelance statist.” How can that be — these people hate the government, right? These people are anarchists, right? No. When the bomber decided to destroy what he couldn’t persuade, he became a State unto himself. This is detestable, it is as wicked as an act can be — but the only difference between freelance statism and institutional statism is that the former isn’t veiled, isn’t candy-coated with platitudes about the “public good.”

Ken B. Hooper  
CompuServe Libertarian Forum, May 4, 1995.

1756. Americans, infuriated and frightened by terrorism, will be even less likely to examine how their own intrigues and blunders have led to much of the Mideast’s current travails. Americans like to view world affairs in simplistic black and white. They have always personalized Mideast complexities into a few evil or saintly leaders, like Khomeini, or Sadat, and brand all who oppose US strategic dictates in the region as ‘terrorists,’ or ‘rogue states.’

Eric Margolis  
“Reaping the Terrorist Whirlwind”  
*The Toronto Sun*, August 30, 1998

1757. No sooner did the U.S. Senate reconvene after its spring recess than it passed a resolution condemning the bombing in Oklahoma City.

Really, ladies and gentleman of the Senate, don’t you have better things to do? I believe all Americans know that none of you approve of mass murder. You do not need to go on record on that score. It is also a safe assumption that people callused enough to kill innocent people do not give a fig whether you condemn them or not.

You wasted time. You postured. You accomplished nothing, except to remind people that you are prone to posturing.

Charley Reese  
Syndicated column, May 17, 1995.

1758. The U.S. government should stop supplying high-tech weaponry to unpopular dictators; stop spending billions of dollars to fund both sides in foreign conflicts; stop stationing U.S. troops in more than 100 nations around the globe; stop training foreign guerrilla groups; and stop launching military attacks on foreign nations.

The best way to live free from the threat of terrorists is by not getting into a bloody, unwinnable war with terrorists in the first place — which is easy to do if the U.S. government makes a commitment to stop intervening in the affairs of other nations.

Such a non-interventionist foreign policy would keep America safer by reducing the number of nations and terrorist organizations that have reason to hate our country.

Bill Winter

Libertarian Party press release, November 11, 1998

1759. When liberty comes with hands dabbled in blood it is hard to shake hands with her.

Oscar Wilde (1854 — 1900)

Quoted by Richard Ellman

In *Oscar Wilde*, chapter 7 (1987)

*The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations*

Microsoft Bookshelf, 1995.

1760. . . . the House has voted 350-to-50 to spend \$100 million to overthrow the Baghdad government. This is an act of war, but because all you men and women at the helm of the establishment press are required to toe the line on Iraq, there is no discussion about this. When the maniacs in the Islamic world blow up all or part of New York City, presumably there will be editorials from coast-to-coast denouncing Islamic fundamentalism.

Jude Winniski

“A People’s Journalism: A Memo to Newspaper and Magazine

Editors”

October 7, 1998

1761. There is a way to make the United States terrorist-proof: pursue a foreign policy proper to a constitutional republic, the same policy proposed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. In a word: nonintervention. Let countries and populations work out their own disputes. Meddling simply widens and intensifies conflicts.

Sheldon Richman

“Breeding Terrorism”

*FFF Email Update*, January 25, 2000

The Future of Freedom Foundation.

1762. The 6,000 people who died in America on September 11 are worthy victims: that is, they are worthy of our honor and a relentless pursuit of justice, which is right. In contrast, the 6,000 people who die every month in Iraq, the victims of a medieval siege devised and imposed by Washington and Whitehall, are, like the little sisters bombed to death in their sleep in Basra, unworthy victims — unworthy of even acknowledgement in the “civilized” west.

John Pilger

“Why Weren’t There Similar Outcries at Earlier Atrocities?”

The UK *Guardian*, October 4, 2001.

1763. Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez lost their son Greg in the World Trade Center. They said this: “We read enough of the news to sense that our government is heading in the direction of violent revenge, with the prospect of sons, daughters, parents, friends in distant lands dying, suffering, and nursing further grievances against us. It is not the way to go . . . not in our son’s name.”

John Pilger

“Why Weren’t There Similar Outcries at Earlier Atrocities?”

The UK *Guardian*, October 4, 2001.

1764. When [British Prime Minister Tony] Blair tells David Frost that his war plans are aimed at “the people who gave [the terrorists] the weapons,” can he mean we are about to attack America? For it was mostly America that destroyed a moderate regime in Afghanistan and created a fanatical one.

John Pilger

“Why Weren’t There Similar Outcries at Earlier Atrocities?”

The UK *Guardian*, October 4, 2001.

1765. Nothing justified the killing of innocent people in America on September 11, and nothing justifies the killing of innocent people anywhere else.

John Pilger

“The War on Terrorism Is a Fraud”

October 28, 2001.

1766. For big government we now have “The Perfect War,” everywhere and nowhere, secret and interminable. The war will justify ever expanding police powers, higher taxes, and more controls over the citizenry. You can see easily how Washington thrives on war. Since Sept 11th, there have been no nasty challenges to government spending and waste, no tedious debates over things like Social Security “lockboxes,” nor “political” attacks upon the Presidency. Congressmen and Think Tank experts get lots of TV time and most everyone jumps to obey government orders and support more regulations. Any groups opposed to American military interventions overseas appear unpatriotic and are marginalized, while press coverage of the war is restricted, using the last Gulf War as a model. Big Government, as Orwell wrote, thrives from unwinnable wars; it doesn’t get any better than this.

Jon Basil Utley  
“Alternative to Unending War”  
von Mises Institute, Posted October 29, 2001.

1767. The war against terrorism is a fraud. After three weeks’ bombing, not a single terrorist implicated in the attacks on America has been caught or killed in Afghanistan. Instead, one of the poorest, most stricken nations has been terrorized by the most powerful — to the point where American pilots have run out of dubious “military” targets and are now destroying mud houses, a hospital, Red Cross warehouses, lorries carrying refugees.

John Pilger  
*The Mirror* (London), November 7, 2001.  
Quoted by Stephen Gowans  
“Getting the Pipeline Map and Politics Right”  
*Swans* (Internet publication), November 12, 2001.

1768. Terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center; it remains to be seen whether Americans will destroy the Statue of Liberty themselves.

J.D. Tuccille  
“Declaring War — a Threat to Freedom”  
FreeMarket.Net, September 19, 2001.

1769. Ronald Reagan celebrated them as “freedom fighters” for upholding “the ideals of freedom and independence” and declared a day in their honor. Back then, the Chechen, Pakistani, Arab and Afghan fundamentalists had been valued CIA recruits in the war against the godless Soviets. Now they’re just hundreds of crisp corpses, incinerated by American bombs dropped to quell a prison riot of people the U.S. invaders/liberators of Afghanistan dismiss as “foreigners.”

Robert Scheer  
“U.S. Can’t Just Hit and Run”  
*Los Angeles Times*, November 27, 2001.

1770. For those who truly believe the federal government is the best entity to provide security at our airports, think about what I am saying. The federal government forced the private security firm at Dulles Airport to hire back foreign nationals from Syria and other Muslim countries because it determined that it was discriminatory to let them go – even when passengers were complaining about the high percentage of non-citizens patting down Americans at the airport. The federal government saw nothing wrong with 14 Syrian nationals being trained to fly commercial airliners in Texas. The federal government is paying lip service to airline safety. With all of its vast and far-flung intelligence operations, the federal government didn't see September 11 coming. Is this really whom you want to entrust entirely with your life?

Joseph Farah  
“Whatever Happened to Common Sense?”  
WorldNetDaily, December 11, 2001.

1771. I've heard over the last month, oh, why do they hate us. "Oh, because they're envious of our way of life. They're envious of our freedom. They're threatened by our democracy." How can anybody believe this rubbish? People don't like the U.S. because of what the U.S. is doing in the rest of the world. American F-15s, American Apaches, American cluster bombs, and American bullets that are killing children all over.

Anonymous Jordanian man  
Quoted by Sandy Tolan  
"Why Are They So Angry At Us?"  
American Radio Works  
National Public Radio, December 20, 2001.

1772. Here is how the official police-mentality syllogism currently runs. Before September 11 we asked for infinite antiterrorism budgets and spouted continuous national security rhetoric. Meanwhile, we rolled ecstatically in the same bed as the Saudi and Pakistani secret police forces, which were the paymasters and armorers of the Taliban and Al Qaeda. As a direct result, a group of spoiled Saudi sadists and fanatics were able to rehearse the subversion of American civil aviation. They were then able to carry it out. Frantic calls from flight schools to the FBI, warning of odd characters using the jumbo-jet simulator, were coldly ignored. Several such characters, whose names were actually on the terrorist watch list, were able to buy their own airline tickets on September 11 without even using a false ID.

Quite obviously, these facts allow only one conclusion. From now on, FBI agents should have untrammelled power over all civilians living in the United States, and all their private movements and communications.

Christopher Hitchens  
"Johnny Walker Blackened"  
*The Nation*, January 21, 2002.

1773. As fate would have it, I was leaving New York on a jet flight that took off 45 minutes before the unthinkable happened [on September 11, 2001]. By the time we landed in Detroit, chaos had broken out. When I grasped the fact that American security had broken down so tragically, I couldn't respond at first. My wife and son were also in the air on separate flights, one to Los Angeles, one to San Diego. My body went absolutely rigid with fear. All I could think about was their safety, and it took several hours before I found out that their flights had been diverted and both were safe.

Strangely, when the good news came, my body still felt that it had been hit by a truck. Of its own accord it seemed to feel a far greater trauma that reached out to the thousands who would not survive and the tens of thousands who would survive only to live through months and years of hell.

And I asked myself, Why didn't I feel this way last week? Why didn't my body go stiff during the bombing of Iraq or Bosnia? Around the world my horror and worry are experienced every day. Mothers weep over horrendous loss, civilians are bombed mercilessly, refugees are ripped from any sense of home or homeland. Why did I not feel their anguish enough to call a halt to it?

Deepak Chopra  
“The Deeper Wound”  
September 12, 2001.

1774. Surrendering the liberties that define the unique character of our nation will not help us to win the war on terrorism; it will only erode the constitutional foundation upon which the political strength of our nation rests.

Martin J. Sherwin  
“Tattletales for an Open Society”  
*The Nation*, January 21, 2002.

1775. Surely it is time, half a century after Hiroshima, to embrace a universal morality, to think of all children, everywhere, as our own.

Howard Zinn  
“The Others”  
*The Nation*, February 11, 2002.

1776. And that seems to be the attitude of the American public, at least as reflected in the polls. There has been a collective shrug of the shoulders. We were attacked and we had to fight back. In the process, innocent Afghanis died, but we had no alternative.

Of course, there really was an alternative. A much more effective response to Sept. 11 would have been – and still is – to put all our resources into a cooperative campaign with other nations to gather intelligence and use police agencies to capture terrorists in Afghanistan and the dozens of other countries where they hide, and bring them to justice. But President Bush chose instead to bomb a whole nation, and the American press and public cheered him on.

Ed McManus  
“Killing Innocents: Does Anyone out There Care?”  
AntiWar.com, February 5, 2002.

1777. America has suffered mightily and grievously; but pain and suffering are no excuse for acting foolishly, dangerously, or dictatorially.

Eric Margolis  
“Allies Backing Away from Bush’s Policies”  
*The Toronto Sun*, February 10, 2002.

1778. The control freaks will be dining on that date [September 11, 2001] for a long time to come. Our attorney general said the other day we’re going to be in a state of crisis for the rest of our lives, and he didn’t seem that unhappy about it.

John Perry Barlow  
Quoted by Grant Gross  
“EFF’s Barlow takes on Hollywood, Microsoft, the NSA and even  
Stallman, kind of”  
*NewsForge*, March 8, 2002.

1779. Our rulers are drawing precisely the wrong lesson from September 11 [2001]. Instead of ending American meddling abroad, they are redoubling it. Never mind how many enemies this will needlessly make in the long run.

Joseph Sobran  
“On with the War!”  
*Sobran’s*, March 2002, page 10.

1780. We Americans didn’t accept an attack on our soil. Look at the anger it generated in the people. Now imagine yourself never knowing any given day when you will be killed, your children murdered, your home bulldozed, hearing guns every day, seeing people die every day, not being allowed your basic human needs. I think that you too, would be angry.

Fatimah Helmy Mahmoud  
“Fair Killing, Fair Reporting”  
Letter to WorldNetDaily, April 8, 2002.

1781. It’s not very popular to look at underlying causes right now, to acknowledge that the world did not simply spring into being on Sept. 11, 2001 . . . but god help you if you ever get sick and go to a doctor who tries to treat your condition without trying to understand why it developed.

Tom Tomorrow  
“Something to Annoy Everyone,” April 12, 2002.

1782. We can paint this pretty picture of ourselves, and hang it on the mantelpiece and spend much time admiring the noble thrust of our jaw and the steely glint of determination in our eyes, but if the rest of the world doesn’t buy it, then it just doesn’t matter how many locks we put on our door, or how high we build the gates around our compound — we will never be secure. There’s always going to be someone sitting out there with a suitcase nuke or a lab full of anthrax, or even just a couple of box cutters and a monstrous determination. “Winning” a war on terror is an oxymoron; at best we can hold back the tide.

So we have two choices, really: we either obliterate every last man, woman and child who might ever commit such deeds, just wipe them off the face of the earth, eliminating every possible terrorist everywhere — or we find a way to coexist in the world. And that doesn’t mean surrender. It just means we have to be smart, and maybe just a little more concerned with world stability than with the administration’s purported fixation on the dominance of our own Empire.

Tom Tomorrow  
"Something to Annoy Everyone," April 12, 2002.

1783. When an aggressor force continually launches attacks from a particular base of operations, it is sound military strategy to take the fight to the enemy. Additionally, borrowing a page from U.S. foreign policy, I decided to send a message to a government that was becoming increasingly hostile, by bombing a government building and the government employees within that building who represent that government. Bombing the Murrah Federal Building was morally and strategically equivalent to the U.S. hitting a government building in Serbia, Iraq, or other nations. Based on observations of the policies of my own government, I viewed this action as an acceptable option. From this perspective what occurred in Oklahoma City was no different than what Americans rain on the heads of others all the time, and, subsequently, my mindset was and is one of clinical detachment.

Vidal  
Timothy McVeigh, letter, April 4, 2001  
Reproduced in "The Meaning of Timothy McVeigh," by Gore  
*Vanity Fair*, September 2001, p. 410  
Quoted by Robert Higgs in "Two Venues, One Logic"  
LewRockwell.com, April 11, 2002.

1784. Assume for the sake of argument that we are right; that these terrorist attacks and others like them are the result of our decades-long policy of violent foreign intervention. Assume the corollary, that a wide-scale violent military response with lots of civilian casualties will only result in more terrorism. Now, on these assumptions, are we not duty-bound to speak out? Would we not be cowards and traitors to the republic we hold dear if we remained silent? Are not those who would savage us and invite us to leave the country the real enemies of that republic?

James Ostrowski  
"Let the Debate Continue"  
LewRockwell.com, September 20, 2001.

1785. Americans should not have to live in fear of terrorism just so Washington's foreign policy elite can attempt to achieve amorphous and ephemeral gains on the world chessboard.

Ivan Eland, Cato Institute  
Quoted by Lakshmi Chaudhry, AlterNet  
"There's Something about Cato," May 8, 2002.

1786. What was originally supposed to be a war against terrorist groups with global reach — ostensibly al-Qaida — has now become a global war ... even against groups that do not threaten or attack the United States.



Charles Pena, Cato Institute  
Quoted by Lakshmi Chaudhry, AlterNet  
“There’s Something about Cato,” May 8, 2002.

1787. America finds itself facing a broader ideological adversary that may turn out to be as hard to defeat as militant Islam: anti-Americanism, which is presently becoming more visible everywhere. Anybody who has visited Britain and Europe will have been struck, even shocked, by the depth of anti-American feeling.

Salman Rushdie  
*New York Times*, February 4, 2002.  
Quoted by Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, May 2002.

1788. Each person killed by Uncle Sam’s terrible swift sword has had family and friends, and they are not happy. Decade after decade, the federal government’s enemies have accumulated, and today they surely number in the hundreds of millions.

Quoted by Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, May 2002.

1789. If Muslims in the Middle East dislike the United States, so do sizable percentages of Catholics in Latin America, Protestants in Europe, and Buddhists in Asia.

Andrea Stone  
*USA Today*, February 27, 2002  
Quoted by Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, May 2002.

1790. The federal government spent the entire 20th century sticking its nose into other people’s business, and now these people have begun to retaliate in a big way.

Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, May 2002.

1791. Washington is the most arrogant and vain city since ancient Rome, and Americans have been caught in the crossfire between the federal government and its millions of enemies.

Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, May 2002.

1792. To end terrorism and to find those responsible we should act more like police investigators and less like pest exterminators.

Bette Rose Ryan  
Statement in running for LP at-large delegate to LNC.

1793. In all the tens of thousands of words that bin Laden has uttered on the public record there are some significant omissions: he does not rail against the pernicious effects of Hollywood movies, or against Madonna's midriff, or against the pornography protected by the U.S. Constitution. Nor does he inveigh against the drug and alcohol culture of the West, or its tolerance for homosexuals. . . .

Judging by his silence, bin Laden cares little about such cultural issues. What he condemns the United States for is simple: its policies in the Middle East. Those are, to recap briefly: the continued American military presence in Arabia, U.S. support for Israel, its continued campaign against Iraq, and its support for regimes such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia that bin Laden regards as apostates from Islam.

Peter Bergen  
*Holy War, Inc.*  
Quoted by Gene Healy  
"The Manufacture of Terror"  
*Liberty Magazine*, September 2002, page 59.

1794. Albert Einstein, arguably the most brilliant human being ever to draw breath on planet Earth, defined insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results." America instigated a horrible war in Afghanistan 24 years ago to make the world safer. We have attacked and destroyed another Muslim nation purportedly for the same purpose. One of these days we are going to realize that such actions never serve the cause of peace, but only serve to perpetuate and augment the horrors of this terrifying world. We will learn, for all time, that actions have consequences.

William Rivers Pitt  
"The Silence about September 11"  
Truthout.com, April 21, 2003.

1795. In the aftermath of 9/11, some neoconservatives (and others who are simply gullible) have touted the line that the United States is hated "because of its freedom." This slogan fit for small children contradicts what virtually any American with business, diplomatic, or military experience in the Middle East will say. Sadly, it wouldn't be the first time that a great nation came under the spell of a tragic delusion.

Scott McConnell  
"Among the NeoCons"  
*The American Conservative*, April 21, 2003.

1796. the World Trade Center attacks have scared our leading jurists out of their sheltered, overprivileged wits. In their panic, they stand ready to jettison major sections of the Bill of Rights — and if there's no sound legal precedent for doing so, they'll happily invent one. Odds are they'll live to regret their cowardice, but by then it may be too late.

Jacob Levich  
“Justice for Robert Jackson:  
The War on Terror Is Not a Suicide Pact”  
CommonDreams.org, June 20, 2002.

1797. In his magisterial opening statement at Nuremberg, [Justice Robert] Jackson pinpointed the historical moment at which German democracy gave way to the Nazi lawlessness. On February 28, 1933, he recounted, Adolph Hitler seized upon an act of terror — the burning of the Reichstag — as the pretext for an arbitrary suspension of habeas corpus, the right to a public trial by jury, and other guarantees of individual liberty contained in the Constitution of the Weimar Republic.

From that point onward, “secret arrest and indefinite detention, without charges, without evidence, without hearing, without counsel, became the method of inflicting inhuman punishment on any whom the Nazi police suspected or disliked.”

In Germany, mind you, it took a gang of ruthless thugs to murder constitutional government. Here, with the genteel acquiescence of the legal punditry, constitutional government is about to commit suicide.

Jacob Levich  
“Justice for Robert Jackson:  
The War on Terror Is Not a Suicide Pact”  
CommonDreams.org, June 20, 2002.

1798. For a half-century, the armies, navies, and air forces of Islamic nations have not been in our homeland, ours have been in theirs. This is really all you need to know to understand the war that began 9/11.

Richard Maybury  
*Early Warning Report*, September 2003, page 7.

1799. I have sworn a vow: I will not let anger become my adviser. I will not turn revenge into policy.

Avraham Burg  
“An open letter to my Palestinian friends”  
International Herald Tribune, October 4, 2003.

1800. It is absurd to suppose that a human being sitting around suddenly stands up and says: “You know, I hate freedom. I think I’ll go blow myself up.”

Charley Reese  
“George Bush”  
Syndicated column, November 7, 2003.

1801. The war on terrorism is apocalyptic, then, exactly because it is militarized and yet amorphous, without limits of time or place, and has no clear end. It therefore enters the realm of the infinite. Implied in its approach is that every last terrorist everywhere on the earth is to be hunted down until there are no more terrorists anywhere to threaten us, and in that way the world will be rid of evil.

Robert Jay Lifton  
“American Apocalypse”  
*The Nation*, December 4, 2003.

1802. The idea that nineteen men would go to the lengths they did to train themselves, commandeer airliners, and crash them into buildings knowing they would die in the process – all in order to protest the availability of convenience stores, MTV, cut-off blue jeans, and other expressions of what confused people regard as expressions of “freedom” — is so ludicrous that only the dullards at Fox News could utter this party line with a straight face.

Butler Shaffer  
“Kicking the Bully’s Dog”  
LewRockwell.com, July 19, 2004.

1803. All the groping, squeezing and wand passing are ultimately useless gesturing. Internal visas could easily be obtained by professionals. No nitwit groper will ever find the weapon carried by Mata Hari. No psychological profile or FBI sketch can stop a dirty bomb. No military defensive action has ever stopped the strategy of “terrorism” because it is akin to hitting a water drop with your fist to dry a table.

James Sinclair  
“May I See Your Documents, Comrade?”  
September 17, 2004.

1804. It doesn’t matter who becomes president of the US, as the bureaucracy of Homeland Security will grow to protect freedom until there is none left. Study the growth of the Third Reich and replace the persecuted Jewish population with the word “terrorism.” You say it is different. Was the thesis of the holocaust not sold to the German public as their protection from an illusionary risk? In principle, it is just the same tactic in modern dress.

James Sinclair  
“May I See Your Documents, Comrade?”  
September 17, 2004.

1805. Those who kill people with car bombs are “terrorists;” those who kill far more people with cluster bombs are the noble occupants of a “quagmire.”

John Pilger  
“Attacking our Memory”  
LewRockwell.com, February 18, 2005.

1806. Today, even to look for motivations behind 9/11 is to invite accusations of “blaming America” for the attacks, as if a detective seeking a killer’s motive should be accused of blaming the victim for his fate.

Thomas E. Woods, Jr.  
“The Case against this Monstrous War”  
LewRockwell.com, November 10, 2005.

### Terrorism War

1807. Mr. President, you may be called to bring the sword to the tyrants of this world. I am not. Many of us are not. You bring the sword to *us* when you force us all into your battles. If you understand and believe in freedom, then you know that it is up to each of us to make our own choices about how to do good in this world. If you believe in freedom, then begin by freeing us. Begin by freeing us to fight tyranny, or poverty, or ignorance, or any other evils we see, the ways we wish to. Stop distrusting the creativity of your own people. Stop suppressing half or more of your own population. Stop fearing how we will use our freedom. You are yourself creating the contradictions in our society that doom it to failure. Do not draft us into your century-long crusade for freedom.

Michael S. Rozeff  
“Iraq and the Neo-Domino Theory”  
LewRockwell.com, October 18, 2005

### Tobacco Companies

See *Smoking*.

### Tolerance

1808. Leave people free to find their own way from birth to death.

Jacob Hornberger  
Speech, July 29, 1995, Montgomery, Alabama.

1809. How can the modern relativist exercise tolerance if he doesn’t believe in anything to begin with? It is not hard to exhibit toleration toward a point of view if you have no point of view of your own with which that point of view conflicts.

William F. Buckley, Jr., *Up From Liberalism*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993

## Trade — Competitive Advantage

1810. I do not believe in the concept of a competitive advantage in the global economy. We are not harmed by other people improving their standard of living relative to ours; we are helped. The notion of competitiveness, of which so much is spoken, makes sense for an individual enterprise but it does not make any sense for a country. Poor countries can trade with rich countries. A country that is inefficient in almost everything can still trade with one that is very efficient. The economists have a name for that: what determines things is *comparative advantage*, not absolute advantage.

Milton Friedman  
*Why Government Is The Problem*, pages 17-18

## Transportation

See *Highways*.

## Truth

1811. The truth has a way of coming out in the long run, even when it is drowned out at first.

Thomas Sowell, syndicated column  
“The Black Conservatives Will Be Vindicated”  
*Orange County Register*, March 6, 1998

## TV News

See *Press*.

## Tyranny in 20th Century Governments

1812. Indeed, a learned friend of mine observes that even the worst of tyrannies before the 20th century didn’t exercise such close controls over the lives of its subjects as nearly every 20th-century state does.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, September 26, 1991.

1813. The days when a tyrant was explicit about his motives and easily identified have long passed us. I long for those times when the guards and their superiors spoke in foreign tongues, stuck bamboo shoots beneath our fingernails and applied electrodes to our nuts. Then I could unequivocally scream: “They’re dictators!” and everybody would nod in agreement.

But now, as technology and information have developed, the conspirators, the leeches, the moochers, the imbeciles, the fanatics, and the mystics have had to sugarcoat their intentions. The messages of compassion, human rights, and “the good society” make great camouflage.

Now, children are being offered grants by the socialist state. Now why would the state promote a concept whose underlying purpose is to limit the power and influence of the state? Because doing so serves to limit the authority and decision-making autonomy of the parents (a.k.a. adult citizens)!

Why establish a children's indoctrination organization and then name it Hitler Youth when you can avoid a lot of hassle and just establish a similar "think" tank and only identify it as "day-care"?

T. Mike Griffin  
On CompuServe, August 8, 1995

1814. Beware the tyrant, for he comes first as a protector.

Lord Byron  
Quoted by Amy Wheeler in an email, November 29, 2001.

1815. The safest road to Hell is the gradual one — the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.

C.S. Lewis  
*The Screwtape Letters*, 1941, #12.

1816. Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.

C.S. Lewis  
*God in the Dock*  
Quoted in Tennessee Tax Revolt daily email message  
July 17, 2002.  
Also quoted by Doug Newman  
"Hey Nineteen"  
*The Libertarian Enterprise*, May 5, 2003.

1817. In his devastatingly prophetic book, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, George Orwell points out that one reason why it is possible for those in authority to maintain the barbarities of the police state is that nobody is able to recall the many blessings of the period which preceded that type of society. In a general way, this is also true of the peoples of the Western world today. The great majority of them have known only a world ravaged by war, depressions, international intrigues and meddling, vast debts and crushing taxation, the encroachments of the police state, and the control of public opinion and government by ruthless and irresponsible propaganda. A major reason why there is no revolt against such a state of society as that in which we are living today is that many have come to accept it as a normal matter of course, having known nothing else during their lifetimes.

Harry Elmer Barnes  
*Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*, pages 4-5.

### Unabomber, The

1818. While reading about the Unabomber's "good intentions," I kept thinking of Gandhi, Mother Teresa, and the self-immolating Buddhist monk from the Vietnam War era — people who sacrificed themselves (either literally or figuratively) to promote their views. The Unabomber sacrificed others, and in so doing crossed the line that separates the morally authoritative from the morally bankrupt.

James Merritt  
On America Online, Libertarian Forum, January 8, 1997.

### Unions

1819. Unionism seldom, if ever, uses such power as it has to insure better work; almost always it devotes a large part of that power to safeguarding bad work.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956), U.S. journalist.  
*Prejudices*, ch. 4 (Third Series, 1922).

### Unity

1820. The idea of national unity, beloved by every would-be tyrant, is something to be feared. It is not a sign of freedom but of despotism. It is the morality of the ant heap.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
"What Were They Thinking?"  
LewRockwell.com, September 4, 2003.

### Utopia

1821. The idea of creating heaven on earth is bound to fail because we each have a different idea of what heaven is.

David D. Boaz  
"Competition, Cooperation, and Community,"  
Speech, The Eris Society, August 8, 1997

1822. An acre in Middlesex is better than a principality in Utopia.

Thomas, Babington Macaulay (1800-1859)  
English historian, Whig politician.  
"Lord Bacon," in *Edinburgh Review*, July 1837;  
Reprinted in *Critical and Historical Essays*, 1843.



## Victimless Crime

1823. Don't miss the point: In our "free country" over 750,000 people are now in jail for consensual crimes. You should also know that another 2 million are now on parole or probation; over 4 million more will be arrested this year; we will spend \$50 billion this year punishing people who have been convicted of consensual crimes; and we will lose \$150 billion this year in tax revenue. It's your money. You're paying for it.

Phil Donahue

Quoted on Peter McWilliams' web site.

1824. So you have your rapist, your strong-arm robber, your mugger being released early to make room for somebody who took money for sex or smoked dope in what he thought was private, but turned out to be not quite. That doesn't look like much of a trade from here. However much you're repelled by, say, prostitution, wouldn't you rather meet a hooker than a mugger coming down an alley?

*Reno Gazette-Journal*

Quoted on Peter McWilliams' web site.

1825. Imposing criminal sanctions on human conduct which is wholly consensual and does not harm another person or his or her property is a misplaced and counterproductive act . . . we violate the premise upon which America was founded.

*New Orleans Times-Picayune*

Quoted on Peter McWilliams' web site.

1826. When was the last time you were afraid to go out at night in case you were embezzled?

Madsen Pirie

Quoted by Taki in *National Review*, May 13, 1991, page 48.

1827. Government does a poor enough job of protecting us from others; it cannot possibly protect us from ourselves.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*

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1828. All laws which can be violated without doing any one an injury are laughed at. Nay, so far are they from doing anything to control the desires and passions of men that, on the contrary, they direct and incite men's thoughts the more toward those very objects; for we always strive toward what is forbidden and desire the things we are not allowed to have. And men of leisure are never deficient in the ingenuity needed to enable them to outwit laws framed to regulate things which cannot be entirely forbidden. . . . He who tries to determine everything by law will foment crime rather than lessen it.

Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677)  
Quoted by Joel Fort,  
*Utopia*, edited by in Richard Blum, page 205.

1829. The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant. He cannot rightfully be compelled to do or forbear because it will be better for him to do so, because it will make him happier, because, in the opinions of others, to do so would be wise, or even right. These are good reasons for remonstrating with him, or reasoning with him, or persuading him, or entreating him, but not for compelling him, or visiting him with any evil in case he do otherwise. Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign.

John Stuart Mill  
*On Liberty*  
Quoted by *The Economist*  
“Stumbling in the Dark,” July 26, 2001.

1830. In the end, we cannot protect free adults from their own poor choices, and we should not use the force of law to try. In a free society negative consequences befall people who use their freedom to do foolish things. Victimless self-destructive behavior is its own punishment, not the business of the legal system.

David Klinger  
“Make Drugs Legal for Adults, says Former Cop”  
Cato Institute, January 13, 2001.

## Victims

1831. When the list of “victims” defined under various civil rights acts was completed in 1991, some 80% of all Americans (everyone but white males under 40, not disabled, and not on welfare or SSI disability) were classified as “minorities.” It has become such a statistical joke that most citizens, including many of the “disabled,” have finally become angered.

Martin L. Gross  
*The End of Sanity* (Avon Books, 1997)  
Quoted in *LP News*, February 1998, page 8.

1832. The motto of victimism is “I DESERVE,” and its national anthem is the Whine.

John R. Dunlap  
Reviewing Charles J. Sykes’ *A Nation of Victims: The Decay of the American Character*  
*The American Spectator*, December 1992, page 73.

## Voting

1833. Do something meaningful on election day; mow your lawn.

Llewellyn Rockwell  
*Rothbard-Rockwell Report*, July 1990, p.8  
(paraphrase).

1834. A small group that votes 95% for self-interest has far more power than a large group that votes 50-50 for vacuous ideologies.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1994 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

1835. We have a much greater chance of being killed on the way to the polls than of casting a vote that makes a difference.

Gordon Tullock  
*Rothbard-Rockwell Report*, July 1990, p.8  
Paraphrased by Rockwell.

1836. If you have been voting for politicians who promise to give you goodies at someone else's expense, then you have no right to complain when they take your money and give it to someone else, including themselves.

Thomas Sowell  
Syndicated column, October 21, 1992.

1837. If God had wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates.

Anonymous  
Quoted by Joseph Sobran, syndicated column, April 4, 1995.

1838. The Political Establishment wants you to compromise, sell out, surrender to hatred or fear — and vote for one of their Big Government candidates for governor. Or U.S. Senate. Or state legislature.

They want you to give up. Throw in the towel. Compromise. Be pragmatic. Be realistic. Just one more time. But that's how we got Big Government. That's how we got high taxes. That's how we lost our liberties.

The only way to get what you want in politics is to vote for what you want in politics. Voting Libertarian means never having to say you're sorry.

Michael Cloud  
*Small Government News*, November 2002.

1839. Think back to 2000, when “conservative” spokesmen, some of whom were honest people who should have known better, exhorted us that we must vote for Bush, even if we had to hold our nose. The alternative was unthinkable! The Democrats might get in! Then we would have abortion, gay rights, affirmative action, judicial tyranny, socialized medicine, needless foreign war, massive spending, deficits, and debt! Save what is left of America! Vote Republican! Yeah, right.

Clyde Wilson  
“Save America! Vote Republican!”  
LewRockwell.com, September 30, 2003.

### Vouchers

1840. The sales pitch for vouchers goes like this: Poor students trapped in “bad schools” should have the opportunity to go to private schools. That’s false because what makes a bad school bad is not the faculty or the building or the location — but the students. Bad students will turn a school into a bad school whether it’s private or public. In fact, the virtue of private schools is that they can reject the bad students. Once they start down the road of accepting public funds, however, this option will be closed to them by the government.

Charley Reese  
“Let me count the ways: Private-school vouchers are a bad idea”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, November 19 1998.

1841. Another reason to oppose vouchers is that it will end up being a subsidy for the well-off. The poor-kid ploy is the sales pitch, but let it take hold and you’ll find out that the kids whose parents are able to pay the difference between the voucher and the private-school tuition will be those from middle- and upper-income families. Once more the working, single mom in a dangerous, convenience-store job will end up subsidizing the lawyer, the journalist, the executive, the doctor and the businessman.

Charley Reese  
“Let me count the ways: Private-school vouchers are a bad idea”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, November 19 1998.

1842. Another false premise used to sell the idea of vouchers is the assertion that government schools will be forced to become competitive. Government schools cannot compete in any sense of that word. They are government schools, creatures of the law and politics. Faculty, its pay, and the curricula are determined not by the schools but by politicians, bureaucrats and, in some cases, judges. To state that public schools can compete with private schools is like saying a bronze statue of a horse can run a race with a live horse.

Charley Reese  
“Let me count the ways: Private-school vouchers are a bad idea”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, November 19 1998.

1843. A voucher is a wealth-transfer scheme that takes money from the haves and gives it to the have-nots — by the force of taxation. The name for that is welfare. A free lunch is welfare. A free math lesson is welfare. Public housing is welfare. Public schooling is welfare.

Marshall Fritz, Separation of School & State Alliance  
Quoted by Michael Chapman  
*Investors Business Daily*, July 23, 1998

1844. . . . the Grove City College decisions of the 1970s, in which the federal government maintained that a college which accepted even a student who had received a federal scholarship, a federally guaranteed loan, but which itself had received no federal funds, was subject to federal scrutiny and oversight with respect to its policies. Not simply in its financial aid office, but throughout the institution.

The danger of vouchers is that he who pays the piper calls the tune and while one can argue that people are simply being allowed to keep or spend their own money, the reality is that the federal government will claim that you are subject to federal public policy standards if you accept a federal voucher as an institution. I think it's suicidal for Christian schools, private schools, to accept vouchers. The risk of bringing through the back door, the same rules, conditions, and problems into the Christian or private school that caused one to flee the public school in the first place, should be a paramount consideration in considering the perilous temptation posed by vouchers.

Howard Phillips  
*WorldNetDaily*, October 29, 1998

1845. We can understand the angry desperation out of which even thoughtful citizens can propose, as remedy for the ills caused by one governmental contraption, yet another governmental contraption. And any system for credits will be exactly that, a wholly owned subsidiary of the state and a bureaucratic agency for the propagation of ideology and the enforcement of "standards." And the standards will be devised not by the enthusiasts of vouchers, who don't really know exactly what they want anyway, but by the same old coalition of educationists and unionists and politicians and social engineers and manufacturers of gimmicks and publishers of pseudo-books, who *do* know exactly what they want, and exactly how to get it.

Richard Mitchell  
"Voucher, Smoucher"  
*Guerilla Schooling*, February 1981  
<http://www.presenceofmind.net/Guerrilla>.

*See also* Education.

## Waco Massacre

1846. If Rodney King's civil rights were violated, what happened in Waco, Texas? If a billy club is excessive force, what is a tank? If four Los Angeles police officers — their adrenaline flowing from exertions to subdue a resisting, large, strong man — used bad judgment in applying force, what kind of judgment was exercised by President Clinton, Atty. Gen. Janet Reno and the FBI in the relative calm of their Washington offices?

Paul Craig Roberts  
*Human Events*, May 1, 1993

## Wal-Mart

See *Consumers & Consumer Choice*.

## War

1847. America can only be harmed by this war. Our kids killed, our liberties suppressed, our taxes raised, the government engorged, the recession deepened, our Constitution shredded — and you can hardly wait for the shooting to start.

Jews & Christians Against a Mideast War  
Open Letter to A.M. Rosenthal  
Advertisement on op-ed page  
*The New York Times*, October 15, 1990  
Reproduced in *Rothbard-Rockwell Report*, November 1990.

1848. War has all the characteristics of a socialism most conservatives hate: centralized power, state planning, false rationalism, restricted liberties, foolish optimism about intended results and blindness to unintended secondary results.

Joseph Sobran  
Syndicated column, February 7, 1991.

1849. War is the health of the State.

Randolph Bourne, 1917  
"The State," unpublished essay.

1850. When one thinks of the war memorials all over Europe, and the stories of self-sacrifice which they embody, and the unselfish bravery of our parents' generations, one hardly dares to write these words. But the lesson they teach is that war never works, that the notion of a just war is a political con. God help us if our world order is now in the hands of those whose history books are closed and whose moral values are conceitedly summed up by the doctrine that whatever [Tony] Blair thinks and does is right and whatever anyone else does is "evil".

A.N. Wilson  
“Was the Second World War worth 56 million lives?”  
*The Independent* (United Kingdom), April 25, 1999

1851. To wage a war for a purely moral reason is as absurd as to ravish a woman for a purely moral reason.

H.L. Mencken  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman, “The Costs of War”  
FFF E-Mail Update, May 4, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation, Fairfax, Virginia.

1852. The urge to save humanity is almost always only a false-face for the urge to rule it.

H.L. Mencken  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman, “The Costs of War”  
FFF E-Mail Update, May 4, 1999  
The Future of Freedom Foundation, Fairfax, Virginia.

1853. The formality by which Parliaments and Congresses declare war is the merest technicality. Before such a declaration can take place, the country will have been brought to the very brink of war by the foreign policy of the Executive. A long series of steps on the downward path, each one more fatally committing the unsuspecting country to a warlike course of action, will have been taken without either the people or its representatives being consulted or expressing its feelings. When the declaration of war is finally demanded by the Executive, the Parliament or Congress could not refuse it without reversing the course of history, without repudiating what has been representing itself in the eyes of the other States as the symbol and interpreter of the nation’s will and animus.

Randolph Bourne  
“The State” in *War and Intellectuals: Collected Essays, 1915-1919*  
(Harper Torchbooks, 1964), page 83.  
Quoted by Sheldon Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 220.

1854. Relinquish liberty for the purposes of defense in an emergency? Why? It would seem that in an emergency, of all times, one needs his greatest strength. So if liberty is strength and slavery is weakness, liberty is a necessity rather than a luxury, and we can ill afford to be without it — least of all during an emergency.

F.A. Harper  
“In Search of Peace” in *The Writings of F.A. Harper*, vol. ii, page  
386 (Institute for Humane Studies, 1979) Quoted by Sheldon  
Richman  
*The Independent Review*, Fall 1996, page 231.

1855. For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that,  
An "Chuck 'im out, the brute!"  
But it's "Savior of 'is country"  
When the guns begin to shoot.

Rudyard Kipling  
*Ballads and Barrack Room Ballads*  
"Tommy," stanza 5.

1856. So long as governments set the example of killing their enemies, private individuals will occasionally kill theirs.

Elbert Hubbard [1856-1915]  
*Contemplations* [1902]  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 679.

1857. In all my dreams, before my helpless sight, He plunges at me, guttering, choking,  
drowning . . . If you could hear, at every jot, the blood Come gargling from the froth-  
corrupted lungs, Obscene as cancer, batter as the cud Of vile, incurable sores on innocent  
tongues, — My friend, you would not tell with such high zest The old Lie: *Dulce et  
decorum est Pro patria mori*.

Wilfred Owen, World War I poem  
Quoted by David Frum  
*The Weekly Standard*, April 28, 1997, page 27.

1858. War involves in its progress such a train of unforeseen and un-supposed circumstances  
that no human wisdom can calculate the end. It has but one thing certain, and that to  
increase taxes.

Thomas Paine (1737-1809)  
*Prospects on the Rubicon* [1787]  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 384.

1859. I know not whether taxes are raised to fight wars or wars are fought in order to raise  
taxes.

Thomas Paine (1737-1809)  
Source unknown; probably from *Common Sense*  
Quoted by Jon Utley on *Liberty Today*.

1860. To establish any mode to abolish war, however advantageous it might be to Nations,  
would be to take from such Government the most lucrative of its branches.

Thomas Paine (1737-1809)  
*The Rights of Man*, pt. 1, "Conclusion" (1791).



1861. Of all the enemies to public liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes; and armies, and debts, and taxes are the known instruments for brining the many under the domination of the few. . . . No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.

James Madison, "Political Observations,"  
*Letters and Other Writings of James Madison* (1795), page 491.  
Quoted in "War and American Freedom" by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 7.

1862. The Constitution supposes what the history of all governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, & most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care vested the question of war in the Legislature.

James Madison, in a letter to Thomas Jefferson,  
Quoted by Robert L. Borosage  
"A 'Splendid Little War' Collides With the War Powers Act"  
Los Angeles Times, May 23, 1999.

1863. I keep seeing and hearing people from the media, government, and even the pastor of my church saying that even if we don't support the mission, we must support our troops. If we support our troops, no matter what the mission, we are no better than the people of World War II Germany. Would we support the troops if they were killing Jews in death camps? Is killing Jews in death camps any different from dropping cluster bombs on innocent Serb and Kosovar civilians? No matter how you phrase it, death is death! By supporting our troops we support the mission by proxy. By this I mean that the president can engage in any sort of despotism he pleases, knowing that we will at least support the troops.

Pete Johnson  
Letter to Editor  
*WorldNetDaily*, June 2, 1999.

1864. Constant apprehension of War has the . . . tendency to render the head too large for the body. A standing military force, with an overgrown Executive will not long be safe companions to liberty. The means of defense against Foreign danger have been always the instruments of tyranny at home.

James Madison  
*The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787* edited by Max  
Farrand, page 465.  
Quoted in "War and American Freedom" by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 7.

1865. War is in fact the true nurse of executive aggrandizement. . . . The strongest passions and most dangerous weaknesses of the human breast — ambition, avarice, vanity, the honorable or venal love of fame — are all in conspiracy against the desire and duty of peace.

James Madison, "Letters of Helvidius" (August, September 1793)  
*The Writings of James Madison*, edited by Gaillard Hunt, page 171.  
Quoted in "War and American Freedom" by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 7.

1866. I know war as few other men now living know it, and nothing to me is more revolting. I have long advocated its complete abolition, as its very destructiveness on both friend and foe has rendered it useless as a means of settling international disputes.

General Douglas MacArthur  
Speech to Congress, April 19, 1951  
Quoted in *A Treasury of the World's Great Speeches*  
Edited by Houston Peterson, 1954

1867. . . . apparently from the outset mankind has wasted its fortunes, its energies, its blood and its youth in making war.

William L. Shirer  
*The Nightmare Years 1930-1940*  
Quoted by Joe Smolinski, CompuServe, June 19, 1995.

1868. Launching a war of aggression is a crime and . . . no political or economic situation can justify it. . . . If certain acts in violation of treaties are crimes, they are crimes whether the United States does them or whether Germany does them, and we are not prepared to lay down a rule of criminal conduct against others which we would not be willing to have invoked against us.

Robert Jackson, Supreme Court Justice  
Chief American prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials  
Quoted by Walter J. Rockler, also a prosecutor at Nuremberg  
"War Crimes Law Applies To U.S., Too"  
*The Chicago Tribune*, May 23, 1999.

1869. . . . how easy it is to embrace brutality, violence and inhumanity when you can remove yourself from it, when you can duck the responsibility by claiming it's not in *your* interest, but in the *national* interest? . . . In the name of *national interest*, we've brought violent death to a great many people in this world. People with families and friends and jobs and histories and feelings just like us. *Exactly* like us. And we forced them to bow before us, and those who resisted, we killed. I know you don't like the way that's worded, but try explaining to the Iraqis, for instance, or the Vietnamese, that we killed their sons, their fathers, their children, their schoolyard friends, their neighbors for our *national interest*.

Sean Cavanaugh  
CompuServe, June 17, 1995.

1870. As [Ludwig von] Mises writes in *Liberalism*, a classical liberal makes no distinction between foreign and domestic policy. Strict limits on the power of government to intervene apply in either case. Liberty and empire are incompatible. A government powerful enough to wage aggressive war on foreign peoples will also aggress against its own people.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“Anti-War”  
Mises Institute website, [www.Mises.org](http://www.Mises.org)

1871. There never was a good war or a bad peace.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)  
Letter to Josiah Quincy (1773)  
From *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 348.

1872. To personalize the war, describing it as not against the Iraqi people but against Saddam, is morally equivalent to bombing a prison because one has a grievance against its sadistic warden.

Robert Higgs  
*Liberty* magazine, February 1991, page 19.

1873. Not a place upon earth might be so happy as America. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world, and she has nothing to do but to trade with them.

Thomas Paine (1737-1809)  
*The American Crisis*, no. 1 (December 23, 1776)  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 384.

1874. Fantastic political boundaries are set up carelessly and arbitrarily, but once they are established, however casually and lightheartedly, they take on some mysterious sanctity; to violate them “breaks the heart of the world.” Every border war becomes a world war, and world peace disappears from the scene.

By this absurd policy, internationalism and interventionism invite and insure “perpetual war for perpetual peace,” since any move which threatens petty nations, and these mystic boundaries becomes an “aggressive war” which must not be tolerated, even though to oppose it may break the back of the world.

Harry Elmer Barnes  
*Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*, page 657.

1875. The perpetual war for perpetual peace.

Charles Beard  
*Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*, page viii.

1876. The Hitler analogy is nearing irrelevancy. World leaders who threaten us in the future will almost certainly have weapons of mass destruction. It would have been unthinkable for the Western powers (France and Britain) to go to war with Hitler over Czechoslovakia if “Der Führer” had nukes.

Richard J. Hrebic  
CompuServe, June 18, 1995.

1877. “We were invited in not only by the Kuwait government, but by several of the legitimate governments of the area.”

So we were justified in slaughtering thousands of Iraqi citizens (civilians as well as military) because the Kuwaitis invited us to do so? The Croats and Muslims in Bosnia have been *begging* us to come in. So why the deaf ear with them? Not enough oil wells in Bosnia? (Note: I don’t think we should go into Bosnia, but I didn’t think we should have invaded Iraq either).

Sean Cavanaugh  
CompuServe, June 18, 1995.

1878. “I’m curious, just how would you have had a Libertarian government respond to Hitler in 1939-40?”

Befriend his enemies . . . assassinate him. . . . I’m not sure that ’round-the-clock bombing raids on Germany’s civilian population was the right answer. I’m certainly not proud of it, nor do I try to justify it. I mean, the Holocaust certainly was one of the most heinous crimes against humanity committed in this century, but we killed upwards of 2 million people with our bombing raids in North Vietnam just a couple of years ago, as many or more native Americans in the century past. And our esteemed and peace loving allies, the English, exterminated about as many Irish. Our Soviet allies proved to be just as brutal as the Nazis.

If we must engage in what we abhor to achieve our ends, I think we need to re-evaluate our goals.

Sean Cavanaugh  
CompuServe, June 18, 1995.

1879. Suppose further that we have that rarity — an unusually clear-cut case in which the State is actually trying to defend the property of one of its citizens. A citizen of country A travels or invests in country B, and then State B aggresses against his person or confiscates his property. Surely, our libertarian critic would argue, here is a clear-cut case where State A should threaten or commit war against State B in order to defend the property of “its” citizen. Since, the argument runs, the State has taken upon itself the monopoly of defense of its citizens, it then has the obligation to go to war on behalf of any citizen, and libertarians have an obligation to support this war as a just one.

But the point again is that each State has a monopoly of violence and thereof defense *only over its territorial area*. It has no such monopoly, in fact it has no power at all, over any other geographical area. Therefore, if an inhabitant of country A should move to or invest in country B, the libertarian must argue that he thereby takes his chances with the State-monopolist of country B, and it would be immoral and criminal for State A to tax people in country A *and* kill numerous innocents in country B in order to defend the property of the traveler or investor.

Murray N. Rothbard  
*War, Peace and the State*  
Reprinted in *The Classical Liberal*  
The Center for the Study of Market Alternatives

1880. Aggressive nationalism is the necessary derivative of the policies of interventionism and national planning. While laissez-faire eliminates the causes of international conflict, government interference with business and socialism create conflicts for which no peaceful solution can be found. While under free trade and freedom of migration, no individual is concerned about the territorial size of his country, under the protective measures of economic nationalism nearly every citizen has a substantial interest in these territorial issues. The enlargement of the territory subject to the sovereignty of his own government means material improvement for him or at least relief from restrictions which a foreign government has imposed upon his well-being. What has transformed the limited war between royal armies to total war, the clash between peoples, is not technologies of military art, but the substitution of the welfare state for the laissez-faire principle.

Ludwig von Mises, *Human Action*  
quoted by Ron Paul  
*Mises & Austrian Economics: A Personal View*, page 21.

1881. A true patriot is a lover, not a hater and a killer. A true patriot loves his own land and his own people and respects patriots in other countries who feel the same way about their land and their people.

Because he loves his land and his people, the patriot does not want to go to war except when there is no choice. He does not wish to place his people into harm's way for some stupid and irresponsible reason, such as trying to distract their attention from an odious scandal.

Charley Reese  
"American intelligence in Middle East a contradiction in terms"  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, September 13, 1998

1882. So you were David's father,  
And he was your only son,  
And the new-cut peats are rotting  
And the work is left undone,  
Because of an old man weeping,  
Just an old man in pain,  
For David, his son David,  
That will not come again.

Lieutenant Ewart Mackintosh  
Poem written to the father of a soldier killed in World War I, 1916  
Quoted by Niall Ferguson  
"Do today's public rituals hinder our understanding of war?"  
*The Independent*, London November 11, 1998

1883. I used to think how useless it was — all those young fellows getting killed — but there was nothing you could do about it. Everybody used to think, my mate has gone this morning, will I be the next one tomorrow? You just simply thought: what a waste of life.

Albert Marshall, British soldier in World War I  
Quoted by Tarquin Cooper, Susannah Herbert, & Andrew Gimson  
*The (London) Daily Telegraph*, November 9, 1998.

1884. When the "free press" marches off to war, the reflexive deference to official sources — with their nonstop briefings, interviews and behind-the-scenes backgrounders — produces an overwhelming flood of propaganda.

Norman Solomon  
"American Journalists Have No Reason to be Smug"  
Creators Syndicate, April 8, 1999.

1885. It is tempting to refer to this operation as The War To Make Us Forget The Impeachment, or The War To Keep Up CNN's Ratings. But NATO spokesmen have scrupulously avoided the term "war", and the US Congress has refused to declare war. Rightly so: this is not a war; it's not a "police action"; it's not even a "conflict." It has long since become simply an exercise in compulsive, psychotic vandalism: not simply a crime against international law but a crime against civilization itself — a barbaric video game on real people, heedless self-absorbed nihilism worthy of the Trenchcoat Mafia, notwithstanding the hypocritical condemnation of violence from a President who has bombed more countries during his administration than any since the Second World War.

Craig Goodrich, referring to the NATO action against Serbia  
"Sincere Regrets, May 8, 1999  
Unpublished Op-Ed article.

1886. War is never there to be easily defended, but even so, there is a visceral difference between a combat devoted uniquely to bombing, and participation in a ground war. Ground war is always cruel beyond human comprehension, but there are occasional examples of heroism or sacrifice, and since both of the adversaries lose young men, there is, with all else, a hint of shared sorrow on both sides. Over the years and decades, that can even permit a reconciliation.

Bombing, however, is oppression. If the bombing is done with the notion that our own blood is not to be shed, it is obscene. In large part, people who are bombed will never forgive the aggressor. We can hardly wish to meditate upon the detestation of America that we are seeding in all the poor populations of the world.

Norman Mailer  
“Milosevic and Clinton”  
*The Washington Post*, May 24, 1999, page A25.

1887. With an international war crimes kangaroo court awaiting the ‘losers,’ the conflicts will only intensify. Who would allow himself to ‘lose’ and then be whisked away for a trial and sentencing by some U.N. bureaucrats to then languish in a modern Spandau? The war crimes court only guarantees the conflicts will be very nasty and fought to the bitter end.

Vince Cermak  
Email to *WorldNetDaily*, May 27, 1999.

1888. I cannot understand the reasoning of those who have moral sense enough to recognize that this war is criminal aggression — who must say to themselves that every drop of blood shed in it by friend or foe is blood wantonly and wickedly shed, and that every act of devastation is barbarous cruelty inflicted upon an innocent people — but who still maintain that we must go on killing, and devastating, and driving our brave soldiers into a fight which they themselves are cursing, because we have once begun it. This I cannot understand. Do they not consider that in such a war, which they themselves condemn as wanton and iniquitous, the more complete our success, the greater will be our disgrace?

Carl Schurz, opposing the war against the Philippines  
“The Policy of Imperialism”  
Address at the Anti-Imperialist Conference  
Chicago, October 17, 1899.

1889. I am pleading for the cause of American honor and self-respect, American interests, American democracy — aye, for the cause of the American people against an administration of our public affairs which has wantonly plunged this country into an iniquitous war; which has disgraced the republic by a scandalous breach of faith to a people struggling for their freedom whom we had used as allies; which has been systematically seeking to deceive and mislead the public mind by the manufacture of false news; which has struck at the very foundation of our constitutional government by an executive usurpation of the war power; which makes sport of the great principles and high ideals that have been and should ever remain the guiding star of our course; and which, unless stopped in time, will transform this government of the people, for the people, and by the people, into an imperial government cynically calling itself republican — a government in which the noisy worship of arrogant might will drown the voice of right; which will impose upon the people a burdensome and demoralizing militarism, and which will be driven into a policy of wild and rapacious adventure by the unscrupulous greed of the exploiter — a policy always fatal to democracy.

Carl Schurz, opposing the war against the Philippines  
“The Policy of Imperialism”  
Address at the Anti-Imperialist Conference  
Chicago, October 17, 1899.

1890. It seems to me the only really just war is a purely defensive one, and even just wars are bad experiences. Most of the wars are about territory and power. It seems most of them are real scams, too, because a small elite gets the economic and political benefits while the poor and middle-income folks do the fighting and suffering and dying.

Charley Reese  
“The thing about wars is that they always leave such a mess”  
*The Orlando Sentinel*, August 17, 1999

1891. For centuries, philosophers and theologians have grappled with the question of under what circumstances a just war may be fought. Christian doctrine demands that such a war be defensive, and never aggressive. It must be waged only as a last resort, after all other means of negotiating peace have been exhausted. The violence used must be proportional to the threat. There must be a prospect of victory so that soldiers are not sent to their death for no purpose. In a just war, innocents may never be directly targeted; and, after the fighting is over, there must be no acts of vengeance.

Patrick J. Buchanan  
“Toward a More Moral Foreign Policy”  
Speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies  
December 16, 1999.

1892. How many wars would we have if the politicians had to be on the frontline? If they were the first to pack up and go fight, you could bet they could easily find peaceful means to settle the differences.



J. Talaga  
Letter to the editor  
*WorldNetDaily*, December 20, 2000.

1893. I felt sickened to the depths of my soul. I asked God, “Why, why, why?” I turned my face away and wished that I were imagining it all. I had tasted the bitterest essence of the war, the sight of helpless comrades being slaughtered, and it filled me with disgust.

Eugene B. Sledge  
*With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa*, page 60  
Cited by Paul Fussell in *Wartime*, page 293.

1894. What is seen through the explosions is that this, no less than any other war, is not a moral war. Greek against Greek, against Persian, Roman against the world, cowboys against Indians, Catholics against Protestants, black men against white — this is merely the current phase of an historical story. It is war, and to believe it is anything but a lot of people killing each other is to pretend it is something else, and to misread man’s instinct to commit murder.

Neil McCallum, referring to World War II  
*Journey With a Pistol*  
Paul Fussell, “The Real War 1939-1945”  
*The Atlantic Monthly*, August 1989.

1895. Battle doesn’t determine who is right. Only who is left.

Peter Bowman, *Beach Red*  
Quoted by Edgar L. Jones  
“One War Is Enough”  
*The Atlantic Monthly*, February 1946.

1896. When we argue that our killing and terrorizing of civilians is justifiable because our enemies committed worse atrocities, because it hastened an enemy’s surrender, or because international law did not explicitly proscribe our methods, we relinquish the moral authority to tell other belligerents that it is unacceptable to target civilians to achieve political or military objectives.

Rick Mercier  
“A-Bombings Flattened America’s Moral High Ground”  
Fredericksburg, Virginia, *Free Lance-Star*  
June 6, 2001.

1897. Having reported many wars, I am always struck by the absurdity of effete politicians eager to wave farewell to young soldiers, but who themselves would not say boo to a Taliban goose.

John Pilger  
“The War on Terrorism Is a Fraud”  
October 28, 2001.

1898. We read enough of the news to sense that our government is heading in the direction of violent revenge, with the prospect of sons, daughters, parents, friends in distant lands dying, suffering, and nursing further grievances against us. It is not the way to go . . . not in our son's name.

Parents of Greg Rodriquez, killed in the World Trade Center  
attacks

Quoted by John Pilger  
“The War on Terrorism Is a Fraud”  
October 28, 2001.

1899. When you go to war, you never really know what you're getting into. The dangers you can specify may matter less than a nameless qualm about far worse evils that you can't even imagine. Nobody in 1945, when the first A-bombs were dropped on Japan, asked: "But what if some Muslim fanatic is born in 1957 who will get hold of such weapons and use them against us?" Roosevelt's ultimate legacy may turn out to be Osama bin Laden. . . .

Modern warfare keeps breeding new possibilities of violence. But like a gambler who thinks he can beat the house, our rulers have kept betting that they can win at this lethal game in which no man knows the real odds. And their lack of foresight is made worse by their faulty hindsight.

Joseph Sobran  
“Roosevelt's Ultimate Legacy”  
LewRockwell.com, November 14, 2001.

1900. The tragedy of modern war is not so much that the young men die but that they die fighting each other — instead of their real enemies back home in the capitals.

Edward Abbey, 1989.  
Quoted by Bob Tregilus in an email.

1901. In 1944, John Flynn pointed out we always wage war for some high moral purpose — to uphold international law, to deter aggression, for human rights — but somehow, in doing so, we always seem to capture our enemies' markets and blunder into their oil wells. And undermine their alliances.

At what price for ordinary people never seems to be much of a consideration for those who order wars, or for those who stay home and eagerly beat the drums of war on the editorial pages of newspapers.

Stephen Gowans  
“Getting the Pipeline Map and Politics Right”  
*Swans* (Internet publication), November 12, 2001.

1902. Why of course the people don’t want war. That is understood. But after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger.

Hermann Goering, Nazi leader  
Quoted by Stephen Gowans  
“Our Masters of Propaganda”  
*Swans* (Internet publication), November 12, 2001.

1903. I think most historians will agree that the part played by impulses of selfish, individual aggression in the holocausts of history was small; first and foremost, the slaughter was meant as an offering to the gods, to king and country, or the future happiness of mankind. The crimes of Caligula shrink to insignificance compared to the havoc wrought by Torquemada. The number of victims of robbers, highwaymen, rapists, gangsters and other criminals at any period of history is negligible compared to the massive numbers of those cheerfully slain in the name of the true religion, just policy, or correct ideology.

Arthur Koestler  
Quoted by Freedom’s Nest.

1904. The crimes of violence committed for selfish, personal motives are historically insignificant compared to those committed ad maiorem gloriam Dei, out of a self-sacrificing devotion to the flag, a leader, a religious faith or political conviction.

Arthur Koestler  
Quoted by Freedom’s Nest.

1905. One of the most fashionable notions of our times is that social problems like poverty and oppression breed wars. Most wars, however, are started by well-fed people with time on their hands to dream up half-baked ideologies or grandiose ambitions, and to nurse real or imagined grievances.

Thomas Sowell  
Quoted by Freedom’s Nest.

1906. Stretching for some 450 miles, the western front was a lunar expanse scarred with trenches, with their smell of stagnant mud, latrine buckets, rotting sandbags, disinfectant, lime, and stale sweat, stretching amidst muddy fields and tangles of barbed wire, flooded in rain, freezing in winter, ceaselessly shelled and sniped and raided, treeless, birdless, and with no wildlife besides rats, lice, and fleas, where the thick square ration biscuits were often used for fuel, where soldiers were expect to last four or five months, sergeants and junior officers half that time, and where men who considered themselves under suspended sentence of death prayed for the flesh wounds that would save their lives.

Eugen Weber, describing World War I  
*A Modern History of Europe*, page 774  
Quoted by Clarence B. Carson, page 181  
*A Basic History of the United States, Volume 4*

1907. When war is declared, truth is the first casualty..

Senator Hiram Johnson, 1917  
Quoted by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, page 3.

1908. Of all the enemies to liberty, war is perhaps the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes; and armies, and debts, and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few. In war, too, the discretionary power of the Executive is extended; its influence in dealing out offices, honors, and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds, are added to those of subduing the force, of the people.

The Constitution expressly and exclusively vests in the Legislature the power of declaring a state of war [and] the power of raising armies.

A delegation of such powers [to the president] would have struck, not only at the fabric of our Constitution, but at the foundation of all well organized and well checked governments. The separation of the power of declaring war from that of conducting it, is wisely contrived to exclude the danger of its being declared for the sake of its being conducted.

James Madison  
Cited in "The Most Dreaded Enemy of Liberty"  
Future of Freedom Foundation, June 1999.

1909. War is the tool of weak men to make themselves appear strong.

Anonymous 90-year-old Saudi Arabian  
Quoted by John Cory  
"Comes a War"  
*Truthout*, January 15, 2003.

1910. I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today — my own government. . . . There is something strangely inconsistent about a nation and a press that would praise you when you say, “Be nonviolent toward Jim Clark,” but will curse and damn you when you say, “Be nonviolent toward little brown Vietnamese children!” There is something wrong with that press.

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Quoted by the Radio Project.

1911. Don't let anybody make you think that God chose America as His divine messianic force to be — a sort of policeman of the whole world. God has a way of standing before the nations with judgment, and it seems that I can hear God saying to America: “You are too arrogant! If you don't change your ways, I will rise up and break the backbone of your power.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Quoted by the Radio Project.

1912. We've all encountered this in our private lives: people with whom we have agreed with on a huge range of economic and cultural issues are just downright wrong on the war. They don't trust the government to run the economy, our families, or our schools, but think it is just great for the U.S. to amass the largest military machine owned by any government in the history of the world, for the US and its allies to be the sole nuclear monopolists, for the U.S. to slaughter people in a foreign country who have never done anything to us and spend twice that country's GDP in doing so.

Jeffrey Tucker  
“Is There Something about Conservatism?”  
LewRockwell.com, March 4, 2003.

1913. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian dictator, was depicted, of course, as another Hitler, as is Saddam Hussein. Here a Hitler, there a Hitler, everywhere a Hitler. Don't leave home for war without this chestnut.

Nicholas von Hoffman  
“Going off to War Supplied with Lies”  
*The New York Observer*, March 7, 2003.

1914. Bush II is in a predicament. He has to persuade people that we must attack Iraq for crimes it has not yet committed but which Bush II knows it will. The chosen method has been to fill the air with dozens of accusations, clouds of midge-like lies too numerous and too short-lived to be refuted. By producing volcanic eruptions of fiction, supposition, half-truths and no truths, the world will come to imagine Saddam, mustache and all, is climbing in the bedroom window, oriental dagger in hand.

Nicholas von Hoffman  
“Going off to War Supplied with Lies”  
*The New York Observer*, March 7, 2003.

1915. War is not about flag-waving and patriotism. War is about killing and death.

Chris Hedges, *New York Times* correspondent  
Quoted on *Third World Traveler* website.

1916. You need not support either the enemy or your own lying government. If neither one tells the truth, be the Lone Ranger, if you must, but insist on the truth.

Christopher Manion  
“Generations of Lies, Generations of Wars”  
LewRockwell.com, March 17, 2003.

1917. Boys always fight wars because it’s too strenuous for old geezers. These days, the generals will sit in air-conditioned comfort far from the sound of guns. They will hold their briefings for the press. When the war is over and the young men are buried or packed away in VA hospitals or sent home to try to make a living, the generals will get the book contracts, take off on the lecture circuit and get rich. Some of them might even get gifts of stocks from grateful corporations that profited from the war. When the next war comes, they’ll be on television as “Fox News consultants.”

Charley Reese  
“The Last One”  
March 3, 2003.

1918. What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty and democracy?

Mahatma Gandhi  
Quoted by Neil Clark  
“Why the Left and Right Must Unite and Fight”  
AntiWar.com, April 1, 2003.

1919. Think of the divergence of interests, for example, between the grunts who are actually fighting this war, who have been eating sand and spilling their blood in the desert, and the power brokers who fought like crazy to make the war happen and are profiting from it every step of the way.

Bob Herbert  
“Spoils of War”  
*New York Times*, April 10, 2003.

1920. “To initiate a war of aggression,” said the judges in the Nuremberg trial of the Nazi leadership, “is not only an international crime; it is the supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole.” In stating this guiding principle of international law, the judges specifically rejected German arguments of the “necessity” for pre-emptive attacks against other countries.

John Pilger  
“Crime against Humanity”  
ZNet, April 10, 2003.

1921. The hypocrisy of war stinks almost as much as the civilian casualties.

Robert Fisk  
“Looking Beyond War”  
AlterNet.org, April 23, 2003.

1922. O Lord our God, help us to tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the shrieks of their wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire; help us to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief; help us to turn them out roofless with their little children to wander unfriended the wastes of their desolated land in rags and hunger and thirst, sports of the sun flames of summer and the icy winds of winter, broken in spirit, worn with travail, imploring Thee for the refuge of the grave and denied it — for our sakes who adore Thee, Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with their tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their wounded feet! We ask it, in the spirit of love, of Him Who is the Source of Love, and Who is the ever-faithful refuge and friend of all that are sore beset and seek His aid with humble and contrite hearts. Amen.

Mark Twain  
“The War Prayer”  
Quoted by Lewis Lapham  
“The Road to Babylon”  
*Harper's Magazine* online, May 12, 2003.

1923. If the doves were to give in to their critics and shut up, then we would all have to trust the Bush administration completely to decide whether to continue, escalate, or end the war. The government would have a free hand to do as it likes. Far from showing their patriotism, critics who muzzle themselves in wartime are abdicating a democratic responsibility.

David Greenberg  
Slate, March 26, 2003

1924. War, we have come to believe, is a spectator sport. The military and the press — remember in wartime the press is always part of the problem — have turned war into a vast video arcade game. Its very essence — death — is hidden from public view.

Chris Hedges  
Speech at Rockford College, Rockford, Illinois  
May 20, 2003.

1925. In retrospect, the events that have impelled us to war have turned out, in every case, to be elaborate hoaxes.

Justin Raimondo  
“Behind the Lies”  
AntiWar.com, June 9, 2003.

1926. War is still a lark to the peace-bred generation in the U.S. — still an exercise in geopolitical jingoism as daft as Wilson’s “making the world safe for democracy,” but without the casualties! They think they are defending western civilization — fighting terrorism — spreading democracy and freedom.

Bill Bonner  
“Sentimental Lessons”  
*The Daily Reckoning*, May 9, 2003.

1927. War times are common in the history of the world; it is times of peace that are the exception. According to the historian Will Durant, war is one of the constants of history, and has not diminished with civilization or democracy. In the last 3,421 years of recorded history, only 268 have seen no war.

Marc Faber  
“The Reality of War”  
*The Daily Reckoning*, April 10, 2003.

1928. Actions are held to be good or bad, not on their own merits, but according to who does them. There is almost no kind of outrage — torture, imprisonment without trial, assassination, the bombing of civilians — which does not change its moral color when it is committed by ‘our’ side . . . The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them.

George Orwell  
Quoted by Paul Rockwell  
*AlterNet*, March 6, 2003.

1929. They lost their town, they lost their lives in numbers, and with them the lives of many simple people who shared the common misfortune of many simple people before them, who had the ill-luck to live in places which people in War Rooms decided to smash.



James Cameron, British war correspondent  
Referring to North Koreans during the Korean War  
*The Picture Post*, October 7, 1950.  
Quoted by Phillip Knightley in *The First Casualty*, page 372.

1930. The inability of politicians and generals to control events in war is a theme that runs from the trenches of World War I to NATO's attack on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

Matthew Stevenson  
"Hello Again to All That"  
*The American Spectator*, July 1999, page 73.

1931. Most wars are begun for reasons which have nothing to do with justice, have results quite different from those proclaimed as their objects, if indeed they have any clear-cut result at all, and visit during their course a great deal of casual suffering on the innocent.

John Keegan  
*The Face of Battle*  
Quoted by Matthew Stevenson in "Hello Again to All That"  
*The American Spectator*, July 1999, page 70.

1932. Of course, all politicians lie, but lying one's country into an unnecessary war is an outrage, and an impeachable offense.

Eric Margolis  
"Bush Deserves to be Impeached"  
Syndicated column, July 17, 2003.

1933. All warfare is based on deception.

Sun Tzu, ancient Chinese military strategist  
Quoted in *Information Operations*, 1998 U.S. Air Force manual  
Cited in "How to Sell a War"  
Sheldon Rampton and John Stauber  
*The American Prospect*, August 4, 2003.

1934. To whom does war bring prosperity? Not to the soldier who for the munificent compensation of \$16 per month shoulders his musket and goes into the trench, there to shed his blood and to die if necessary; not to the brokenhearted widow who waits for the return of the mangled body of her husband; not to the mother who weeps at the death of her brave boy; not to the little children who shiver with cold; not to the babe who suffers from hunger; nor to the millions of mothers and daughters who carry broken hearts to their graves. War brings no prosperity to the great mass of common and patriotic citizens. It increases the cost of living of those who toil and those who already must strain every effort to keep soul and body together.

Senator George W. Norris  
Speech opposing World War I, April 5, 1917.

1935. Don McCullin . . . photographed a dead Viet Cong soldier in Hue in 1968, his plundered belongings lying beside him, a picture of his pretty sweetheart facing his dead eyes. I remember the photo only too well. It shook me like no other. The evil (or so we thought) VC also had feelings, and took pictures of their loved ones into combat just like the rest of us.

Taki  
“Soldiering Is for Others”  
*The Spectator*, August 30, 2003.

1936. War is about blood and destruction and nothing more. The destruction is wrought against the enemy and the victor. After the “heroic” and “noble” struggle is over, what are we left with? Debt, body bags, and a generation scarred by witnessing destruction on a scale no private parties could be capable of. War leaves in its wake a culture that has a lower regard for financial prudence, for freedom from leviathan, and for the value of life itself. War is uncivilized. It is a barbaric enterprise. It has never moved society forward. It is always a setback. It promises to give life meaning but ends in attacking the very source of meaning.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“What Were They Thinking?”  
LewRockwell.com, September 4, 2003.

1937. What’s the sense of it? Why did they have to be killed before they had even begun to live?

Shirley Millard, American nurse in World War I hospital  
*I Saw Them Die*, pages 92-107  
Cited in *The Illusion of Victory* by Thomas Fleming, page 275.

1938. A generation that has taken a beating is always followed by a generation that deals one.

Otto von Bismarck, German chancellor, 1871  
Quoted by General S.L.A. Marshall  
in *History of World War I*, page 22.  
Cited by Richard Maybury  
*World War I: The Rest of the Story*, page 153.

1939. Against war it may be said that it makes the victor stupid and the vanquished revengeful.

Friedrich Nietzsche  
*Human, All Too Human*  
Quoted by Richard J. Maybury  
*World War I: The Rest of the Story*, page 223.

1940. I find war detestable, but those who praise it without participating in it even more so.

Romain Rolland  
“Inter amra caritas”  
*Journal de Geneve*, 1914  
Quoted by Richard J. Maybury  
*World War I: The Rest of the Story*, page 223.

1941. All wars are wars among thieves who are too cowardly to fight and who therefore induce the young manhood of the whole world to do the fighting for them.

Emma Goldman  
“Address to the Jury”  
*Mother Earth*, 1917  
Quoted by Richard J. Maybury  
*World War I: The Rest of the Story*, page 223.

1942. War is a great evil. It entails horrible suffering and death on a large scale and has served as the principal means for the rise of the tyrannical state.

David Gordon  
“Wither’d Garland of War”  
*The Mises Review*, Fall 1997.

1943. Heaps of corpses, French and German, are lying every which way, rifles in hand. Rain is falling, shells are screaming and bursting — shells all the time. Artillery fire is the worst. I lay all night listening to the wounded groaning — some were German. The cannonading goes on. Whenever it stops we hear the wounded crying from all over the woods. Two or three men go mad every day.

From the diary of an unidentified French sergeant  
Quoted by W.E. Grey  
*With the French Eastern Army*, page 49.  
Cited by Barbara W. Tuchman  
*The Guns of August*, page 241.

1944. Generals, on the average, are far less bellicose than journalists or patriotic housewives; they know the horrors of war.

Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn  
*Leftism Revisited*, page 253.

1945. Willing war means willing all the evils that are organically bound up with it.

Sheldon Richman  
“The Roots of World War II”  
*The Failure of America’s Foreign Wars*, page 92.

1946. For God’s sake, do not drag me into another war! I am worn down, and worn out, with crusading and defending Europe, and protecting mankind; I *must* think a little of myself. I am sorry for the Spaniards — I am sorry for the Greeks — I deplore the fate of the Jews; the people of the Sandwich Islands are groaning under the most detestable tyranny; Baghdad is oppressed; I do not like the present state of the Delta; Thibet is not comfortable. Am I to fight for all these people? The world is bursting with sin and sorrow. Am I to be champion of the Decalogue, and to be eternally raising fleets and armies to make all men good and happy? We have just done saving Europe, and I am afraid the consequences will be that we shall cut each other’s throat. No war, dear Lady Grey! — No eloquence; but apathy, selfishness, common sense, arithmetic!

Sidney Smith, English essayist, (1771 - 1845)  
Letter to Lady Grey (wife of the British Prime Minister)  
February 19, 1823.  
Quoted by Francis Neilson, *The Makers of War*, page 30  
Cited by John V. Denson, *The Costs of War*, page xvii.

1947. There is no such thing as a “just war,” or, at least, a *wise* war.

Sidney Smith, English essayist, (1771 - 1845)  
Letter to Lady Grey (wife of the British Prime Minister)  
February 19, 1823.  
Quoted by Francis Neilson, *The Makers of War*, page 30  
Cited by John V. Denson, *The Costs of War*, page xvii.

1948. Cry “Havoc!” and let slip the dogs of war.

William Shakespeare  
*Julius Caesar*, Act III, scene 1, page 273.

1949. All those who seek to destroy the liberties of a democratic nation ought to know that war is the surest and shortest means to accomplish it.

Alexis de Tocqueville  
*Democracy in America*, page 269  
Quoted by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, page 4.

1950. The memory of Lincoln was — and is — a constant stimulus to the ambitious chief magistrate who knows that once the nation is at war his powers are truly unlimited, while the possibilities of personal glory are immeasurable.

Gore Vidal  
*United States Essays*, page 970.  
Quoted by John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, page 24.

1951. Throughout the history of the United States, war has been the primary impetus behind the growth and development of the central state. It has been the lever by which presidents and other national officials have bolstered the power of the state in the face of tenacious popular resistance. It has been a wellspring of American nationalism and a spur to political and social change.

Bruce Porter  
*War and the Rise of the State*, page 291  
Cited in *The Costs of War* by John V. Denson, page 49.

1952. It has been the Pyrrhic victories resulting from American wars which have been the principal causes of the loss of our liberty, mainly because of the centralization of power into the federal government. Our political leaders have proclaimed in each and every war that we were fighting to protect our liberties, which has usually proven to be false, and the end result has been just the opposite.

John V. Denson  
*The Costs of War*, page 49.

1953. In a time of war any man working in the arts is sunk. His lamps are out. A new and strange ugliness comes into everything about him. It is for him a time of death.

Sherwood Anderson  
*Partisan Review*, Summer/Fall 1939, page 105.  
Cited in "His Country's Own Heart's-Blood" by Bill Kauffman  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 333.

1954. [War] is not a polite recreation, but the vilest thing in life, and we ought to understand that and not play at war.

Leo Tolstoy  
Quoted by Paul Fussell  
"The Culture of War"  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 354.

1955. The culture of war kills something precious and indispensable in a civilized society: freedom of utterance, freedom of curiosity, freedom of knowledge.

Paul Fussell  
"The Culture of War"  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 355.

1956. In a war-time culture, censorship has the assistance of general euphemism and programmatically inaccurate language. Before long we are calling war “peace-keeping.” What used to be designated aerial bombing has been euphemized into air strikes and even surgical strikes, dishonestly implying a degree of accuracy which would make combat veterans laugh out loud. Originally, artillery or mortar shells fired by mistake at our own troops were called terrible mistakes, or tragic errors. Then the euphemism of “incontinent ordinance” was devised, and finally some Pentagon genius hit upon the warmer and cozier term “friendly fire.”

Paul Fussell

“The Culture of War”

In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 356.

1957. Blunders are the very essence of war, which is why the culture of war is so far removed from the culture of predictability and rationality. Soldiers know that mistakes are the essence of war, because they know what is likely to happen when you arm a lot of frightened boys with deadly weapons. But the public must not be told, lest their simple faith in military authority and rationality be shaken.

Paul Fussell

“The Culture of War”

In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 356.

1958. National interest is an interesting term because it is legally meaningless and constitutionally undefinable, hence popular. The term “national interest” is the best gift ever awarded to those Americans who are neurotically bellicose, but who, like Henry Kissinger, always seem to avoid being on the frontline, preferring to serve their country by getting others to drop bombs on people.

Paul Fussell

“The Culture of War”

In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 358.

1959. War is the dirtiest, most despicable conduct men have devised. It should never, ever, be considered unless the barbarians are literally at the gates.

Michael Peirce

“A Court Martial *Is* in Order”

LewRockwell.com, October 31, 2003.

1960. The loud little handful — as usual — will shout for the war. The pulpit will — warily and cautiously — object . . . at first. The great, big, dull bulk of the nation will rub its sleepy eyes and try to make out why there should be a war, and will say, earnestly and indignantly, “It is unjust and dishonorable, and there is no necessity for it.”

Then the handful will shout louder. A few fair men on the other side will argue and reason against the war with speech and pen, and at first will have a hearing and be applauded, but it will not last long; those others will outshout them, and presently the antiwar audiences will thin out and lose popularity.

Before long, you will see this curious thing: the speakers stoned from the platform, and free speech strangled by hordes of furious men...

Next the statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception.

Mark Twain  
*The Mysterious Stranger* (1910)  
Quoted by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 20, 2002.

1961. War is God's way of teaching Americans geography.

Ambrose Bierce  
Quoted by Fareed Zakaria  
"Bringing Liberal Democracy to Iraq"  
*Cato's Letter*, Fall 2003.

1962. Nostalgia for World War II springs from the yearning to be able to utter simplistic propaganda with a straight face. Bush can do it, and he strikes a chord with people who acclaim "moral clarity" and reject what they term "moral equivalence." War demands this mindset, in which one's own side represents pure goodness and the enemy pure evil, beyond human sympathy.

In wartime, hatred becomes mandatory; neutrality is impermissible, a cowardly refusal to choose between good and evil. Thoughtful people with humane reservations about the war are apt to find their loyalty suspect, or to be branded as traitors, whose very doubts, if expressed, lend aid and comfort to the enemy. Even the line between the soldier and the civilian may be erased, as when Bush is called "our commander in chief," when, properly speaking, the president is merely commander in chief of the armed forces. The tendency to make the executive a dictator is also typical of wartime. Why should good be "handcuffed" against evil?

Joseph Sobran  
"The Greatest Generation?"  
*Sobran's*, June 1, 2004.

1963. To say that we must not allow those who have already died to have lost their lives in vain is to say that, to prevent them from having lost their lives in vain, more people should die in vain. How rational is that?

Andrew Young  
“The Irrationality of Patriotism”  
LewRockwell.com, July 7, 2004.

1964. I will not trust any president in a war until I see him volunteer to be the first to die in it.

Richard Maybury  
“Birds of a Feather”  
*Early Warning Report*, July 2004

1965. If any question why we died  
Tell them, because our fathers lied.

Rudyard Kipling  
Quoted by Adam Gopnik  
“The Big One”  
*The New Yorker*, August 23, 2004.  
Also quoted by Ray McGovern  
“Playing Make-Believe for War”  
Veterans for Common Sense, July 31, 2003.

1966. Were this purpose and this meaning worth the expense of life, the deaths of all those  
nineteen-year-old boys?

Adam Gopnik  
“The Big One”  
*The New Yorker*, August 23, 2004.

1967. It requires a determined mental act to recall that what happened was not an entry on a  
tally sheet but the violent death of a human being, loved and cared for by a mother and  
father, and full of hope and possibility, torn apart by lead balls or shreds of sharp metal,  
his intestines hanging open, or his mouth coughing blood, in a last paroxysm of pain and  
fear. And then to recall that any justification for a war has to be a justification for this  
reality.

Adam Gopnik  
“The Big One”  
*The New Yorker*, August 23, 2004.

1968. Of course there are differences between states, some more or less evil than others, but  
during wartime, these differences are widely exaggerated in order to make us think of the  
enemy as less than human, a beast to slaughter rather than a population of people striving  
to get by and working to keep power at bay, a people very much like our own.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.  
“The Wanna-Be State”  
LewRockwell.com, August 19, 2004.



1969. I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, General and later President  
Quoted by Charley Reese  
“Chickenhawk Fascism”  
LewRockwell.com, October 23, 2004.

1970. There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but, boys, it is all hell. You can bear this warning voice to generations yet to come. I look upon war with horror.

Gen. William Sherman  
Quoted by Charley Reese  
“Chickenhawk Fascism”  
LewRockwell.com, October 23, 2004.

1971. Millions of lives were — still are — sacrificed to the romantic longings of left and right for utopian futures.

William Grieder  
Dust jacket endorsement of *The Bullet's Song* by William Pfaff.

1972. If people really knew, the war would be stopped tomorrow. But of course they don't know and they can't know.

British Prime Minister David Lloyd George  
Referring to the slaughter of British troops in World War I  
December 28, 1917.  
Quoted in *The History of the Times*, Volume 4, page 345  
Cited in *The First Casualty* by Phillip Knightley, pages 116-117.

1973. Soldiers know that mistakes are the essence of war, because they know what is likely to happen when you arm a lot of frightened boys with deadly weapons. But the public must not be told, lest their simple faith in military authority and rationality be shaken.

Paul Fussell  
“The Culture of War”  
In *The Costs of War*, edited by John V. Denson, page 356.

1974. War always begins by calling for the annihilation of the others but ends ultimately in self-annihilation. It corrupts our soul and deforms our bodies. It destroys homes and villages. It grinds into the dirt all that is tender and beautiful and sacred.

Chris Hedges  
“Maimed, Betrayed, Forgotten”  
*Los Angeles Times*, January 30, 2005.

1975. Why do we tell our children to not solve their differences with violence, then turn around and commit the ultimate in violence against people in another country who have nothing to do with the political attitudes of their leaders?

Kevin Benderman  
“A Matter of Conscience”  
Bruderhof Communities.

1976. When one thinks of the war memorials all over Europe, and the stories of self-sacrifice which they embody, and the unselfish bravery of our parents’ generations, one hardly dares to write these words. But the lesson they teach is that war never works, that the notion of a just war is a political con.

A.N. Wilson  
“Was the Second World War Worth 56 Million Lives?”  
*The U.K. Independent*, April 25, 1999.

1977. War, Mr. President, has brought us neither peace nor freedom. War has centralized our government and curtailed our freedom. War has brought more war. World War I brought World War II, and World War II brought the Cold War and large-scale hot wars in Korea and Vietnam. War between Israel and surrounding nations has brought us into more war and promises yet more.

Michael S. Rozeff  
“Iraq and the Neo-Domino Theory”  
LewRockwell.com, October 18, 2005

1978. Despotism delights in war. It is its element. As the bull knows, by instinct, that his strength is in his horns, and the eagle trusts in his talons; so the despot feels his puissance most, when surrounded by his soldiery arrayed for battle. With the sword in his hand, and his artillery around him, he rejoices in his might, and glories in his greatness. Blood must mark his path; and his triumph is incomplete, till death and destruction stalk over the land, the harbingers of his triumphant cavalcade.

Vicesimus Knox  
*The Spirit of Despotism*  
“When Human Life Is Held Cheap, It Is a Symbol of the Prevailing  
Spirit of Despotism”

Quoted by Laurence M. Vance  
“Vicesimus Knox: Minister of Peace”  
LewRockwell.com, October 24, 2005

1979. We hear much of necessary wars; but it is certainly true, that a real, absolute, unavoidable necessity for war, such as alone can render it just, has seldom occurred in the history of man. The pride, the wanton cruelty of absolute princes, caring nothing for human life, have in all ages, without the least necessity, involved the world in war; and therefore it is the common cause of all mankind to abolish absolute power; and to discourage, by every lawful means, the spirit that leads to any degree of it. No individual, however good, is fit to be trusted with so dangerous a deposit. His goodness may be corrupted by the magnitude of the trust; and it is the nature of power, uncontrolled by fear or law, to vitiate the best dispositions. He who would have shuddered to spill a drop of blood, in a hostile contest, as a private man, shall deluge whole provinces, as an absolute prince, and laugh over the subjugated plains which he has fertilized with human gore.

Vicesimus Knox

*The Spirit of Despotism*

“When Human Life Is Held Cheap, It Is a Symbol of the Prevailing Spirit of Despotism”

Quoted by Laurence M. Vance

“Vicesimus Knox: Minister of Peace”

LewRockwell.com, October 24, 2005

1980. Practically speaking, the task of deciding the justice or injustice of any particular war devolves upon the conscience of the individual conscript or soldier. It is his conscientious duty to decide, as a matter of concrete fact, whether any particular war is aggressive or defensive, and, if defensive, whether it is justified or unjustified, and, in consequence, whether he is free or obliged or forbidden to participate formally in it, whether he is free or obliged or forbidden to be a conscientious objector.

Peace, 1940s

The Ethics Committee of the Catholic Association for International

Quoted in *Neoconned*.

Cited in “The Case against this Monstrous War” by Thomas E.

Woods, Jr.,

LewRockwell.com, November 9, 2005

1981. You care about life? Oppose war. Worry about the disregard for the sanctity of God’s most precious creation? Oppose war. Seek the well-being of all, and peaceful cooperation among the whole human family? Oppose war.

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

“Second Thoughts and Moral Culpability “

LewRockwell.com, December 6, 2005.

## War on Drugs

*See Drug War.*

## War on Poverty

1982. The war on poverty failed because it killed more taxpayers than poor people.

Foster Morrison, *Sacred Cowbird*  
© 1994 Turtle Hollow Associates, Inc.

1983. We tried to provide more for the poor and produced more poor instead. We tried to remove the barriers to escape poverty, and inadvertently built a trap.

Charles Murray, *Losing Ground*  
Quoted in *Human Events*, November 20, 1993, page 13.

1984. [A]s George Mason University professor Walter Williams has pointed out, the money spent on poverty programs since the 1960s “could have bought the entire assets of the Fortune 500 companies and virtually all the U.S. farm land. And what did it do? The problems still remain and they are even worse.”

William J. Bennett  
*The Wall Street Journal*, May 8, 1992, page A14.

1985. The welfare state has largely failed as an anti-poverty weapon. . . . Higher welfare payments often encourage students to drop out of school, they often encourage families to disintegrate, and they often lead to lifelong dependency.

Robert F. Kennedy  
Quoted by Matt Brooks & Seth Leibsohn  
Jewish Policy Center newsletter (ca. August 1998)  
Cited in *Human Events*, September 4, 1998, page 24.

## Washington, D.C.

1986. Washington — where wealth is redistributed rather than created, and policy is formed by career lobbyists instead of the free market.

Roxanne Roberts, *Washington Post* staff writer  
*The Washington Post*, May 2, 1997, page C1.

1987. Jesse Jackson wants statehood for Washington, D.C. I think we should go further and grant nationhood to Washington, D.C. — and then cut off all foreign aid to it.

Michael Cloud

## Waste in Government

1988. There is plenty of waste in the federal budget, but most of this waste is there for the same reason that the programs are there — because someone wants it.

William A. Niskanen  
*Assessing the Reagan Years*, Cato Institute, page 10.

### Wasted Vote

1989. If my vote won't make the difference, why not vote my conscience? If it *would* make the difference, I wouldn't want to be responsible for electing either of them. So I'll take the principled route and vote Libertarian.

J.R. Graham (jrg4liberty@juno.com)  
Libertarian Party member

1990. You really have only two choices: You can vote for what you've always had, or you can vote for what you've always wanted.

Brandon Ray  
On LPUS during 1996 election campaign

1991. I intend to do everything I can to encourage enough fellow gun owners to deny turncoats like yourself the narrow margin of victory that most campaigns are won by. If this means the Republicans become minority players, so be it. That's what you get for taking citizens like me for granted. That's what you get for arrogantly deeming citizens like me so desperate that we will continually allow you to sell us out. That's what you get for arrogantly presuming that citizens like me have no choice but to settle for "the lesser of two evils." That's what you get for your treacherous and uncalled for surprise attack against our rights.

David Codrea  
Letter to Rep. Dennis Hastert, after Republicans passed a gun  
control bill  
Reprinted in *LPC Monthly*, California Libertarian Party newsletter  
August 1999.

1992. When you vote for someone that you don't really want, that is a wasted vote.

When you think your one vote for Bush/Gore will matter, that is a wasted thought.

When you don't support one with whom you agree, that is a wasted opportunity.

When you do differently than you really believe, that is a wasted effort.

When you don't like the status quo, yet keep supporting it, that is a wasted life.

Jeff Livingston (CheffJeff on AOL)  
America Online Libertarian Forum  
June 4, 2000.

## Wealth

1993. It is not possible to increase the nation's wealth without somebody becoming more wealthy.

Alan Reynolds  
*The Wall Street Journal*, February 6, 1992, editorial page.

1994. Wealth is, for most people, the only honest and likely path to liberty. With money comes power over the world. Men are freed from drudgery, women from exploitation. Businesses can be started, homes built, communities formed, religions practiced, educations pursued.

P. J. O'Rourke, *Give War a Chance*  
Quoted by Ben Morehead, *Policy Review*, Fall 1993.

1995. A society that is more concerned about the redistribution of wealth than about the creation of wealth will certainly produce an equality of poverty.

George Marotta, Research Fellow, Hoover Institute  
*Los Angeles Times* article  
*Nashville Banner*, April 26, 1995, page A-13.

1996. Congressman Richard Gephardt says the rich have a 'moral obligation to share their good fortune.' Good fortune? More likely it's sacrifice, hard work, savings, ambition, ability.

Richard Russell,  
*Dow Theory Letters*, August 2, 1995, page 5.

## Welfare

1997. The poor and working class of America are closer to serfdom now than they were 50 years ago. The political process has systematically closed every market in which they can compete without assistance. The poor now exist at the sufferance of other people.. They are indeed serfs.

Jennifer Roback  
Associate Professor of Economics, George Mason University  
Quoted in *Policy Review*, ca. Winter 1995.

1998. . . . while the people should patriotically and cheerfully support their government, its functions do not include the support of the people.

Grover Cleveland (1837-1908)  
*Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1893  
Quoted in *Bartlett's*, 15th edition, page 631.

1999. I can find no warrant for such an appropriation in the Constitution. . . . [A] prevalent tendency to disregard the limited mission of [the government's] power and duty should, I think, be steadfastly resisted, to the end that the lesson should constantly be enforced that though the people support the government, the government should not support the people.

Grover Cleveland, U.S. president, 1885-1889, 1893-1897,  
In vetoing an appropriation of \$10,000 for Texas farmers who  
suffered a terrible drought.

Quoted in *Policy Review*, Spring 1995, page 24  
And in "Odyssey of a Statesman" by Matthew Hoffman  
*FreeMarket*, January 1991, page 8.

2000. Welfare today is an enormous industry, much larger than the defense establishment, or the tobacco industry, or chemical companies. It supports over 700,000 social workers, 420 schools of social work, thousands of special-interest groups, non-profit organizations, and commercial firms, and some 43 million beneficiaries.

James Payne, *The American Enterprise* magazine  
Quoted in *National Review*, December 22, 1997, page 8.

2001. The life cycle of welfare bureaucracy, as described by George Mason University economist Jennifer Morse, goes something like this: Congress writes a law. Regulators draft rules that restrict the liberties of the people who give and receive aid — hoping to prevent fraud and waste. Opportunists find the inevitable loopholes in the code. Others soon pour through the breach. The public loses confidence in the program, but since the entire system eviscerates beneficiaries' sense of personal responsibility, nobody can step in and fend off the chaos. Walk through a broken-down housing project and you'll see.

Tony Snow, Syndicated column, August 20, 1995.

2002. Let everyone do good at his own expense.

James A. Dorn  
"The Moral State of the Union,"  
in *The Cato Handbook for Congress*, page 16.

2003. An entitlement is what people on welfare get, and how free are they? It's not an endlessly expanding list of rights — the "right" to education, the "right" to health care, the "right" to food and housing. That's not freedom, that's dependency. Those aren't rights, those are the rations of slavery — hay and a barn for human cattle.

P.J. O'Rourke  
*The American Spectator*, July 1993, page 38.

2004. [The belief] that government could identify the "truly needy" and lavish benefits on them without galvanizing the greed of millions of the marginally needy and litigious.

George Gilder  
*The American Spectator*, August 1995, page 75

2005. The Great Society marked a revolution in *how* Washington helped the poor. Before 1962, three of every four federal aid dollars went directly in cash to the individual poor. . . . The Great Society turned that on its head. By 1991, only one federal dollar in every four went in cash to the poor. The other three dollars were given either “in-kind” (food stamps) or to third-party “providers” who would “assist” the poor. . . .

Politically, of course, LBJ was nobody’s fool. He knew a “war on poverty” could never be sustained by the poor alone. The poor don’t vote. So the point of funding “providers” was to create a permanent Great Society lobby. LBJ put big city mayors and once-voluntary associations on the dole in part so they’d become pleaders for “aid to the cities.” . . .

Michael Horowitz, a Washington lawyer and my muse for much of this column, has a devastating phrase for all of this: “Trickle-down government.” This is the Great Society’s dirty little secret.

Paul A. Gigot  
*The Wall Street Journal*, May 8, 1992, page A14.

2006. The welfare state is helping us to death.

Larry Elder, Los Angeles talk-radio host  
Quoted by Judith Michaelson & Kevin Baxte  
“The Good Times of Larry Elder”  
*The Los Angeles Times*, January 14, 1999.

2007. Government welfare doesn’t work. It turns our weakest citizens into welfare junkies — begging for their next fix. By ending the personal income tax, every one of us will have the means to give the less fortunate a hand up, not a handout. And we can create strong communities through individual compassion and aid, through thousands of small and effective voluntary safety nets — through local programs that help the unfortunate to become self-reliant and self respecting. That’s the Libertarian way.

Michael Cloud  
Radio broadcasts, 1998.

2008. Catholic Charities USA . . . receives 65% of its \$2.3 billion budget from government. But the resulting problem is not theocracy, it is the creeping secularization and politicization of a religious organization. . . . For decades Catholic Charities USA stressed how poor people often injure themselves with bad values and self-destructive behavior. Now Catholic Charities USA often functions as an appendage of the government-social services complex devoted to defense of the welfare state status quo.



George Will  
“ Clintons are being replaced by grown-ups ”  
Syndicated column, February 2, 2001.

2009. Some feel free to lecture others about the proper way of servicing the poor because they don't have to do it themselves or even go anywhere near the places where it gets done.

Rudy Carrasco, Associate Director  
Harambee Christian Family Center, Pasadena, California  
Quoted by Ruben Navarrette  
“ Putting Charity on the Table ”  
*Dallas Morning News*, February 2, 2001.

2010. The institutions of faith cannot become the instruments of government. They can be instruments of help. They can be instruments of renewal. They can be instruments of self-government. But they cannot become instruments of government without being destroyed. Believers must be free to act as such with clarity and independence, according to their true purpose, not bribed to redefine their activities in order that they get government help on terms which destroy that purpose.

Alan Keyes  
“ Moving forward with faith? ”  
WorldNetDaily, March 3, 2001.

2011. There's nothing in our history that has broken down the black family more than the welfare system.

Star Parker  
“ Pimps, Whores and Welfare Brats: The Stunning Transformation  
of a Former Welfare Queen ”  
Speech at Dartmouth College, April 30, 2001  
Quoted by Jennifer Thomas  
“ Welfare reform speech at Dartmouth sparks debate ”  
*The Dartmouth*, Dartmouth College.

2012. With the shekels come the shackles.

Unnamed pastor  
Quoted by professor Sheila Kennedy, Purdue University  
Cited in “ Groups Wary of Applying for Faith-Based Grants ”  
By Jim Remsen  
*The Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 26, 2001.

*See also* Charity.

## Welfare State

2013. A State which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands even for beneficial purposes — will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished.

John Stuart Mill  
Quoted in *Freedom Daily*, January 1990.

2014. Wealth is limited, yet demands are unlimited. A welfare system inevitably diminishes production and shrinks the economic pie. As this occurs, anger among the competing special interests grows. While Congress and the people concentrate on material welfare and its equal redistribution, the principals of liberty are ignored, and freedom is undermined.

Ron Paul, Congressman (R — Texas)  
Speech in the House of Representatives  
September 17, 1997.

2015. Aristotle's greatest student, St. Thomas, puts the question very clearly. Rather than lavish our wealth on the evil — criminals, drug addicts, child molesters, AIDS-stricken homosexuals, unwed mothers, and vagrants — Thomas tells us that we should will the greatest good to those who are closest to God. . . .

The entire welfare state of public schools, Social Security, enterprise zones, food stamps, even foreign aid is built on the opposite premise. The more evil a man is — or as we should say, ethically challenged — the more money he receives; and each of us, through taxes, is compelled to divert wealth and resources away from family and friends and into the pockets of strangers and those who claim to minister to their needs.

These are not policy questions or problems for a cost/benefit analysis. Welfare programs represent the systematic organization of evil, hell institutionalized on earth, and we must begin to fight them on moral and theological grounds.

Thomas Fleming  
*Chronicles*, June 1994, page 13

## Western Civilization

2016. . . . reminds me of what Gandhi said when asked his views on Western civilization, "I think it would be a good idea."

Roger Morris  
*Columbia Journalism Review*, May/June 1992, page 44.

2017. Our civilization is the first in history to show even the slightest concern for average, undistinguished, none-too-commendable people like us.

P. J. O'Rourke (b. 1947), U.S. journalist.  
*Holidays in Hell*, Introduction (1988).

### Wilson, Woodrow

2018. [He was] a man driven by a vision for reconstructing human life; and, whether thrusting his country into war, suppressing its constitutional liberties, or imposing an administrative state upon his fellow citizens, he was working to give flesh to that vision.

Paul Gottfried  
*Chronicles*, October 1992, page 34

2019. [L]ike virtually all American leaders who have dabbled in international politics, he knew practically nothing of the problems of other countries and peoples. What Wilson did possess was a little bundle of abstract principles: democracy, self-determination of nations, and, above all, his cherished dream, the League of Nations. by applying these few principles, he fully intended to solve, once and for all, the colossally complex, age-old problems of Europe, if not the whole world.

Ralph Raico  
American Foreign Policy — the Turning Point, 1898-1919”  
*The Failure of America's Foreign Wars*, page 76.

2020. Never before has any political assembly heard so fine a sermon on what human beings might be capable of accomplishing if only they weren't human.

French Premier Georges Clemenceau  
Commenting on Wilson's idealistic speeches  
Quoted by Thomas G. Paterson  
*American Foreign Policy*, page 271  
Cited in by by Walter A. McDougall  
*Promised Land, Crusader State*, page 135.

### World Trade Organization

2021. Let us call a spade a spade: the World Trade Organization is nothing other than a vehicle for managed trade whereby the politically connected get the benefits of exercising their position as a preferred group; preferred, that is, by the Washington and international political and bureaucratic establishments.

Jim Burns  
Ron Paul, Texas Congressman  
Quoted in “Bill Presented to Force US Withdrawal From WTO” by  
CNSNews.com, March 6, 2000.

## World War I

2022. America should have minded her own business and stayed out of the World War. If you hadn't entered the war the Allies would have made peace with Germany in the Spring of 1917. Had we made peace then there would have been no collapse in Russia followed by Communism, and Germany would not have signed the Versailles Treaty, which has enthroned Nazism in Germany. If America had stayed out of the war, all these "isms" wouldn't today be sweeping the continent in Europe and breaking down parliamentary government, and if England had made peace early in 1917, it would have saved over one million British, French, and American and other lives.

Winston Churchill, August 1936  
quoted by William Griffen, New York *Enquirer*  
cited by Kenneth McDonald, Letters section,  
*Chronicles*, March 1992, page 4.

2023. Both [World] wars were fought really with a view to changing Germany: to correcting her behavior, to making the Germans something different from what they were. Yet, today, if one were offered the chance of having back again the Germany of 1913 — a Germany run by conservative but relatively moderate people, no Nazis and no Communists, a vigorous Germany, united and unoccupied, full of energy and confidence, able to play a part again in the balancing-off of Russian power in Europe — well, there would be objections to from many quarters, and it wouldn't make everybody happy, but in many ways it wouldn't be so bad in comparison with our problem of today. Now, think what this means. If you tally up the total score of the two wars, in terms of their ostensible objectives, you find if there has been any gain at all, it is pretty hard to discern.

George F. Kennan  
*American Diplomacy, 1900-1950*, pages 55-56  
Quoted by Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn  
*Leftism Revisited*, page 206.

2024. The grave times: 1915, 1916, 1917. Subordination of every viewpoint to that of the military, "total war." Italy's entry into the war, American troops in the West, the hunger blockade, ersatz fabrics, ersatz food, ersatz medicines, ersatz everything; soup-kitchens, communal meals, queues outside the stores, ration cards, black market, turnips, turnip dishes, turnip soups, turnip hash, turnip dumplings, turnip salad, turnip paste, turnip jam — and no end in sight.

Bernard Grun  
*Gold & Silver: The Life and Times of Franz Lehár*, page 172.

2025. The optimistic illusion persists that "we" won both wars. But neither time could the results be judged on the day the enemy ceremonially surrendered. History isn't measured by ceremonies, which are only brief pauses in infinitely complex and continuous events.

Joseph Sobran  
*Sobran's*, January 28, 2003.

2026. If anyone should be cautious about playing at war, it is conservatives. The greatest conservative catastrophe in the 20th Century was World War I. The three conservative monarchies that had kept the poisons of the French Revolution in check through the 19th century, Russia, Prussia and Austria, were all swept away by that disastrous war. . . .

Four miserable years and millions of dead later, the Kaiser was an exile in Holland, Czar Nicholas II of Russia and his family were dead and the Habsburg Empire of Austria-Hungary had ceased to exist. The British Empire had bled to death in the mud of Flanders, and, on the streets of Paris, there were no young men. The future belonged to people no one had ever heard of — Lenin, Hitler and Stalin.

William S. Lind  
“Waging War — Playing at War”  
United Press International Commentary  
March 14, 2003.

2027. How senseless is everything that can ever be written, done, or thought, when such things are possible. It must be all lies and of no account when the culture of a thousand years could not prevent this stream of blood being poured out, these torture chambers in their hundreds of thousands. A hospital alone shows what war is.

Erich Maria Remarque, referring to World War I  
*All Quiet on the Western Front*, 1929  
Quoted by George H. Nash  
“Slouching Toward Catastrophe”  
*Imprimis*, April 1992, page 3.

2028. Why did a prosperous continent, at the height of its success as a source and agent of global wealth and power and at one of the peaks of its intellectual and cultural achievement, choose to risk all it had won for itself and all it offered to the world in the lottery of a vicious and local internecine conflict?

John Keegan  
*The First World War*  
Quoted by Matthew Stevenson in “Hello Again to All That”  
*The American Spectator*, July 1999, page 70.

2029. After “the war to end all war” they seem to have been pretty successful in Paris in making a “Peace to end all Peace.”

Archibald Wavell, British officer  
Quoted by David Fromkin  
*A Peace to End All Peace*, page 5

2030. The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.

Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Minister  
August 3, 1914  
Quoted by Barbara W. Tuchman  
*The Guns of August*, page 122.

2031. Not until our intervention in the First World War had there been sufficient invasions of individual liberties to call forth the formation of special groups and organizations to protect our civil rights. The Supreme Court could still be relied on to uphold the Constitution and safeguard the civil liberties of individual citizens.

Libertarianism was also dominant in Western Europe. The Liberal Party governed England from 1905 to 1914. France had risen above the reactionary coup of the Dreyfus affair, had separated Church and State, and had seemingly established the Third Republic with reasonable permanence on a democratic and liberal basis. Even Hohenzollern Germany enjoyed the usual civil liberties, had strong constitutional restraints on executive tyranny, and had established a workable system of parliamentary government. Experts on the history of Austria-Hungary have recently been proclaiming that life in the Dual Monarchy after the turn of the century marked the happiest period in the experience of the peoples encompassed therein. Constitutional government, democracy, and civil liberties prevailed in Italy. Despite the suppression of the Liberal Revolution of 1905, liberal sentiment was making headway in Tsarist Russia and there was decent prospect that a constitutional monarchy might be established. Civilized states expressed abhorrence of dictatorial and brutal policies.

Harry Elmer Barnes  
*Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace*, pages 3-4.

2032. Ten million were to die on the battlefield; 20 million were to die of hunger and disease related to the war. and no one since that day has been able to show that the war brought any gain for humanity that would be worth one human life.

Howard Zinn  
*A People's History of the United States*, page 359.

2033. The plunge of civilization into this abyss of blood and darkness . . . is a thing that so gives away the whole long age during which we have supposed the world to be . . . gradually bettering.

Henry James  
Quoted by Howard Zinn  
*A People's History of the United States*, page 360.

2034. This war [would] never have come unless, under American and modernizing pressure, we had driven the Habsburgs out of Austria and the Hohenzollerns out of Germany. By making these vacuums we gave the opening for the Hitlerite monster to crawl out of its sewer onto the vacant thrones."

Winston Churchill  
*The Second World War*, page 640  
Quoted by Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn  
*Leftism Revisited*, page 221.

2035. An inventory of the state of Central Europe in 1934, half a generation after the treaties of Versailles, St. Germain-en-Laye, Neuilly, and Trianon, finds that Germany was ruled by a totalitarian dictatorship of the Nazis; that the Czechs of “Czechoslovakia” uneasily held sway over the non-Czechs who waited for a day of revenge; that Poland under Pilsudski and Austria under Dollfuss were authoritarian states; that Hungary, ruled by an oligarchy, had very limited democracy; that Rumania’s Iron Guard was preparing to conquer the country; that Yugoslavia, after the murder of Radiæ, had been taken over by Belgrade’s terror regime which governed through assassination and execution; and that neither Bulgaria nor Albania had parliamentary governments.

In other parts of the world, Lithuania and Estonia had become dictatorships. Latvia and Greece had two more years before falling to a similar fate. Spain was girding up for its bloody civil war, and Portugal had no parliamentary government. In Russia the Duma had long since disappeared. In Japan parliamentary life had by 1935 become as farcical as in Turkey, and on and on.

In other words, the Holy Crusade to make the world safe for democracy, with its millions killed and billions spent, in the end saw the total defeat of democracy and, far worse, the destruction of the liberal principle of personal freedom.

Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn  
*Leftism Revisited*, page 222.

2036. Scholars and laymen alike usually trace the origins of our own Leviathan to the New Deal. In doing so, they attribute too much influence to the New Dealers as such. Franklin D. Roosevelt and friends never would — or could — have done what they did in the 1930s without the state-building precedents of World War I, which in many important cases they reinstituted with little more than a change of name.

Robert Higgs  
“War and Leviathan in Twentieth Century America”  
In *The Costs of War*,” edited by John V. Denson, page 309.

2037. Communism, fascism, and Nazism would certainly not have triumphed without the events of 1914-1918 to foster them.

Gabriel Kolko  
*Another Century of War?*, pages 88-89.

2038. [F]rom the beginning of the war until its end, . . . people believe[d] what they wanted to believe — that there would be no war, that it would be short, that the costs would be borne by someone else. World War I took a course that hardly a single person in the whole world expected. And that no one — save perhaps some lunatic fringe revolutionaries — would have wished.

Bill Bonner  
*The Daily Reckoning*  
November 14, 2003.

2039. Until August 1914 a sensible, law-abiding Englishman could pass through life and hardly notice the existence of the state, beyond the post office and the policeman. He could live where he liked and as he liked. He had no official number or identity card. He could travel abroad or leave his country forever without a passport or any sort of official permission. He could exchange his money for any other currency without restriction or limit. He could buy goods from any country in the world on the same terms as he bought goods at home. . . .

An Englishman could enlist, if he chose, in the regular army, the navy, or the territorials. He could also ignore, if he chose, the demands of national defense. Substantial householders were occasionally called on for jury service. Otherwise, only those helped the state who wished to do so. The Englishman paid taxes on a modest scale. . . .

A.J.P. Taylor  
*English History, 1914-1945*, page 1  
Cited by Clarence B. Carson  
*The Growth of America, 1978-1928*, pages 1-2.

*See also* World War II.

## World War II

2040. “I’m curious, just how would you have had a Libertarian government respond to Hitler in 1939-40?”

Befriend his enemies . . . assassinate him. . . . I’m not sure that ‘round-the-clock bombing raids on Germany’s civilian population was the right answer. I’m certainly not proud of it, nor do I try to justify it. I mean, the Holocaust certainly was one of the most heinous crimes against humanity committed in this century, but we killed upwards of 2 million people with our bombing raids in North Vietnam just a couple of years ago, as many or more native Americans in the century past. And our esteemed and peace-loving allies, the English, exterminated about as many Irish. Our Soviet allies proved to be just as brutal as the Nazis.

If we must engage in what we abhor to achieve our ends, I think we need to re-evaluate our goals.

Sean Cavanaugh  
CompuServe, June 18, 1995



2041. When we consider the 56 million people — most of them civilians — who died during the Second World War, we of a younger generation can understand why those who watched their comrades die in it were obliged to tell themselves not only that it was an inevitable conflict, but that it was the only noble way of defeating an evil tyranny.

A.N. Wilson

“Was the Second World War worth 56 million lives?”

*The Independent* (United Kingdom), April 25, 1999

2042. The one fact about Hitler which nobody believed during the Second World War was that he meant what he said about the Jews. The British Foreign Office and the BBC consistently refused to believe the stories of extermination as they began to come through from Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and elsewhere in the middle years of the war. Only in 1945 when people watched the newsreels of Belsen did the extent of the Nazi atrocities become clear. And of course — another intolerable thought — this slaughter only began after the outbreak of war. Could it be — intolerable question — that it was the cover of war alone which made the massacres possible?

A.N. Wilson

“Was the Second World War worth 56 million lives?”

*The Independent* (United Kingdom), April 25, 1999

2043. If the Second World War had never been fought, not only would those 56 million, most of them, have died in their beds; not only would the beautiful cities of France, Germany, Italy and Poland, which were destroyed, have remained intact, but Hitler and his crazy regime would almost certainly have been overthrown in the fullness of time by his own people.

A.N. Wilson

“Was the Second World War worth 56 million lives?”

*The Independent* (United Kingdom), April 25, 1999

2044. We Americans have the dangerous tendency in our international thinking to take a holier-than-thou attitude toward other nations. We consider ourselves to be more noble and decent than other peoples, and consequently in a better position to decide what is right and wrong in the world. What kind of war do civilians suppose we fought, anyway? We shot prisoners in cold blood, wiped out hospitals, strafed lifeboats, killed or mistreated enemy civilians, finished off the enemy wounded, tossed the dying into a hole with the dead, and in the Pacific boiled the flesh off enemy skulls to make table ornaments for sweethearts, or carved their bones into letter openers. We topped off our saturation bombing and burning of enemy civilians by dropping atomic bombs on two nearly defenseless cities, thereby setting an all-time record for instantaneous mass slaughter.

Edgar L. Jones

“One War Is Enough”

*The Atlantic Monthly*, February 1946.

2045. We destroyed fascists, not fascism; men, not ideas. Our triumphs did not serve as evidence that democracy is best for the world, any more than Russian victories proved that communism is an ideal system for all mankind.

Edgar L. Jones  
“One War Is Enough”  
*The Atlantic Monthly*, February 1946.

2046. The use of this barbarous weapon [the atomic bomb] at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. . . . My own feeling was that in being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages. I was not taught to make wars in that fashion, and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children.

Admiral William D. Leahy  
President Harry S. Truman’s Chief of Staff  
Quoted by Ralph Raico  
“Hiroshima & Nagasaki”  
Future of Freedom Foundation, June 20, 2001.

2047. If the Germans had dropped atomic bombs on cities instead of us, we would have defined the dropping of atomic bombs on cities as a war crime, and we would have sentenced the Germans who were guilty of this crime to death at Nuremberg and hanged them.

Leo Szilard, nuclear scientist  
Quoted by Ralph Raico  
“Hiroshima & Nagasaki”  
Future of Freedom Foundation, June 20, 2001.

2048. World War II had been initiated in 1939 to save Poland and in 1941 to save China. In both cases, the countries involved were in the end delivered over to totalitarian slavery.

Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn  
*Leftism Revisited*, page 417.

*See also* World War I.

## Yugoslavia

*See Balkans, The.*

Government is good at only one thing.  
It knows how to break your legs,  
hand you a crutch, and say,  
"See if it weren't for the government,  
you couldn't walk."

Harry Browne

\* \* \* \* \*

Government Doesn't Work.  
The only reliable and productive endeavors  
are what people undertake voluntarily --  
and to which they *willingly* give or  
sell their time and other resources.  
Only when we turn to free individuals  
and voluntary endeavors --  
and away from government and force --  
will we recover the American dream.

Harry Browne

Harry Browne/2000 Libertarian Quotes--?

## About the Author

Harry Browne was an American free-market Libertarian writer and the Libertarian Party's

1996 and 2000 candidate for President of the United States. He was also a well-known investment advisor for over thirty years, author of "Harry Browne's Special Report" -- a financial newsletter published from 1974 - 1997, author of 13 books and thousands of articles, co-founder of the libertarian Downsize DC Foundation, host of two weekly network radio shows -- one a political and the other a financial show, host of an ETV (internet-based television) show called "This Week in Liberty with Harry Browne" on the Internet based Free Market News Network, a consultant to the Permanent Portfolio Family of Funds, and a popular public speaker.

He was a little known investment advisor when his first book, *How You Can Profit from the Coming Devaluation*, was published in 1970. Recognizing the disastrous monetary policy of the U.S. government, he warned that the dollar would be devalued, inflation could be severe, and gold, silver, and foreign currencies should skyrocket in value. The book's theme clashed with the prevailing wisdom, but it struck a chord with tens of thousands of Americans, and the book made the *New York Times* bestseller list.

In 1973 he published *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World*, a self-help book that shows individuals how to take responsibility for their own lives. Many people consider the book to be a modern classic, and it remains in demand three decades after its first publication.

His 1974 book, *You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis*, was an even greater success -- remaining on the *Times* bestseller list for 39 weeks and reaching #1. Its message amplified themes from his first book, and it allowed thousands of investors to hold their own and to profit during the turmoil of the late 1970s. He wrote six more big-selling investment books -- including one more *Times* bestseller. In 1999 he published his final investment book, *Fail-Safe Investing*.

His 1995 book, *Why Government Doesn't Work*, provided a provocative mix of ideas that spoke to hundreds of thousands of Americans who felt frustrated by big government. The *Great Libertarian Offer*, was published in June, 2000. His 2004 book was *Liberty A to Z: 872 Libertarian Soundbites You Can Use Right Now!*

In Browne's presidential campaigns, he made appearances in almost every state, and he appeared on over a thousand radio and television programs. His pure approach to smaller government was praised in scores of newspaper editorials and political columns. He won numerous Internet preference polls and was endorsed for president by dozens of radio talk show hosts and journalists.

During his career he appeared on the *Today* show, *Hannity & Colmes*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Meet the Press*, *Politically Incorrect*, *Wall Street Week*, *The Larry King Show*, and hundreds of other national and local radio and television shows.

Browne had a daughter, Autumn, and in 1985 married the former Pamela Lanier Wolfe. His main non-professional interests were classical music, fiction, opera and operettas, good food and wine, sports, and television. He was born in New York City, grew up in Los Angeles, and died from a motor neuron disease (e.g. ALS) at his home in Franklin, Tennessee on March 1, 2006 with his devoted wife, Pamela, beside him.