

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THIS WEEK'S THEME: POLITICS

Political language... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.

George Orwell

However [political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

George Washington

Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.

John F. Kennedy

Mankind will never see an end of trouble until lovers of wisdom come to hold political power, or the holders of power become lovers of wisdom

Plato

When we blindly adopt a religion, a political system, a literary dogma, we become automatons. We cease to grow.

Anais Nin

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

We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both.

Louis D. Brandeis

There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge."

Isaac Asimov

Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees. And both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people.

Henry Clay

Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion is.

Mahatma Gandhi

Whether or not our position fairly can be charged as "apolitical" depends entirely upon how one defines "political." If "political" be taken in the narrow sense, as signifying those means and methods the world regularly accepts as normative for its doing of politics, then the position of me and mine clearly and is that of apoliticism. If, however, "political" be understood in the broad, etymological sense, as identifying whatever actions have public effect upon the life of the "city" (polis), then there are no grounds for accusing either "me" or any of "mine" of advocating apoliticism.

- Vernard Eller, *Christian Anarchy: Jesus' Primacy Over the Powers* (1987).

politics is policy. What policy should you follow in view of the idea that there isn't enough to go around — the power of the few, or the needs of the many? Political economy is based on misassumptions... That's the basis of all politics: it has to be you or me, there's not enough for both of us. Survival of the fittest... But we can do so much now, with so little, that we can take care of everybody. That's why the idea of [scarcity](#) is all wrong. Up to now, the world of politics doesn't know that. That's why all nations are dependent on armaments, why we have the arms race. The politicians still say that it's you or me, and that's why they go for the gun... The young world is giving up any interest in their political system. They have decided that it is absolutely corrupt.

- Buckminster Fuller in *Buckminster Fuller Talks Politics*, (1982)

Nothing lies outside the political sphere understood in this way. Everything has a political color. It is always in the political fabric - and never outside of it - that a person emerges as a free and responsible being, as a person in relationship with other people, as someone who takes on a historical task. Personal relationships themselves acquire an ever-increasing political dimension. Man enter into relationships among themselves through political means.

Gustavo Gurierez, *A Theology of Liberation*

Then the great question of government is also in an unsatisfactory condition; for I think all will agree that there is no country in the world which is governed, as every country in the world ought to be, solely with regard to the interests and advancement of the people who are governed. On the contrary we find everywhere personal and party considerations, and matters are in such condition that even the wisest and the best of our statesmen cannot do many things which they wish to do, and find themselves forced into many actions of which in truth they do not approve... All of these difficulties arise from ignorance and selfishness. If men understood the plan of [evolution](#), instead of working each for his own personal ends they would all join together as a community and work harmoniously for the [good of all](#) with mutual [tolerance](#) and [forbearance](#). It is obvious that if this were done all of these evils would almost immediately cease or at any rate could very shortly be removed. p. 326

[Charles Webster Leadbeater](#), *Some Glimpses of Occultism: Ancient and Modern* (1903)

The politics of the unpolitical—these are the politics of those who desire to be pure in heart: the politics of men without personal ambition; of those who have not desires wealth or an unequal share of worldly possessions; of those who have always striven, whatever their race or condition, for human values and not for national or sectional interests.

For our Western world, [Christ](#) is the supreme example of this unselfish devotion to the good of humanity, and the Sermon on the Mount is the source of all the politics of the unpolitical.

[Herbert Read](#), “The Politics of the Unpolitical,” *To Hell with Culture* (1963), p. 38

Our ideas” are only partly our ideas. Most of our ideas are abbreviations or residues of the thought of other people, of our teachers (in the broadest sense of the term) and of our teachers’ teachers; they are abbreviations and residues of the thought of the past. These thoughts were once explicit and in the center of consideration and discussion. It may even be presumed that they were once perfectly lucid. By being transmitted to later generations they have possibly been transformed, and there is no certainty that the transformation was effected consciously and with full clarity. ... This means that the clarification of our political ideas insensibly changes into and becomes indistinguishable from the history of political ideas.

[Leo Strauss](#), *What is Political Philosophy?* (1959), p. 73