

Important Quotes from History

The impulse to dream was slowly beaten out of me by experience. Now it surged up again and I hungered for books, new ways of looking and seeing.
Richard Wright

Men can starve from a lack of self-realization as much as they can from a lack of bread.
Richard Wright

What you have lost will not be returned to you. It will always be lost. You're left with only your scars to mark the void. All you can choose to do is go on or not. But if you go on, it's knowing you carry your scars with you.
Charles Fraizer

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.
Frederick Douglass

But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.
George Orwell

To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle.
George Orwell

Prose: Words in their best order.
Poetry: The best words in the best order.
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.
John Steinbeck

This I believe: That the free, exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world. And this I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight

against: any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual.
John Steinbeck

As happens sometimes, a moment settled and hovered and remained for much more than a moment. And sound stopped and movement stopped for much, much more than a moment.
John Steinbeck

A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policing, and coercion are fruitless. We find that after years of struggle that we do not take a trip; a trip takes us.
John Steinbeck

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.
Confucius

Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.
George Washington

Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.
George Santayana

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.
Desmond Tutu

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total; of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.
Robert Kennedy

I came, I saw, I conquered.
Julius Caesar

A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.
Mahatma Gandhi

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.
Thomas Jefferson

This is one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.
Neil Armstrong

Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it.
Edmund Burke

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much it is whether we provide enough for those who have little.
Franklin D. Roosevelt

The world we see that seems so insane is the result of a belief system that is not working. To perceive the world differently, we must be willing to change our belief system, let the past slip away, expand our sense of now, and dissolve the fear in our minds.
William James

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.
Winston Churchill

Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World.
Christopher Columbus

History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.
Napoleon Bonaparte

People are trapped in history and history is trapped in them.
James A. Baldwin

When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.

George Washington Carver

That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history.

Aldous Huxley

Study history, study history. In history lies all the secrets of statecraft.

Winston Churchill

In the long term we can hope that religion will change the nature of man and reduce conflict. But history is not encouraging in this respect. The bloodiest wars in history have been religious wars.

Richard M. Nixon

Fear of serious injury alone cannot justify oppression of free speech and assembly. Men feared witches and burnt women. It is the function of speech to free men from the bondage of irrational fears.

Louis D. Brandeis

The man who is swimming against the stream knows the strength of it.

Woodrow Wilson

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.

Abraham Lincoln

The whole course of human history may depend on a change of heart in one solitary and even humble individual - for it is in the solitary mind and soul of the individual that the battle between good and evil is waged and ultimately won or lost.

M. Scott Peck

The very ink with which history is written is merely fluid prejudice.

Mark Twain

The object of my relationship with Vietnam has been to heal the wounds that exist, particularly among our veterans, and to move forward with a positive relationship,... Apparently some in the Vietnamese government don't want to do that and that's their decision.

Ho Chi Minh

So that the record of history is absolutely crystal clear. That there is no alternative way, so far discovered, of improving the lot of the ordinary people that can hold a candle to the productive activities that are unleashed by a free enterprise system.

Milton Friedman

Democratic nations must try to find ways to starve the terrorist and the hijacker of the oxygen of publicity on which they depend.

Margaret Thatcher

I'm the only person of distinction who has ever had a depression named for him.

Herbert Hoover

Pearl Harbor caused our Nation to wholeheartedly commit to winning World War II, changing the course of our Nation's history and the world's future.

Joe Baca

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.

H. G. Wells

Most of us spend too much time on the last twenty-four hours and too little on the last six thousand years.

Will Durant

You have to look at history as an evolution of society.

Jean Chretien

Peace, plenty, and contentment reign throughout our borders, and our beloved country presents a sublime moral spectacle to the world.

James K. Polk

Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make a good use of it.

John Adams

History is an account, mostly false, of events, mostly unimportant, which are brought about by rulers, mostly knaves, and soldiers, mostly fools.

Ambrose Bierce

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief... For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry

History is a pack of lies about events that never happened told by people who weren't there.

George Santayana

History is a cyclic poem written by time upon the memories of man.

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Something as curious as the monarchy won't survive unless you take account of people's attitudes. After all, if people don't want it, they won't have it.

Prince Charles

A truly American sentiment recognizes the dignity of labor and the fact that honor lies in honest toil.

Grover Cleveland

A world without nuclear weapons would be less stable and more dangerous for all of us.

Margaret Thatcher

I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else - I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations.
Queen Elizabeth II

Time is my greatest enemy.
Evita Peron

History is the sum total of things that could have been avoided.
Konrad Adenauer

Get up tomorrow early in the morning, and earlier than you did today, and do the best that you can. Always stay near me, for tomorrow I will have much to do and more than I ever had, and tomorrow blood will leave my body above the breast.
Joan of Arc

You must pursue this investigation of Watergate even if it leads to the president. I'm innocent. You've got to believe I'm innocent. If you don't, take my job.
Richard M. Nixon

History is a relentless master. It has no present, only the past rushing into the future. To try to hold fast is to be swept aside.
John F. Kennedy

History is a gallery of pictures in which there are few originals and many copies.
Alexis de Tocqueville

The Marine Corps is the Navy's police force and as long as I am President that is what it will remain. They have a propaganda machine that is almost equal to Stalin's.
Harry S Truman

Most of the things worth doing in the world had been declared impossible before they were done.
Louis D. Brandeis

History never looks like history when you are living through it.
John W. Gardner

The fall of the Berlin Wall makes for nice pictures. But it all started in the shipyards.
Lech Walesa

Never doubt that you can change history. You already have.
Marge Piercy

Russians can give you arms but only the United States can give you a solution.
Anwar Sadat

We would like to live as we once lived, but history will not permit it.
John F. Kennedy

We used to root for the Indians against the cavalry, because we didn't think it was fair in the history books that when the cavalry won it was a great victory, and when the Indians won it was a massacre.
Dick Gregory

I have tried to lift France out of the mud. But she will return to her errors and vomitings. I cannot prevent the French from being French.
Charles de Gaulle

History is a vast early warning system.
Norman Cousins

If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read: 'President Can't Swim.'
Lyndon B. Johnson

It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition.
Henry James

If you will read again what is written, you will see how it was.
Black Elk

Legend: A lie that has attained the dignity of age.
H. L. Mencken

The most terrible job in warfare is to be a second lieutenant leading a platoon when you are on the battlefield.
Dwight D. Eisenhower

The deliberate and deadly attacks which were carried out yesterday against our country were more than acts of terror. They were acts of war.
George W. Bush

Civilization is a movement and not a condition, a voyage and not a harbor.
Arnold J. Toynbee

History is a vision of God's creation on the move.
Arnold J. Toynbee

When the rich think about the poor, they have poor ideas.
Evita Peron

There are no extraordinary men... just extraordinary circumstances that ordinary men are forced to deal with.
William Halsey

They died hard, those savage men - like wounded wolves at bay. They were filthy, and they were lousy, and they stunk. And I loved them.
Douglas MacArthur

It is impossible to predict the time and progress of revolution. It is governed by its own more or less mysterious laws.
Vladimir Lenin

I can see clearly now... that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and more forthrightly in dealing with Watergate.
Richard M. Nixon

The past actually happened but history is only what someone wrote down.
A. Whitney Brown

Inspirational Quotes

Don't bunt. Aim out of the ballpark.
David Ogilvy

There are two things to aim at in life; first to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind has achieved the second.
Logan Pearsall Smith

Seek the lofty by reading, hearing and seeing great work at some moment every day.
Thornton Wilder

The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.
Arthur C. Clarke

Without inspiration the best powers of the mind remain dormant. There is a fuel in us which needs to be ignited with sparks.
Johann Gottfried Von Herder

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.
Aristotle

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.
Henry David Thoreau

The end of wisdom is to dream high enough not to lose the dream in the seeking of it.
William Faulkner

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.
Patrick Henry

Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.
Langston Hughes

You cannot dream yourself into a character: you must hammer and forge yourself into one.
Henry D. Thoreau

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.
Eleanor Roosevelt

Commitment leads to action. Action brings your dream closer.
Marcia Wieder

Dreams are the touchstones of our character.
Henry David Thoreau

The question for each man to settle is not what he would do if he had means, time, influence and educational advantages; the question is what he will do with the things he has. The moment a young man ceases to dream or to bemoan his lack of opportunities and resolutely looks his conditions in the face, and resolves to change them, he lays the corner-stone of a solid and honorable success.
Hamilton Wright Mabie

The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up.
Paul Valery

A skillful man reads his dreams for self-knowledge, yet not the details but the quality.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

The ability to convert ideas to things is the secret to outward success.
Henry Ward Beecher

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.
Harriet Tubman

Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.
Pamela Vaull Starr

The ability to concentrate and to use your time well is everything if you want to succeed in business--or almost anywhere else for that matter.
Lee Iacocca

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.
Francis Bacon

In everything the ends well defined are the secret of durable success.
Victor Cousins

Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is.
Vince Lombardi

Goals are the fuel in the furnace of achievement.
Brian Tracy

The great and glorious masterpiece of man is to know how to live to purpose.
Michel de Montaigne

The significance of a man is not in what he attains but in what he longs to attain.
Kahlil Gibran

Every ceiling, when reached, becomes a floor, upon which one walks as a matter of course and prescriptive right.
Aldous Huxley

If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else.

Yogi Berra

Some men give up their designs when they have almost reached the goal; while others, on the contrary, obtain a victory by exerting, at the last moment, more vigorous efforts than before.

Polybius

Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash.

George S. Patton

We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Life can be pulled by goals just as surely as it can be pushed by drives.

Viktor Frankl

The virtue lies in the struggle, not in the prize.

Richard Monckton Milnes

To reach a port, we must sail—Sail, not tie at anchor—Sail, not drift.

Franklin Roosevelt

It is not enough to take steps which may some day lead to a goal; each step must be itself a goal and a step likewise.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

If the wind will not serve, take to the oars. Destitutus ventis, remos adhibe

Latin Proverb

Men's best successes come after their disappointments.

Henry Ward Beecher

You cannot plough a field by turning it over in your mind.

Author Unknown

The imagination exercises a powerful influence over every act of sense, thought, reason, -- over every idea.

Latin Proverb

Solitude is as needful to the imagination as society is wholesome for the character.

James Russel Lowell

Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.

Louisa May Alcott

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Albert Einstein

He who has imagination without learning, has wings and no feet.

Joseph Joubert

Your imagination is your preview of life's coming attractions.

Albert Einstein

Believe that you have it, and you have it.

Latin Proverb

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.

Marcel Proust

You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

Mark Twain

Do not follow where the path may lead.

Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Harold R. McAlindon

Leadership: The art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

There go the people. I must follow them for I am their leader.

Alexandre Ledru-Rollin

What chance gathers she easily scatters. A great person attracts great people and knows how to hold them together.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Men are governed only by serving them; the rule is without exception.

V. Cousin

The real leader has no need to lead--

he is content to point the way.

Henry Miller

Go to the people. Learn from them. Live with them. Start with what they know. Build with what they have. The best of leaders when the job is done, when the task is accomplished, the people will say we have done it ourselves.

Lao Tzu

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams

Rely on your own strength of body and soul. Take for your star self-reliance, faith, honesty and industry. Don't take too much advice — keep at the helm and steer your own ship, and remember that the great art of commanding is to take a fair share of the work.

Fire above the mark you intend to hit. Energy, invincible determination with the right motive, are the levers that move the world.

Noah Porter

Knowing is not enough; we must apply.

Willing is not enough; we must do.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Nothing great was ever achieved
without enthusiasm.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Nothing contributes so much to
tranquilize the mind as
a steady purpose--
a point on which the soul may fix
its intellectual eye.

Mary Shelley

The ultimate measure of a man is
not where he stands in moments of
comfort, but where he stands at
times of challenge and
controversy.

Martin Luther
King, Jr.

Any one can hold the helm when
the sea is calm.

Publilius Syrus

Never tell people how to do things.
Tell them what to do and they will
surprise you with their ingenuity.

George Patton

To be a great leader and so always
master of the situation, one must of
necessity have been a great thinker
in action. An eagle was never yet
hatched from a goose's egg.

James Thomas

He who has learned how to obey
will know how to command.

Solon

A ruler should be slow to punish
and swift to reward.

Ovid

It is impossible to imagine
anything which better becomes a
ruler than mercy.

Seneca

To do great things is difficult; but
to command great things is more
difficult.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Let him who would be moved to
convince others, be first moved to
convince himself.

Thomas Carlyle

A good general not only sees the
way to victory; he also knows
when victory is impossible.

Polybius

Try not to become a man of
success but a man of value.

Albert Einstein

If you have built castles in the air,
your work need not be lost; that is
where they should be. Now put
foundations under them.

Henry David Thoreau

Inspiration and genius--one and the
same.

Victor Hugo

To find what you seek in the road
of life,
the best proverb of all is that which
says:

"Leave no stone unturned."

Edward Bulwer Lytton

Every artist was first an amateur.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The more difficulties one has to
encounter, within and without, the
more significant and the higher in
inspiration his life will be.

Horace Bushnell

Life has no smooth road for any of
us; and in the bracing atmosphere
of a high aim the very roughness
stimulates the climber to steadier
steps, till the legend, over steep
ways to the stars, fulfills itself.

W. C. Doane

Experience is the child of thought,
and thought is the child of action.

Benjamin Disraeli

No great man ever complains of
want of opportunities.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Happy are those who dream
dreams and are ready to pay the
price to make them come true.

Leon J. Suenes

The power of imagination makes
us infinite.

John Muir

First say to yourself what you
would be;
and then do what you have to do.

Epictetus

You miss 100% of the shots you
don't take.

Wayne Gretzky

The best way out is always
through.

Robert Frost

Do not wait to strike till the iron is
hot; but make it hot by striking.

William B. Sprague

Nothing will ever be attempted if
all possible objections must first be
overcome.

Samuel Johnson

Great spirits have always
encountered violent opposition
from mediocre minds.

Albert Einstein

Believe with all of your heart that
you will do what you were made to
do.

Orison Swett Marden