

B Quotations

BBBBB (through 10-18-2020)

The goal of a Tobin tax on financial transactions is not to take from the rich and give to the poor. It's to prevent the rich from destroying the economy for the rest of us. Tobin taxes are meant to slow down runaway markets, to let a little air out of inflating bubbles and in general to give people and governments just a little more time to respond to economic problems before they get out of hand. Tobin taxes give the real economy just a miniscule edge over the speculative economy.

Salvatore Babones

“...the trip...helped those of us at the time who wanted to fight for what we thought was right and against what we knew was wrong...you know what you learn if you're a New Yorker? The world doesn't owe you a damn thing.”

Lauren Bacall

Andrew Bacevich:

“...a radically redefined conception of individual freedom, heavy on rights and privileges, exceedingly light on duties and obligations... citizens...[must start acting like citizens again]... accepting duties and obligations in every aspect of American life.”

“Absent reflection, learning becomes an impossibility.”

“The United States leaves Iraq having learned nothing.”

“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,
the master calls a butterfly.

Richard Bach

“Governments which try to rule through fear will fail, because people like you will resist them.”

Michelle Bachelet

“The Lord said, ‘Be submissive.

Wives, you are to be submissive to your husbands,’”

Michelle Bachman

“I take all the stress and bad things that happen over the day, and I lock them in a box.”

Hannah Bachmuth, 12 years old, 11-11-2009 to the NY Times

the only truth in the desert is that someone will have to bleed if anyone hopes to drink.

Paolo Bacigalupi

Backman, Fredrik: in Anxious People:

...humor is the soul's last line of defense, and as long as we're laughing, we're alive...

...a book...written by a woman, so it didn't need hundreds of pages to say things...”

"Today working people of all countries are asked to accept continuing globalization, in which capital is free to go wherever it wants...migrants must have the same freedom."

quoting Max Frisch: "We called for workers, and there came human beings."

...agribusiness...learned that ... keeping people on the move was much preferable to a labor force with roots from which a strong union could grow...

quoting Close to Slavery report: "These workers are not treated like 'guests' ... they are ... the disposable workers of the U.S. economy."

quoting Howard Berman: "Growers always scream 'shortage'...what they want is an oversupply of labor to keep wages down and discourage unionization."

see Smedley Butler quote in book, p. 70

"It would be more accurate to call these people migrants and the process migration."

A globalized political and economic system creates illegality by displacing people and then denying them rights and equality as they do what they have to do to survive – move to find work.

David Bacon Illegal People book

“Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed.”

Francis Bacon

"If a man shall begin with certainties, he shall end with doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties..."

"The general root of superstition is that men observe when things hit, and not when they miss, and commit to memory the one, and pass over the other."

"It would be madness and inconsistency to suppose that things not yet done can be done, except by means not yet tried."

Francis Bacon"The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery."

Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed."

“We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hands - and melting like a snowflake.” “Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed.”

"If a man shall begin with certainties, he shall end with doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties..."

"The general root of superstition is that men observe when things hit, and not when they miss, and commit to memory the one, and pass over the other."

"It would be madness and inconsistency to suppose that things not yet done can be done, except by means not yet tried."

Francis Bacon

Badiucao:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvlrQHD1etM

tankman courage

'...it's not me finding the buttons, it's them offering the buttons to me'

on Sisyphus...

“...it's always the evil we refuse to see that does us the greatest harm.”

Robert Baer in See No Evil, 2002

“Freedom carries obligations...the first of which is to grow up.”

Peter Baehr, discussing Rebecca West

Joan Baez:

“What was more conscious was trying to make an album that was in some musical way trying to make some beauty in the face of — well, of evil, really,”

She called the current political climate the result of “a battle with 40 years of think tanks for the right wing — conservatives learned how to talk, how to lie, how to switch things around in a way that liberals and progressives never did.”

“It's not big, but I don't think we can think in big terms now, or we'll just get under the covers and never get out,” she said. “The little stuff almost becomes more important right now, because you have a chance at it. The world we are living in is being made horrible and is going to need every little victory — that your family and friends feel some kind of support, some kind of goodness.”

“When I go onstage, I don't make history, I am history,” she wrote. “Perhaps it's enough for me be up there reminding people of a time when we had the music, the cause, the direction, and each other.

...there is virtue to having carried the flame, and grace now in passing the torch.”

“If there were a call to arms, or to non-arms, or some wonderful festival in a place I've never been, I would go.”

Joan Baez via Dave Itzkoff NYT

“...the clearest vision I ever get about myself is when I see myself most clearly connected with all the rest of humanity...people walk around blind...[It's not] enough if some of us are able to have some kind of vision, unless other people also have that same thing.”

Joan Baez, 1970

One of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea. ..

We must not let in daylight upon magic.” on British monarchy.

Walter Bagehot

“MDMA produced a prosocial syndrome that seemed to facilitate emotional disclosure and that appears consistent with the suggestion that it represents a novel pharmacological class.

Mathew J Baggott study see pdf

"It will begin as a noble experiment in quasi-theocratic communitarianism.
Then we'll end up selling multilevel marketing crap to each other."
“Bible Belch”.

Pat Bagley

“The mind sees patterns in random data, which is why the sky is speckled with bears and big dippers.”
“...our neurons’ habit of filling in the blanks.”
Sharon Bagley, Newsweek, 11-5-07

“Shortly before she died, my Mormon mother said: ‘I know it’s all a lot of hooie - but I like it anyway’.”
Will Bagley
“I find the more I find out, the more I need to find out.”
Dale L. Morgan (via Will Bagley)

Bail, Chris:

Golbeck review of book:

‘...the structure of social media is designed to amplify extreme voices and make moderates nearly invisible, shifting the discourse.
...they twist reality, refracting our view (hence the eponymous “prism”) and distorting
our understanding of ourselves and others...
these factors can refine and polarize our perception of ourselves without us even knowing that it is happening...the appearance of polarization
feeds itself.’

“Formulation of such a mathematical model forces the modeler to identify explicitly the key components, the key reactions, the key interactions, and also to describe their quantitative interconnections. This exercise in systematic organization of assumptions and key features of the metabolic subsystem of interest can be a critically important contribution of the modeling effort to the intuition and insight of the researcher, almost independent of the consequences of the modeling calculations, The modeling exercise enforces a high level of intellectual rigor, careful study of prior work on the system, and systematic thought about its most important features.”:
J.E. Bailey

“It is as if there is a void, a nothingness, that lies behind all things.”
Fred Camper in NYT obit for Bruce Baillie

“Like a novelist, the historian must conjure a non-existent, an impalpable world in all its living comprehension, and yet do this within the constraints of verifiable facts.”
Bernard Bailyn, NYT obit

“I’ve attacked every book with the philosophy that it’s the most important book I’ve ever written, and maybe the last I will write, no matter whose name is on it.”
Donald Bain, from NYT obit Margaret Truman’s ghost author on writing

‘Now we are all sons of bitches.’
Kenneth T Bainbridge, responding to “Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.” J Robert Openheimer

“I personally believe that oil shale and tar sands projects in Utah are highly speculative in a myriad of ways. It would be wise for the state of Utah to consider this in appropriating water rights to the most beneficial use. The cost-benefit scenario for such projects are also highly questionable, and that isn't even considering the environmental costs.”
Chris Baird, Grand County Council, Utah

“Two things I do not understand: the Middle East and the House of Representatives.”
Howard Baker, Jr., quoted by NY Times obit story 6-27-2014

“For weeks at a time there was no sign of man. Just his garbage.”
Norman Baker, Ra II crew, obit

“...an implacable opposition with little if any real interest in collaboration, a news media saturated with triviality and conflict, a culture that demands solutions yesterday, a societal cynicism that holds leadership in low regard...”
Peter Baker, NY Times Magazine

“...whenever crisis visits a given community, the fundamental reality of that community is laid bare...[crises]...rip open the fabric of normality. Through the hole that opens up, we glimpse possibilities of other worlds... suddenly the question of what was feasible felt different...”
Peter Baker

"...the corporation's built-in compulsion to externalize its costs is at the root of many of the world's social and environmental ills."
"[The corporation must be] reconstituted to serve, promote, and be accountable to broader domains of society than just themselves and their shareholders."
Joel Bakkan

“Alec Baldwin... is socially aware, but only to a limit. He doesn’t know what he doesn’t know, and that’s a big problem.”
Via Jessica Coen
“[Baldwin is] a hypocrite and Trump’s a hypocrite. Technically, he might be the best person to capture the hypocrisy.”
via Nell Scovell

James Baldwin:

"Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor."
“IT is their innocence which constitutes the crime ...You were born into a society which spelled out with brutal clarity ... that you were a worthless human being. You were not expected to aspire to excellence: you were expected to make piece with mediocrity...”
“...ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.”
“The most dangerous creation of any society is the man who has nothing to lose.”
“You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me the most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive.”
“...the rulers of the ‘higher races’, struggling to hold on to what they have stolen from their captives, and unable to look into their mirror, will precipitate a chaos throughout the world which, if it does not bring life upon this planet to an end, will bring about a racial war such as the world has never seen.” via Mishra
“It began to seem that one would have to hold in the mind forever two ideas which seemed to be in opposition. The first idea was acceptance, the acceptance, totally without rancor, of life as it is, as men as they are: in the light of this idea, it goes without saying that injustice is a commonplace. But this did not mean that one could be complacent, for the second idea was of equal power: that one must never, in one’s own life, accept these injustices as commonplace but must fight them with all one’s strength. This fight begins, however, in the heart and it now had been laid to my charge to keep my own heart free of hatred and despair.”

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

“In America ... life seems to move faster than anywhere else on the globe and each generation is promised more than it will get: which creates, in each generation, a furious bewildered rage, the rage of people who cannot find solid ground beneath their feet.”
James Baldwin via Andrew Bacevich

“The incoherence of the country is due to the incoherent nature of our ...??? Studs Terkel interview
I can't believe what you say, because I see what you do.”
People can cry much easier than they can change.”
“I ... do not bring down property values when I move in. You bring them down when you move out.”
“It is not permissible that the authors of devastation should also be innocent. It is the innocence which constitutes the crime.”
“it has always been much easier (because it has always seemed much safer) to give a name to the evil without than to locate the terror within.”
History is not the past. It is the present. We carry our history with us. We are our history.
“It is not permissible that the authors of devastation should also be innocent. It is the innocence which constitutes the crime”
“People who shut their eyes to reality simply invite their own destruction.”
"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.
The paradox of education is precisely this - that as one begins to become conscious one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated.
Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.”
“White is a metaphor for power.”
“... moral monsters ...”
“What I’m trying to say to this country, to us, is that we must know this, we must realize this, that no other country in the world has been so fat and so sleek, and so safe, and so happy, and so irresponsible, and so dead for twenty years.”
from Nobody Knows my Name:
review in Kansas City Star: “If it can’t arouse the American conscience, then there isn’t much hope for America.”
“I still believe that the unexamined life is not worth living....One can only face in others what one can face in oneself.”
“... almost everyone ... loves a man who loves to listen.”
“... it is only when a man is able, without bitterness or self-pity, to surrender a dream he has long cherished or a privilege he has long possessed that he is set free - he has set himself free - for higher dreams, for greater privileges.”
...the word ‘majority’ does not refer to numbers...it refers to influence.
...we have ...to create a country in which there are no minorities...
...freedom is not something that anybody can be given; freedom is something people take and people are as free as they want to be...
We made the world we’re living in and we have to make it over.”
“People who shut their eyes to reality simply invite their own destruction, and anyone who insists on remaining in a state of innocence long after that innocence is dead turns himself into a monster.”
James Baldwin said in 1963, “The only people in the country at the moment who believe either in Christianity or in the country are the most despised minority in it.”
“...a society must assume that it is stable, but the artist must know, and he must let us know, that there is nothing stable under heaven.”
“I will flatly say that the bulk of this country’s white population impresses me, and has so impressed me for a very long time, as being beyond any conceivable hope of moral rehabilitation. They have been white, if I may so put it, too long.”
“people are as free as they want to be”.
“It is very nearly impossible...to become an educated person in a country so distrustful of the independent mind.”
“What is ghastly and really almost hopeless in our racial situation now is that the crimes we have committed are so great and so unspeakable that the acceptance of this knowledge would lead, literally, to madness. The human being, then, in order to protect himself, closes his eyes, compulsively repeats his crimes.”
“When I was a kid, the world was white, for all intents and purposes, and now it is struggling to remain white — a very different thing.”

And [they] have brought humanity to the edge of oblivion: because they think they are white.
in ‘On Being White ... and Other Lies’, 1984
The powerless must do their own dirty work.
The powerful have it done for them.

“American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful, and more terrible than anyone has ever said about it. What passes for identity in America is a series of myths about one’s heroic ancestors.”

end Baldwin

“I am interested in collective characters ... The collective character struggles politically, together with others like him, in order to transform society. Thus his own story becomes an epic story.”
Nanni Balestrini, on writing.

""We have to transcend what people are willing to tell us. ...the big problem is: What's true in the world?"
"You can do precise statistics about what's in your database and may be completely wrong about the world."
Patrick Ball

“...he takes great care to master the small choices that help keep his most profitable instrument in form. On recording days (most weekdays), he avoids foods that make his mouth pasty (like cheese or yogurt) and passes up drinks (like espresso) that make his stomach noisy. He takes regular sips of water, during breaks, to keep saliva at optimal flow.
He soothes his vocal cords, some nights, with a small amount of whiskey; his children run little risk of being yelled at by their father, as he protects his voice from that kind of stress. About a year after “Beautiful Ruins,” he temporarily lost his voice, so much so that he sounded, he says, “like a dying frog.” To make sure that did not happen again, he sat in on a workshop taught by another well- admired narrator, Robin Miles, who helped him learn to take small, subtle intakes of air through the nose as he exhales, so that he is never entirely without breath; the approach resembles, he says, his own past experience with meditation, which also helped him with the focus he needs for the long hours of sometimes monotonous reading — not every book is to his taste.
Even when the subject fails to intrigue him, though, the play of the language itself serves as a point of engagement. As the child of a poet who was always hosting spirited dinner parties with other poets, Ballerini grew up among conversations that were not just wordy, but were about the sound of words. His fascination with prosody frequently carries him along; when he reads aloud, he often appears to be conducting with one hand. “**I’ve always heard language in terms of sound as much as meaning,**” he says. “A phrase like ‘A bird flew through the window’ is as much about the internal rhyme, ‘flew through,’ as it is about the action described, and I pay attention to both.”
Edoardo Ballerini via The Voice of God NYT Mag, May 17,2020 by Susan Dominus

Balzac, Honore de:
“Memories beautify life, but only forgetting makes it bearable.”
Balzac used to imbibe coffee grounds dry, on an empty stomach, in order, he wrote, to “quick march ideas into motion” as “the cavalry of metaphor deploys with a magnificent gallop”

"In his 1941 story, 'The Library of Babel', Jorge Luis Borges imagined a collection of information where the entire world's knowledge is stored but barely a single word is understood."
James Bamford

"We mined our way to growth. We burned our way to prosperity. We believed in consumption without consequences. Those days are over..."
Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General, quoted by Ehrlich Paul
“We need a revolution. Revolutionary thinking. Revolutionary action ... It is easy to mouth the words ‘sustainable development’, but to make it happen we have to be prepared to make major changes - in our lifestyles, our economic models, our social organization, and our political life.”
Ban Ki-Moon

“The only recourse we have against bad ideas is to resist the seduction of the ‘obvious’, be skeptical of promised miracles, question the evidence, be patient with complexity and honest about what we know and what we can know.”
Abhijit Banerjee:

“...population growth has minimal influence on per capita income...choosing fewer children is better — for individuals, society, and the planet.”
Steve Bannister, UPEC

“Life is a battle of good and evil ... history repeats itself.”
“I want to bring everything crashing down, and destroy all of today’s establishment.”

“In the White House I had influence. At Breitbart, I had power.”
“...we are going for a nationalist message, .TY @NewYorker [@DailySentinelGJ](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/07/24/how-trump-is-transforming-rural-america) '.tone is rubbing off..#strategy of #demagogue; see #Arendt: , and we will win.”
“Persuasion is highly over-rated.”
“...Nancy Pelosi... is a master,and she is teaching a master class.”
Steve Bannon

“There is a story, believed to be of Cherokee origin, in which a girl is troubled by a recurring dream in which two wolves fight viciously. Seeking an explanation, she goes to her grandfather, highly regarded for his wisdom, who explains that there are two forces within each of us, struggling for supremacy, one embodying peace and the other, war. At this, the girl is even more distressed, and asks her grandfather who wins. His answer: “The one you feed.”
David P Barash in NY Times 9-30-2013

“...Kim's heaven-sent conviction that he alone can save humanity
”
Michael Barbazon

Barber:
“Jihad: war not as an instrument of policy but as an emblem of identity, an expression of community, an end in itself....It appears all too easy to throw the historical gears all into reverse and pass from a Communist dictatprship back into a tribal state...’Jihad’ is a rich word whose generic meaning is ‘struggle’ - usually the struggle of the soul to avert evil...
Neither McWorld or Jihad is remotely democratic in impulse. Neither needs democracy; neither promotes democracy...the Articles of Confederation...
Democrats need to seek out indigenous democratic impulses...There is always a desire for self-government...
“If we export capitalism without democracy, we breed anarchy and terrorism,”
Benjamin R Barber
“...the ancient Greek term for the politically uninvolved person was *idiot*.”
“... global warming recognizes no sovereign territory ... AIDS carries no passport ... technology renders national boundaries increasingly meaningless ... the Internet defies national regulation ... oil and cocaine addiction circle the planet like twin plagues and ... financial capital and labor resources, like their anarchic cousins crime and terror, move from country to country with ‘wilding’ abandon without regard for formal or legal arrangements—acting informally and illegally whenever traditional institutions stand in their way.’
... Declaring our in- dependence in a world of per- verse and malevolent inter- dependence foisted on us by people who despise us comes close to what political science roughnecks once would have called pissing into the wind. ...
Power confers responsibility. The power en- joyed by the United States bestows on it obligations to address conditions it may not have itself brought into being. Jihad in this view may grow out of and reflect (among other things) a pathological metastasis of valid grievances about the effects of an arrogant secularist materialism that is the unfortunate con- comitant of the spread of consumerism across the world. It may reflect a desperate and ultimately destructive concern for the integrity of indigenous cultural traditions that are ill equipped to defend themselves against aggressive markets in a free-trade world. It may reflect a struggle for justice in which Western markets appear as obstacles rather than facilitators of cultural identity. ...
the truly desperate may settle for terror as a response to our failure even to ask such questions. ...
The war on terrorism must be fought, but not as the war of McWorld against jihad. The only war worth winning is the struggle for democracy.

"Democracy grows from the bottom up and cannot be imposed from the top down. Civil society has to be built from the inside out."
Benjamin R. Barber

“The President is not some shapeless organism in a flood of novelties, but a man with a memory in a system with a history.”
“Active-positive Presidents want to achieve results. Active-negatives aim to get and keep power. Passive-positives are after love. Passive-negatives emphasize their civic virtue.”
“...character has its *main* development in childhood, world view in adolescence, style in early adulthood.”
“...the climate of expectations at any given time is the political air the President has to breathe.”
“Every story of Presidential decision-making is really two stories: an outer one in which a rational man calculates and an inner one in which an emotional man feels.”
“Style is his way of acting; world view is his way of seeing.”
“Character is the way the President orients himself toward life.”
“When we citizens vote...we make, in effect, a prediction...in a situation of immense uncertainty.”
“From the beginning, even geography had to give way to the force of myth....The pictures in our heads conquered the ground beneath our feet”
Journalism...is history in a hurry. Haste fights reflection.”
“Biography brings theory down to earth, history to focus, fantasy to reality.”

James Davis Barber

“...we can accept the central biblical message without accepting the prescientific cosmology in which it was expressed ... theologians have to recognize the changing historical contexts of theological reflection.”
Ian Barbour

"There are two great days in a person's life—the day we are born and the day we discover why."
William Barclay

“...the real pandemic is a virus of the mind...”
Jennifer Bardi thehumanist.com

Barghouti, Mourid:
After the death of the horseman
The homeward-bound horse
Says everything
Without saying anything.

“The work of democracy is about trying to do together what we cannot do individually. And so for me the best way to escape my disintegrating body is to engage in this collective struggle...There is a better way to structure our society, a better way to care for one another, a better way to use our precious time together.”
“That’s the paradox of my situation. As my voice has gotten weaker, more people have heard my message. As I lost the ability to walk, more people have followed in my footsteps.”
Ady Barkan, dying of A.L.S.

“...the drug plants were there, waiting to give men a new idea based on a new experience. The experience might have had ... an almost explosive effect on the largely dormant minds of men, causing them to think of things they had never thought of before.”
Mary Barnard

Capitalism 1.0...Capitalism 2.0 Capitalism 3.0
Peter Barnes

“We can see it coming. That’s the difference. The dinosaurs couldn’t see it coming.”
Anthony Barnosky

“Nobody ever lost a dollar by underestimating the taste of the American public.”
P T Barnum

“We’re not at war with the administration, we’re at work.”
Martin Baron, Wash Post editor.

“Empathy is like a universal solvent. Any problem immersed in empathy becomes soluble.”
Simon Baron-Cohen

Barrett, Justice Amy Coney:

“my goal today is to convince you that the court is not comprised of a bunch of partisan hacks.”

“I’m not young enough to know everything.”
J M Barrie

“Human minds have...long and tortuous histories....they have made their way from the past to the present by an erratic path of trial and error...All our present abilities are inheritances from the past.”
John Barrow

Bart, Pauline:
by Katharine A McKinnon: ‘Pauline Took the insights of the women’s liberation movement and turned them into knowledge. She took the insights from consciousness raising and made them into scholarship...’
“...fake orgasms ... innocent simulation...
Everything is data, but data isn’t everything.”

“A creative writer is one for whom writing is a problem.”
Roland Barthes

“...people died because of cynical decisions made by shortsighted politicians drawing on bad science.”
John Barry on Katrina and New Orleans

Maryanne Trump Barry :

“All he wants to do is appeal to his base,” Barry said in a conversation secretly recorded by her niece, Mary L. Trump. “He has no principles. None. None. And his base, I mean my God, if you were a religious person, you want to help people. Not do this.”
Barry, 83, was aghast at how her 74-year-old brother operated as president. “His goddamned tweet and lying, oh my God,” she said. “I’m talking too freely, but you know. The change of stories. The lack of preparation. The lying. Holy shit.”

Bartlett:
Modern agriculture is the use of land to turn petroleum into food”
Bartlett’s Laws of Sustainability:
Seventh Law: A society that has to import people to do its daily work (“We can’t find locals who will do the work,”) is not sustainable.
Eighth Law: Sustainability requires that the size of the population be less than or equal to the carrying capacity of the ecosystem for the desired standard of living.
Twelfth Law: When large efforts are made to improve the efficiency with which resources are used, the resulting savings are easily and completely wiped out by the added resources that are consumed as a consequence of modest increases in population.
Thirteenth Law: The benefits of large efforts to preserve the environment are easily canceled by the added demands on the environment that result from small increases in human population.
Physicist Albert Bartlett

"...all economic movements, by their very nature, are motivated by crowd psychology....the periodic madnesses which afflict mankind must reflect some deeply rooted trait in human nature."
Bernard Baruch

“The soul of the spy is somehow the model of us all.”
“...these arts...cannot be taught in the air but only through the difficulties of a defined subject; they cannot be taught in one course in one year, but must be acquired gradually in dozens of connections.”
Jaques Barzun

“... young readers are trying to understand the world and their place in it...dystopian writing engages with pressing global concerns: liberty and self-determination, environmental destruction and looming catastrophe, questions of identity, and the increasingly fragile boundaries between technology and the self...”
Balaka Basu, et. al, see pdf

“YA dystopias ... touch upon complex and frightening issues in a manageable [and entertaining] format ...[they are] invitations to action.”
Thomas J Morrissey, in Basu, et al., eds.

"...“the people that are going to get hosed are the education and the health people first, just kind of like in our system.”
“The way the bankers have toppled the way that money is distributed, and taken most of it into their own hands, is as good as Stalin or Hitler, the evil guys”
Mario Batali NYC chef

"We are our own jailers."
Stephen Batchelor

“...some men aren’t looking for anything logical, like money. They can’t be bought, bullied, reasoned, or negotiated with. Some men just want to watch the world burn...”
in Batman, Dark Knight, Alfred Pennyworth, via T Friedman
"When a forrest grows too wild, a purging fire is inevitable and natural.” via Batman Begins, Ra's al Guhl to Bruce Wayne.

John Battelle ‘The tech community doesn’t have a good perspective on itself. We aren’t humanists or philosophers. We are engineers. To Google and Facebook, people are algorithms’.

"Dying is pointless. You have to know how to disappear.”
Jean Baudrillard

“... the Nixon White House ... had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. ... We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and the blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”
John Ehrlichman to Dan Baum (in Legalize it all).

“Only as the profit motive is eliminated is there any hope of controlling the liquor traffic in the interests of a decent society.”
John D Rockefeller quoted by Dan Baum

Baum, L. Frank - The Wizard of Oz:
Wicked Witch of the West chanting “Poppies. Poppies will put them to sleep. Sllleeeep. Now they’ll sleeeeeep.”

... economists and economics students appear to be especially likely to free-ride and act in ways that are “anti-social” rather than “pro-social.”
... economics education could do a better job of providing balance. Learning about the shortcomings as well as the successes of free markets is at the heart of any good economics education, and students — especially those who are not destined to major in the field — deserve to hear both sides of the story.”

Yoram Bauman

“Evil is not all-powerful. It can be resisted. The testimony of the few who did resist shatters the authority of the logic of self-preservation. It shows it for what it is in the end - *a choice*. One wonders how many people must defy that logic for evil to be incapacitated. Is there a magic threshold of defiance beyond which the technology of evil grinds to a halt? retrotopia
Zygmunt Bauman

Roy F Baumeister:
“Future generations are likely to look back on people living now as evil ... When future centuries say that the twentieth was the age of supreme evil, they will be referring ... also to the selfish, reckless consumption of energy and the destructive pollution of the air and water....Future populations [are] our victims ... people will look back on our era as the culprits responsible for their suffering....The future will have its own version of Satan, and it is likely to be you and me ...”
“...[There is a] universal tendency for negative events and emotions to affect us more strongly than positive ones...” with John Tierney

“...the nation, mistakenly thinking it must rein in runaway costs, will curtail valuable health services and render them inaccessible for the less affluent. Well-meaning reformers may take the same misstep in education, law enforcement and other handicraft services.”
William J Baumol, economist obit

Bazawule, Blitz:
“When I'm working, I work a lot. And when I'm not doing the most, I'm doing the least. That's it. I don't drink. I don't do much of anything. I stay at home. I sleep. A lot.”

“It’s not about where you come from, it’s that you came at all.”

Emily Bazelon

The Bible is ... is a cacophony of voices and perspectives, often in conflict with one another... the literature now in our Bibles was thousands of years in the making.
Could all those many, many people involved in the development of biblical literature and the canon of Scriptures have been so blind, so stupid? It's modern arrogance to imagine so.
The Bible interprets itself, argues with itself, and perpetually frustrates any desire to reduce it to univocality. The Bible is not a book of answers but a library of questions....It is faithful not to the answer but to the question that takes you to the edge of knowing....long live the Bible. Not as the book of answers but as a library of questions, not as a wellspring of truth but as a pool of imagination."

Beal, Timothy

“...democracy has to think a bit harder about the dissemination of knowledge”.

Mary Beard

Bearman:

from article on Silk Road, WIRED 5-2015, by Joshuah Bearman about Ross Ulbricht: “The thing about taking on a new identity is that it is fundamentally a lie. To the world at first. And then to yourself. ...Like so many revolutionaries before him, the idealist became an ideologue, willing to kill for his beloved vision. ...Moral choices blur when your identity is shifting...”

Glenn Beck - see Berlet

Jerome Beck and Marsha Rosenbaum, quotes from Pursuit of Ecstasy, 1994:
“I was taking it to open myself up. And it did its job. It would be redundant if I took it now.”
“My heart opened up...I had incredible feelings of joy and bliss.”
“...it lowers incredibly your sense of fear....You feel like telling the truth. You feel like being honest. And you know you can say some even very delicate things without hurting people, and therefore you can speak the truth...
“It makes things a little better...It’s enhancing your perceptions...It enhances your emotional state...your emotional well-being....a real flavor enhancer for life...”
“It’s incredibly smooth...It feels like there’s a wind blowing through you. There’s a breeze ... flowing through you. You feel just cleansed.”
“...you feel so good and you’re able to function, and you’re glowing.”
“...a profound feeling of connectedness with all of nature and humankind.”
“...it started a process going that is real healthy. And I say ‘is’ because its ongoing.”
“MDMA ... removes the fear barriers to remembering and to insight, ...but it does not remove caution. Just ordinary common sense, caution, remains completely intact and the person is not divorced from their ordinary judgment. In fact, the judgment seems to be to some extent clarified and sharpened.”
“It certainly makes me feel ... in the balance of the life of man and the life of other forms on earth...certainly that man is part of the web of life on earth.”
“MDMA is the ideal medicine for our ailing society.”
end of Beck on Ecstasy MDMA

“...if you could put it [LSD] into the water system, everybody would wake up and we would be able to realize the changes we were dreaming in terms of societal structures. People wouldn’t be able to tolerate things as they were any longer.”
Julian Beck

Ernest Becker Escape from Evil, 1975:
“My previous writings did not take sufficient account of truly vicious human behavior...there is nothing or nature which would prevent us from taking some control of our own destiny and making the world a saner place for our children...There ius a distinct difference between pessimism, which does not exclude hope, and cynicism, which does.....Once you start an arms race, you are consumed by it. This is the tragic fatality of power, that it leads to a fundamental distortion of the reality of man’s relationship to nature - and so can undermine his own well-being...transference is a reflex of the fatality of the human condition. Transference to a powerful other takes care of the
“The domains of psychiatry and religion are truly inseparable.”
Ernest Becker

Beckerman, Gal:
The Quiet Before: On the Unexpected Origins of Radical Ideas

Whether we are experiencing the world through the lens of speech or the printed word or the television camera, our media-metaphors classify the world for us, sequence it, frame it, enlarge it, reduce it, color it, argue a case for what the world is like.—Neil Postman
You can’t just keep on yelling.—Barack Obama
In the final act good and evil have their dramatic confrontation and resolution.
Marshall McLuhan’s great insight: the transition from oral to written to electronic culture brought along a shift in the way human beings processed reality, and it changed them.
Neil Postman felt
television was adversely affecting the public discourse. “Its form excludes the content,”
The platforms dominate.
they only allow ideas to flare and return to darkness.
“The marvels of communication
technology in the present have produced a false consciousness about the past,” wrote Robert Darnton,
These pre-digital forms of communication demanded patience. Because they took time to produce and time to transmit from one person to another, they slowed things down, favoring an incremental accumulation of knowledge and connection. They also lent coherence, a way for scattered ideologies and feelings to be shaped into a single compellingly new perspective.
EVA LEE “We cannot prepare for the future by acting in the future, we must be rolling it out now. There’s no harm in doing it, but there will be a lot of regret if we don’t.”
the daughter of Korean immigrants—and what it felt like to cut
open a patient’s shirt on an operating table to discover a swastika tattoo.
MISKI NOOR
“It’s created a landscape where our movement is more about death than about life,” Rachel said.
a “trauma porn” that “spectacularizes Black death.”
Social media was about “followship and diffusion of responsibility.” Real leadership would come off-line.
IN THE HUMAN CONDITION, her 1958 philosophical treatise, Hannah Arendt fretted about the eventual disappearance of what she called “the common world.”
Mark Zuckerberg
“People increasingly also want to connect privately in the digital equivalent of the living room.”

MIT Center for Civic Media, Zuckerman
Taiwan has been conducting an experiment with just the kinds of platforms I'd been looking for. It all started in 2014 with the Sunflower Movement, a platform that would facilitate communication with Taiwan's youth. A vTaiwan, a social media tool for bringing a wider swath of the population into the legislative process. And powering this tool was a platform called Pol.is, which seemed to flip social media on its head by both incentivizing the expression of a wider range of views and helping to create consensus. In one of the Marlinspike's app allows people to control the size of their rooms and who can get in. It ensures that the walls are soundproof. For a group of dissidents, this is a wonderful thing. But it's also useful for any group of people who need to figure out how they are going to challenge a status quo, or even just convince themselves that they can.
Stacey Abrams
end Beckerman

"Fail again. Fail better."
"After one fails, one can go on and fail better."
Samuel Beckett

" Joseph Smith [was] frequently intoxicated on alcohol. The evidence is clear that he was. ... alcohol is an excellent vehicle to administer both Amanita and Datura. That Joseph Smith was knowledgeable about the use of medicated alcohol is found in the Book of Mormon....Intoxication and visionary experience is hinted at in the Book of Mormon. A more thorough discussion of the 'bitterness' or bitter taste of psychedelics and the "opening" of one's eyes was tangentially expressed by LeMar Petersen....visions associated with the ingestion of wine argue strongly for the surreptitious inclusion of an entheogen such as the visionary Datura plant. ... cites Dan Merker ... Joseph Smith was frequently intoxicated while translating. It is possible that Joseph was not intoxicated as much with wine as with Amanita Muscaria mushroom. ... Amanita Muscaria is known to increase physical strength, aggressiveness and confidence to the point of grandiose behavior all defining characteristics of Joseph Smith's personality. ... How does one get from mystic experience to an established religion? My one-word answer is: inevitably. What makes the process inevitable is that we do with our mystical experience what we do with every experience, that is, we try to understand it; we opt for or against it; we express our feelings with regard to it. Do this with your mystical experience and you have all the makings of a religion."

Robert Beckstead, Sunstone Symp
"Roosevelt had the radio. Kennedy had television. Barack Obama, as it turned out, had memes."
Ryan Beckwith

"We're not anti-capitalism, we're pro-integrity."
Kiran Bedi, with Anna Hazare via Bill Keller NY Times

"This book is a premortem: an examination of a failure that has not yet happened...
Hitler...Putin...
George Beebe

"Madison's Constitution was certainly no divinely inspired text delivered directly from heaven."
Richard Beeman

"Art demands of us that we shall not stand still."
Beethoven

"You tell me it's the institution
Well, you know,
You'd better free your mind instead."
The Beatles

"My Country, I will build you again,
If need be, with bricks made from my life
I will build columns to support your roof
If need be, with my bones.

You may wish to have me burned,
or decide to stone me
But in your hand match or stone
will lose their power to harm me."
Simin Behbahani, Iranian poetess

Behne, Adolf:
"photography plus dynamite":

"Stanley is trying to spark public alarm. He doesn't want Americans to respond to Trump's racist , authoritarian offenses by moving their moral goal posts. The greater danger isn't hyperbole, it's normalization."
Peter Beinart in NYT review of Stanley, Jason; How Fascism Works

"They have... retreated beyond the reach of reason to cling stubbornly to yesterday at tomorrow's expense."
Unequivocal: leaving no doubt, open to no misunderstanding."
Frances Beinecke

Beitiks puts it: "If you look death in the eyes and you don't laugh, you're kind of missing the point of life. If you do nothing, you're also missing the point of life."
Mikelis Beitiks, 32, is running in California for U.S. Senate in 2016 with a simple slogan: "I will not do nothing." On his website, he writes: "I run for Senate on a narrow platform. It's more of a single board, really. If elected, I promise to monomaniacally create and support legislation that combats climate change."

"I'm at a time in life when I'm examining the entire journey."
Harry Belafonte

"I have to get rid of the bad people in this world," a 16-year-old boy with a fondness for bomb-making chemicals - via Tony Beliz Los Angeles police.

"...the three realms – the economy, the polity, and the culture – are ruled by contrary axial principles: for the economy, efficiency; for the polity, equality; and for the culture, self-realization (or self-gratification), The resulting disjunctions have framed the tensions and social conflicts of Western society in the past 150 years....
Today that manifest destiny is shattered, the Americanism has worn thin, and only the hedonism remains.

Daniel Bell
"Democrats paid their bills, most Republicans didn't."
"The whole lands thing is a boondoggle – just to enrich a few people."
Jeff Bell House candidate Dist 43 UT

"My belief is my identity...
...revelation – the understanding that our most cherished beliefs could be wrong."
Vaughn Bell

Bellah, Robert:
"We are concerned that this individualism may have grown cancerous – that it may be destroying those social integuments that de Tocqueville saw as moderating its more destructive potentialities, that it may be threatening the survival of freedom itself."
"...individualism may have grown cancerous...it may be threatening the survival of freedom itself."
Robert Bellah in Habits of the Heart, 1985; NY times obit

“All these have never yet been seen—
but scientists who ought to know,
Assure us that they must be so...
Oh! Let us never, never doubt
What nobody is sure about!”
Hilaire Belloc

“...the main social event of our generation was the destruction of freedom through the universal growth of Capitalist monopoly, and the ruin of economic independence in the mass of private citizens.”
Hilaire Belloc

Saul Bellow quotes Samuel Daniel: “While timorous knowledge stands considering, audacious ignorance hath done the deed.”
“Art is the community’s medicine for the worst disease of mind, the corruption of consciousness.”
Saul Bellow

"To me, implementing Islam in public life simple means trying to create justice and good standards of living, happiness for the people. It is not about restrictions or misery."
Mohamed Beltagy

“You can’t just bring the audience’s intellect on the journey—you have to bring their hearts as well.”
Larry Bender, producer of An Inconvenient Truth—at astc 07.

Ben-Giat, Ruth:
Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present

a public health emergency exposes with particular efficiency the costs of a perennial feature of autocratic rule: the repudiation of norms of transparency and accountability.
“NO HISTORIAN CAN GET INSIDE the heads of the dead . . . But with sufficient documentation, we can detect patterns of thought and action,” writes Robert Darnton.
Ernest Becker observes,
It is [fear] that makes people so willing to follow brash, strong-looking demagogues . . . capable of cleansing the world of the vague, the weak, the uncertain, the evil. Ah, to give oneself over to their direction—what calm, what relief.
“A DICTATOR IS IN GENERAL a man who comes from below and then throws himself in an even deeper hole . . . the world watches him . . . and jumps into the void after him,” said Charlie Chaplin in 1939,
new authoritarians use elections to
keep themselves in office, deploying antidemocratic tactics like fraud or voter suppression to get the results they need.
enemies liberated some, who felt “free to hate,” in Paul Hockenos’s phrase,
prosecutor Francesco
Borrelli issued an ominous statement: Those who want to become political candidates should look within themselves. If they are clean, then they should go ahead serenely. But if they have skeletons in their closets . . . they should open their closets now and stand aside from politics, before we get there. 7
Italy, the birthplace of Fascism,
The combination of staggering wealth created at the top and mass misery soured some on the idea of democratization. “The worst thing about Communism
is Post-Communism” was the rueful saying. 19
“It’s hard to explain madness,” the politician Boris Nemtsov
“For Russians, the strong state is not an anomaly to fight against . . . [but] the source and guarantor of order, the initiator and the main driving force of any change.”
IN 1938, GEORG ELSER, a
decided he would kill Hitler.
missing his appointment with death by 13 minutes.
The history of strongmen is also the history of their opponents’ efforts to remove them from power. Assassination is an occupational hazard of all political leaders,
“The bullets pass, Mussolini remains,” the Italian leader wrote
Some of the most moving acts of resistance remain private.
the self and the reaffirmation of dignity, empathy, and solidarity—all
qualities the strongman seeks to destroy in his people. 11
Mussolini obliquely of the killings. “Power is not always able to control the apparatus that represents it.” 16
Giulia Veronesi noted the “deepening discomfort” among her peers as “the compromise in which we live” became harder to sustain. 17
“the White Rose Society,”
Hans and Sophie Scholl
an anti-Fascist social network.
“I am invulnerable. I am immortal,” a dazed Führer repeated to the doctor who treated him right after the explosion. For
A conspirator concluded ruefully that Hitler had a “guardian devil” keeping him alive. 23
The Baltic Way human chain formed by 2 million people who joined hands across Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania in 1989 to protest Soviet rule
“Wanting to intimidate society, the authorities only make it more angry,” wrote the jailed twenty-one-
activist Yegor Zhukov to the newspaper Novaya Gazeta in 2019.50
May 2017 “Pay Trump Bribes Here” action onward, reach the public
when Ekram Imamoğlu,
“Polarization is a universal problem,” he says. “All around the world, populism is used to divide and rule. But I believe we can turn this trend upside down.”
“Where there is Imamoğlu . . . there is hope.” Campaign slogan, 2019.
Aging and the ebbing of virile powers is difficult for leaders whose “entire sense of self is bound up in being revered,” in psychological profiler Jerrold Post’s words.
“You’ve got to put your name on stuff or no one remembers you,” said the president, who
“I follow my instincts, and I am never wrong,” said Mussolini,
Laura Fermi observed that without his audiences, Mussolini was merely an empty “shell.” This is true of every ruler in this book,
scientists call this phenomenon “gambling for resurrection,”
It is convenient as well as cathartic for the nation when the leader dies. Since he claimed a unique ability to rule the nation, he can be blamed for its sorry fate, assigned all responsibility.
strongmen do not vanish with their exits from power, but instead remain as traces within the body of their people. The muscle memory to salute and sing the songs can be hard to shake.

As the anti-Fascist Carlo Rosselli testified in court in 1930:
I had a home: they destroyed it. I had a newspaper: they suppressed it. I had a professorship: I had to abandon it. I had, as I still have today, ideas, dignity, an ideal: to defend them, I had to go to prison. I had teachers and friends—Amendola, Matteotti, Gobetti—they killed them.
having it all is never enough for men who live in a secret state of dread at losing everything.
Even as the strongman proclaims his infallibility, he is pursued by the demon of fear. He’s wary of the people he represses;
Gobetti’s message:
“Fascism is the autobiography of the nation.”
The strongman’s trick is to seem exceptional and yet to embody the national everyman,
“There is a little piece of Putin in everyone,” says the Nobel Prize–winning author Svetlana Alexievich,
Curzio Malaparte’s
He channels his brutality into humbling their pride, crushing their freedom of conscience, diminishing their individual merits and transforming his supporters into flunkies stripped of all dignity. Like all dictators, Hitler loves only those whom he can despise. 11
Transparency International
Too often, we have left the work of shaping emotions—including patriotism, our love for our country—to democracy’s enemies.
foreign occupation now has firsthand experience of
“If you don’t dominate, you are wasting your time,” Trump said
“Keep your heart a desert,” said Mussolini to a journalist who asked him the secret of his success, noting that friendships get in the way of the exercise of power.
filmmaker Alberto Lattuada, who grew up under the dictatorship. In 1941,
The absence of love brought many tragedies that might have been averted. Instead of the golden rain of love, a black cloak of indifference fell upon the people. And thus people have lost the eyes of love and can no longer see clearly. . . . Here are the origins of the disintegration of all values and the destruction and sterilization of conscience.

end Ben-Giat, Ruth

Benniof, Marc:
“...to build trust, companies need a purpose beyond profit.” Book Trailblazer

Benjamin, Walter:
“There is no document of civilization which is not at the same time a document of barbarism,”
“...humankind needs periodic rites of regeneration to avoid maniacal episodes of destruction.”via Martin Lee, p. 48
end Walter Benjamin,

"To me, implementing Islam in public life
"...when a reality is too complex to meet our constructive needs:
we ignore it and continue with a simpler, if arguably false, view"
Steven Benner

Bennett, Catherine:
“Low compliance with containment measures was directly associated in one study with ‘antisocial traits, especially lower levels of empathy and higher levels of callousness, deceitfulness and risk-taking’.”

"There is only a public self—there is no sense of a private self."
Cherie Bennett, Playwright, see Reviving Ophelia

“You have to love life before you can care about anything.”
Jane Bennett

“...you know that saying about how “you can’t be what you can’t see” — or, perhaps more accurately, that you can be what you can see?”
Jessica Bennett on Wonder Woman film nyt op-ed

"The Constitutional Convention was filled with one compromise after another."
Robert Bennett

Bennetts, Marc:
I'm Going to Ruin Their Lives: Inside Putin's War on Russia's Opposition

‘The freedom of speech, the freedom of conscience, the freedom of the media and property rights, these fundamental principles of a civilized society will be protected by the state,’ he declared, a Russian flag to his right.
As ideological and economic uncertainties ravaged Russia, a centuries-old belief in the supernatural and the occult re-emerged to fill the gap left by the sudden collapse of the Soviet system. Highlight(orange) - Page 18 · Location 183
‘Everything our leaders told us about communism was false. But it turns out that everything they told us about capitalism was true,’ Russians joked bitterly.

‘Russians have had no sense of stability for the past ten years,’ Putin told state television in a wide-ranging interview less than two months after taking over from Yeltsin. ‘We hope to return this feeling.’
Russians had never had it so good.
‘People agreed on a pact with the devil,’ said Oleg Orlov,
‘What good is freedom of speech if my fridge is empty?’ an elderly woman asked me in the central Russian
‘Putin inherited a ransacked and bewildered country, with a poor and demoralized people,’ said Alexander Solzhenitsyn,
When Putin first came to power in 2000, he was concerned with resolving concrete issues. Now, he believes he is writing history.
Putin will require more than war in Ukraine to distract Russians from growing domestic woes.
end Bennetts

“[They are] seduced by a narrative that put them at the center of a greater cause and offered them what they craved most: a sense of belonging and a plan to act on their resentment.”
Katrin Bennhold, NY Times, on neo-Nazi and radical Muslim. terrorism

Benscoter, Diane:
“...easy ideas to complex questions are very appealing when you are emotionally vulnerable...compromised ‘immune system’...circular logic...God will fix all this - it becomes impenetrable...what happened to my brain?...A viral mimetic infection.”
Diane Benscoter, ex-Moonie TED 2008
from Shoes of a Servant bk:
“The human mind is susceptible to exploitation. ...the pathways leading to the part of the brain where rational thought takes place can be detoured to an area where nearly inescapable circular logic controls cognitive processes...
you will see how my cognitive processes were infected with a memetic virus by someone claiming to be God.
Research must be done to identify the characteristics that contribute to [that] kind of vulnerability and rational thought...
God had a plan. There was a chilling relief in giving up my autonomy to someone I believed was God. To simply walk, as I pledged over and over, in the shoes of a servant, freed me of life’s complexity...”
“Easy answers to hard questions were very appealing to me as a confused 17-year-old.”
https://www.ted.com/talks/ex_moonie_diane_benscoter_how_cults_think
Diane Benscoter

“An editorial cartoonist throws the first punch in a bar fight and then sits back and watches everyone fight.”
Steve Benson, Bagley friend

“Everything [Leonardo] touched turned to eternal beauty.”
Michael Berenson

“...the seductive allure of libertarianism relies on its simple assumptions: People should be as free as possible. Our laws should reflect reality. Government policies should be analyzed using logic, not ideology. There are no grand appeals to shaping the world in America’s image, no quixotic promotion of economic equality and no obsession over the moral character of the nation.
In a nutshell, scientists and libertarians deal with the world the way it is, rather than the way they want it to be.”
"The World of Law and the World of Science use different systems of logic and speak different languages."
Alex B Berezow realclearscience.com

“Nothing in the nature around us is evil. This needs to be repeated since one of the human ways of talking oneself into inhuman acts is to cite the supposed cruelty of nature.”
“The past is never there waiting to be discovered,
to be recognized for exactly what it is.
The past is not for living in...
“It’s about reducing barriers to action. Once you understand that, you can change anything.” in wsj review of The Catalyst .
John Berger

Berggruen, Nicolas:
via Steinberger NYT Mag pdf billionaires:
‘wants to “empower ideas with an emphasis on courageous or creative thinking....to celebrate love of knowledge, critical knowledge.”
‘a kind of latter-day Medici’...
books: Intelligent Governance, and Reinventing Democracy... both with Gardels.
‘...provide the money and space for others to ponder the major issues of our time...’
Damasio is an advisor, as well as Gardels...
Berg Inst exec VP is Dawn Nakagawa - Transformations of the Human Project...ToftH...Tobias Rees

Ingemar Bergman, via Linn Ullmann

“...well into his 80’s, [Bergman] began to refer to the life that he was now experiencing as “the epilogue”. Lying in bed in the mornings, he would tot up his ailments, allowing himself one per decade: if there were fewer than eight, he would get up; if there were more, he would stay put. But these strategies denoted realism rather than appeasement, and his determination to continue work remained largely unshaken.”

Bergman, Romen:
Rise and Kill First -
Meir Dagan assassination
“...perpetually in danger of annihilation....the banality of evil.”

Ronen Bergman

[Bullshit is] “language, statistical figures, data graphics, and other forms of presentation intended to persuade or impress an audience by distracting, overwhelming, or intimidating them with a blatant disregard for truth, logical coherence, or what information is actually being conveyed.”

Liars have little incentive to shut up.

The popular platforms exploit humanity’s need for social validation and constant chatter, a product of our evolution.

Brandolini’s Law: “The amount of energy needed to refute bullshit is an order of magnitude larger than is needed to produce it.”

Carl Bergstrom. see Calling Bullshit book Kindle”

Berkowitz (Arendt):

“Arendt responds to ... the light of the public that obscures everything ... ‘incomprehensible triviality’...

Four Prejudices talk:

“Liberalism opposes and suppresses the coarser elements of democratic freedom.

...Politics is that centripetal force, a magnetic or charismatic center, around which a diverse and chaotic multitude gathers and is held together. And the politician is that person who speaks or acts in such a way as to enable the people to say what they share in common in spite of their differences.

Arendt on Crisis: “The opportunity provided by the very fact of crisis— which tears away façades and obliterates prejudices —[is] to explore and inquire into whatever has been laid bare of the essence of the matter.... A crisis forces us back to the questions themselves and requires from us either new or old answers, but in any case direct judgments. A crisis becomes a disaster only when we respond to it with preformed judgments, that is, with prejudices.”

Prejudice 1: democracy by its very nature is liberal

...a particularly liberal idea of democracy carries with it a democratic deficit that can contribute to right-wing and also left-wing anti-establishment populist parties.

Prejudice 2: collectivist nationalism is ‘bad’.

politics must not only feed the people bread but also must inspire and give them meaning.

Prejudice 3: Political antagonists are evil.

Prejudice 4: Preference for security over freedom.

Arendt: “Underlying our prejudices against politics today are hope and fear: the fear that humanity could destroy itself through politics and through the means of force now at its disposal, and linked with this fear, the hope that humanity will come to its senses and rid the world, not of humankind, but of politics. It could do so through a world government that transforms the state into an administrative machine, resolves political conflicts bureaucratically, and replaces armies with police forces.”

Arendt: Bureaucratic crisis: “Representative government is in crisis today, partly because it has lost, in the course of time, all institutions that permitted the citizens’ actual participation, and partly because it is now gravely affected by the disease from which the party system suffers: bureaucratization and the two parties’ tendency to represent nobody except the party machines.”

Civil disobedience is an act of citizenship by which minorities can change the minds of majorities. Thus, disobedient minorities—those groups who collectively dissent from majority opinion—are not traitors or rebels, but are part of the fabric of democratic government.

...see those with whom you disagree as your adversaries rather than your enemies.

“What convinces masses , and not even invented facts, but only the consistency of the system of which they are presumably part.”

“This freedom is what Arendt calls the ‘treasure’ of the public space where people act together. ...

As de Toqueville wrote, the American town governments may have been the locus of American freedom, but they were also coarse and resistant to civilized restraints. There is always a desire on the part of elites, Tocqueville argues, to restrict the freedoms of the townships in the name of civilization.”

“The danger of lying is not that the lies will be believed—it is that the world we share, the public world in which unique people gather around common ideas and aspirations—wobbles and begins to shatter.”

“...the logic of the mob: to unite and embrace extra-legal criminal means to fight a perceived threat that is so dangerous as to justify a quasi-criminal response.”

“totalitarianism...is a

form of government founded upon a mass loneliness.”

After four years of Donald Trump, over 60 million Americans still believe it is acceptable to be governed by a con man and fraud, a broken human being, someone who fundamentally believes that he has the power to define, redefine, and build the reality that suits his own political and personal interests.—

Roger Berkowitz

end of Berkowitz

Berlet:

"Satan means enemy."

"...the scapegoating and conspiricism of right-wing populism...is not on the margins of U.S. political traditions, but is too close for comfort."

"Fascism ... is the most virulent form of far-right populism."

You don’t build a campaign of prejudice out of thin air. It has to be rooted in the culture. So you start out with a rhetoric of us versus them: We’re good; they’re bad. We’re going to save America; they’re going to destroy it. Then you take all the problems of society and blame them on a scapegoat. In Germany it was the Jews. In India today the conservative Hindu groups blame the Muslims. So you pick a group that’s already resented, and you blame them and demonize them. They’re not just bad; they’re *evil*. In some cases this involves religious beliefs.

Once you’ve done the demonization and the scapegoating, you come up with conspiracy theories that portray “them” as dangerous enough to hurt “us.”

And then the final question is: “Why should we wait for them to attack? Let’s get them before they get us.”

There is a maxim in sociology called the “Thomas Theorem,” which says that situations defined as real are real in their consequences. If you believe something to be true, you’re going to act on it. Even the wildest belief can lead people to act not just in voting booths but with guns.

Glenn Beck. Ten years ago no one had ever heard of him. What’s his background?

Berlet: He comes out of a religious, paranoid conspiracy culture

There’s also a double standard in coverage of violence on the Left versus violence on the Right. Violence on the Right is *always* unfortunate or understandable or maybe crazy, whereas if somebody on the Left throws a brick through a window of a shop, it’s terrorism.

The Right has maintained a massive network of corporate and philosophical foundations that pulls the Republican Party to the right. Liberals do not fund a similar network on the Left. They tend to fund band-aid fixes. Liberal foundations will say, “We fund activists, not media and conferences and think tanks.” But activists without direction and without ideology are at a loss to confront the right-wing activists who have a road map drawn up for them.

Berlant, Lauren:

“cruel optimism referred to “when something you desire is actually an obstacle to your flourishing...the tools we depend on to achieve “the good life” — a safety net, job security, the meritocracy, even “durable intimacy” in our romantic lives — have degenerated into “fantasies” that bear “less and less relation to how people can live.”

Berlet:

Weimar Germany in the 1920s and 1930s comes to mind, as political theorist Noam Chomsky has observed. The political scene was gridlocked, and there was talk about the destruction of the nation of Germany. There was a point when many middle-class, moderate voters — the “burghers,” they were called — were so fed up with the system and so surrounded with conspiracy theories about the collapse of the country that they voted for Hitler, not because they liked the National Socialists but because they had just had enough.

When a large group of people who already have excess power and privilege become afraid the government and minorities will take away their power, that’s an explosive situation. Moderate voters begin to vote to overturn the system just to shake things up.

when you build a major social movement around scapegoating and resentment, things can move quickly in a bad direction.
Chip Berlet

"Got no checkbooks, got no banks. Still I'd like to express my thanks –
I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night."
Irving Berlin

"Liberty for the wolves means death for the lambs."
Isiah Berlin via Don Jarvis, Provo City

From Jacques **Berlinerblau**, The Secular Bible, Cambridge U Press, 2005, ILL:
"A biblical scholar is a person who has devoted his or her life to reasoning with a madman...

...one must be willing to abandon modern notions of authorial intentions and the author's ability to determine a text's meaning. Scripture came together in ways that almost all of its contributors never have foreseen. Contingency, accident, unintended consequences – those are more a part of the Bible's story than many want to acknowledge."

...the burden of proof lies on those who believe this to be true.

Why is it unreasonable to claim that certain phrases in the witness are mere gibberish, that they have been edited into grammatical and syntactical senselessness. The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament is a complex, paradoxical, ambiguous, and at points incoherent text.

They open the book having already invested their faith in the proposition that it is underwritten by God.

The Qur'an:
"The possibility that their ancient ideology of martyrdom might one day 'shake hands' with modernity's arsenal of apocalypse is enough to make all civilized persons edgy, especially that majority on nonextremist Muslims residing in their immediate vicinity....The real Islam has been hijacked. The authentic message of the Qur'an has been distorted.

...the inevitable trespass that occurs whenever reasoned inquiry is asked to visit religious belief.

...Americans returned in droves to their houses of worship in the aftermath of an atrocity that illustrated (yet again) the absolute worst that religion has to offer."
end Berlinerblau

"Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils."
Hector Berlioz

from Eli Berman: Radical, Religious and Violent, MIT Press, 2009:
"the rise of radical Islam looks like the twentieth-century version of a familiar story, a predictable reaction of traditional communities to the slow incursion of market economies and political emancipation into their lives.
Radical religious groups, or sects, operate as economic clubs...when Islamic radicals are subsidized, religiosity can increase quickly.
There are broad parallels between religious radicalism in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.
Al Qaeda does not fit the club mold: it does not provide social services to members the way Hamas does.
...suicide attackers disproportionately attack members of other religions.
...choose suicide attacks against hard targets and conventional attacks against soft targets.
...suicide attacks tend to be concentrated in places with a foreign occupier.

"...Europe was the most turbulent region on earth...Yet, during the second half of the twentieth century, it was among the most stable, a study in democracy, social harmony, and prosperity. How can we understand this remarkable transformation?"
"...social democracy should be seen as the most successful ideology and movement of the twentieth century...by reconciling things that had ... seemed incompatible: a well-functioning capitalist system, democracy, and social stability."
"...social democracy's other core principle: communitarianism."
"...the most important thing politics can provide is a sense of the possible."
Sheri Berman

"If this pandemic has made me learn one thing, it is that I have to work less. I need to nurture and have something to say."
Gael Garcia Bernal

"...stasis is achieved through dynamism...constant change is a form of equilibrium...to be ordinary is an outrageous extreme...limitation can be freedom."
Claude Bernard, 1859
"Art is myself; science is ourselves."
Claude Bernard, 1865

"...rumors in a war zone operate very much like narrative IEDs (improvised explosive devices) in that they are relatively low-cost weapons that circulate unexpectedly among lay peoples."

Daniel Bernardi et al

"...social networks ... are manmade. If they are not serving humanity, they can and should be changed."
Tim Berners-Lee

"We like to think that seeing is believing. But the study's findings show that seeing is believing what the group tells you to believe."
Greg Berns

Bernstein, Carl:
"... a haven in reporting, ...proceeding without judgment or predisposition to wherever the facts and context and rigorous questioning lead, to some notion of the truth in all its complexity."

"I believe in one God,
but then I believe in three.
I'll believe in twenty gods
if they'll believe in me."
Leonard Bernstein, 'Mass'

"The essence of risk management lies in maximizing the areas where we have some control over the outcome while minimizing the areas where we have absolutely no control over the outcome and the linkage between effect and cause is hidden from us."
Peter L Bernstein, Against the Gods, p. 197
"Uncertainty makes us free." Bernstein ibid, p. 229

Richard Bernstein, Radical Evil:
"Radical Evil [refers to] the evil of total domination....
the banality of evil *presupposes* radical evil."
We must rethink the very meaning of responsibility.
We have a responsibility to preserve the conditions for life ... on this planet."
Richard Bernstein from The Abuse of Evil, 2005
Arendt discussion, quotes...
"...today, the appeal to evil is being used as a political tool to obscure complex issues, to block genuine thinking, and to stifle public discussion and debate.
... what we are now confronting is a *clash of mentalities*, not a clash of civilizations. A mentality that is drawn to absolutes, alleged moral certainties, and simplistic dichotomies stands in contrast to a mentality that questions the appeal to absolutes in politics, that argues that we must not confuse subjective moral *certitude* with objective moral *certainty*, and that is skeptical of an uncritical rigid dichotomy between the forces of evil and the forces of good...
There is no place for absolutes in democratic politics...

The clash of mentalities cuts across the religious/secular divide.
Radical evil is making human beings superfluous as human beings.
...mentality ... a cast of mind or way of thinking that conditions the way in which we approach, understand, and act in the world.... Mentalities also arrive at different stages ... we need to inquire why they arise and why they fade away...

end of Richard Bernstein

“...evil does not awe or paralyze him.” (Toni Morrison on Robert Bernstein).

Bernstein, William J:
“...testosterone causes three problems ...: it decreases fear, increases greed and very much contributes to overconfidence....It...doesn't do much for judgment....
In finance if your're centrain of anything, you're out of your mind.”

“We're lost, but we're making good time.”
"You can observe a lot by watching."
Yogi Berra

“ We argued in 1915 and we're arguing today that we need good citizens. A welder is a citizen, too.”
Carol Geary Schneider via Dan Berrett

The notion that one has to achieve peace of mind before stretching out one's hand to one's neighbor is a distortion of our human experience, and ultimately a dodge of our responsibility. Life is a rollercoaster, and one had better buckle one's belt and take the trip. This focus on equanimity is actually a narrow-minded, selfish approach to reality dressed up within the language of spirituality.”
“The only way to be hopeful is to do hopeful things.”
“When madness is the acceptable public state of mind, we're all in danger, all in danger; for madness is an infection in the air. And I submit that we all breathe the infection...”
Daniel Berrigan

"History is governed by those overarching moments that give shape and meaning to life by relating the human venture to the larger destinies of the universe.”
“we must say of the universe that it is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects.”

Thomas Berry

Berry, Wendell:
"Be joyful, though you have considered all the facts."

"...Americans, all of us, have become a kind of human trash, living our lives in the midst of a ...mess of which we are at once the victims and the perpetrators....There is no sense and no sanity in objecting to the desecration of the flag while tolerating and justifying and encouraging as a daily business the desecration of the country for which it stands...an economy that is wasteful from top to bottom – a symbiosis of an unlimited greed at the top and a lazy, passive, and self-indulgent consumptiveness at the bottom – and all of us are involved in it."
Wendell Berry
“...the real names of global warming are Waste and Greed...looks disturbingly like a sort of national insanity.”
Wendell Berry
"Ignorance, arrogance, narrowness of mind, incomplete knowledge, and counterfeit knowledge are ... dangerous; they cause destruction. When united with great power, they cause great destruction."
Wendell Berry
“We don't have a right to ask whether we will succeed or not. The only question we have a right to ask is, what's the right thing to do?”
"People who own the world outright for profit will have to be stopped; by influence, by power, by us.”
“Take a simpleton and give him power and confront him with intelligence — and you have a tyrant.”
How could a human being do that? How could anybody take a machine and destroy the world with it?

end Wendell Berry

“The meaning of life is to do the best you can with what you've got.”
Peter Bertocci, philosopher

“It's always the small people who change things. It's never the politicians or the big guys. I mean, who pulled down the Berlin wall? It was all the people in the streets. The specialists didn't have a clue the day before.”
Luc Besson

Henry Beston lamented: “What has come over our age is an alienation from Nature unexampled in human history. It has cost us our sense of reality and all but cost us our humanity.”

“Really repulsive meme-ing, the stuff that makes you laugh, makes you remember,...The right .. is great at it instinctively. Whether it's a 4chan board or basement neckbeards, they nail it. They can distill a huge talking paragraph into a cat picture.”
Charles Bethea, NYer, quoting a lawyer source.

“He just felt furious and alienated and there was no place for him in the world. He didn't fit into it and it made him angry.”
Paul Bettany on Unabomber Ted Kaczynski

“Prejudice saves us a painful trouble, the trouble of thinking.”
Rabbi Alfred Bettelheim

“It's basically toxic for [the United States] to engage in any kind of effort to trace weapons because they have a huge domestic opposition to linking weapons with people. Their attitude to personal gun possession extends to international trade.”
James Bevan

“... a focus on the long-term and a willingness to be misunderstood.”
Jeff Bezos
"It's all about the long term...
we are willing to invent...
we are willing to be misunderstood for long periods of time...
we're signed up for this to be hard.”
Jeff Bezos
“[...fast, quality decisions often can be made when about] 70% of the information you wish you had [is available]....
Waiting for 90% means going too slow.”
Jeff Bezos (recall Jinn Nan Lin).

“Rules can operate to shape culture...”
Preet Bharara and Margaret Garnett

"...it takes social movements that exhibit intensity, tenacity, and imagination to get big things done in our country."
Deepak Bhargava

Biao, Xiang:
“People realize that material betterment is no longer the single most important source of meaning in life.”

Bible, Jesus, God:
Genesis: re: Babel - “look, they are people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”

“When you have someone who doesn’t care about the quality of their arguments, it usually means they don’t care about the quality of anyone else’s.”
Barry Bickmore

Biden, Joe:
‘Inshallah...God plans, and man laughs.’ via Tamara Qiblawi
Biden noted that he had “looked into Putin’s eyes and saw no soul.”
“We reject ... the tired theory that our values and our interests must compete for influence over our politics,” Biden told students at Moscow State University on his 2011 trip.
“What in God’s name do you need an assault weapon for except to kill someone?”
“I held my arms up, I said: ‘It’s amazing what capitalism will do’ ...

I said, ‘Mr President, I’m looking in your eyes and you have no soul.’ And he looked back at me and he said: ‘We understand one another.’”
Joe Biden to Putin

"Don't judge me against the Almighty;
judge me against the alternative."
“Don’t tell me what you value. Show me your budget and I’ll tell you what you value.”
“The presidency is a duty to care.”
“We should know the good, the bad, everything. That’s what great nations do: They come to terms with their dark sides.”
“Great nations don’t ignore their most painful moments. They embrace them. Great nations don’t walk away, they come to terms with the mistakes they’ve made.”

Joe Biden
via Jennifer Rubin: “He signaled an end to the era of catering to the irrational and coddling the selfish.”

Entrepreneur is just a fancy French word for a salesman,
David Biello

Bierce:
“A Corporation is an ingenious device for obtaining individual profit without individual responsibility.”
“Politics: A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage.”
Definition in The Devil’s Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce

Biles, Simon:
“Because I can.”

"For [Adam] Smith, the pursuit of wealth was a grotesque personal error, a misunderstanding of human happiness."
The core assumption of standard economics is that humans are fundamentally individual rather than social animals."
Poverty was not understood as a problem to be fixed. It was a spiritual condition."
...a pure free-market ideology can be logically sustained only if it is based in a fiery religious conviction."
The crisis in Ireland between 1845 and 1850 – the Great Hunger – remains one of the most striking illustrations of the incapacity of markets to run themselves."
"...'political economy' ...began to connote a cruel disregard for human suffering. ...a generation later...the term...was simply junked. The new field was called 'economics'.
The evangelicals believed that the market was a divine system, guided by spiritual laws. The 'scientific' economists saw the market as a natural system, a principle of equilibrium produced in the balance of individual souls."
Gordon Bigelow (see pdf Let There be Markets (economics religion)

The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”
Steve Biko

Billinghurst, Rosa May, wheelchair suffragette, NYT obit:
“They may even kill me in the process, for I am not strong, but they cannot take away my freedom of spirit or my determination to fight this good fight to the end.”...
“We are not hooligans seeking to destroy,” she added, “but we mean to wake the public mind from its apathy.”

Bin-Laden, Osama:
Osama bin Laden later boasted that he was the only one in the group’s upper hierarchy who had anticipated the magnitude of the wound that Al Qaeda inicted on America, but he also admitted that he was surprised by the towers’ collapse. His goal, for at least ve years, had been to goad America into invading Afghanistan

“All that we have to do is send two mujahedeen to the furthest point east to raise a piece of cloth on which is written ‘Al Qaeda’ in order to make generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic and political losses without their achieving for it anything of note”
Osama bin Laden via Joe Quinn NYT

“You want to do something for yourself - to respect yourself.”
Marianne Birthler, dissident, via Applebaum

“...extremism is a consequence of the company we keep.”
Bill Bishop, author

...comparing the large tracts of public land that exist out West to the Soviet Union, Bishop told the conservative crowd, 'I defy you to find anywhere in the Constitution where this is allowable.'
Rep. Rob Bishop

“At the Supreme Court those who know don’t talk, and those who talk don’t know.”
Joan Biskupic

"...divine providence protects idiots, drunkards, children, and the United States of America."
“If revolution there is to be, let us rather undertake it, not undergo it.”
attributed to Bismarck

“I want my son to know the difference between compliance and complicity.”
also German Schuld - guilt - and Schulden - debts.
“I had the uncomfortable suspicion that my good life ... might not be entirely good. ... I was pestered by the possibility that [it] was built on a bedrock of evil and that evil was running through our groundwater.”
“‘Evil’ is how slaves describe their masters.”
Eula Biss, see pdf white debt

"...a lack of idiocy is not the same...as a presence of wisdom."
Mark Bittman
“...solar power will be to the electrical grid what PCs were to mainframes ... a technology that will simply kill its predecessors. Coal and nuclear power are booth doomed, and the profit-making power grid with it. That’s all to our benefit.”
Mark Bittman
quoting Wes Jackson: “The plow has destroyed more options for future generations than the sword,” he says. “But soil is more important than oil, and just as nonrenewable.”
“If you think you’re going to complete your life’s vision in your lifetime, you’re not thinking big enough.”

Mark Bitmann

“Lennonism has several key principles. ... borders are an artificial concept. Every human is a citizen of the world, and it is a universal right for anyone to live wherever he or she wishes to.”

Jochen Bitner

“If it’s not dangerous, it’s not worth doing.”
“If optimism ever was like an emergency, it’s now. Instead of moaning and becoming really angry, we need to actually come up with suggestions of what the world we want to live in, in the future, could be.”
“Future Forever...
Imagine a future and be in it
feel this incredible nurture, soak it in.
Your past is a loop - turn it off.”
Bjork

from Reading the Rocks by Marcia **Bjornerud**, 2005:
Nothing is permanent, and yet *because* of this, everything is eternal.
If there is stability in nature, it is not static, but a far subtler dynamic, impermanent constancy.
...in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, the true horror and tragedy arise from the monster’s awareness that he has no kin, no memory, no sense of his own history.
...variability on every time scale, high-frequency wiggles on waves riding swells, the characteristic sound of the terrestrial philharmonic.
...like spoiled children, we routinely overestimate our importance on the planet but underestimate the destructiveness of our self-absorption.
...consciousness can become a pathological condition if it gives us delusions that we have somehow been exempted from the rules that have always governed the biosphere. The belief that we can engineer what evolution has done in 4 billion years – and expect the results to be predictable and controllable – is a sign of our youth and ignorance. Native tinkering with such ancient systems is foolish, arrogant, and dangerous.
Marcia Bjornerud

“Save us from the madness. ...Deliver us from the hypocrisy of attempting to sound reasonable while being unreasonable.”
Barry C Black, Senate chaplain

"The Fourteenth Amendment followed the freedom of a race from slavery. ..the amendment was intended to protect the life, liberty, and property of human beings. The language of the amendment itself does not support the theory that it was passed for the benefit of corporations."
Justice Hugo Black

Black, Lewis - comedian: “Trump is good for comedy in the way a stroke is good for a nap.”

“...the whole of human culture can be seen as a vast new evolutionary process based on memes...Human beings are the meme machines...”
Susan Blackmore

"...[there is] no foundation in nature or in natural law, why a set of words upon parchment should convey the dominion of land..."
William Blackmore

“A journalist sees an event through a dirty window and attempts to clarify the view and find the truth in what is really happening.”
Ed Blake, in No Such Address

“Every dead body sent a signal. If you cross Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, there is no safe place for you on earth.”
Heidi Blake

Blake, George - spy:
“I justified it in my mind by believing that I was helping, in a small way, in building a new society in which there would be equality, social justice, no longer any war, no longer any national conflict — that was my dream, as it were,” he said. “I think it’s quite conceivable that, in time, all nations will live in that kind of world.”

"As a man is so he sees."
And man walks forth from midst of the fires, the evil is all consumed.” via Dan Brown
“If the doors of perception were cleansed every thing would appear to man as it is, infinite. For man has closed himself up, till he sees all things through narrow chinks of his cavern.
William Blake (influenced A Huxley).

"Time and Space are real Beings, a Male and a Female. Time is a Man and Space is a Woman."
"I must Create a system, or be enslav'd by another Man's."
"Both read the Bible day and night; but you read black where I read white."
"What is a church and what is a theatre?"
“What is now proved was once only imagin’d.”
“Forgive what do you not approve and love me for this energetic exertion of my talent.”
William Blake

Blas, Javier:
The World For Sale

“Over the course of the past one hundred years, we humans have grown in population at a rate rarely seen outside of a petri dish.”
Andrew D Blechman, Orion, re: Alan Weisman,

Blewett:
“The psychedelics offer the hope that we are on the threshold of a new renaissance in which man's view of himself will undergo dramatic change. Alienated and encapsulated, he has become trapped by his history in outmoded institutions which disfigure him with the creed of original sin; corrupt him with fear of economic insecurity; dement him with the delusion that mass murder is an inevitable outcome of his nature; debase him to believe that butchery in the name of the state is a sacred duty, and leave him so crippled that he is afraid to seek self-understanding or to love and trust himself, his neighbor or his God....
Only the psychedelics offer the hope that man *can* grow rapidly and fully enough to meet the challenge mounted by his technical accomplishments.
The models of man and the frames of reference involved in our technologically centered society are proving increasingly inadequate in the face of the profound, revolutionary transformation of the times in which the dividing walls of social, political and economic structures are rapidly being eroded. A new morality is called for in a world in which conception is becoming voluntary; genetic structures are becoming open to deliberate manipulation; socialization can be controlled to fit a "Brave New World" and traditional sex roles are proving unacceptable. New political institutions are required in the face of the power to exterminate the race, the immediacy of communication, the emergence of political awareness among all the peoples of the world, and the need to protect democracy against the consequences of specialization. New economic structures are demanded to balance supply with actual demand rather than with purchasing power; to permit the distribution of constructive, nutritive, helpful things with the same level of organization and skill with which we are able to distribute deadly and noxious things in time of war, and to permit men to find a sense of dignity, worth and accomplishment in an automated world....
The creative potential of the psychedelics lies in the fact that they change one's relation to one's self....
—anunhabitual, unified and undistorted "new look" which is the basis of the creative capacity and the problem-solving ability which the authors have clearly described and carefully documented.
The transcendent process also lies at the core of the therapeutic use of the psychedelics. When the defense mechanisms are obviated, one sees one's self objectively. One is, as it were, emotionally naked to one's own gaze. This is the confrontation of the self with no means left to defend against one's own scrutiny and one's own enmity. This is the crux of the process which transforms the value system and hence the man. In this defenseless and indefensible state one cannot fight, and surrender alone is possible. In this case it is self-surrender—a process which leads to being "born again" or of "finding" one's self. It is the final and ultimate acceptance of reality, including the self, as it is in essence. In this way one learns to accept the self; to be content to be one's self and to find one's self an object of his own compassion. The importance of this process is evidenced in that our self-concept conditions our thinking. It makes us respond with trust, understanding, love-and affection or, conversely, with suspicion, prejudice and hostility toward ourselves and toward others....

The psychedelics, by inducing these levels of consciousness which are vast extensions and enlargements of normal experience, provide a microscope for the psychologist through which the details of structure and function of personality can be clearly observed.

Science requires the objective observation of the elements which comprise the field of study. Among the sciences the study of the human mind encounters the unique problem that the mind itself is simultaneously the observer and the observed....

Duncan B Blewett

“Math is the logic of certainty, and statistics is the logic of uncertainty.”
Joseph Blitzstein

"...the United States (has) been influenced by market fundamentalism – a vastly exaggerated belief in the capacity of market self-regulation to solve economic and social problems...(leading to) dramatic increases in economic inequality and heightened economic security..."
Fred Block 2008

“...linguistic larceny plays a big role in politics.”
Fred Block

"...the market fundamentalist history of the U.S. economy before the New Deal is basically fanciful."
Fred Block

"For Polanyi, ...a commodity is something that has been produced for sale on a market.land, labor, and money are fictitious commodities because they were not originally produced to be sold on a market. Labor is simply the activity of human beings, land is subdivided nature, and the supply of money and credit in modern societies is necessarily shaped by governmental policies."

"Modern economics starts by pretending that these fictitious commodities will behave in the same was as real commodities, but Polanyi insists that this sleight of hand has fatal consequences. It means that economic theorizing is based on a lie, and this lie places human society at risk."

"In Polanyi's view the fascist impulse – to protect society from the market by sacrificing human freedom..."
Fred Block

"The worst form of corruption is acceptance of corruption."
[to politicians:] Harry Truman said, 'The buck stops here.' Anything for a buck stops now!"
The way to defend freedom of the press is to use it." (paraphrase for tenure).
"I want people to walk on him."
to his father of chalk drawing sidewalk of German Kaiser.
Herb Block

"The vision they discussed ... was one in which women and men would no longer be oppressed by the fear and ignorance instilled by religion,"
Desire ... would make their world beautiful and rich; empathy would make it kind and livable; reason would allow an understanding of the world's immutable laws.
There is something like a stock market for reputations..."
Philipp Blom

Harold ‘Bloom challenged most existing biblical scholarship by suggesting that even the Judeo-Christian God was a literary character — invented by a woman, no less, who may have lived in the court of King Solomon and who wrote sections of the first five books of the Old Testament.’
great literature is an act of rebellion against the writers who came before.
via Dinitia Smith in NYT obit.

"Our Great Emancipator of Selfishness, President Ronald Reagan, refreshingly evaded the rhetoric of religion, but has been appropriated anyway as the archangel of American spiritualized greed....
A dark truth of American politics in what is ... that so many
do not vote their own economic interests. ... they march
onward to their own deepening impoverishment....
Jorge Luis Borges shrewdly classified all
theology as fantastic literature...
Though the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints no longer openly describes their innermost beliefs, they clearly hold on to the notion of a plurality of gods. Indeed, they themselves expect to become gods, following the path of Joseph Smith....
Harold Bloom

Howard Bloom: The Lucifer Principle, 1995:
“The Lucifer Principle contends that evil is woven into our most basic biological fabric....
Never be complacent about barbarians....
...there are barbarians - people whose cultures glorify the act of murder and elevate violence to a holy deed. ...Certain Islamic societies tend to be high on this list...
Moslem jurists ... declare that there are two worlds: The world of Islam ... and the non-Islamic world. These two spheres...are in a state of perpetual war.”
“Explained the young Egyptian, ‘Islam is a tree that feeds on blood and grows on severed limbs.’”

“...civilized beings: social creatures who can experience empathy, guilt, and shame; who can override selfish impulses in the name of higher principles; and who will respond with outrage to unfairness and injustice.
You won’t find a society where people don’t have some notion of fairness, don’t put some value on loyalty and kindness, don’t distinguish between acts of cruelty and innocent mistakes, don’t categorize people as nasty or nice. These universals make evolutionary sense.”
Paul Bloom. Yale U
Values

"It is through our imagination, our compassion and our capacity for rational thought that we can transcend the primitive sense of morality we were born with, becoming more than just babies," says Bloom.

“Empathy is a poor moral guide. It is biased, shortsighted, and innumerate. We are better off without it.”
Paul Bloom, Yale psychologist

Michael R Bloomberg
“... capitalism allocates resources through markets, whereas democracy allocates power through votes. ... Today, capital markets and capitalists set the rules that democratic governments must follow. ...For the British journalist Paul Mason, that question is closed: capitalism’s current condition is terminal. ... The roots of capitalism’s demise, Mason argues, lie in the 1980s ... , when capitalism was taken over by neoliberalism: an ideology and a set of policies that recognize no limits to the commodification of the world. ... the central battle will be between those who want to preserve property rights and those who wish to destroy them in the name of democracy. The stakes, Mason argues, could not be higher. Without the revolution he calls for, the world will be vulnerable to a much greater threat: catastrophic climate change.... Mason thinks that climate change may be the one bullet that capitalism cannot dodge. ... Capitalism, in its current form, has reached a dead end.”

“Colonialism was ... a system of evil whose tentacles reached into every phase of African life.”
Andree Blouin in NYT obit

Charles Blow, NYT:

“Be warned: There is nothing soothing and uplifting in this column. I will not somberly mourn and point to our better angel and American resilience. This is not that kind of column.”
“stochastic terrorism...”“...eat from the same philosophical trough...”
Red Summer, 1919 ref
"...the right's flimsy fiscal argument – that if we allow fat cats to gorge, crumbs will surely fall."
There's something immoral about giving handouts to entrenched corporate interests with armies of lobbyists while seeking to cut those to hungry children, struggling families and frail seniors."
Poverty is brutal, consuming and unforgiving. It strikes at the soul."
"...America...a nation about to be plundered and a people laid to waste."
...it is the child, not the parent, who will be punished most by our current policies that increasingly advocate for 'unborn children' but fall silent for those outside the womb."
"We have not taken care of the least among us. We have allowed a revolting level of income

inequality to develop. We have watched as millions of our fellow countrymen have fallen into poverty. And we have done a poor job of educating our children and now threaten to leave them a country that is a shell of its former self. We should be ashamed."
"There is no right in aligning yourself with a wrong....
...remember that what is right and what is legal don't always dovetail."

The country is changing, and that change is creating friction:
between the traditional ruling classes and emerging ones;
between traditional social structures and altered ones; between a
long-held vision of an American ideal and growing reality that its
time has passed.
The Republican-Democratic divide is increasingly becoming an
all-white/multicultural divide, a male/female divide, and a more
religious/less religious divide — the formers the traditional power
classes, and the latters the emerging ones.
Women are under attack. Hispanics are under attack. Minority
voting rights are under attack. The poor are under attack.
Unsurprisingly, those doing the attacking in every case are from
the right.

Seldom is power freely passed and painlessly surrendered,
particularly when the traditionally powerful see the realignment
as an existential threat.

The bullying on that bus was awful, but so is the bullying in our
politics. Those boys were trying to exert power over a person
placed there to rein them in. But bullying is always about power —
projecting more than you have in order to accrue more than your
share.

"Part of the job of opinion makers is to be provocative. One could express it this way: illuminate, elucidate and agitate....
people who watched or listened to no news were better informed than those who watched Fox."
"The true convictions of your heart will, eventually, be betrayed by the disobedience of your tongue."
"Opposition to Obama is their *raison d'être*. America's national interests are subordinate to their selfish ones."
"Anger is exhausting. It eventually subsides, memories fade and the media turn away to chase another ambulance."

"...no one can divest you of your basic humanity without your submission and allowance."
"What happens when one desists from dreaming, when the very exercise seems futile?" (see Langston Hughes)

"You don't have to operate with a malicious spirit to do tremendous harm. Insensitivity and ignorance are sufficient. In fact, intolerance that is disarming is the most dangerous kind. It can masquerade as morality."

"...the problem, and danger, of people like [Paul] Ryan: There is an ever-swirling mix of inspiration and insult, where the borders between the factual and the fudged are intentionally blurred and cover is given for corrosive ideas."
"...some Americans seem to live in a world where facts can't exist."
"...the exhaling of pain must come before the shaping of policy."

"And in a few seconds, or fractions of a second, before the conscious mind can catch up to the racing heart, decisions are made that can't be undone. Dead is forever."

"In March, Kevin M. Kruse, a [professor of history](#) at Princeton University, [argued in The New York Times Sunday Review](#) that "the founding fathers didn't create the ceremonies and slogans that come to mind when we consider whether this is a Christian nation. Our grandfathers did." This, according to Kruse, began with anti-New Deal business leaders in the 1930s who linked capitalism to Christianity as a public relations move."
"...fear is winning, as many Americans think crime is up, even though it's down. This fear is winning as massacres, and the gun violence discussions that follow, don't lead to fewer gun sales, but more. This fear is winning, following continued violence by antigovernment militias and hate groups."
"Where you sit on the ideological spectrum dictates whom you see as your Satan and whom your savior."
"...the people supporting him [Trump]: They know he's lying, but they so want to believe the lies that they have pushed themselves into a universe of irrationality that is devoid of logic."
"Trump is the logical extension of the worst of America.
And the Republican Party was just the right place for him to park himself.
Republicans sowed intolerance and in its shadow, Trump sprang up like toxic fungi."
"...remember that Trump isn't a reasonable person or even a particularly smart one, which makes him the perfect vessel for Bannon's pseudo-intellectual vanities....
Trump is Bannon's puppet, whose ... parlor trick is to deliver incoherence with confidence. ...
news, by its very nature, is the publishing of that which those in power would prefer to conceal....
Trump simply wants the truth not to be true,...And yet, truth stands, rigid and sharp, unforgiving and unafraid....
The press is the light that makes the roaches scatter....Only people with something to hide need be afraid of those whose mission is to seek [or shine light]."
"Trumpian language ... is a jumble of incomplete thoughts stitched together with arrogance and ignorance....
America is suffering under the tyranny of gibberish spouted by the lord of his faithful 46 percent....
... people expect a political lie to sound slick, to be delivered by intellectual elites spouting \$5 words. A clumsy, folksy lie delivered by a shyster using broken English reads as truth.
...easy lies sound more true than hard facts.
... interviews ... paint a terrifying portrait of a man who is simultaneously unintelligible in his delivery, self-assured in his ignorance and consciously bathing in his narcissism.
...In Trump world, facts don't matter, truth doesn't matter, language doesn't matter. Passionate performance is the only ideal. A lie forcefully told and often repeated is better than truth — it is accepted as an act of faith, which is better than a point of fact.
"Trump is bombastic and abrasive with his lies. Pence cleverly delivers his with earnestness and solemnity. But a lie is a lie."
"Trump himself is the offense. Everything that springs from him, every person who supports him, every staffer who shields him, every legislator who defends him, is an offense....His tweet was just another pebble on a mountain of vulgarities. This act of coarseness was in fact an act of continuity. Trump was being Trump: the grossest of the gross, a profanity against propriety....moral impotence..."
"[Trump's] usage isn't only idiosyncratic or some act of bungling idiocy, although it is surely both. But his usage is also a way of reducing language to the point that it is meaningless because the use of it is mindless, and in that compromised state, language becomes nearly worthless. As a consequence, truth becomes relative, if not altogether removed."
"...the Trumps lie in two ways: first, by directly and intentionally saying things they know well aren't true, and second, by obfuscating with linguistic obtuseness, by overusing a nebulous relativism and by spouting an excess of superlatives to stand in for meaningful description and disclosure."
"[Trump weaponizes] untruth. It is the use of the lie to assault and subdue. It is Trump doing to political ends what Hitler did to more brutal ends: using mass deception as masterful propaganda."
"When you bend to lick a boot you relinquish the posture required to stand and tell the truth."
"...my focus now is on protecting the country from Trump."
"the Republican Party stands for ... regression, wealth worship, nationalism and white supremacy."
"The pre-Trump Republican Party is dead; The zombie Trump party now lives in its stead, devoid of principle, feasting on fear and rage, foreign to moral framing....
When supposedly religious conservatives were able to look past Trump's bullying, his clear lack of religious conviction, his appearance in pornos, his lying, his provocations to violence, his adultery, his three marriages and his professed — taped — propensity for sexual assault, they became blind to bawdiness. That was when the hands that toted the Bibles stopped toeing its line....
Republicans have surrendered the moral high ground they thought they held, and have dived face-first into the sewer."

The problem for America is that men pretending to be strongmen will always yield to stronger men. They will always bow to the men they want to be. In the presence of the real thing their mimicry is made mockery. As we would say in hip-hop, Trump is faking the funk.

"Trump ... is a fighter...not...because he is fearsome or brave. Trump fights for vanity."

In [Trump's] opera of demons, the lesser evils are part of the phalanx standing between us and the greater evils... The enemy of my enemy is my temporary tool [or fool]....

Trump’s fortress of fraudulence is showing cracks....Trump is a man who has lived a life evading justice, using the legal system and the threat of legal action against people. For him, the justice system is a tool at the disposal of the wealthy and the ruthless, one to be used against anyone of lesser means and lesser fortitude....his entire life has been controversial ...he only sees things through the lens of winning or losing. There is no other measure of success or failure. If you win, you were right.”

“The founders, a bunch of rich, powerful white men, didn’t want true democracy in this country, and in fact were dreadfully afraid of it...

Now, a bunch of rich, powerful white men want to return us to this sensibility, wrapped in a populist “follow the Constitution” rallying cry and disguised as the ultimate form of patriotism.”

“You must be driven toward a concept of what you want this country to become, and not just driven by a fear of what the country could descend into. ...There are two ways to drive turnout: excitement or incitement. Voters can either be animated by hope or fear, optimism or angst. ...Make no mistake: Trump’s strategy will work. He now knows the people who support him very well. He has never stopped playing to them and campaigning for them. They are family. They feast together on hatred and intolerance.”
“...damage is certain.”
Trumpism is bigger than Trump. It is a rebranding of a consistent and increasingly resurgent strand of white American anxiety about primacy, privilege and displacement.

“...the enemy of the people is ignorance...
Corruption depends on concealment...
The weaker the media, the stronger the demagogue. The road to authoritarianism winds its way through darkness.”

“A President does not have immunity after he leaves office.” The report continues:
“And if individuals other than the President committed an obstruction offense, they may be prosecuted at this time. Given those considerations, the facts known to us, and the strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of the criminal justice system, we conducted a thorough factual investigation in order to preserve the evidence when memories were fresh and documentary materials were available.”
“... [a letter] signed by at least 800 former federal prosecutors states:

‘Each of us believes that the conduct of President Trump described in Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report would, in the case of any other person not covered by the Office of Legal Counsel policy against indicting a sitting President, result in multiple felony charges for obstruction of justice.’”

Concealment makes the soul a swamp; confession is how you drain it.
“...you can’t hold your own halo. You have to be able to see that you can still do harm when you mean well.” re: Biden

“For Trump, truth is like Play-Doh: You can shape it however you want, squash it or ignore it all together. It is a thing to be toyed with.”

“Trump has confessed to the central allegation...He did it. ..[Trump] developed a kind of Superman syndrome, in which the more crises he survived, the more he came to believe that he was invincible.”

“Trump didn’t change, but his relationship to power did: when he won, he had it, and the Republicans swarmed to him like moths to a flame, or more like vultures to a corpse.”
“Race, as we have come to understand it, is a fiction; but racism, as we have come to live it, is a fact.”
“Rage has ascended to my position of primacy...Now rage is the only language I have left.”
“...never - ever - underestimate white supremacy.”
“...white displacement and diminishment...” re: culture wars

write what you know. Write about some of your most intimate experiences, the things that you can’t stop thinking about no matter how hard you try. The other was that columnists should be like an orchestra, each playing a different instrument, but together making music...I decided that in that orchestra I was going to play the banjo.
...They weren’t highly educated, but their use of metaphor was exquisite and their ability to reduce a complex idea into a compact phrase was unmatched.

“There is a collective consciousness in blackness, born of the white supremacist erasure of our individuality.”
“...white supremacy is only one foot of the beast. The other is anti-Blackness. You have to fight both...the browning of America does not succeed in wiping away its racial prejudices...
Colorism and racism are cousins, and both are a pestilence.”
“...an indelible American truth: No civil rights are inviolable and permanent. Every right you win, you must defend. Rights, unfortunately, can be withdrawn.”

end of Charles Blow NYT

“If I were the president I could stop terrorist attacks against the United States in a few days. Permanently. I would first apologize — very publicly and very sincerely — to all the widows and orphans, the impoverished and the tortured, and all the many millions of other victims of American imperialism.”
William Blum

“Guns transform what is widespread teenage behavior into disasters.”
Alfred Blumstein, CMU

Boccaccio, Giovanni:
“Nothing is so indecent that it cannot be said to another person if the proper words are used to convey it.” Decameron

Boehlert, Sherwood:
“Republicans, Open your minds.”

"I reject the word [compromise]."
“...a leader without followers is simply a man taking a walk.”
in a democracy, you can only ignore the will of the people for so long and get away with it.”
John Boehner

Boeve, May:
“...COP is the scoreboard and not the game.”

“The logic that exploits classes and subjects peoples to the interests of a few rich and powerful countries is the same as the logic that devastates the Earth and plunders its wealth ... the cry of the poor for life, freedom, and beauty, and the cry of the Earth groaning under oppression. Both seek liberation.”
Leonardo Boff

“...false equivalency...cheat and lie!...Goodbye America Trust in God.”
Clare Lee Bogess

Boghossian, Peter:
the university had been changed from “a bastion of free inquiry into a Social Justice factory whose only inputs were race, gender and victimhood and whose only outputs were grievance and division...diversity-industrial complex.” see pdf

“...the open society should recognize that openness is one of its strongest weapons.”

"For fragmentation is now very widespread, not only throughout society, but also in each individual; and this is leading to a kind of a general confusion of the mind, which creates an endless series of problems and interferes with our clarity of perception so seriously as to prevent us from being able to solve most of them. . . . The notion that all these fragments are separate existent is evidently an illusion, and this illusion cannot do other than lead to endless conflict and confusion."
David Bohm

“When it comes to atoms, language can be used only as poetry.”
Niels Bohr
“We are all agreed that your theory is crazy. The question...is whether it is crazy enough to have a chance of being correct.”
Niels Bohr

“The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement—the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth.” Niels Bohr
“An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field.”

Niels Bohr
Niels Bohr argued that “causality, determinism, and necessity of laws belonged to the categories of ‘our necessarily prejudiced conceptual frame’.” via Berkowitz, Arendt

"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Derek Bok

The invisible hand is a mystical god, working in mysterious ... ways with more than a touch of miracle to produce a holistic beneficence that is not predictable from the unholy motivations of the self-interested actors.
Boli, John, quoted by Sedlacek

Bollyky Thomas J
“Plagues put a mirror to the societies they afflict.
starting with the first major Black Death epidemic in the fourteenth century, the need to control plagues helped create the modern state...
[coronavirus] reveals ..the political systems that respond to it.”

Bolsonaro:
Bibles, bullets, and beef...

“The Monroe Doctrine is alive and well. It’s our hemisphere.”
“[Trump’s] not smart enough to be an authoritarian.”

John Bolton

"Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake."
"Never ascribe to malice that which be adequately explained by incompetence."
“There are but two powers in the world, the sword and the mind. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the mind.”
Napoleon Bonaparte

“If you have nuclear weapons you can get love letters from the president, and if you don’t, your generals can get killed.”
Ian Bond in NYT

Bond, James:
Carver in Tomorrow Never Dies, 1997:
“We’re both men of action,” he tells Bond, “but your era . . . is passing. Words are the new weapons, satellites the new artillery. . . . Caesar had his legions, Napoleon had his armies. I have my divisions—TV, news, magazines.”
“Go ahead and kill me - 008 is waiting to take my place.” Bond to Goldfinger, via Bill Maher.

“Sad as death is, it is also about opportunity...
“...under the influence of psilocybin the brain temporarily behaves in a new way ...”
“Sad as death is, it is also about opportunity...
There is life after death.”
Eugenia Bone

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich:
“Stupidity is a more dangerous enemy of the good than evil.”
“Against stupidity we have no defense. Neither protests nor force can touch it. Reasoning is of no use. Facts that contradict personal prejudices can simply be disbelieved
...the fool, as distinct from the scoundrel, is completely self- satisfied. In fact, they can easily become dangerous, as it does not take much to make them aggressive. For that reason, greater caution is called for than with a malicious one. Never again will we try to persuade the stupid person with reasons, for it is senseless and dangerous.”
“If we want to know how to get the better of stupidity, we must seek to understand its nature,”
stupidity is perhaps less a psychological than a sociological problem.”
stupidity is perhaps less a psychological than a sociological problem.”
Having thus become a mindless tool, the stupid person will also be capable of any evil and at the same time incapable of seeing that it is evil.
...every strong upsurge of power in the public sphere, be it of a political or of a religious nature, infects a large part of humankind with stupidity.”
“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil,” said Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian who was hanged in a Nazi concentration camp. “God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“..racism without rascists..”
Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

“America is like the best idea the world ever came up with, but Donald Trump is potentially the worst idea that ever happened to America.”
Bono

“We can’t allow our inability to do everything undermine our determination to do something.”
“You can’t have freedom and justice in this country if you can’t breathe your air, if you can’t open your window because of the toxic smells,”“It may not be a billy club that is hitting you or a dog that is tearing your skin — those images from the Civil Rights movement — but it is violence to the body.”
Cory Booker

"The greatest obstacle to knowledge is not ignorance; it is the illusion of knowledge."
“The American citizen thus lives in a world where fantasy is more real than reality, where the image has more dignity than the original. We hardly dare face our bewilderment, because our ambiguous experience is so pleasantly iridescent, and the solace of belief in contrived reality is so thoroughly real. We have become eager accessories in the great hoaxes of the age. These are the hoaxes we play on ourselves.”
Daniel Boorstin
“An image ... becomes all the more interesting with our every effort to debunk it.”

Daniel Boorstin

“Only if the GOP as currently constituted is burned to the ground will there be any chance to build a reasonable center-right political party out of the ashes.”
“Every abuse of power, when left unchecked, leads to a bigger abuse...”
Max Boot

Borland, Hal:
“If you would know strength and patience, welcome the company of trees.”
— Hal Borland

“...efforts to tug at the sleeve of a blithe nation.”
Julian Borger

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."

“It is known that personal identity resides in memory, and that the annulment of that faculty is known to result in idiocy.” 1936
“Each writer *creates* his precursors.” on discussing Kafka
J L Borges

"Every generation constitutes a wave of savages who must be civilized by their families, schools, and churches..."
"The Second Amendment works to guarantee the right of states to form militias, not for individuals to bear arms."

Bork, 1989, via Jill Lepore, New Yorker

Judge Robert Bork

“There can be no permanent progress in the battle against hunger until the agencies that fight for increased food production and those that fight for population control unite in a common effort.”

Norman Borlaug, 1970 Nobel Prize

“The belief that there is only one truth and that oneself is in possession of it seems to me the deepest root of all the evil that is in the world.”
Max Born

"No one is confused about the message. Wall Street got bailed out; Main Street was abandoned. The top 1% rigs the rules and pockets the rewards. And 99% get sent the bill for the party they weren't even invited to."

"Movements aren't tidy. They aren't organized. They unleash energy. They inspire ordinary people to leave their daily routines and do extraordinary things. They inspire; they insult; they mortify. They disrupt business as usual. And if they touch a chord, they grow, and they force politicians and citizens to decide."

Robert L Borosage

“There are still people in Palermo who don’t have the gift of speech.”
Rita Borsellino, NYT obit

“...oxytocin increases trust in humans. However, oxytocin also makes individuals susceptible to betrayal, because under influence of oxytocin, subjects persevere in giving trust to others they know are untrustworthy....Testosterone, a steroid hormone associated with competition and dominance, is often viewed as an inhibitor of sociality.... testosterone downregulates interpersonal trust in an adaptive manner.”

[Peter A. Bos](#),[a](#) [David Terburg](#),[a](#) and [Jack van Honk](#),[b](#),[1](#)
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2010 June 1; 107(22): 9991–9995.

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Botstein: “...émigrés came to the United States and developed a love affair, if not with America then with the political ideal of America, since it was a nation in which citizenship could be acquired by anyone and was defined by loyalty to a form of government and the rule of law, not blood or soil...citizens...were not born. They had to be made. Education made children into citizens...the fatal flaw in American education was that people were encouraged to think for themselves, but they knew nothing. So what could they think about? They were taught how to express themselves, even though there seemed to be insufficient substance; this sustained a curious American innocence, a reductive pragmatic outlook, and a lack of skepticism. ..What a common public school ought to teach therefore is the capacity for disagreement, contest, and compromise. This is most relevant with regard to that basic and fundamental democratic process: free elections...A shared language that derives from a shared educational experience prior to adulthood might facilitate that essential public conversation...Technology aggregates prejudices and dresses falsehood (e.g. the connection of vaccines to autism) with a veneer of respectability by generating a virtual community that shares the same distorted views...the mass of data, with its allure of easy access, creates a semblance of sufficient understanding. This has made the conversation about negotiating different points of view harder, not easier. It has also given a kind of intellectual respectability to purely personal prejudices...”

Leon Botstein

“As soon as A.I. starts engaging, it puts responsibility on all of us to become better humans...”
Claire Boucher, alias Grimes

Bouie, Jamie:
“...think of the New Deal as a third founding moment in the history of American democracy.”

These are not just attacks on individual teachers and schools; they don’t stigmatize just vulnerable children and their communities; they are the foundation for an assault on the very idea of public education, part of the long war against public goods and collective responsibility fought by conservatives

Elise Boulding:
How could we work to bring about something we could not even see in our imaginations?
African metaphor, via Maruyamah, re: Malinke culture:
“Look at your hand. All fingers are different; that is why a hand can do its work. If all fingers are the same, your hand cannot function.”
UNPL one-third world; jubilee 2000; Imagining a world without weapons; Earth Charter;
Elise Boulding
If one is mentally out of breath all the time from dealing with the present, there is no energy left for imagining the future.”
Elise Boulding

“Anyone who thinks exponential growth can go on forever is either a madman or an economist.”
That which is, is possible.”
Kenneth Boulding Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist.
The dangers and the difficulties of the present time are great.... The troubles of the 20th century are not unlike those of adolescence -- rapid growth beyond the ability of organizations to manage, uncontrollable emotion, and a desperate search for identity. Out of adolescence, however, comes maturity in which physical growth with all its attendant difficulties comes to an end, but in which growth continues in knowledge, in spirit, in community, and in love; it is to this that we look forward as a human race. This goal, once seen with our eyes, will draw our faltering feet toward it.
Kenneth Boulding
“...a ‘cowboy economy’...you take what you can and ride on. What’s left behind is left behind...”
attributed to K Boulding

Bourla, Albert:
“We move with the speed of science.” CEO Pfizer

Moonshot: Inside Pfizer's Nine-Month Race to Make the Impossible Possible

“Excellence is never an accident. It represents the wise choice of many alternatives—
choice not chance, determines your destiny.”—Aristotle, 384–322 BC

Pfizer’s new culture
COURAGE: challenging convention.
EXCELLENCE:
EQUITY
JOY

We succeeded not because we were lucky. We succeeded because we were prepared.

Kennedy said he chose the moon, not because it was easy, but because it was hard:
“Because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills,
because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone,
and one which we intend to win.”

the story of our moonshot—the challenges we faced,
the lessons we learned, and the core values that allowed us to make it happen—
in hopes that it might inspire and inform your own moonshot, whatever that may be.

“What matters is not what happens to you, but how you react to it.”—Epictetus, AD 50–135

mRNA teaches the body to make its own vaccine.

“Our problem is not that we
aim too high and miss, but we aim too low and hit.”—Aristotle, 384–322 BC

Mar. 19, 2020: “Project Lightspeed,”
“Operation Warp Speed”

Time is life—was the most important success factor for this project.
Setting goals that are very aspirational, goals that someone has never achieved before,
can unleash human creativity
It was clear from the beginning that incremental improvements would not make the cut.
They needed to completely rethink

“The greatest pleasures come from the contemplation of noble works.”—Democritus, 460–370 BC

“He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not,
but rejoices for those which he has.”—Epictetus, AD 50–135

people will tend to underestimate what they can achieve,
and in an organization like ours, the people below them will underestimate a little more.
You have to extend yourself. You can do more than you think you can.
People can push themselves more than they think possible.

Manufacturing the vaccine had left us with a product as fragile as a snowflake.
a temperature-controlled thermal shipper that could transport and store the vaccine anywhere in the world.

In a pandemic, we are all only as protected as our closest neighbors.

“The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.”
—Socrates, 470–399 BC

Equity doesn't mean that we give everyone the same.
Equity means that we give more to those who need more.

the price for the wealthier nations—the high-income countries—
would be the “cost of a simple meal.”
The upper-middle-income countries would be offered vaccines at approximately half of this price.
And the lower-middle-income and low-income countries would receive the vaccine at a not-for-profit price.

COVAX missed the point that “equity” doesn't mean doing the same for all
but rather means doing more for those who need more.

Edward Jenner famously writing to his colleagues that the “sciences are never at war.”

We have always tried to keep it simple—
follow the science wherever it takes us and
be candid with the public about what we are seeing.
Trust is bedrock.

At a time when things are most uncertain,
we turned to the most certain thing there is, science.

first anniversary of the WHO declaring the pandemic, 3-11-2021, we broadcast a documentary,

Mission Possible, with National Geographic to give the public a behind-the-scenes look at our work
and a chance to see the faces and hear the voices of those who'd made the vaccine possible.

Popularity is fleeting, but a commitment to public trust is permanent.

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone
monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”—Pericles, 495–429 BC

I look forward to the day when schoolchildren are as familiar
with the names and faces of our leading scientists as they are with celebrities and sports stars.

“Science Will Win” became our mantra across Pfizer over these past eighteen months.

impactful change was the cultivation of a purpose-driven culture.

ask yourself the following three questions during every step of your journey:

Am I being true to my purpose?
Have I aimed high enough?
Do I have the right mindset?

president Jimmy Carter's words:
“I have one life and one chance to make it count for something.”

end Bourla

"In a time of faith, skepticism is the most intolerable of all insults."

Randolph Bourne

Bowden:
“I want to write something that matters. In order to do it you have to get rid of yourself.

“Who's the most fucked-up person here? I got to go talk to him. [On looking for a good source].

I'd have to go away for a week or two and kill through violent exercise the things that roamed my mind. It was during this period that I began taking 100 or 200 mile walks in the desert, far from any trails.
People don't tell you anything worth knowing until they trust you.

PS to Blood Orchid:
"Imagine the problem is not physical. Imagine the problem has never been physical, that it is not biodiversity, it is not the ozone layer, it is not the greenhouse effect, the whales, the old-growth forest, the loss of jobs, the crack in the ghetto, the abortions, the tongue in the mouth, the diseases stalking everywhere as love goes on unconcerned. Imagine the problem is not some syndrome of our society that can be solved by commissions or laws or a redistribution of what we call wealth. Imagine that it goes deeper, right to the core of what we call our civilization and that no one outside of ourselves can affect real change, that our civilization, our governments are sick and that we are mentally ill and spiritually dead and that all our issues and crises are symptoms of this deeper sickness ... then what are we to do?"

Juraez is not a backwater, but the new City on the Hill, beconing us all to a grisly state of things.
There aren't any Mexican stars or American stars [on border issues].

on Bowden via Harrison:
'You don't simply read Bowden, you become a Bowden addict, and the addiction is not always pleasant. Jim Harrison

'...the reporter's job is to see for the unseeing and to become a public observer for the benefit of those who cannot observe.' quoted by Lawrence Downs in obituary for Charles Bowden:
"We are at the crucial moment in the commission of a crime. Our hand is on the knife...We are trained to kill. We are trained to turn the earth to account, to use it, market it, make money off it. To take it for granted. Logically, we will never be able to reverse this part of our culture in enough time to stop that knife in our hand. But that is the task at hand - to cease this act of violence."
Charles Bowden
'[He] walked out while defending his dissertation, frustrated with what he felt were uninformed questions from his review committee.' from ny times obit
"Environmentalism is an upper-middle-class, white movement aimed at absolution and preserving a lifestyle with a Volvo."
"They want to know what can be known but they do not want to know what can't be known."
"We do not know oin any convincing fashion why we are alive or why life itself exists."

"[The problem] goes deeper, right to the core of what we call our civilization. ...our civilization, our governments are sick and ... we are mentally ill and spiritually dead...all our issues and crises are symptoms of this deeper sickness..." in Blood Orchid
People don't tell you anything worth knowing until they trust you."

I look ... at a battered land, the ground on fire, the streams boiling, the sky black with dread, birds falling dead from the heavens..."
"...we created national parks and monuments, wildlife refuges, swatches of wilderness, all as bulwarks against ourselves...The sanctuaries have become internment camps where other creatures do time until they are crushed by our numbers and our habits."
Charles Bowden via High Country News 10-2014
referring to Abbey's interest in perhaps running for something:
"...his party's symbol on the ballot will be a large monkey wrench on a field of black."
"In a nation of overweight people who are inwardly starving..."
"...in those hallows there was a palpable sadness that nothing could ever overcome...that ground was defeated and it seemed to bequeath to the people a permanent cast of defeat." referring to Abbey's Appalachian homeland.
"...the doc told him he had maybe six months . He supposedly said, 'Well, I guess I don't have to floss anymore.'"

"Whether it's called capitalism or socialism makes little difference. Both of these oligarchic, militaristic, expansionistic, acquisitive, industrializing, and technocratic systems are driven by the same motives; both are self-destroying....I predict that the military-industrial state will disappear from the surface of the earth within a century. That belief is the basis of my inherent optimism, the source of my hope for the coming restoration of a higher civilization: scattered human populations modest in number that live by fishing, hunting, food-gathering, small-scale farming,and ranching, that gather together once a year in the ruins of abandoned cities for great festivals of moral, spiritual, artistic, and intellectual renewal, a people for whom wilderness is not a playground but their native home."

"I'm only alive when I walk into something I don't know...
Nothing's worth writing about unless it changes the writer...
I don't like boundaries..no borders..
I love to cook...cookbooks are my pornography...
Writing never ends...
I'm not good at listening to whining...
I write about the history that isn't being written...
What is explained can be denied; what is felt cannot ever be forgotten."
see documentary Dead when I got here and Fabrizio discussion:
<https://radiowest.kuer.org/post/writer-and-journalist-charles-bowden>

"We are at the crucial moment in the commission of a crime. Our hand is on the knife, the knife is at the victim's throat. We are trained to kill. We are trained to turn the earth to account, to use it, market it, make money off it. To take it for granted. Logically, we will never be able to reverse this part of our culture in enough time to stop that knife in our hand. But that is the task at hand — to cease this act of violence."

'When I'm dead, and when everybody reading this is dead, the only thing that matters is ground.'

from posthumous Dakatoh, 2019.
from Terry Tempest Williams, Foreward:
'[Bowden -] a reporter who knew how to track down a scent that smelled like a lie. And when he found the lies, he exposed them, all of them, in bare-boned language of the desert itself...
He shocks us into the realization that if we are alive then we must feel both the pain and the beauty bofthe times we are living in...
"You live, you love, you learn, you die, and let's hear no complaining....
I suck in scent before words and words before speech...
a contrary memoir...
I know you didn't ask...but I did."

Bowden, Lies in the Desert, 2003 Ken Sanders special SLC public library dedication:
"That's what I do. I put words down on pieces of paper. I may not be the best person for the job, but frankly, I've never seen the job listed in the classified ads. I kind of made up the job as I went along. I use this place, this desert, as my springboard, because here the past is rich, the ground is honest and the future is as naked and plain
as the broken fence we call our border, as naked and plain as the dead rivers, as naked and plain as the butchered desert disappearing under a pavement. You can live here and lie, but still, it is not easy to live here. Here lies are more naked, the earth itself rebukes the lies. Here you can see what is happening. The light is very bright here and
you either look at things clearly, or you turn your back and close the shades. But you can hardly say you don't know what is going on. That is the blessing of this place. And in the end the duty this place imposes on each and every one of us who lives here." Feb. 2003

Some of the Dead are still Breathing:

via Scott Carrier: 'Bowden's method of reporting ... was to become the people he was writing about. Her would enter their minds and bodies to see and feel the world as they did...Bowden thought forgetting was a sin. So he tried to write in a way that you couldn't forget...he couldn't write unless he thought it was music, thatv way he beat back his own cowardice...The focus on the natural rhythms of speech coming up from the ground, you can feel it in Twain, Steinbeck, Faulkner, Hemingway. These writers make us feel the landscape through the rhythm of speech...'

"How do you live a moral life in a culture of death?...
...this land is your land, this land is my land, this land is gone...
words are all I have, my skills are limited and the words at best are a veil, maybe even a shroud, between us and this world we touch but cannot embrace...
We can't wrap our minds around the vast dying now taking place, the exit of plants and animals without even a goodbye note as they leave us behind....
People, we can't talk about people, people everywhere, crowding the beaches, jamming their lives into the canyons, smearing the plains with their houses and ribbons and bows, terracing hillsides with shacks that barely get them through the lonely nights. We cannot say this thing about people, that there are too many of us and not enough of everything else...Soon, as more cities go dead, we will struggle to remember their names. Just as the vanishing beasts are nowhere on our tongues..."

I believe that resources are limited and that no existing or imagined energy system can sidestep this fact.
I believe that the increase in human numbers inhales ever more resources.
I believe no energy system will deliver the punch of our declining fossil fuels at the same price.
I believe that no energy system will solve our problems since the problems come from within us...
I want to walk across a bridge to the place where the loneliness ends...I sometimes think Beethoven willed himself into deafness so that he could finally taste the vibrations playing across his flesh...
I lack any sense of hierarchy in the natural world, regardless of the charts drilled into my head since boyhood of the odyssey of evolution. I don't see my species as the culminator of anything...
I cannot seem to feel alive unless I am alert and I cannot feel alert unless I push past the point where I have control...
In free time, things do not have to be rational or irrational. They can simply be...
I make myself into the odd man out. I seek out cafes that do little business. On my first visit, I will bring a book, sit in the corner, barely look at the menu, place my order, and avoid any conversation. I tip generously and after maybe two visits no one ever tries to talk with me and I no longer need to bring the book along. Soon I am invisible, and that is when I cease to be alone...
...the future has begun and fear of the future is no value because it cannot be avoided, negotiated, rejected. Or embraced...
I do not fear the cataclysm. The past is nothing but vast die-offs, violent weather, seas rising and receding, hot rocks falling from the sky and obliterating huge families of life.
What we fear has already happened and will happen again.
There is just one world. In this one world, fluids flow, a protoplasm that grows in the dark, a surge of energy flaming through the black air. And yet these acts violate no time, require no stopwatch, have no beginning and no end, are never young, never grow old. ...I hear this world in music, though not often. And I hear it in the silence between the notes...Sometimes I hear it in the moments when I do not speak, not even in the quiet of my mind...
When you live under a code of silence, talk is difficult, but eventually the silence becomes the real difficulty, the reality of never writing down what you do, of never seeing your actions on paper, of never repeating what you know to be true...
There is a line between us and them that we must not cross, or if we do cross it, we must accept our peril. They are other nations and these nations must be accepted and approached with caution. But there is an even greater risk: not crossing that line.
I want to cross bloodlines. I want to risk my life for another organism. I want to shed my culture and join another culture, to meld with the beasts...
I am chasing the words. Not a sentence or a vocabulary but a strand of words that would freeze the blur into a clear frame...
Melville in *Moby-Dick* asks 'why all the living so strive to hush all the dead'...'Evil is unspectacular and always human'.
I once believed that a little learning could fix things, temper the lust for dwindling pools of oil, for the last forests, for the frightened schools of fish in the dying seas. I saw reason as a possible tool. I no longer do...
I have a dream, that all this talk of markets and cities and nations and alliances, all those long words and meetings of leaders are footprints in mud that will eventually be found like dinosaur tracks and create speculation about what beasts could have created such a thing...
I stopped trying to fix things. I moved into some other country where there were fewer problems. I ceased trying to figure out how to supply a growing and endless human appetite for flesh, metals, fuels, and weapons...
There is in my culture a fetish made of rules to live by and these rules are all about individual happiness and freedom from anxiety and want. They have little or nothing to say about other forms of life and thus have little or nothing to say about life itself...
...the facts must be honored even as they are erased...
...good questions do not have answers, they can barely break themselves into words....
I wrote embraced by music...
I could explain what I was doing only by writing it down.

Some of the Dead are Still Breathing is the end of the matter for me.
The answer, as best as I can see it or feel it or taste it or say it, is on the page. (2009)

"It's a kind of strange movie God created, that nobody gets out of life alive.
Even when you start this movie, you know how it's going to end.
You die. That's why humor is essential - and red wine...
I'm patient. I believe in the future. Look, I get tired of people afraid of the future.
It's the only goddamn place we're going. That's all that's left to you and the rest of your life.
And if you're afraid of it, go to hell."

from Wrenched book 2020 'interview':
"the *Monkey Wrench Gang* is an incendiary device bound as a book, but
it's a ribald, comic novel so the reader will accept it....
The people that own countries use the word *terrorism* to denounce the people who don't own countries...
The biggest drug in my country isn't alcohol. It isn't marijuana. It isn't heroin. It isn't cocaine. It's fear.
We have a country dominated by fear... our politicians feed it, our politicians now run for office on fear...
I am patient. I believe in the future. Look, I get tired of people afraid of the future.
It's the only goddamn place we're going. That's all that's left to you and the rest of your life.
And you're afraid of it...
end Bowden died 2014.

We need to be teaching them how to learn...to create more of a stem cell—the kind of cell that can become any other kind of cell."
Constance M. Bowe

"All of us, from cradle to grave, are happiest when life is organized as a series of excursions, long or short, from the secure base provided by our attachment figures."
John Bowlby via
, pdf

"Gaia represents the kind of hypothesis that can only be taken seriously by scientists who have transcended the modern tendency to break everything down into discrete units."
Peter Bowler

"We are not hated because we practice democracy, value freedom, or uphold human rights. We are hated because our government denies these things to people in Third World countries whose resources are coveted by our multinational corporations."
Robert Bowman, quoted by Zinn

"Truth is a virus whose aim is to subvert the corporate mememachine with a sly guerrilla war of signs."
Andrew Boyd

Danah Boyd:
Poe's Law...signals that it's hard to tell the difference between an extreme view and a parody of an extreme view on the internet...
It's hard to tell what's real and what's fiction, what's cruel and what's a joke. ...
I don't want a world full of sheeple...
fascinating campaign by Russian Today (known as RT). Their motto for a while was "question more."...
...unquestionable misinformation...they know it's bullshit. Or they don't care whether or not it's true. Why do they post it then? Because they're making a statement...
a conspiracy theory that was created to dismiss them. A conspiracy theory that undermines their message from the get-go...
once instilled, self-doubt is hard to overcome....
there are a lot of assumptions baked into how we approach educating people about sensitive issues and our current media crisis has made those painfully visible....
we need to develop antibodies to help people not be deceived....
we trust people who we invest our energies into understanding. That's why bridging difference requires humanizing people across viewpoints....
separate the different signals. Just read the text rather than consume the multimedia presentation of that. Narrow the scope....
an extension of empathy into a practice that is common among ethnographers. It's also a skill that is honed in many debate clubs. The goal is to understand the multiple ways of making sense of the world and use that to interpret media.cognitive strengthening exercises...
Economic structures built on value extraction cannot enable healthy information ecosystems...
FIRE industries...Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate [are] extractive ones. ...
the system isn't set up for you to build a business and pay back the bank, pay a reasonable rent, and develop a valuable asset. You are simply a pawn in a financialized game between your investors, the real estate companies, the insurance companies, and the bank, all of which want to extract as much value from your effort as possible. ...
Untangling our country from this current version of capitalism is going to be as difficult as curbing our addiction to fossil fuels...
U of Utah 2-13-2020:
Ronald Coase- If you torture the data long enough, they will confess to anything.

...moral crumple zones...
Virginia Eubanks
Data have ... data by coercion
Orwell 1984
Census
data voids
Frank Luntz
Agnotology and Manipulation
manufacturing doubt
anti-vaccination
boomerang facts doubt
Francesca Tripodi
Future??
Bias
how technical and social come together....ethics
ethics is about struggle...
capitalism
I love seatbelts...
nation states???
My ? Trust nation-states Capitalism Vaclev Havel The Art of the Impossible 1990-1995
redundancy
wasn't that bad...
don't do evil
point of democracy?
from her blog:
“ I obfuscated my history to make others more comfortable...
I am here today in-no-small-part because I benefited from the generosity of men who tolerated and, in effect, enabled unethical, immoral, and criminal men. And because of that privilege, I managed to keep moving forward even as the collateral damage of patriarchy stifled the voices of so many others around me....
if my recognition means anything, I need it to be a call to arms. We need to all stand up together and challenge the status quo. ...
“Move fast and break things” is an abomination if your goal is to create a healthy society....
accountability without transformation is simply spectacle...
diFranco lyrics
from Facing the Great Reckoning Head-On
apophenia: making connections where none previously existed.

Tweet: Agnotology is the study of ignorance. We often think of ignorance as what we don't know, but people can manufacture ignorance through manipulation of knowledge.
“The key to equality is to incite young people to engage with new people....many young people lack any meaningful form of agency in their lives, and they crave it desperately...via Lady Gaga..Born This Way Foundation.
end danah boyd

“People say the Pentagon does not have a strategy. They are wrong.
The Pentagon does have a strategy; it is: ‘Don't interrupt the money flow, add to it’.
Col. John R. Boyd

Boyd, Valerie: bio of Hurston
via Clay Risen, NYT obit: ‘Every Sunday she would buy a family-size bag of salad greens, enough to provide her lunch during the week, so that she hardly needed to pause during her marathon stretches of writing. At the end of each day, as a reward, she would take a walk on the beach.’

Boylan, Jennifer Finney:

“It is one more way of being human. And the proper response to our children's humanity should be love. That's true whether they turn out to be trans, or gay, or straight, or even Republican. They are not here to live our version of who we think they ought to be. They are here to be themselves. When my child raised a hand to wave at me, my first thought was that my son was saying goodbye. I was wrong. It was my daughter, saying hello.”

Boym:
All of us, from cradle to grave, are happiest when life is organized as a series of excursions, long
“Nostalgia is a sentiment of loss and displacement, but it is also a romance with one's own fantasy....
[our] global epidemic of nostalgia, [is] an affective yearning for a community with a collective memory, a longing for continuity in a fragmented world.
Svetlana Boym Robert Boyle via The Economist bk review

Bradbury

"I can't do science, but that's my loss."
paraphrase to but that's my boss.
'BACH quartet – Bradbury, Asimov, Clarke, and Robert Heinlein
Ray Bradbury
“We need to be really bothered once in a while. How long is it since you were *really* bothered. About something important, about something real? ... If you don't want a man unhappy politically, don't give him two sides to a question to worry him; give him one. Better yet, give him none. ... There is more than one way to burn a book. And the world is full of people running around with lit matches. Every minority ... feels it has the will, the right, the duty to douse the kerosene, light the fuse....I will not go gently onto a shelf, degutted to become a non-book....It's my game. I pitch. I hit. I catch. I run the bases. At sunset I've won or loss. At sunrise, I'm out again, giving it the old try.”
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
“...in order to convince your reader that he is there, you must assault each of his senses, in turn, with color, sound, taste, and texture....
...it is all mulch...
...my subconscious is doing most of the ‘sponging’ and it will be years before any usable impressions surface...
I blundered into creativity...
...what life is all about, the ability to go around back and come up inside other people's heads to look out at the damned fool miracle and say: oh, so that's how you see it?...I must remember that.”
Why and how? Because I say it is so.”
Metaphor is the medicine.
Self-consciousness is the enemy of all art.
No tension...must be built which remains unreleased. Without this, any art remains incomplete.
I ask only for proper endings based on proper assessments of energy contained and given detonation.
We never sit anything out. We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled.
Plot is no more than footprints left in the snow after your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations. Plot is observed after the fact rather than before. It cannot precede action. It is the chart that remains when an action is through.”
from Bradbury, Zen in the Art of Writing
“What you try to do when you adapt anything, is get it into your bloodstream, get it into your subconscious. You can't intellectualize about it; that won't work. But if you read a book 80 or 90 times, which I did — and some sections 120 times — and you put that all into your bloodstream, and then you ignore it and let it come to the surface, emotionally, passionately, you become the chaser and the chased. You have to be as impassioned writing the screenplay as Ahab was chasing the whale....”
Ray Bradbury
“...I jumped to my typewriter each morning to find what rare new thing my Muse was willing to deliver.”

end Bradbury

“As long as a journalist tells the truth, in conscience and fairness, it is not his job to worry about consequences. The truth is never as dangerous as a lie in the long run. I truly believe the truth sets men free.”
“The only way to protect the right to publish is to publish.”
Ben Bradlee

“...so much poison spewed from so many courthouses, political platforms, and Klan picnics, it was a kind of poultice that should have drawn out that meanness.”

Rick Bragg on To Kill a Mockingbird

Brahe, Tycho:

“I am trying to find the meaning of the Universe and I haven’t found it yet.” via Ben Ferancz in Watchers of the Sky, end.

Brahic, Michel:

“The prion story teaches us, once again, the power of pure curiosity to change our understanding of the world.”

“I was working on my symphony. In the morning I added an eighth note. In the evening I took it out.”

Johannes Brahms

“I don’t get it. We went to war to fight extremism. I don’t understand why we can’t find common ground.”

Keith Branch quote of day NYT 10-5-2020

Brand, Stewart:

“We are gods and we might as well get good at it.”

"My deity is weather. It's the only one that I actually believe in."

"...you can't control the future for 10,000 years."

"Most of the developed world is run by lawyers, who make a living on disagreement."

"It could be that someday all walls will be made of engineered living tissue that takes up carbon dioxide and replaces it with nice, clean oxygen while keeping the temperature of the room comfortable for humans and allowing all the microbes in the room to do their jobs."

"Like it or not, computers are coming to the masses...Information wants to be free."

Stewart Brand Whole Earth

SALT Summaries, Condensed Ideas About Long-term Thinking - Brand, ed.:

Brian Eno The Long Now

empathy in space has not been matched by empathy in time. ..empathy for people to come has decreased. ..The present generation enjoys the greatest power in history, but it appears to have the shortest vision in history. That combination is lethal.

Peter Schwartz The Art Of The Really Long View

"The future is the ONLY thing we can do anything about."—Hillis

Jill Tarter slides quoted cartoonist Walt Kelly (via Porkypine): “Thar’s only two possibilities: Thar is life out there in the universe which is smarter than we are, or we’re the most intelligent life in the universe. Either way, it’s a mighty sobering thought.”

Phillip Longman The Depopulation Problem

Some people will still have children. They just won’t be people highly motivated by material concerns or secular values. Disproportionately, the parents of the future will be people who are at odds with the modern environment—people who either “don’t get” the new rules of the game that make large families a liability or who, out of religious or chauvinistic conviction, reject the game altogether. In short people like Mormons. "

Ken Dychtwald The Consequences of Human Life Extension

“People vote their age. 30% of 30-year-olds vote. 50% of 50-year-olds vote. 70% of 70-year-olds vote. We have a gerontocracy.”

“The old do the least volunteering of any age group, and for every 11 cents that children get from government, the old demand and get a dollar.

James Carse Religious War In Light of the Infinite Game

“There are at least two kinds of games. One could be called finite, the other, infinite. A finite game is played for the purpose of winning, an infinite game for the purpose of continuing the play.”

“War is the ultimate finite game. Religion is the ultimate infinite game,”

“Evil does exist: it is when an infinite game is absorbed utterly in a finite game. All evil is an attempt to eliminate evil.”

how the hell do we keep anything digital usable beyond ten years?

Sam Harris The View from the End of the World

“Martyrdom in jihad is not a fringe doctrine; it is believed by millions of Muslims.” It’s not a question of ignorance—two-thirds of al Qaeda operatives are college educated.

“Faith is a declaration of immunity to conversation. To make religious war unthinkable, we have to undermine the dogma of faith. The continuance of civilization requires not moderation, but reason.”

Jimmy Wales Vision: Wikipedia and the Future of Free Culture

“The design of Wikipedia is the design of community.”

The secret of Wikipedia’s content-generating process is the nurturing and shaping of trust.

“If you prevent people from doing bad things, you prevent them from doing good things, and it eliminates opportunities for trust.”

The best way to keep Wikipedia deeply radical is to keep its process deeply conservative.

Larry Brilliant, Katherine Fulton, Richard Rockefeller The Deeper News About the New Philanthropy

Many who became adults during and after Ronald Reagan seem to have no framework at all for giving.”

Philip Tetlock Why Foxes Are Better Forecasters Than Hedgehogs

“Partisans across the opinion spectrum are vulnerable to occasional bouts of ideologically induced insanity.”

Brian Fagan We Are Not the First to Suffer Through Climate Change

There are two kinds of historians, parachutists and truffle hunters. Parachutists command an overview of the landscape, while truffle hunters dig deeply to uncover marvelous treasures. Fagan is a parachutist

Steven Johnson The Long Zoom Consilience defeats miasma ... another word for the long zoom perspective is “consilience”—a fine old word, revived by Edward O. Wilson, that links multiple disciplines and multiple levels into a whole body of knowledge with extra benefits the separate disciplines lack.

Juan Enriquez Mapping the Frontier of Knowledge

“All life is imperfectly transmitted code and it is promiscuous.”

Portugal had colonies throughout the world, he said, but they never respected the natives enough to help educate them, and so left intellectual blight behind them and at home. London and Paris are full of Indian and Chinese restaurants, but there are none in Portugal...Portugal—We were a world power for about 15 minutes.”

Joline Blais, Jon Ippolito At the Edge of Art

Art, like the antibodies in our immune system, creates alien forces in service of the whole. It anticipates threats and models them. It is a diversity agent.

Paul Saffo Embracing Uncertainty: the secret to effective forecasting

Science fiction ... plants idea bombs in teenagers, which they make real 15 years later.

Nassim Nicholas Taleb The Future Has Always Been Crazier Than We Thought

"Never take advice from someone wearing a tie...Pay attentive heed to tradition and old people—they have experienced more Black Swans."

Niall Ferguson, Peter Schwartz Historian vs. Futurist on Human Progress

"Historians commune with the dead. We re-enact their thoughts, in their context and ours." Schwartz plans to write a book titled The Case for Optimism were derailed by reading Ferguson's The War of the World. He's been grappling with the issues Ferguson raised for 18 months. "You do alternative pasts, I do alternative futures. Where historians commune with the dead, futurists have imaginary friends." Schwartz"Powerful technology in an unjust world is likely to exacerbate the injustice."

Stewart Brand Rethinking Green

Nuclear spent fuel is tiny in quantity, and you know exactly where it is, whereas the gigatons of carbon dioxide from coal burning goes into the atmosphere, where it stays for centuries making nothing but trouble.

Lera Boroditsky How Language Shapes Thought

"To have a second language is to have a second soul," said Charlemagne around 800 AD. "Each language has its own cognitive toolkit," said psychologist/ linguist Lera Boroditsky in 2010 AD.

Brewster Kahle Universal Access to All Knowledge

the Internet Archive offered music makers free unlimited storage of their works, forever, and the music poured in. The Archive audio collection has 100,000 concerts so far (including all the Grateful Dead) and a million recordings, with three new bands every day uploading. Moving images. The 150,000 commercial movies ever made are tightly controlled, but 2 million other films are readily available and fascinating---600,000 of them are accessible in the Archive already. For backup, the whole Internet Archive is mirrored at the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt and in Amsterdam.

Jim Richardson Heirlooms: Saving Humanity's 10,000- year Legacy of Food

In Peru, where potatoes originally came from, Richardson visited a field at 14,000 feet where 400 varieties of potato (with names like “Ashes of the Soul” and “Puma Paw”) are grown in just two acres. The local 1,300 varieties of potato are managed by a “Guardian of the Potatoes,” whose job it is in the community to know the story and uses of all the potatoes.

Edward O. Wilson The Social Conquest of Earth

“History makes no sense without prehistory, and prehistory makes no sense without biology.”

Steven Pinker The Decline of Violence

Violence is 1/ 500th of what it used to be...the zero-sum game of plunder was replaced by the positive-sum game of trade. ..Voltaire wrote: “Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.”

George Dyson No Time Is There-

Big data is what happened when the cost of storing information became less than the cost of making the decision to throw it away."

Nicholas Negroponte Beyond Digital

"start-up businesses are sucking people out of big thinking. So many minds that used to think big are now thinking small because their VCs tell them to 'focus.'""Nationalism is the biggest disease on the planet...Nations have the wrong granularity. They're too small to be global and too big to be local, and all they can think about is competing."

Craig Childs Apocalyptic Planet: Field Guide to the Everending Earth

“The force of the living is more cunning than any devastation, ready to explode on whatever it touches.”

Daniel Kahneman Thinking Fast and Slow

“Fast thinking is something that happens to you. Slow thinking is something you do.“ It is a case of System 2 training System 1 to act in restricted circumstances with System 2 thoroughness at System 1 speed. It takes years to do well.

Sylvia Earle, Tierney Thys

We no longer commercially harvest wildlife on land. Why do we do it in the sea?

“bioluminescence is the most common form of communication on Earth.”

via brother Mike: ‘Stewart has always wanted to be at the cutting edge - and he is trapped there.’

from Markoff, John - Whole Earth: The Many Lives of Stewart Brand

“Throw a Brand in the river and they will float upstream.”—Brand family wisdom

Steve Jobs

found inspiration in the closing page of Brand's Whole Earth Epilog.

“Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.”

it is so difficult to put him in a box because he has such an uncanny knack for seeing the world from outside the box.

Brewster Kahle in 1996 created the Internet Archive as a nonprofit repository for the world's digital information.

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long-term THINKING—where you set in motion a framing of events

that a process is made intensely adaptive, preserving and indeed increasing options as time goes by,”

Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus, had created the Breakthrough Institute

“Is Environmentalism Dead?”

In May 2005, Brand added his own voice to the growing debate with an article titled “Environmental Heresies,”

“The scale of the climate challenge is so vast that it cannot be met solely by grassroots groups and corporations, no matter how Green. The situation requires Government fiat to set rules and enforce them.”

he was calling for a new “turquoise” movement that would blend Green activism with what he described as a blue planet–friendly attitude toward science and technology.

Brand turned first to his friend James Lovelock,

first proposed the Gaia theory in the CoEvolution Quarterly.

Paul Griffith had introduced him to the idea of Renewistan, the land area needed for renewable power sources like wind and solar to generate enough power for the world's population.

"I'm not trying to be pro-nuclear," Brand quoted David MacKay, a British physicist and Griffith ally, as saying, "I'm just pro-arithmetic." [14] (Significantly perhaps, a number

Peter Coyote, challenged his "We are as gods" hypothesis. "Idiot savants," Coyote proposed instead. "We're highly developed, we have these great skills, this technological cleverness, which is completely untethered to wisdom.

Brand's motto became "Live small, so you can live large."

" 'These are the poetical efforts of a prose writer trying to plant a burr in the mind as it goes by in great haste,'

"We shape our buildings, then they shape us." (Winston Churchill)

"Most of adulthood and its skills consists of adventure prevention."

"If I get to heaven, and it's not a library, I'll be very disappointed.

"Rushing is at the root of all lack of quality."

"Buildings are like people—Not yet smart when they're beautiful, no longer beautiful when they're smart."

end Stewart Brand

"They control the people through the people's own money."

"The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding."

Louis D Brandeis, Justice

"...in most matters it is more important that the applicable rule of law be settled than it be settled right."

"We can have concentrated wealth in the hands of the few or we can have democracy, but we can't have both."

Justice Louis Brandeis

"The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding."

Supreme Court justice Louis Brandeis

"We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we cannot have both."

"...rights declared in words might be lost in reality."

Louis D. Brandeis

"I find being Dr. Yes instead of Dr. No has been a lot more fun," he noted. "It's partly because of my inquisitiveness that we have gone into so many areas. When I was 27, I was taking a trip to the British Virgin Islands to see a very beautiful woman, and while I was waiting to board the plane, American Airlines decided they hadn't sold enough tickets or something and they cancelled the flight, but I very much wanted to see the lady.

"So I went over to another counter and rented a plane, then made up a fancy name like Virgin Airlines and on a bit of blackboard I wrote out a price of \$29 one-way, and went around to everyone like me who had been cancelled out. And filled my first plane. And the woman in question and I just celebrated our wedding anniversary, more than 30 years later."

Richard Branson

Branswell, Helen: "Pandemic flu became seasonal flu. The viruses became endemic."

"It is a continuing astonishment to many a sensible adult that anyone who survived adolescence takes Ayn Rand seriously."

Bern Brantley in NYT review

Branville, John:

A butler at some grand house was asked by the novelist Henry Green for his definition of happiness, and the butler said something to the effect of, Sitting up in bed of a Sunday morning, listening to distant church bells and eating hot buttered toast with fingers that smell of sex. Add a book, and there you have it — though there's the worry of that hot butter getting on the pages. Still, a risk worth taking...So much of it seems to me mere prattle."

"Crisis reshuffles the deck that we call society, so there's an opportunity now for meaningful social progression and change."

Elegance Bratton in NYT 3-29-2020

Brazil: "A fabrica esta fechada." Brazilian woman regarding family size. Population, Natl Geog. 9-2011

Brecht, Bertold:

"One of the main reasons for the poverty of science is that it is supposed to be rich. The aim of science is not to open the door to everlasting wisdom, but to set a limit on everlasting error."

Bertold Brecht in Life of Galileo

"...hang up their brains with their hats in the cloakroom".

"Unhappy is the land that needs a hero."

To Posterity - Poem by Bertolt Brecht (via Berkowitz Thinking Hard Times on Arendt)

1.

Indeed I live in the dark ages!
A guileless word is an absurdity. A smooth forehead betokens
A hard heart. He who laughs
Has not yet heard
The terrible tidings.

Ah, what an age it is
When to speak of trees is almost a crime
For it is a kind of silence about injustice!
And he who walks calmly across the street,
Is he not out of reach of his friends
In trouble?

It is true: I earn my living
But, believe me, it is only an accident.
Nothing that I do entitles me to eat my fill.
By chance I was spared. (If my luck leaves me
I am lost.)

They tell me: eat and drink. Be glad you have it!
But how can I eat and drink
When my food is snatched from the hungry
And my glass of water belongs to the thirsty?
And yet I eat and drink.

I would gladly be wise.
The old books tell us what wisdom is:
Avoid the strife of the world
Live out your little time
Fearing no one
Using no violence
Returning good for evil --
Not fulfillment of desire but forgetfulness
Passes for wisdom.
I can do none of this:
Indeed I live in the dark ages!

2.

I came to the cities in a time of disorder
When hunger ruled.
I came among men in a time of uprising
And I revolted with them.
So the time passed away
Which on earth was given me.

I ate my food between massacres.
The shadow of murder lay upon my sleep.
And when I loved, I loved with indifference.
I looked upon nature with impatience.
So the time passed away
Which on earth was given me.

In my time streets led to the quicksand.
Speech betrayed me to the slaughterer.
There was little I could do. But without me
The rulers would have been more secure. This was my hope.
So the time passed away
Which on earth was given me.

3.

You, who shall emerge from the flood
In which we are sinking,
Think --
When you speak of our weaknesses,
Also of the dark time
That brought them forth.

For we went, changing our country more often than our shoes.
In the class war, despairing
When there was only injustice and no resistance.

For we knew only too well:
Even the hatred of squalor
Makes the brow grow stern.
Even anger against injustice
Makes the voice grow harsh. Alas, we
Who wished to lay the foundations of kindness
Could not ourselves be kind.

But you, when at last it comes to pass
That man can help his fellow man,
Do no judge us
Too harshly.

translated by H. R. Hays

only Brecht could have written—without irony: “I have feelings only when I have a headache—never when I am writing: for then I think.”
end Brecht

“... a basic income - venture capital for the people...”

“...’bullshit jobs’ considered meaningless by the people doing them...”

“Poverty is not a lack of character. It’s a lack of cash.”

Bregman

“Politics is downstream from culture.”

Andrew Breitbart

“...China is developing, a system that allows state officials to assess a person’s financial data, social connections, consumption habits and respect for the law to establish the citizen’s ‘trustworthiness.’ A good social credit score could lead to a promotion, a raise, a better apartment, admission to a good school, access to state-approved dating websites, better stores, better doctors, the right to travel, a more generous pension and important opportunities for your children. A bad score could put you in jail....the plan by China’s State Council says it is intended as a safeguard against, among other things, ‘conduct that seriously undermines ... the normal social order’ and ‘assembling to disrupt social order [and] endangering national defense interests.’ The plan’s ultimate purpose, according to Chinese officials, is to ‘allow the trustworthy to roam everywhere under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to

take a single step.’ For Westerners, this is a shocking abuse of state power and an unthinkable invasion of personal privacy. In China, these are the tools officials will use to build a more ‘harmonious society.’”

Ian Bremmer in TIME 11-2017

"The black church dominated because it was the one independent black institution allowed under Jim Crow laws, providing free spaces for African-Americans who otherwise faced arrest for congregating in public."

Emily Brennan NY Times

“...democracy is the rule of the ignorant and the irrational, and it all too often falls short. ... political participation and democratic deliberation actually tend to make people worse—more irrational, biased, and mean. ...a new system of government—epistocracy, the rule of the knowledgeable—may be better than democracy.”

Jason Brennan on K

“Many of my fellow citizens are incompetent, ignorant, irrational, and morally unreasonable about politics.”

Jason Brennan

“...liberty is a fragile thing. You can’t give up.”

Justice William Brennan

“...the only way to encourage innovation is to give it to the young. The young have a great advantage in that they are ignorant. ...ignorance in science is very important....If you know too much you can’t try new things. I always work in fields in which I am totally ignorant.”

Sidney Brenner

“Occam’s broom - to sweep under the carpet what you must to leave your hypothesis consistent...”

On administration: “You become a mediator between two impossible groups - the monsters above and the idiots below.”

Sydney Brenner

“Rage is the only quality which has kept me, or anybody I have ever studied, writing columns for newspapers.”

Jimmy Breslin

“I’m from a family where women are strong and men are weak.”

Claire Bretecher, NYT obit

“...liberty means not only freedom from government coercion but also the freedom to participate in the government itself.”

“Learned Hand once compared the task of interpreting a statute to that of interpreting a musical score.”

““First unwritten rule is that nobody speaks twice until everybody speaks once at the conference. Great rule. Everybody feels they’re treated fairly. Second: Tomorrow is another day.” ...referring to the private meetings where the justices cast their votes

Justice Stephen Breyer

Breyer, quoting Camus:

“...the plague never dies nor does it disappear. It waits patiently in our bedrooms, our cellars, our suitcases, our handkerchiefs, our file cabinets. And one day, perhaps to the misfortune or for the education of men, the plague germ will reemerge, reawaken its rats, and send them forth to die in a once happy city.” in the context of the law and a lawful society.

“None of our babies come into this world knowing anything about racism. We come into the world with a clean heart, a fresh start. Racism is a grown-up disease and we should stop using our kids to spread it.”

Ruby Bridges

Larry Brilliant once said, “Outbreaks are inevitable, but pandemics are optional.”

“...the Constitution ... never mentions God or Jesus, and forbids the establishment of religion. .. we will never be a Christian nation...[but we are] a biblical nation.”

Henry G Brinton

“We live in a culture of fear (and) an idolatry of safety...We worship the god of security... a false god.”

Henry G Brinton, pastor

“...For every human being, there are over 1,000 tons of built environment...a technological exoskeleton for the species...

You cannot change the climate impact of Americans without changing the built American landscape...”.

“Here is a definition of barbarism: a system that makes people into one another’s enemies, victims, and oppressors. . . . A second definition of barbarism: a system that keeps its people in the dark and gives them no way out. A system, that is, that makes the world as it is both inescapable and unintelligible. . . . Democracy should be a political rejection of barbarism in both aspects. It is an order premised on the equality of everyone who lives in it and the embrace of a shared fate. It is the way—the only one we have—for people to choose the terms of their shared lives, the shape of their mutual vulnerability and entanglement.”

barbarism: a system that makes people into one another’s enemies, victims, and oppressors. ...a system that keeps its people in the dark and gives them no way out

...Democracy [is the] political rejection of barbarism ..

Jedediah Britton-Purdy

Brockes, Emma:

sometimes reality threatens my political maturity...

I felt a visceral dislike for the men grilling Biden’s supreme court nominee, Ketanji Brown Jackson...

Jackson herself was almost supernaturally composed,

occasionally letting a pause extend a beat beyond normal to indicate

the scale of the resources required to stay calm.

Emma Brockes

"...the whole concept of the Force comes from Rod Serling."
Doug Brode and George Lucas=

"Good strategy presumes good anthropology and sociology. Some of the greatest military blunders of all times have resulted from juvenile evaluations in this department."
Bernard Brodie

Richard Brodie Virus of the Mind
"...mind viruses are the price of one of the freedoms most dear to us: freedom of speech...
The meme is the secret code of human behavior...opening up such sophisticated new techniques for mass manipulation...
A meme is an idea ...that forms itself into a distinct memorable unit...
People's drive toward making sense of senseless things leads to a type of cultural virus known as conspiracy theory...
People outgrow their belief systems, like butterflies leaving the cocoon...

"Political court trials are criminal by definition. The trial of a poet is an offense — one that is not merely criminal, but above all anthropological. It is a crime against language, against that which raises human beings above the animal world."
Joseph Brodsky

Brody, Jane:
"My advice [on turning 80]...: Try to combine your passion with your talent...[for a] rich and rewarding career."

Bronowski, Jacob:

"...the essence of science: ask an impertinent question, and you are on the way to a pertinent answer."
These are the marks of science: that it is open for all to hear, and all are free to speak their minds in it. They are marks of the world at its best, and the human spirit at its most challenging."
Science is the acceptance of what works and the rejection of what does not."
"Science, like art, is not a copy of nature but a re-creation of her."
"Einstein was a man who could ask immensely simple questions."

Bronowski, Jacob

The Ascent Of Man

Foreword by Richard Dawkins

drawing of the baby in the womb introduced the television version of The Ascent of Man:

Man is unique not because he does science, and he is unique not because he does art, but because science and art equally are expressions of his marvellous plasticity of mind.

'Knowledge ... is an unending adventure at the edge of uncertainty.'

the essence of science: ask an impertinent question, and you are on the way to a pertinent answer.

The University is a Mecca to which students come with something less than perfect faith. It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies; they are not here to worship what is known but to question it.

Science is the poetry of reality.

end Dawkins intro to Bronowski, The Ascent of Man

As a mathematician trained in physics,
cast a personal biography of ideas in the form of television essays.
discoveries are made by men, not merely by minds, so that they are alive and charged with individuality.
Unlike a lecture or a cinema show, television is not directed to crowds. It is addressed to two or three people in a room,
this series presents a philosophy rather than a history, and a philosophy of nature rather than of science.
There cannot be a philosophy, there cannot even be a decent science, without humanity. I hope that sense of affirmation is manifest in this book. For me, the understanding of nature has as its goal the understanding of human nature, and of the human condition within nature.
Man is a singular creature. He has a set of gifts which make him unique among the animals: so that, unlike them, he is not a figure in the landscape—he is a shaper of the landscape. In body and in mind he is the explorer of nature, the ubiquitous animal, who did not find but has made his home in every continent.
Among the multitude of animals which scamper, fly, burrow and swim around us, man is the only one who is not locked into his environment. His imagination, his reason, his emotional subtlety and toughness, make it possible for him not to accept the environment but to change it.
...that series of inventions, by which man from age to age has remade his environment, is a different kind of evolution—not biological, but cultural evolution. I call that brilliant sequence of cultural peaks The Ascent of Man.
Man is distinguished from other animals by his imaginative gifts.
what interests me is the history of man's mind as an unfolding of his different talents.
Two million years ago we were not yet men. One million years ago we were, because by one million years ago a creature...
Every animal leaves traces of what it was; man alone leaves traces of what he created.
Hunting cannot support a growing population in one place; the limit for the savannah was not more than two people to the square mile. At that density, the total land surface of the earth could only support the present population of California, about twenty million, and could not support the population of Great Britain. The choice for the hunters was brutal: starve or move. They moved
For a biological adaptation is an inborn form of behaviour; but a culture is a learned form of behaviour—a communally preferred form, which biological differences do exist between groups of men, as we all know. We call them racial differences, by which we mean exactly that they cannot be changed by a change of habit or habitat.
Iceland because it is the seat of the oldest democracy in Northern Europe.
this began about AD 900, before Christianity arrived, at a time when China was a great empire, and Europe was the spoil of princelings and robber barons. That is a remarkable beginning to democracy.
No animal is faced with this dilemma: an animal is either social or solitary. Man alone aspires to be both in one, a social solitary.
justice is part of the biological equipment of man. And yet it is exactly that thought which took me out of physics into biology, the brain and the baby is exactly where the plasticity of human behaviour begins.
We have to put off the decision-making process, in order to accumulate enough knowledge as a preparation for the future.
...that is what childhood is about, that is what puberty is about, that is what youth is about.
The fact is that Hamlet as a youth is simply not mature. Intellectually or emotionally, he is not ripe for the act that he is asked to perform. And man, before the brain is an instrument for action, it has to be an instrument of preparation.
the longest childhood has been that of civilisation, learning to understand that.
'Now you have reached the last commandment: Thou shalt not question'.
what every strong intellect wants to be, is a guardian of integrity.
There is an age-old conflict between intellectual leadership and civil authority.
Jesus took, and saw the first glimpse of Jerusalem on the skyline as he saw it going to his certain death. Death, because Jesus was then the intellectual and moral leader of his people, but he was facing an establishment in which religion was simply an arm of government.
It is not the business of science to inherit the earth, but to inherit the moral imagination; because without in a sense all science, all human thought, is a form of play.
Abstract thought is the neoteny of the intellect, by which man is able to continue to carry out activities which have no immediate goal (other animals play only while young) in order to prepare himself for long-term strategies and plans.
Johnny von Neumann
'Chess is not a game. Chess is a well-defined form of computation. You may not be able to work out the answers, but in theory there must be a solution, a right procedure in any position. Now real games', he said, 'are not like that at all. Real life is not like that. Real life consists of bluffing, of little tactics of deception, of asking yourself what is the other man going to think I mean to do. And that is what games are about in my theory.'
John von Neumann carried this subject into what I call his second great creative idea. He realised that
He distinguished between short-term tactics and grand, long-term strategies. Tactics can be calculated exactly, but strategies cannot.
his last years he wrote a beautiful book called The Computer and the Brain, the Silliman Lectures that he should have given, but was...
brain as having a language in which the activities of the different parts of the brain have somehow to be interlocked and made to match so that we devise a plan, a procedure, as a grand overall way of life—what in the humanities we would call a system of values.
'Oh no, no, you are not seeing it. Your kind of visualising mind is not right for seeing this. Think of it abstractly.
we must be a democracy of the intellect. We must not perish by the distance between people and government, between people and power, if knowledge sits in the homes and heads of people with no ambition to control others, and not up in the isolated seats of power.

A scientific society is one in which specialists can indeed do the things like making the electric light work. But it is you, it is I, who have to know how nature works, and how (for example) electricity is one of her expressions in the light and in my brain. Our actions as adults, as decision makers, as human beings, are mediated by values, which I interpret as general strategies in which we balance opposing impulses. Knowledge is not a loose-leaf notebook of facts. Above all, it is a responsibility for the integrity of what we are, primarily of what we are as ethical creatures. You cannot possibly maintain that informed integrity if you let other people run the world for you while you yourself continue to live out of a ragbag of morals that come from past beliefs. That is really crucial today. We are nature's unique experiment to make the rational intelligence prove itself sounder than the reflex. Knowledge is our destiny. Self-knowledge, at last bringing together the experience of arts and the explanations of science, waits ahead of us. ...filming. It's what I have to do.'

We are all afraid—for our confidence, for the future, for the world. That is the nature of the human imagination. Yet every man, every civilisation, has gone forward because of its engagement with what it has set itself to do. The personal commitment of a man to his skill, the intellectual commitment and the emotional commitment working together as one, has made the Ascent of Man.

J Bronowski

“President Richard Nixon went to Saudi Arabia and Israel in June 1974 to change the domestic narrative and score an international victory, it failed spectacularly. He resigned a month later.”

Rachel Bronson NYT

“...’truth’ becomes a matter of emotional resonance.”

Brooking and Singer Twitter Viral The Atlantic pdf

“...’motive attribution asymmetry’ - Each side thinks it is driven by benevolence, while the other is evil and motivated by hatred... contempt is a noxious brew of anger and disgust... What we need is not to disagree less, but to disagree better.”

“...conspiracy theorists are outsiders — pessimistic about the future, negative about others and feeling victimized by people in power... In a society based on the free flow of ideas, twisting information to create suspicion and rage among the powerless is morally akin to swindling poor people out of their savings.”

Arthur C Brooks

“Good art must do more than reflect our own images back at us. It must move us to a place beyond our obsession with identity, sense of tribalism and fear of others.”

Bianca Vivion Brooks

‘Francis’ secular admirers often stumble at his apparent preoccupation with evil. In an impromptu speech to schoolchildren in Harlem, he disconcertingly asked: “But who is it that sows sadness, that sows mistrust, envy, evil desires? What is his name? The devil.”

Some dismiss this as a clerical tic or South American eccentricity. It is nothing of the sort. The word “devil” comes from the Greek verb diabolos, meaning “slander” or “attack.” And “demon” comes directly from the Greek root meaning “to divide.” For Francis, happiness comes from unity, both with God and with one another. Unhappiness comes from division from either — which comes from the Dark One.’

arthur c brooks nyt op-ed see pdf

“Bigotry’s cousin is contempt. ...Polarization - and thus contempt - leads to permanent enmity. ... Rejecting polarization ... is an exercise in self-respect.”

Arthur C Brooks refers to Polarization Industrial Complex and Dalai Lama

Dan Brooks on Quibi NYT Mag:

“...ironically acknowledge our worst impulses in hopes of justifying them... a culture that has become exasperated with itself but which does not expect to change... what addict wants to measure the progress of his addiction?... where willpower has failed, self-deprecation steps in ..”

David Brooks:

1-1-2021:

Gordon Allport wrote about the contact hypothesis, that doing life together with people of other groups can reduce prejudice and change minds. It’s how new emotional bonds are formed, how new conceptions of who is “us” and who is “them” come into being.5-22-2020: existential security...safe...the humanity of shared vulnerability...The superficial way to change minds and behavior doesn’t seem to work, to bridge either racial, partisan or class lines. Real change seems to involve putting bodies from different groups in the same room, on the same team and in the same neighborhood. That’s national service programs. That’s residential integration programs across all lines of difference. That’s workplace diversity, equity and inclusion — permanent physical integration, not training.

"Citizenship, after all, is built on an awareness that we are not all that special but are, instead, enmeshed in a common enterprise. Our lives are given meaning by the service we supply to the nation. I wonder if Americans are unwilling to support the sacrifices that will be required to avert fiscal catastrophe in part because they are less conscious of themselves as components of a national project. ... some of the current political problems are influenced by fundamental shifts in culture, involving things as fundamental as how we appraise ourselves. Addressing them would require a more comprehensive shift in values."

David Brooks

"The American education model, he says, was actually copied from the 18th-century Prussian model designed to create docile subjects and factory workers."

Brooks on Shimon Waronker

the great reset.

“Emotions assign values to things and undergird reason.”

"The future has no union."

The United States, as you know, was founded as a republic, not simply as a democracy. The distinction has been lost over the past few decades, but it is an important one. The believers in a democracy have unlimited faith in the character and judgment of the people and believe that political institutions should be responsive to their desires. The believers in a republic have large but limited faith in the character and judgment of the people and erect institutions and barriers to improve that character and guide that judgment. The first citizens of this country erected institutions to protect themselves from their own shortcomings. The democratic triumph has created a nation that runs up huge debt and is increasingly incapable of finding a balance between competing interests. Today, the country faces three intertwined economic challenges. We have to make the welfare state fiscally sustainable. We have to do it in a way that preserves the economic dynamism in the country — that provides incentives for creative destruction. We also have to do it in a way that preserves social cohesion — that reduces the growing economic and lifestyle gaps between the educated and less educated. It will be enacted when voters realize we need to build arrangements to protect ourselves from our own weaknesses.

"We have a news media that is psychologically ill informed but politically inflamed."

One reason many politicians behave badly these days is that we spend less time thinking about what it means to behave well.

In the progressive era, the economy was in its adolescence and the task was to control it. Today the economy is middle-aged; the task is to rejuvenate it.

The United States spends far more on education than any other nation, with paltry results. It spends far more on health care, again, with paltry results. It spends so much on poverty programs that if we just took that money and handed poor people checks, we would virtually eliminate poverty overnight. In the progressive era, the task was to build programs; today the task is to reform existing ones.

The country needs a productive midlife crisis.

"Liberal economists ... reduce the rich texture of how disadvantage is actually lived to a crude materialism that has little to do with reality....the amputation of sociologic, psychological and cognitive considerations makes good policy impossible....It's not enough just to have economic growth policies. The country also needs to rebuild orderly communities...Social repair requires sociological thinking. The depressing lesson of the last few weeks is that the public debate is dominated by people who stopped thinking in 1975.

"[The] Hamiltonian alternative: centralize the goals, but decentralize the means people take to get there."

"Creative people don't follow the crowds; they seek out the blank spots on the map...Instead of being fastest around the tracks everybody knows, creative people move adaptively through wildernesses nobody knows."

"Your moral standards will gradually slip as you become more and more comfortable with your own rationalizations."

"...the single biggest problem with the tax code...is that it rewards consumption and punishes savings and investment."

"...people who, absent other attachments, have fallen upon partisanship to give them a sense of righteousness and belonging."

Government is the hard work of creating a background order."

Politics should take up maybe a tenth corner of a good citizen's mind."

"Citizens are formed, not born."

Brooks quoting Haugen and Boutros: "The relentless threat of violence is part of the core subtext of their lives, but we are unlikely to see it, and they are unlikely to tell us about it. We would be wise, however, to not be fooled — because, like grief, the thing we cannot see may be the deepest part of their day."

"...a bureaucracy can't see or account for the complexity of reality. It tries to impose uniform rules on the organic intricacy of human relationships...This is what George Orwell noticed about the authoritarian brutalists: They don't use words to illuminate the complexity of reality; they use words to eradicate the complexity of reality."

"We tend to assume that the primary problems of politics are economic and that the injustices of the world can be addressed with economic levers.... They live within a contagion of chaos. They live where the primary realities include violence, theft and radical uncertainty. Their world is governed less by long-term economic incentives and more by raw fear.... The primary problem of politics is not creating growth. It's creating order. Until that is largely achieved, life can be nasty, brutish and short."

"...people in the midst of difficulty begin to feel a call ... They can't determine the course of their pain, but they can participate in responding to it. ...

Recovering from suffering is not like recovering from a disease. Many people don't come out healed; they come out different."

"You can get a lot of facts wrong if you get your story right."

"...the two great vices of foreign affairs [are]the desire for regional dominance and the desire to eliminate diversity. Throughout recorded history, large regional powers have generally gobbled up little nations. Powerful people have generally tried to impose their version of the Truth on less powerful people. But, over these centuries, civilized leaders have banded together to restrain these vices."

"...the nation is tired, distrustful, divided and withdrawing....Instead of worrying about spreading democracy, we'd be better off trying to make theocracies less beastly."

"...people have actively lost trust in big institutions. Strangers don't seem especially risky by comparison...fertile ground for peer-to-peer commerce."

"...creative people organize their lives according to repetitive, disciplined routines. They think like artists but work like accountants...order and discipline are the prerequisites for creativity and daring....The best life is a series of daring excursions from a secure and orderly base."

Brooks in Lady Gaga column - see pdf:

"Living with [passion] requires a courage that takes two forms. First, people with passion have the courage to dig down and play with their issues....and often discover themselves through play.

Second, people with passion have the courage to be themselves with abandon. We all care what others think about us. People with passion are just less willing to be ruled by the tyranny of public opinion. As the saying goes, they somehow get on the other side of fear. They get beyond that fog that is scary to approach. Once through it they have more freedom to navigate. They opt out of things that are repetitive, routine and deadening. There's even sometimes a certain recklessness there, a willingness to throw their imperfect selves out into public view while not really thinking beforehand how people might react."

"...Fiorina simply refused to adopt a defensive posture. She ignored the challenges and just hit ... harder. The factual issue sort of got lost in her torrent."

"Fear is an emotion directed at a specific threat, but anxiety is an unfocused corrosive uneasiness.... You can't beat moral fanaticism with weak tea moral relativism. ...People are only fulfilled when they make deep moral commitments.

"...the beauty of politics ... an endless conversation...

a group of people who are against politics ... they don't recognize other people. They suffer from a form of political narcissism, in which they don't accept the legitimacy of other interests and opinions. They don't recognize restraints. They want total victories for themselves and their doctrine. This antipolitics tendency has had a wretched effect on our democracy.

Trump is the culmination of the trends we have been seeing for the last thirty years. ... Trump represents the path the founders rejected. ... Trump's supporters ... are looking for a superhero.

Politics is in retreat and authoritarianism is on the rise worldwide. The answer to Trump is politics."

... compare Donald Trump's speaking patterns to a Robin Williams monologue, but with insults instead of jokes."

"...the decline in social trust has correlated to an epidemic of loneliness.

The rise of distrust has corroded intimacy.

...fear is the great enemy of intimacy."

"if you didn't throw yourself in some arduous way at the big questions of your moment, you'd live a meager life, and would have to live and die with that awful knowledge." reviewing Anthony Kronman book.

"Moral capital is the set of shared habits, norms, institutions and values that make common life possible. ... people in decent societies agree on a million informal restraints ... that girdle selfishness and steer us toward reconciliation. ... This year Trump is dismantling those restraints one by one.

"Today, when you hear affluent people express worry, it's usually related to the fear of missing out, and the dizziness of freedom. The affluent often feel besieged by busyness and plagued by a daily excess of choices. At the same time, there is a pervasive cosmic unease, the anxiety that they don't quite understand the meaning of life..."

...people who experience social exclusion have a tendency to slide toward superstitious and conspiratorial thinking. ...

Anxiety changes people."

"Bigots turn multidimensional human beings into one-dimensional creatures. ...A single identity walls off empathy and the imagination.. ... People's classifications now shape how they see the world."

"Their lives weren't so much shaped by decisions as by rapture. They were held rapt by each other's minds. ... They succeeded not because they were master decision-makers but because of their capacity for zealous engagement. ... We don't decide about life; we're captured by life. ... maybe we should look less at decision-making and more at curiosity."

David Brooks on Kahneman and Tversky

"The Trump project.... asserts that selfishness is the sole driver of human affairs."

Lionel Trilling's old distinction, sincerity is what you shoot for in a trusting society. You try to live honestly and straightforwardly into your social roles and relationships. Authenticity is what you shoot for in a distrustful society. You try to liberate your own personality by rebelling against the world around you, by aggressively fighting against the society you find so vicious and corrupt.

"If you give them an opening, you're just going to give them room to destroy the decent etiquette of society. Civility is not a suicide pact...defeat a dark passion and replace it with a better passion....They are lonely and sad, their fanaticism emerging from wounded pride, a feeling of not being seen. ...90 percent of the time the next email is totally transformed. The brutal mask drops and the human being instantly emerges."

"[On line] technologies are extremely useful for the tasks and pleasures that require shallower forms of consciousness, but they often crowd out and destroy the deeper forms of consciousness people need to thrive....Online is a place for human contact but not intimacy. Online is a place for information but not reflection."

"...Facebook and ther social media companies are feeding this epidemic of loneliness and social isolation."

"...nations and people have to grow a soul big enough to enclose the traumas that haunt them."

"No wonder our society is fragmenting. We've taken the lies of hyper-individualism and we've made them the unspoken assumptions that govern how we live."

"Vulnerability is the only means we have to build relationships, and relationships are the only means we have to experience joy."

"plague rules...embrace the uncertainty...we just can'tknow...undergoing deeper reflections..."

"The tension between good and plenty, God and mammon, became the central tension in American life, propelling ferocious energies and explaining why the U.S. is at once so religious and so materialist.

Americans are moral materialists; spiritualists working on matter."

"...the more people doubt their own beliefs the more, paradoxically, they are inclined to prostelytize in favor of them."

"...they regard candidates the way adolescents regard parents: if they are not perfect then they must be irredeemable."

:Some people suffer from Motivated Blindness; they don't see what is not in their interest to see. Some people don't look at the things that make them uncomfortable....people are really good at self-deception."

" Grover Norquist's tax pledge isn't really about public policy; it's a chastity belt Republican politicians wear to show that they haven't been defiled by the Washington culture."

"Optimism without reality isn't eloquence. It's just Disney."

David Brooks, NY Times re: Barack Obama

"[There is] a crisis of legitimacy. The game is rigged. Social trust shrivels. Effort is no longer worth it."

"Scientists are leaping in where philosophy and theology have atrophied – they're drilling down into an explanation of what man is."

David Brooks (consilience, Harris)

"[Trump] has no experience being accountable to anybody. ...His statements should probably be treated less like policy declarations and more like Snapchat. They exist to win attention at the moment, but then they disappear."

"American culture is overobsessed with personal freedom....people are unhappy and spiritually stunted."

David Brooks on Jonathan Franzen's Freedom.

"...Reagan's dominant emotional note was optimism. Trump's is fear."

"The deal [the GOP] struck with the devil comes at too high a price. It really will cost them their soul. ...the Trump administration ... is an ethnic nationalist administration.

... the aroma of bigotry infuses the whole operation....tainted by cruelty."

"... Trump is ripe to be played."

"We badly want to understand Trump, to grasp him," David Roberts writes in Vox. "It might give us some sense of control, or at least an ability to predict what he will do next. But what if there's nothing to understand? What if there is no there there?"

"... the Dunning-Kruger effect, the phenomenon in which the incompetent person is too incompetent to understand his own incompetence."

"... movements fueled by alienation are bound to fail. ...alienation breeds a distrust that corrodes any collective effort. ...[there] is no reason for lazy cynicism or self-righteous despair."

"Trump is ... plagued with a self-destructive form of selfishness. He is consumed by a hunger for affirmation, but, demented by his own obsessions, he can't think more than one step ahead....

the Trump administration will probably not be brought down by outside forces. It will be incapacitated from within, by the bile, rage and back- stabbing that are already at record levels in the White House staff, by the dueling betrayals of the intimates Trump abuses so wretchedly....The Trump death march will be slow, grinding and ugly."

"... voters may vote against their economic interests, but they vote for their emotional interests...[although] big government would provide short-term assistance,...it would be a long-term poison to the values which are at the core of prosperity."

"Trump is a man who has been progressively hollowed out by the acid of his own self-regard."

"Freedom without covenant becomes selfishness...Freedom without connection becomes alienation."

"...our political conflict is primarily a rich, white civil war. It's between privileged progressives and privileged conservatives....

... ideas really do drive history. Progressive Activists and Devoted Conservatives organize around coherent philosophical narratives. These narratives aren't visions of a just society. They are narratives of menace — about who needs to be exorcised from society....

There's little evidence of individual thought, just cult conformity. The current situation really does begin to look like the religious wars that ripped through Europe after the invention of the printing press, except that our religions now wear pagan political garb.

The good news is that once you get outside these two elite groups you find a lot more independent thinking and flexibility. This is not a 50-50 nation. It only appears that way when disenchanted voters are forced to choose between the two extreme cults."

moral corrosion morally numb conscience Steinbeck in East of Eden evil

paraphrasing Rauch: '...emotional polarization is on the rise. We don't necessarily disagree more. We perceive our opponents to be more menacing. We see more fearfully.'

'Trump .. went from idol to scapegoat in an instant.' vision of 2020 election.

on Wisdom:

"Wisdom is different from knowledge...Wise people don't tell us what to do, they start by witnessing our story...They ... understand that our current self is just where we are right now, part of a long continuum of growth...

People only change after they've felt understood...

It is this skillful, patient process of walking people to their own conclusions that feels like wisdom."

"...allow theocracy to shrivel under the weight of its own flaws."

"This is what it feels like to live in a society that is dissolving from the bottom up as much as from the top down."

"Planting the seeds is like establishing a democracy...democracy is not natural...It takes a lot of cultivation..."

Reality has changed, but my mental frameworks just sit there. Worse, they prevent me from even seeing the change that is already underway — what the experts call "conceptual blindness." I'm trying to address one period's problems through the last period's frameworks....

I saw but I didn't see...the crucial skills are the ones nobody teaches you: how to reorganize your mind, how to see with new eyes.

end of Brooks

"Scientists trample our taboos into the dust and lead us beyond the borders of the forbidden."

Michael Brooks

"... we are no longer living in a time of normal politics. Trump and Bannon have told us as much.

Rosa Brooks

"We have evolved to be really good at cooperation and empathy. We are strongly motivated to teach and help others....

...we build academic disciplines and social institutions upon suppositions of selfishness ...

... if you expect people to be selfish, you can actually crush their tendency to be good.

By assuming that people are selfish, by prioritizing arrangements based on selfishness, we have encouraged selfish frames of mind.

...time to build institutions that harness people's natural longing to do good."

"Amid the opioid epidemic, white means victim, black means addict

America's social hierarchies rule everything even the opioid epidemic. You don't have to dig deep to find the hypocrisy and insult to people of color..."

Brian Broome

"My riches consist not in the extent of my possessions, but in the fewness of my wants."

J Brotherton

Browder, Bill:

"And so [Putin] became the richest man in the world in that moment."

Freezing Order: A True Story of Money Laundering, Murder, and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath

What saved me was Twitter.

Russians to act the way they do. Their society is so harsh and unforgiving that in order to get through life, most people are either getting screwed or screwing someone else—and often both.

There are few rewards for doing what is right.

FARA...Foreign Agents Registration Act, which says that anyone trying to influence US policy

on behalf of a foreign government is legally required to register with the Department of Justice.
FARA is a criminal statute.
...almost everyone behaves rationally. If someone does something that appears irrational,
it just means you don't have all the information.
people, along with many others, lubricate the machine that allows Putin and his cronies to get away with their crimes.
end Browder

"We cannot fight the fire by feeding the flames."
Phil Brown, letter to SL Tribune in regards to Legacy Highway

From RISK:
"I've developed a new philosophy...I only dread one day at a time."
Charlie Brown

"Doubt is our product, since it is the best means of competing with the 'body of fact' that exists in the public mind."
Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co. memo, 1969

"Religion has the power to make you think nothing is random."
"Religion: Because thinking is hard."
"In the Beginning, Man Created God."
Dan Brown

"The economy is part of the environment. The economy must be designed so that it is compatible with the ecosystem of which it is a part."
"Accounting systems that do not tell the truth can be costly. ...Economic prosperity is achieved in part by running up ecological deficits, costs that do not show up on the books, but costs that someone will eventually pay."
Lester Brown in Plan B

Brown, Rita May:
"Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people came from and where they are going."

"How in the world can these senators walk around here upright when they have no backbone?..."
Fear has a way of bending us...
Sherrod Brown

Wendy Brown: Walled States...2010:
"When do the new walls become like the confining walls of a prison, rather than the comforting walls of a house? When does a fortress become a penitentiary?...
Walls built around political entities cannot block out without shutting in, cannot secure without making securitization a way of life, cannot define an external 'they' without producing a reactionary 'we', even as they also undermine the basis of that distinction...
...walls are potent organizers of human psychic landscapes...
Nation-state walls are modern-day temples housing the ghost of political sovereignty....
They produce not the future of an illusion , but the illusion of a future aligned with an idealized past....[via Freud:] Must not the assumptions that determine our political regulations be called illusions as well?'"
Machiavelli: 'Fortresses are generally much more harmful than useful.'
Shimon Peres: 'We need soft borders, not rigid impermeable ones...At the threshold of the twenty-first century, we do not need to reinforce sovereignty.'
Wendy Brown

Browne, Ivor:
Music and Madness, memoir, 2008:
Accusation is so often confusion.
'Double blind' communication between members in a disturbed family ...can be found in virtually any form of psychiatric disorder where the family is 'enmeshed' and has failed to free the offspring to leave and lead a separate life.
ketamine...LSD...psilocybin...mescaline
Teilard de Chardin, Prigogine, thermodynamics, ...
Prigogine: 'Dissipative structures are islands of order in a sea of disorder...
Today, the world we see outside in the world we see within are converging. This conversion of two worlds is perhaps one of the important cultural events of our age. ... Our vision of nature is undergoing a radical change towards the multiple, the temporal and the complex.'
Abraham Lincoln: 'we may congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is nearing its end. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood...
it has indeed been a trying hour for the Republic; but I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war.'
...corporate personhood...
Rutherford Hayes: 'This is a government of the people, by the people and for the people no longer. It is a government of corporations, by corporations and for corporations.'
Esalen...Stanislaw Grof...holotropic therapy...
Evidence Biased Medicine...
...a closed delusional system...
... we are always involved with the 'now'; the 'frozen present', what is stored in our memories, in our bodies, our attitudes and behaviour...
Rupert Sheldrake ...morphic fields...
Breuer, Freud, Janet...
... when a formed memory of this kind is retrieved, it is reassembled from a number of inputs all over the brain, from various times in the past, and therefore is essentially a new creation. It is therefore quite unreliable as a factual record of the past.
... the activation of frozen experience is of great significance...
NDE...near-death experience...
...psychotherapy... helping them to reach adult independence in the first place...
they have failed to reach maturity at all.
... we actually hallucinate the world around us.
...when someone becomes psychotic? Here there appears to be a failure to differentiate mental activity that is initiated by a sensory stimulus from outside from that which originates from our own thoughts internally.
... the very problem that all of us face in the process of development: to learn to recognize what originates within us from that which is initiated from outside
... a therapeutic intervention I would propose is to help them to undertake the work of separation from their family of origin, in which many of them are trapped, including therapy for the family where appropriate, thus to enable them to move from a child to an adult position, from dependence to a reasonable level of independence.
The worst instances of institutionalization I have come across have been persons incarcerated within their own families...
...what institutionalization actually is - a state of dependency, not being in charge of one's own life and destiny, it is clear that in this state everything is controlled and managed by others. It is in essence a state of learned helplessness.
Ram Chandra: 'Philosophy is a subject, not based on reason but based on intuition. It starts not from doubt, as most of the Western philosophers hold, but from wonder.'
Heart: ANF...atrial natriuretic factor.
Hindu tradition...
telepathic ability...
The more the ego is cleared out, the more sensitive you become...
I now see psychotherapy more and more as rough work to remove gross impressions. This prepares the way for a subtler cleaning, and for further spiritual development.
In the end, perhaps the most beautiful music of all is the 'music of silence'.

The Writings of Ivor Browne: Steps Along the Road: The Evolution of a Slow Learner
Browne, Ivor
Fintan O'Toole, Foreword:

his ideas took him from the centre to the margins of his profession.
...he combines calm rationality with a fearless questioning of received wisdom about how humanity works and what happens when it doesn't.
'the more society tries to get rid of something which is a part of itself and sweep it under the carpet, the more that problem will grow.'
philosopher Philip Pettit has defined freedom as 'non-domination',
the state of not being subject to the arbitrary will of another.
...the heart of Browne's approach to psychiatry is the idea of arrested development, the belief that illness arises 'when the natural drive to mature, to become independent and self-directing, is frustrated'.
mental health—"a state of independence"—we will have to make it for ourselves.

Last Chapter 41 Psychotherapy: What is it?
he began to realize that there are two forms of thinking—"directed" thinking and 'fantasy' thinking, one verbal and logical, the other passive, associative and imagistic;
the former characteristic of 'science' and the latter of 'mythology'. 'Directed'.
when directed thinking was put aside fantasy thinking came to light.
Joshua Bierer: 'I believe there is no "cure" without change, there is no change without incentive, there is no incentive without meaning, the new meaning of life has to be experienced, and there is no experience unless patients are helped into a position where they can do things for themselves and carry the responsibility for their own mistakes.'
Over and over again I find that below the level of all the problems that life throws up, there is the question of meaning: 'Why am I here? Is there any purpose to all this struggle?',

end Ivor Browne

"Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp."
Robert Browning

Browder, Bill:

"What saved me is Twitter."
"This is a defining moment in our history. We can either allow savagery to rule the world, or use the tools we've created to maintain civilization and stability.
Western powers must impose Magnitsky sanctions on the Saudi officials who carried out and authorized this atrocity [Khashoggi] - even if the buck stops at the very top."
"There is no endgame. This is just [Putin] staying in power.
There is no reasonable way for this thing to end. There's only an unreasonable way.
Continuing to do business in Russia after this invasion is the equivalent of continuing to do business in Nazi Germany when Hitler started persecuting the Jews. It's the same thing."
Bill Browder

"The secret to the world's problems is to turn around and take a step forward."
David Brower

"Exercising power is the most effective short-range antidepressant in the world..."
Bertram Brown via nyt obit

"Shame - fear of disconnection..sense of worthiness..
courage to be imperfect..
embrace vulnerability..we numb vulnerability..
make uncertainty certain..courage is teachable..
boundaries..
stories are data with a soul>"
see Ted Talk: The power of vulnerability..
-- "When we deny our stories, they define us. When we own our stories, we get to write a brave new ending."
— Brené Brown, via book reviewer Diane Donovan

Dan Brown:
"The point of the novel is this: Prior to 2,000 years ago we lived in a world of gods and goddesses. Today we live in a world solely of gods. Women in most cultures have been stripped of their spiritual power by our male-dominated philosophies and absolutism with a long history of violence and bloodshed." from Cracking the da V Code film, 2004, ML.
"If I'm not at my desk by 4 AM, I feel like I'm missing my most productive hours. In addition to starting early, I keep an antique hour glass on my desk and every hour break briefly to do pushups, sit-ups, and some quick stretches. I find this helps keep the blood (and ideas) flowing." on writing
from a newspaper review: 'It is terribly written, its characters are cardboard cutouts, the dialogue is excruciating in places and, a bit like a computer manual, everything is overstated and repeated — but it is impossible to put the bloody thing down.'
from Cracking the da V Code film:
'He [Peter] hates all my sex' Mary Magdalen (Last Supper discussion)
"Revelation replaced investigation...
To permit ignorance is to empower it...
Not until we purge our species of superstitious thinking can we embrace all that our minds have to offer...

Kirsch in Origins.
Missa Charles Darwin
see Brown's Churchill quotes...
and Blake quotes: evil, consumed,

end of Dan Brown

There is nothing constructive or creative you can do with a gun. You can't build a house with it, you can't fix your car with it. Guns have only one function and that is killing. If you are not going to kill someone you don't need a gun. If you are going to kill someone, you should be locked up.
Fred Brown

"If raising taxes is a nonstarter in this environment, change the environment."
Jerry Brown

"In the 1940s the challenge was to save the democratic way of life. Today the stakes are far higher. It is civilization itself that is hanging in the balance."
Lester R Brown

"...all persons are created equal ...-benefitting from the earth while leaving it intact for the future - defines the relation of those people to the world, that those who lead hold a sacred trust, and that the only way that that trust can be earned is through the development and preservation of free men and women, capable of governing themselves, not through 'free' markets."
Peter G Brown

"Psychoactivity is part of the healing - it's part of the recovery."
Thomas Kingsley Brown Horizons 2017 video ibogaine

"During thousands of years of civilization, women have evolved to deal with the intractable perplexities of life and find means of peaceful coexistence where men have traditionally found roads to conflict."
Tina Brown

"...the tendency to throw up walls is a classic symptom of a nation state's looming impotence in the face of globalization - a waning sovereignty."
Wendy Brown, paraphrased from Abrahamian, pdf

“...hell hath no fury like a teenage girl who is awake and aware and done with your bullshit.”
Sasha Brown-Worsham

“Today’s comedian has a cross to bear that he built himself. A comedian of the older generation did an ‘act’ and he told the audience, ‘This is my act.’ Today’s comic is not doing an act. The audience assumes he’s telling the truth.”
Lenny Bruce, via Chris Kelly NYT
“...liberals can understand everything but people who don’t understand them.”
Lenny Bruce via Dannagal G. Young

“Memory produces hope in the same way that amnesia produces despair.”
Walter Brueggman

“Capitalism is an ideology that is far more encompassing than it admits, and one that turns every relationship into a calculable exchange. Bodies, time, energy, creativity, love — all become commodities to be priced and sold. Alienation reigns. There is no room for sustained contemplation and little interest in public morality; everything collapses down to the level of the atomized individual.”
“What is bad faith? It’s a term coined by the philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre that means, in the helpful gloss of George Mason University anthropologist Roger Lancaster, when you tell a lie and you start to believe it, then forget it was a lie.”=
“Capitalism is an ideology that is far more encompassing than it admits, and one that turns every relationship into a calculable exchange. Bodies, time, energy, creativity, love — all become commodities to be priced and sold. Alienation reigns. There is no room for sustained contemplation and little interest in public morality; everything collapses down to the level of the atomized individual.”
“What is bad faith? It’s a term coined by the philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre that means, in the helpful gloss of George Mason University anthropologist Roger Lancaster, when you tell a lie and you start to believe it, then forget it was a lie.”
Elizabeth Bruenig

“When considering an enemy, the mind generates an “empathy gap. It mutes the empathy signal, and that muting prevents us from putting ourselves in the perceived enemy’s shoes.”
Emile Bruneau

“intellectual...the pretension of raising writers , scientists, professors and philologists to the rank of supermen...[who] treat our generals as idiots, our social institutions as absurd and our institutions as unhealthy.”
Ferinand Brunetiere, 1898, via Chomsky.

Bruni:
"...growth is the one putative solution that asks nothing of us: no trade-offs, no sacrifices. It perpetuates the seductive and irresponsible illusion that we can get our house in fiscal order without any terrible inconvenience after all."
...a master class in wishful thinking."
...politicians sell us low-tax, no-pain fantasies. They traffic in vagueness and treat us like toddlers."
“...scalping has come out of the closet, louder and prouder in an age of unapologetic elitism.”
“Count to ten before you speak. ...slowing things down often classes them up. ...people are more likely to be moved by information that challenges their prejudices if they’re prevented from responding to it straightaway and it has time to sink in, to steep.”
”How a country so rightly anxious about the days ahead stays fixed in the days behind is the great paradox...”
"Exceptionalism doesn't mean picking and choosing when to be big and when to be small."
“...that’s actually his secret. That’s his means of survival: the warp speed and whirl of it all. He forces you to process and react to so many different outrages at such a dizzying velocity that no one of them has the staying power that it ought to or gets the scrutiny it deserves....
[it’s] orchestrated chaos ...
The world he genuinely cares about ends at the tip of his nose....
Each fresh Trump astonishment overrides an old one, as if it were a new file on a hard drive that has reached storage capacity. And the accumulation of astonishments lowers the bar for what’s expected of him and turns all the astonishments into a blur.”
“Words, like monuments, matter. They nudge. They shape. That’s true when they elevate what shouldn’t be elevated, encouraging complacency or evil, and that’s just as true when they show us a better way and help us get there.”
“Trump stares into every mirror he passes.”
“America right now ... is a country surrendering to a new identity and era, in which optimism is quaint and the frontier anything but endless....
There’s a feeling of helplessness...
Conventional wisdom has seldom been so useless...
They’re hungry for hope...
...this isn’t just about the economy. It’s about fear. It’s about impotence.”
Frank Bruni
“I never would have had the strength, drive or fearlessness to take such a risk if I hadn’t been rejected so intensely before. There’s a beauty to that kind of rejection, because it allows you to find the strength within.”
Jenna via Frank Bruni
“...this portrait of life as a sadistic lottery and poverty as a hopeless torture chamber has resonance, which means it also has merit. That’s a bullet to the soul.” Bruni on the Squid Game.

“We are not teenagers. We are lifeless bodies in a system which breeds competition, hatred, and discourages teamwork and genuine learning.”
Carolyn Walworth via Frank Bruni

“...there’s a climate in the country...a mood of overarching uncertainty and profound anxiety...pessimistic about the country’s future - and their own.”
“...erudition in the age of cyberspace: You surf until you reach the conclusion you’re after...
the Internet ... is not just a magnet for the curious. It’s a sinkhole for the gullible.”
“...no candidate wears a mask as thick as Ted Cruz’s. ...his mother ... majored in mathematics...the disparities between his branding and his reality.”

“Prominent men on the edge of obsolescence have never acted so wounded, so angry, so desperate. ...
Over so many of Clinton’s travails hangs a cloud of testosterone.”

“For Trump, bragging is like breathing: continuous, spontaneous. ...
And when his audience is a group of people, like us, who haven’t clapped the way he’d like? He sands down his edges. Modulates his voice. Bends.
... Will he tilt in whatever direction, and toward whichever constituency, is the surest source of applause? Is our best hope for the best Trump to be so fantastically adulatory when he’s reasonable that he’s motivated to stay on that course, lest the adulation wane?
There was a lesson here about his desire to be approved of and his hunger to be loved. There was another about the shockingly unformed, pliable nature of the clay that is our 70 year old presidentelect.
... the most influential voice in Trumplandia is the last one he happened to listen to.”

“I see [Trump] in a highchair, keeping his audience guessing about just how much ice cream he’ll fling against the wall.”
“...social media...can make some kind of immediate response seem almost compulsory... It’s a midwife to bad judgment and a narcissism multiplier, with its promise of likes and shares.”
“What an education: ‘We have to be comfortable in ambiguity,’ Jack Isenberg, Senior, St. Johns.
“Graham is special. He really is. I can’t think of another Republican whose journey from anti-Trump outrage to pro-Trump obsequiousness was quite so illogical or half as sad, and his conduct during the war over Kavanaugh completed it. For the president he fought overtime, he fought nasty and he fought without nuance.
In so doing, he distilled our rotten politics — its transactional nature, its tribal fury, its hysterical pitch — as neatly as anybody in the current Congress does.”
“...he could scream his resentments in a theater that did the opposite of repudiating them. It echoed them back. It validated and cultivated them. It took something dark and colored it darker still.”
“[Republicans have traded] the elixir of hope for the toxins of fear.”
“...sometimes a hashtag distills a bottomless sea of disgust into a few acid droplets.”
“Hate is the thing with tentacles. It holds people tight and refuses to let go.”
on Pompeo:
“...the teeming crowd of sellouts and suck-ups who eagerly traded principle for position...They must have broken necks from their moral whiplash....proof that the lure of power can overwhelm any call to conscience...Trump administration diaspora...moral surrender...
Better to be a wretched part of history that no part at all.”
“This isn’t a re-election campaign. It’s a tape loop.”

"Exceptionalism doesn't mean picking and choosing when to be big and when to be small."
"He's editing out the core of his identity. He's muffling his soul."
Frank Bruni on Mitt Romney
"...that's actually his secret. That's his means of survival: the warp speed and whirl of it all. He forces you to process and react to so many different outrages at such a dizzying velocity that no one of them has the staying power that it ought to or gets the scrutiny it deserves....
[it's] orchestrated chaos ...
The world he genuinely cares about ends at the tip of his nose....
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"Words, like monuments, matter. They nudge. They shape. That's true when they elevate what shouldn't be elevated, encouraging complacency or evil, and that's just as true when they show us a better way and help us get there."
"Trump...only as big as his ability to make his underlings look small."
"...the great advantage of the truly immoral: They're liberated from any tug of conscience."
"Americans have long turned to firearms as both a last (if not first) resort for addressing uncertainty, precarity and insecurity in a country that largely lacks a collective social safety net."
"...see more clearly...[seeing the pain of others]. the beauty of dusk...
"...the Republican Party ... now confuses outrageousness with intrepidity, offensiveness with independence, provocation with cunning and puerility with defiance..."

end of Bruni

"Media titan Alfred Hugenberg, who owned half of Germany's newspapers, gave Hitler positive news coverage in his conservative-friendly publications. He also connected Hitler with wealthy industrialists and financiers who then helped fund the Nazi Party, key to its eventual ascendance to power....
In Germany, "the typical Nazi voter was a middle-class, self-employed Protestant who lived on a farm or in a small community," according to sociologist Seymour Martin Lipset.
Trump-friendly media outlets — especially Fox News and Breitbart — reenact the role that media mogul Hugenberg played in boosting Hitler. ...
sometimes I throw my hands up and recall a quote from a war refugee in the movie Casablanca: "The devil has the people by the throat."
James Bruno

Buckley, Christopher:
via Ron Charles' review: 'Christopher Buckley is not angry about Donald Trump. He sounds instead as delighted as a fly discovering the world's largest pile of manure.'
"Any person finding any resemblance between themselves and persons depicted herein should probably be ashamed."Fbennet

When the student
is ready, the teacher will appear.
The keys to heaven alsoopen the gates of hell.
Buddhist koan

"We're looking at the long-term horizon and investments that are doing more than avoiding bad, but are actually trying to improve the world. It's about taking the potential for capitalism to the next level."
Howard Warren Buffett, grandson

Believe nothing, no matter where you read it, or who said it, no matter if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.
--Buddha
"[I'm] not really calling for an end to capitalism; I'm calling for humanism."

Peter Buffett

I know a whole lot more bankers than consumers, but they're [consumers] the ones that need the help." Warren Buffett to Elizabeth Warren

"Remember that the stock market is manic-depressive." "...derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction." Warren Buffett

"Wealth amounts to a giant pile of claim checks on the world's resources."

"Dynastic wealth, the enemy of a meritocracy, is on the rise. Equality of opportunity has been on the decline. A progressive and meaningful estate tax is needed to curb the movement of a democracy toward plutocracy."
Warren Buffett

"The conspiracy community regularly seizes on one slip of the tongue, misunderstandibng, or slight discrepancy to defeat 20 pieces of solid evidence; accepts one witness of theirs, even if he or she is a proveable nut, as being far more credible than 10 normal witnesses on the other side; treats rumors, even questions, as the equivakent of proof; leaps from the most miniscule of discoveries to the grandest of conclusionsand insists ...that the failure to explain everything perfectly negates all that is explained."
Vincent Bugliosi

"The first thing to understand is the difference between the natural person and the ficticious person called a corporation. They differ in the purpose for which they are created, in the strength which they possess, and in the restraints under which they act.
...Man acts under the restraints of conscience...A corporation has no soul and cares nothing about the hereafter..."
"...the avenging wrath of an indignant people."
William Jennings Bryan

"...we come from a planet that is very good at promoting life but even better at extinguishing it."
Bill Bryson

"The method of freedom is the method of science."
Lyman Bryson

Zbigniew Brzezinski: "History is much more the product of chaos than of conspiracy."

"...not sustainable and therefore also not insurable."
Thomas Buberl

the Scottish novelist and former member of Parliament John Buchan wrote that he was "brought up in times when one was not ashamed to be happy, and I have never learned the art of discontent." He added, "It seems to me that those who loudly proclaim their disenchantment with life have never been really enchanted by it."
John Buchan

"Our human longing for explanation may be terribly misplaced, and doomed always to go unsatisfied."

Mark Buchanan in Ubiquity.

“... increased wealth causes people to turn inward, to believe in their own ‘superior’ traits, and to care less about the feelings and needs of others. upper-class individuals tend to be narcissistic, with a clear sense of entitlement... money pushes people further to the right, making them less egalitarian, less willing to provide broad educational opportunities to all members of society...”
Paul Buchheit (have book Disposable Americans, 2017)

“The best government in the world, the best religion, the best traditions of any people, depend upon the good or evil of the men and women who administer them.” Nobel lecture
“...on the foundation of poverty on which it is made.”
Pearl S Buck, referring to city

“Me and a light-bodied chilled red [wine] are currently dating and in a very serious relationship.”
Jamie Buckley in NYer

“...stands athwart history, yelling stop.” National Review’s mission statement, by
William F Buckley

" If the limbic system is activated...the person will have an experience of the...divine.
God is literally a state of mind. Some of us are highly predisposed to religious experience and some are not. It is possible to see both superstitions and religion as manifestations of the same animistic belief system.
"The God of Abraham, the protector and guide of a tribe of nomads wandering along the Sinai peninsula.
...the concept of God started out as a repository for the things we didn't understand ('the God of the gaps')
Robert Buckman

“Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.”
Budda
Bueno, Carlos: There's nothing quite as permanent as a temporary fix. -

Buffett
“There’s class warfare, all right, but it’s my class, the rich class, that’s making war, and we’re winning.”
“...financial weapons of mass destruction.”
“I’ve reluctantly discarded the notion of my continuing to manage the portfolio after my death – abandoning my hope to give new meaning to the term ‘thinking outside the box’.”
"It's only when the tide goes out that you learn who's been swimming naked.

“...approval is often counter-productive because it sedates the brain and makes it less receptive to new facts or a re-examination of conclusions formed earlier.”
“Risk comes from not knowing what you are doing. ”
end Warren Buffett

“Sometimes you have to leave a space in your life for life to happen.”
Buffy St. Marie

“The purpose of the humanities is to understand and civilize man; that of science is to understand nature...The arts complement the humanities by being sensory inspirers of reflections and emotions.”
George Bugliarello, 2001

Bullough, Oliver:
via 60 Minutes Londongrad story:
“This is London's core industry. This is what we do - Transforming thugs into aristocrats - 24 hours a day.”
“Offshore is an idea: a parallel legal system for corporations, kleptocrats, celebrities or anyone else who can afford it. Offshore gives the wealthy a way to avoid taxes and regulations and to obscure their identities, thus undermining the ability of governments to keep them in check. “
Oliver Bullough nyt pdf

History often teaches us to embrace ambiguity, to understand there aren’t simple answers to complex questions...The challenge is to use history to help the public feel comfortable with nuance and complexity.
...use the statues as teachable moments...
about finding a more accurate history...
museums have a social justice role to play...
I want museums to be a place that gives the public not just what it wants, but what it needs.”
Lonnie G Bunch III:

"God and Country are an unbeatable team; they break all records for oppression and bloodshed."
Luis Bunuel, Spanish film director

Luther Burbank:
Garden of Invention book: edison growing goldenrod for oil;
“Those who would legislate against the teaching of evolution should also legislate against gravity, electricity, and the unreasonable velocity of light.”
The training of the human plant, 1907
by Luther Burbank

Table of Contents
The mingling of races.
The teachings of nature.
Differentiation in training.
Sunshine, good air and nourishing food.
Dangers.
Marriage of the physically unfit.
Heredity
-predestination
training.
Growth.
Environment the architect of heredity.
Character.
Fundamental principles.

“Trump’s business is infecting the people around him ... he’s a form of contagion ...”
Stephen Burbank

Alan Burdick in NYT:
“...an organism, or whatever the right word is, ideally adapted to human conversation, the louder the better. Our communication is its transmission... Not even song is safe anymore.
To know SARS-CoV-2 is to know ourselves in reflection. It is mechanical, unreflecting, consistently on-message — the purest near-living expression of data management to be found on Earth. It is, and does, and is more. There is no “I” in a virus.
We are exactly its opposite: human, and everything that implies. Masters of information, suckers for misinformation; slaves to emotion, ego and wishful thinking. But also: inquiring, willful, optimistic. In our best moments, we strive to learn, and to advance more than our individual selves...

"The NRA's interpretation of the Second Amendment was one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word 'fraud', on the American public by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime."
Chief Justice Warren Burger via Jill Lepore New Yorker

Burke, Edmund:
“... To be taught to respect one’s self; to be habituated to the censorial inspection of the public eye; ... to have leisure to read, to reflect, to converse; to be enabled to draw the court and attention of the wise and learned, wherever they are to be found; to be habituated in armies to command and to obey; ... to be led to a guarded and regulated conduct, from a sense that you are considered as an instructor of your fellow citizens in their highest concerns, and that you act as a reconciler between God and man. ...”
“The true lawgiver ought to have a heart full of sensibility. He ought to love and respect his kind, and to fear himself.”
“Society is ... a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead, and those who are to be born.”
“I dread our own power and our own ambition...I dread our being too much dreaded.”
“Society is a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead and those who are yet to be born.”
“Where mystery begins, justice ends.”
“The great error of our nature is not to know where to stop...to lose all we have gained by an insatiable pursuit after more.”
“Men of intemperate minds cannot be free.”
Edmund Burke

"If decisions were a choice between alternatives, decisions would come easy.
Decisions are the selection and formulation of alternatives."
Kenneth Burke

Burke, Peter:
“Leonardo syndrome... a defect in polymaths whose intellectual restlessness prevents them from finishing things properly.”

“To believe that market forces can be used to fix climate change is to believe in magic.”
Tom Burke

“The world has changed,” Burioni says, acknowledging both the good and “catastrophic” effects of social media. “Science needs to find a new voice—not the language of scientific congresses, but a language that’s understandable, passionate, and convincing.”
Roberto Burlioni bullshit

“At least 81 cents of every \$1 donated to lawmakers came from special interests that often have business before the Legislature.” (Deseret News, Feb 8, 2009) via
Kim Burningham

Buolamwini, Joy:
“The metaphor becomes the truth. You have to fit a norm, and that norm is not you.”

“I carried back...an abiding revulsion for ideology, in all its guises. ...there is no limit to the lunacy, malice and suffering that can plague any society with a ruling ideology.”
John F Burns

Burns, Ken:
“The thing that I’ve learned is that there is no ‘them’. It’s just us.”
From Ken Burns talk 8-28-09:
Re our digital divisions in society:
Too much pluribus, not enough unum Arthur Schlesinger

Judge Leonard Hand: Liberty is knowing that you are never sure you’re right.”

Hugely important and hugely dangerous medium: televsion.”

“emotional archeology”
existentialism: a tension between being and doing.

"We figured if we failed, we didn't try hard enough. We didn't do anything different the next year, we just tried harder." farmer in Ken Burns' The Dust Bowl
“Being an American means reckoning with a history fraught with violence and injustice. Ignoring that reality in favor of mythology is not only wrong but also dangerous. The dark chapters of American history have just as much to teach us, if not more, than the glorious ones, and often the two are intertwined”.
“The black-white rift stands at the very center of American history. It is the great challenge to which all our deepest aspirations to freedom must rise. If we forget that--if we forget the great stain of slavery that stands at the heart of our country, our history, our experiment--we forget who we are, and we make the great rift deeper and wider.”

end Ken Burns

"O would some Power the gift to give us
To see ourselves as others see us!
It would from many a blunder free us..."
Robert Burns via Rolly via JT Martin

“These viruses are tracer bullets through our society. They illuminate a lot of the problems that we have. One of the things I didn’t anticipate was that we would have an issue with how truthful and on top of things our administration would be. I remember being most concerned that the spread of misinformation could be as prolific and dangerous as the virus.”
Scott Z Burns, writer of Contagion

Chandler Burr:
The Emporer of Scent Random House 2002 page 303
"There is really only one great scientific discovery: the scientific endeavor itself, the idea that that there is a way of generating knowledge that, objectively, irreversibly modifies our view of the world. "

“Lugenpresse - lying press...
we are all the media...”
“There are no alternative facts!”
Thomas Burr, Stewart 2017 conf.

“I am an environmentalist. Those who think we are powerless to do anything about the greenhouse effect are forgetting about the White House effect.”
George H W Bush

George W. Bush:
“Can you believe this? I’m the President of the whole fucking United States!”
to R Perry Dec., 2000
"Wall Street got drunk."
“The problem with the French is that they have no word for entrepreneur.”
George W. Bush
“...it is tempting for those born on third base to believe they’ve hit a triple.”
“We do not talk to evil.”

“I rely on my instincts.”
“If the self-evident truths of our founding are true for us, they are true for all.. p. 316 Overthrow.

George W. Bush who declared in his second inaugural address that
“the calling of our time” was to support “the growth of democratic movements
and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending
tyranny in our world.”
“Our war is against evil, not against Islam.”
George w Bush via Hasan pdf

“...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
George W Bush, quoted by Vidal
George Bush—
“I have opinions of my own—strong opinions—but I don’t always agree with them.”
Quoted in a British newspaper, 9/2/01
"...we create our own reality. And while you're studying that reality...
we'll act again, creating other new realities...you...will be left to just study what we do."
Bush-Cheney admin spokesman

“The sound of our guns is the sound of freedom!”
Jeb Bush to NRA, 2003

Bush, Susan: band lyrics Triolo
“How do you move a band of collective fools?”

“Harry Potter is about the life of a young wizard and his friends. But it’s also about the wish to be special — and the fear of being ordinary.”
David Busis nyt

“..books liberate us from the prison of our own temporality.”
Maria Bustillos, in Popova

Octavia Butler:
I got my idea for the Xenogenesis books... from Ronald Reagan because he was advocating this kind of thing. I thought there must be something basic,
something really genetically wrong with us if we’re falling for this stuff [winning a nuclear war].....
"We are a naturally hierarchical species,. When I say these things in my novels, sure I make up the aliens and all of that, but I don't make up the essential
human character."
...our hierarchical tendencies are older ...they drive us to use our intelligence to try to dominate one another.
“I wonder whether the human species will ever grow up enough to learn to communicate without using fists of one kind or another....
From Speech Sounds:
“The illness, if it was an illness, had cut even the living off from one another. As it swept over the country, people hardly had time to lay blame on the
Soviets (although they were falling silent along with the rest of the world), on a new virus, a new pollutant, radiation, divine retribution...The illness was
stroke-swift in the way it cut people down and strokelike in some of its effects. But it was highly specific. Language was always lost or severely impaired. It
was never regained. Often there was also paralysis, intellectual impairment, death.”
“I’ve written five world-saving novels...The world doesn’t want to be saved....let’s put it this way,... George Bush is President....
I absorb a lot of stuff that you really have to find some outlet for or it festers...novels were kind of my outlet.”
quoting Steve Biko: “The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”
:...it takes very little to set off young men who want to feel powerful and important...Testosterone poisoning.”
Lauren Oya Olamina, Earthseed, Parable of the Talents:
“To survive,
know the past.
Let it touch you.
Then let
The past
Go.”

“Positive obsession is about not being able to stop just because you’re afraid and full of doubts. Positive obsession is dangerous. It’s about not being able
to stop at all.”

comment on Parable of the Sower via Danielle Moodie:
‘...cultural and political norms were slowly erased. There was no major war, no invasion; instead, a sense of collective lethargy set in across the nation,
and things went from bad to worse. Religious fundamentalism seized the country, slavery was reintroduced, water was scarce, and all the social safety
nets that the government once provided were rolled back in favor of privatization. If you could afford police protection, health care, the creation of roads
and bridges, great—if not, you were out of luck. Butler was clearly ahead of her time. She combined her brilliant imagination with a keen understanding of
human behavior to illustrate where the U.S.A. was headed if we continued our ostrich behavior of sticking our heads in the sand and pretending that what
was unfolding before our eyes wasn’t happening.
via Avital Percher: Octavia Butler’s Parable of the Sower, for example, is a masterful story of lurching decline. It describes 2020s America as an unraveling
society where remnants of wealth and innovation coexist with mass migration, riots, and the collapse of cities. Though written 30 years ago, its predictions
are startlingly prescient in some ways and compel readers to reflect on the cultural forces we see in today’s world.
via Popova:
All that you touch
You Change.
All that you Change
Changes you.
The only lasting truth
Is Change.
God
Is Change.
end Octavia Butler

“Life is the art of drawing sufficient conclusions from insufficient premises.”
Samuel Butler

“The Universe isn’t just speaking in numbers: it’s singing and dancing.”
Jon Butterworth

“This isn’t just a policy job, it’s a moral job.”
“It is the nature of grotesque things that you can’t look away.”on Trump
quoting Truman: ‘If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.’
Pete Buttigeig

"American industry -0 the whole capitalist system – lives in the shadow of a volcano. That volcano is public opinion."
Carl Byoir, 1938

“If we don’t get climate change under control it doesn’t really matter what else we aspire to. We need to make people aware of the real danger of
annihilation. This is everyone’s responsibility. It’s astonishing how sentient adults can either willingly ignore what’s happening or are ignorant of it. Resting
nicely in a cocoon of apathy is such a betrayal of the people who come after us, if they come after us.”
Gabriel Byrne

“May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields;
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.”

Irish blessing at G Byrne funeral

“For I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.”
2 Timothy 4:7 at G Byrne funeral

“And history with all her volumes vast, Hath but one page.”
Lord Byron