

O Quotations and Notes

‘...on the subject of religion Americans in general are deeply religious but profoundly ignorant.’
Elder Dallin Oaks, LDS

Obama, Barack:

“...the quiet despair of the men who have lost their purpose...”

“He has a remarkable way of focusing on the big picture and the longer term...he can categorize in his head the difference between what’s a setback, what’s a bump along the way, and what’s just noise.”

Robert Gibbs on Obama

“I have been stitching together a family.”

“We don’t look to be ruled.”

““To think clearly about race, then, requires us to see the world on a split screen. To maintain in our sights the kind of America that we want while looking squarely at America as it is, to acknowledge the sins of the past and the challenges of the present without becoming trapped in cynicism or despair....

You and I, as citizens, have the obligation to shape the debates of our time — not only with the votes we cast but with the voices we lift in defense of our most ancient values and enduring ideals.”

“Efficiency is the cheapest, cleanest, fastest energy source.”

"It is not enough to give health care to the sick, or jobs to the jobless or education to our children. But it is where we start. It is where our union grows stronger. And so many generations have come to realize over the course of the 221 years since a band of patriots signed that document in Philadelphia, that is where the perfection begins."

... "If there is one law that we can be most

certain of, it is the law that binds people of all faiths and no faith together. It's no coincidence that it exists in Christianity and Judaism, in Islam and Hinduism, in Buddhism and humanism. It is, of course, the golden rule - the call to treat one another as we wish to be treated. The call to love. The call to serve. To do what we can to make a difference in the lives of those with whom we share the same brief moment on this Earth."

“Come on! I mean, words mean something, you can’t just make stuff up.”

“More than once I saw fear flash across her eyes. More than fear of pain or fear of the unknown, it was the sheer loneliness of death that frightened her, I think – the notion that on this final journey, on this last adventure, she would have no one to fully share her experiences with, no one who could marvel with her at the body’s capacity to inflict pain on itself, or laugh at the stark absurdity of life once one’s hair starts falling out and one’s salivary glands shut down.”

On death of mother in Audacity of Hope

“They want a narrative arc to their lives, something that will relieve a chronic loneliness or lift them above the exhausting, relentless toil of daily life.” on religion..

“...religious commitment did not require me to suspend critical thinking...it came about as a choice and not an epiphany...”

"If you give up on the idea that your voice can make a difference, then other voices will fill the void." 9-2012 acceptance speech

"...the Robert F. Kennedy quote about the measure of our G.D.P.?

...it's one of the most beautiful of his speeches," Obama said. quoted by David Leonhardt

"[Lincoln] knew that even a self-evident truth was not self-executing..."

Barack Obama on Gettysburg Address

"[Mandela] gave me a sense of what human beings can do when they're guided by their hopes and not by their fears."

"[I am] prone to see other people as unnecessary distractions....I would soon find reason to excuse myself. I had grown too comfortable in my solitude, the safest place I knew."

Obama in Dreams from... via Maureen Dowd

From Ezra Klein: "For Obama, the cost of becoming president was sacrificing the unique gift that made him president."

"Christians and Muslims,
Jews and Hindus—and nonbelievers."

Obama's inaugural speech

"What's the single achievement that would most help average Americans? Health care reform."

"We also have this idea that we're all in this together, that we look out for one another, that I am my brother's keeper."

"If you want to grow into a human being, you're going to need some values." quoting his mother

"This is a contest of values...about who we are and what we stand for."

"Time is just a collection of human experiences combined so that they make a long, flowing stream of thought."

"We did not come here to fear the future, but to shape it."

The danger of too much government can be matched by too little...

when timidity passes for wisdom, we lose something essential about ourselves."

"...the American people, I think, not only have a toleration but also a hunger for explanation and complexity, and a willingness to acknowledge hard problems."

Barack Obama, in high school

"We cannot be afraid of the future – and we can't be prisoners of the past."

"I face the world as it is. For make no mistake: evil does exist in the world. A non-violent movement could not have halted Hitler's armies...."

To say that force may sometimes be necessary is not a call to cynicism - it is a recognition of history, the imperfections of man and the limits of reason."

Nobel prize speech.

"We lose ourselves when we compromise the very ideals that we fight to defend. And we honor those ideals by upholding them not when it is easy, but when it is hard."

"Rules must be binding. Violations must be punished. Words must mean something."

"The American economy does not stand still and neither the rules that govern it."

"Elections have consequences – and, Eric, I won."

"You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing's replaced them. And it's not surprising, then, they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

Barack Obama 2008

—The Supreme Court has given a green light to a new stampede of special interest money in our politics. It is a major victory for big oil, Wall Street banks, health insurance companies and the other powerful interests that marshal their power every day in Washington to drown out the voices of everyday Americans||

"I want you to call. I want you to e-mail. I want you to tweet. I want you to fax. I want you to visit. I want you to Facebook....Send a carrier pigeon."
"Push to change it. But don't break it."

"It's the Heisenberg principle. Me asking the question changes the answer."

"A nation ringed by walls only imprisons itself."

Obama on Mandela:

"There is a word in South Africa -- Ubuntu -- (applause) -- a word that captures Mandela's greatest gift: his recognition that we are all bound together in ways that are invisible to the eye; that there is a oneness to humanity; that we achieve ourselves by sharing ourselves with others, and caring for those around us....

It took a man like Madiba to free not just the prisoner, but the jailer as well -- (applause) -- to show that you must trust others so that they may trust you; to teach that reconciliation is not a matter of ignoring a cruel past, but a means of confronting it with inclusion and generosity and truth. He changed laws, but he also changed hearts....

"...we're playing a long game here...change is hard and change is slow and it never happens all at once."

"...when we are able to see their country and their culture in specific terms, historical terms, as opposed to just applying a broad brush, that's when you have the possibility at least of some movement." (on Iran nuclear deal)

"I fight against the cynicism that says government doesn't get anything done. It does get things done ... stuff gets better... if we stay focused and we work hard. ... It's not just fix it; it's how we work together to get things done." via Jon Stewart interview.

Obama answered, "I take away [from Niebuhr] the compelling idea that there's serious evil in the world"; that "we should be humble and modest in our belief we can eliminate these things, but we shouldn't use that as an excuse for cynicism and inaction"; that "we have to make these efforts knowing they are hard, and not swinging from naive idealism to bitter realism."

"I do what I can do and as much as I can do. What I don't want to do is get paralyzed by the magnitude of the thing, and what I don't want is for people to get paralyzed thinking that somehow this is out of our control."

Obama in Rolling Stone interview, J Goodell in the Artic

"Those same people who we don't allow to fly can go into a store in the United States and buy a firearm."

at Hiroshima:

"Science allows us to communicate across the seas and fly above the clouds, to cure disease and understand the cosmos, but those same discoveries can be turned into ever more efficient killing machines. The wars of the modern age teach us this truth. Hiroshima teaches this truth. Technological progress without an equivalent progress in human institutions can doom us. The scientific revolution that led to the splitting of an atom requires a moral revolution as well."

"I think you're really brilliant, but you don't work hard enough." Roger Boesche, Occidental College, to the young Obama.

'Vladimir Putin...practiced disinterest.'

On writing: "You just have to get started. You just put something down...nothing is more terrifying than the blank page....
the computer can lend half-baked thoughts the mask of tidiness..."

"[He does his best writing between 10 pm and 2 am]: I find that the world narrows and that is good for my imagination. It's almost as if there's a darkness all around and there's a metaphorical beam of light down on the desk, onto the page."

on Sotomayor: "The combination of intelligence and empathy is the basis of wisdom."

"Trump is for a lot of white people what O. J.'s acquittal was to a lot of Black folks — you know it's wrong, but it feels good."

"Force alone cannot make us safe. We cannot use force everywhere that a radical ideology takes root; and in the absence of a strategy that reduces the wellspring of extremism, a perpetual war — through drones or Special Forces or troop deployments — will prove self-defeating..."

on writing:

Who am I? Where do I come from? How do I belong?

That's what compelled me to start writing this book.

I've always believed that the best way to meet the future involves making an earnest attempt at understanding the past.

history is alive the same way an old-growth forest is alive, deep and rich, rooted and branching off in unexpected directions, full of shadows and light. What matters most is how we carry ourselves through that forest — the perspectives we bring, the assumptions we make, and our willingness to keep returning to it, to ask the harder questions about what's been ignored, whose voices have been erased.

The act of writing is exactly that powerful. It's a chance to be inquisitive with yourself, to observe the world, confront your limits, walk in the shoes of others, and try on new ideas. Writing is difficult, but that's kind of the point.

In finding the right words, in putting in that time, you may not always hit upon specific answers to life's big questions, but you will understand yourself better.

end Obama

"We were not permitted to be rude, we were not permitted to be mean, we were not permitted to be arrogant."

Maya Soetoro-Ng, Barack Obama's sister.

Michelle Obama:

"I am shameless. I dance in public. You want me to dance? Is it going to help the cause? I'll dance."

"In the end, more than anything else, that is the story of this country—the story of unwavering hope grounded in unyielding struggle."

"Keeping an open mind is a virtue—but as space engineer James Oberg once said, not so open that your brains fall out." via Sagan

"The thing about the best comedians is that they aren't just funny. They're also witty, smart and curious."

"...the lonely thrill of being a teenager..."

"...high school was supposed to be ?? and transformative."

Her Mom: "I'm not raising babies. I'm raising adults."

"Here is a memory: ..."

end Michelle Obama

Obermaier, Frederick, Panama Papers, Paradise Papers:

"Kleptocracy and corruption are far from a uniquely Russian phenomenon.
...financial secrecy is the engine of global corruption and kleptocracy
...Corporate Transparency ..."

[...many persons appear to be "turning to religion as they would to a benign sedative to soothe their minds and settle their nerves."

Rev. Patrick A O'Boyle, quoted by Herberg

"Power stuns the intelligent and drives fools mad."

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

"...children...their ferocious clarity of intention and their radiant intelligence not yet reined in or habituated to sullen conformity."

Geoffrey O'Brien

"He's fundamentally lazy ... He's not a student of anything other than protecting his image. ... He is essentially a performance artist."

"[Trump's] whole life is about the cover-up. He has covered up his academic record, his health reports, his dalliances with women, his finances, his family history."

Tim O'Brien, Trump biographer, via M Dowd

Ocampo, Luis Moreno:

:It is time to put 'never again' into practice." in film Watchers of the Skies.

Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria:

"We shouldn't be afraid to be bold...I don't flinch...I'm not going to compromise who I am...

No person in America should be too poor to live."

"We beat a machine with a movement."

"The Electoral College is itself a form of corruption -a shadow of slavery's power on America today that undermines our nation as a democratic republic." (also quoted by Lessig).

"...the fact that you have nothing to hide is a huge and intimidating strength."

"Change by nature takes friction," she said. "It's just a question of how we move through it."

"It's a statement. It's a vision document. And people want to pick it apart to death."

"It wasn't until I heard of a man by the name of Bernie Sanders that I began to question and assert and recognize my inherent value as a human being."

"Some of us have to actually live the future that you all are setting on fire,"

"...there's so many different kinds of Republicans. But..., at the end of the day, they all make the same decisions. ...

I believe that a lot of our decisions are reactive to public discourse instead of responsive to public discourse.

What the public wants is a strong sense of direction

...if I'm just going to be this... commodified avatar thing, then I'm going to play with it, like a toy.

I decided this is bullshit. No one, absolutely no one, cares about people like me, and this is hopeless. And I lost hope.

"Congress should not be an incumbent protection racket,. [T]hose who fail their communities deserve to lose."

It is vain to do with more what can be done with less.

William of Occam 1300-1349 [Occam's Razor]

"Here, I feel like I have a voice, and people treat you like a real person. I can weather this cold for a bit of dignity."

Jane, Occupy Wall St. in Occupy bk.

"...the free exercise of a sound conscience..."

Adolph Ochs, NYT

"There is no book worth reading that is not somehow partial to something, and that there is no education worth having that does not involve exposures to potentialities other than one's own."

Erin O'Conner, English, U of Pennsylvania

O'Connor, Flannery:

"...our Christ-haunted land..."

"...while the South is hardly Christ-centered, it is most certainly Christ-haunted.

...very few people who are supposedly interested in writing are interested in writing well....

art is writing something that is valuable in itself and that works in itself. The basis of art is truth, both in matter and in mode.

There may never be anything new to say, but there is always a new way to say it, and since, in art, the way of saying a thing becomes apart of what is said, every work of art is unique and requires fresh attention.

you are writing a story, and in a story something has to happen. People without hope not only don't write novels, but what is more to the point, they don't read them. They don't take long looks at anything, because they lack the courage. The way to despair is to refuse to have any kind of experience, and the novel, of course, is a way to have experience.

I'm asked if I think the universities stifle writers. My opinion

is that they don't stifle enough of them. There's many a best-seller that could have been prevented by a good teacher.

We want competence, but competence by itself is deadly. What is needed is the vision to go with it...

"Ghosts can be very fierce and instructive. They cast strange shadows..."

in the South the general conception of man is still, in the main, theological...

the South is hardly Christ-centered, it is most certainly Christ-haunted."

'...her keen ear for the language of banality...' via Sarah Gordon

end Flannery O'Connor

O'Conner, Sandra Day:

"The Influence of a Raconteur..."

[I find myself] hoping to hear , just once more, another story that would, by and by, perhaps change the way I see the world." Via Linda Greenhouse.

Equality of opportunity often requires an equal starting point. OECD, Growing Unequal, 2008

"It becomes an addiction...the worst addiction I could have...the addiction of shooting a gun."

Ofner, Weapon of Choice trailer, black character.

"...I have a passion for landscape, and I have never seen one improved by a billboard....man is at his vilest when he erects a billboard."

David Ogilvy

O'Grady, Lorraine:

"...I'm working on the skin of the culture and I'm making incisions."

via NYT profile

"I bleed, therefore I am."

Carl Oglesby

"Failure is an option."

Alexis Ohanian

"...this is about humanity. This is about all of us, together, trying to understand and reconcile our differences with the laws of physics and chemistry. And we can't do this as a special interest group. The special interest is called living."

Jay O'Hara, activist

"Really precise, longitudinal geolocation information is absolutely impossible to anonymize."

Paul Ohm

Ohmann, Richard:

NYT obit 'complicity of higher education...in the perpetuation of class, gender, and racial hierarchies...' the role of literary studies in the perpetuating of capitalish hierarchies...Selling Culture book; also English in America: A Radical View...book.

"Americans are happier when national wealth is distributed more evenly than when it is distributed unevenly."

"Lowered levels of perceived fairness and trust...made low-income Americans feel less happy." Americans perceived others to be less fair and trustworthy in the years with greater income disparity."

S Oishi, S Kesebir, E Diener

"Nations and peoples are largely the stories they feed themselves. If they tell themselves stories that are lies, they will suffer the future consequences of those lies. If they tell themselves stories that face their own truths, they will free their histories for future flowerings."

Ben Okri via Monbiot

"Given the chance, [the market] would sweep away all other values, and establish a vending machine society."

Arthur Okun

"If you want to do something evil, put it inside something boring.... Where there is banality, there is evil."

John Oliver

"There is a natural link between committing journalism and committing comedy. They're both in the uncovering and unmasking business, but with different approaches."

Tom Rosenstiel on John Oliver

Oliver, Mary:

"...I made a world out of words. And it was my salvation."

"When it's over, I want to say all my life

I was a bride married to amazement.

I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it's over, I don't want to wonder

if I have made of my life something particular, and real.

I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,

or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world."

"...what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?"

"I know, you never intended to be in this world.

But you're in it all the same.

So why not get started immediately.

I mean, belonging to it.

There is so much to admire, to weep over.

And to write music or poems about." via Bill Gray

Mary Oliver

"Conspiracy theorists love a vacuum. If they're not getting answers, they're going to come up with their own."

Kathryn Olmsted

Olsen, Henry:

"Cruz came to provoke and excite, while Rubio came to explain and to lead."

Olsen, Steve:

2007 book: Why You May be a Liberal, 2007:

It's become clear that there is a small minority in Utah that has set up a political dogma that carries all the trappings of religion. Their patron saint is an icon named Ronald Reagan (which bears scant resemblance to the actual man). Their scripture is a narrow interpretation of the Constitution that has more in common with the Articles of Confederation than the Constitution itself..... The disciples of this political religion have lost all ability to self-doubt. They aren't interested in evidence, logic or discussion; they already have all the answers.... their political religion has eclipsed their religion. That fits our definition of idolatry....

Franklin D. Roosevelt's economic guru, Marriner Eccles of Utah, could have told us this would create the same conditions that led to the Great Depression, making our modern Great Recession inevitable.

Steve Olsen 5-15-2011

Oltermann, Philip:

"...novelists are modern-day Cassandras – 'speaking always truths, never grasped as true..."

O'Neill, Paul:

"...an ideology comes out of feelings and it tends to be non-thinking. A philosophy, on the other hand, can have a structured thought base..."

'Nobody has found adjectives to describe our world with such an exact evil.'

Juan Carlos Onetti by Andres Neuman

"A dream you dream alone is only a dream.

A dream you dream together is reality."

Yoko Ono

Adi Ophir on evil:

"This treatise seeks to give evil a tongue.

...to sociology, political economy, political science, geography, and ecology.

...to attribute to human beings full responsibility for what they do to other human beings.

...the central idea ... the existence of a traceable social order of the production and distribution of superfluous evils ..., and a series of consequences..."

"...a lot of people have given up trying to comprehend things, and when they give up with the physical world, they give up with the social and political world as well. If we give up trying to understand things, I think we'll all be sunk.

The whole point of the Exploratorium is to make it possible for people to believe they can understand the world around them."

"For the most part, both children and adults have few opportunities for exploration: the whole tradition of exploration is being lost for entire generations."

Frank Oppenheimer, founder of the Exploratorium, San Francisco

"Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds."

J Robert Oppenheimer

see also Kenneth T Bainbridge: ' Now we are all sons of bitches.'

Orbach, Danny:

“...we can see ‘heroes’ for what they are in the real world: people able, perhaps only briefly, to transcend ideology and selfishness and even existential dangers for the sake of a greater good.”

“We have only to win once...”
Viktor Orban

Orbison:
In dreams we do so many things

We set aside the rules we know

And fly above the world so high

In great and shining rings
If only we could always live in dreams

If only we could make of life

What, in dreams, it seems
But in the real world

We must say real goodbyes

No matter if the love will live

It will never die
In the real world

There are things that we can't change

And endings come to us

In ways that we can't rearrange
Roy Orbison - In The Real World Lyrics | MetroLyrics

"...a second Dark Age had fallen on Western civilization, in which denial and self-deception, rooted in an ideological fixation on “free” markets, disabled the world’s powerful nations in the face of tragedy.”

Naomi Oreskes and Eric M Conway
“...the whole purpose of a lightning rod is to keep people safe.”

“...there is a world of difference between being ahead of the curve and being behind it ...
Lysenko’s environmentalist views were congenial to Soviet leaders who wanted to believe ...
‘Lysenkoism’ came to be a cautionary tale, synonymous with the costs of the ideologically driven distortion of science ...
Climate change denial has the support of powerful men and women in American government, but it finds almost no support within the halls of science.”

Naomi Oreskes on Ted Cruz, etc.
“The rejection of science starts with ideology. It ends with people dying.”
Naomi Oreskes

“History is littered with the carcasses of dominant economies.”
James Orlikoff

“... orthodox economics is in many ways an empty box. Its understanding of the world is similar to that of the physical sciences in the Middle Ages. ... the whole basis of conventional economics is deeply flawed.”

Paul Ormerod

Ornstein, Norman J:

"negative partisanship" — that people are now more motivated by their antipathy for the other party than by affinity for their own...
Trump is more a vessel for our division than the cause, and why his departure will not provide any magical cure... There is a logic to our polarization. It has become a kind of [positive feedback] loop.

Norman J Ornstein in NYT review of Ezra Klein Why We're Polarized.

"We don't have two parties anymore. We have a party and a cult, and in a cult, the fear of being excommunicated or shunned is overwhelming

"We can be defined by our fears, or we can be known by our ambitions."

Beto O'Rourke

O'Rourke, P.J.:

"Good manners can replace intellect by providing a set of memorized responses to almost every situation in life," he wrote. "Memorized responses eliminate the need for thought. Thought is not a very worthwhile pastime anyway. Thinking allows the brain, an inert and mushy organ, to exert unfair domination over more sturdy and active body parts."

with Molly Ivins on 60 minutes...

"Freedom of speech is wonderful, if you have anything to say..."

"The Enlightenment...they realized that not looking at things was not the best method of looking at things.

The Wealth of Nations is a sermon.

Adam Smith's recognition of the primary role of imagination in moral thinking reveals...Morals are the result of effort."

The Theory of Moral Sentiments is about the neighbor. The Wealth of Nations is about the other half of the equation, ourselves...do provide a blueprint...for the soul. " on Adam Smith's works Smith was not a fan of what would come to be called lobbying.

A recurring lesson in The Wealth of Nations is that we shouldn't get greedy.

...how we got separation of church and state in America, a country founded by religious lunatics."

(143 of his On the Wealth of...book

"Mutually Assured Bankruptcy"

...the English have only one sauce, melted butter."

...the determining factor in morality is 'the greatest happiness of the greatest number'...Francis Hutcheson

"the weirder you're going to behave, the more normal you should look.

On Clinton and Trump: She's wrong about absolutely everything, but she's wrong within normal parameters. This man just can't be president. They've got this button, you know, in the briefcase. He's going to find it.

On refugees: Aren't we pro-life? Aren't refugees life?"

via Economist obit: "...his most famous book Parliament of Whores...not just Congress...The real whores were the citizenry whose demands made Congress the piss-poor machine it was...

P. J. O'Rourke

"Optimism is a bet that the odds are in your favor; hope is the faith that things will work out whatever the odds. Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up."

David W Orr

Ortega y Gasset

"In periods of consolidation, nationalism has a positive value, and is a lofty standard. But in Europe everything is more than consolidated, and nationalism is nothing but a mania..."

"The simple process of preserving our present civilization is supremely complex, and demands incalculably subtle powers." 1930
"...the unruly torrent of life..."
— José Ortega y Gasset

Orwell, George:

start of 1984: "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."
"Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows."

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

George Orwell

"Political rhetoric is a tool to make lies sound truthful and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

George Orwell, 1946

'unpeople,' to adapt George Orwell's term for those unfit to enter history."

George Orwell 'Why I Write', 1946:

The great mass of human beings...abandon the sense of being individuals at all – and live chiefly for others, or are simply smothered under drudgery.

I write...because there is some lie I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention.

...it is invariably where I lacked a political purpose that I wrote lifeless books and was betrayed into purple passages, sentences without meaning, decorative adjectives and humbug generally.

"every joke is a tiny revolution."

"Some nationalists are not far from schizophrenia, living quite happily amid dreams of power and conquest which have no connection with the physical world."

One has to belong to the intelligentsia to believe things like that: no ordinary man could be such a fool."

"I knew that I had a facility with words and a power of facing unpleasant facts."

'What I have most wanted to do... is to make political writing into an art'

"Good prose is like a window pane."

"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

George Orwell

from 1984:

War is Peace

Freedom is Slavery

Ignorance is Strength

O'Brien in 1984:

If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - forever."

"...reality is not external. Reality exists in the human mind, Not in the individual mind...[but] only in the mind of the Party, which is ... immortal."

The enemy of the moment always represented absolute evil.

...if all records told the same tale - then the lie passed into history and became truth. Who controls the past, controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.

Day by day and almost minute by minute the past was brought up to date.

If there is hope in lies in the proles.

Proles and animals are free.

Perhaps a lunatic was simply a minority of one.

Newspeak: ownlife ... meaning individualism and eccentricity.

There was a direct, intimate connection between chastity and political orthodoxy.

History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present.

The object of the war ... is to keep the structure of society intact.

The best books ... are those who tell you what you know already.
They can be granted intellectual liberty because they have no intellect.
Doublethink means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.
...the prevailing mental condition must be controlled insanity.
...the act of submission ... is the price of sanity.
The individual only has power in so far as he ceases to be an individual...Slavery is freedom.
We make the laws of nature.
To die hating them, that was freedom.
Newspeak was designed not to extend but to diminish the range of thought.

from 1984:

To know and not to know, to be conscious of complete truthfulness while telling carefully constructed lies, to hold simultaneously two opinions which cancelled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them, to use logic against logic, to repudiate morality while laying claim to it, to believe that democracy was impossible and that the Party was the guardian of democracy, to forget whatever it was necessary to forget, then to draw it back into memory again at the moment when it was needed, and then promptly to forget it again, and above all, to apply the same process to the process itself—that was the ultimate subtlety: consciously to induce unconsciousness, and then, once again, to become unconscious of the act of hypnosis you had just performed. Even to understand the word—doublethink—involved the use of doublethink.

"The party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."

in 1936: "If you pretend that it is merely an aberration which will presently pass off of its own accord, you are dreaming a dream from which you will awake when somebody coshes you with a rubber truncheon."

1944 definition of fascism: "Something cruel, unscrupulous, arrogant, obscurantist, anti-liberal and anti-working-class... almost any English person would accept 'bully' as a synonym for 'fascist'."

1984 Goldstein character:

"All rulers in all ages have tried to impose a false view of the world upon their followers. ...war was one of the main instruments by which human societies were kept in touch with physical reality. ... Physical facts could not be ignored. In philosophy, or religion, or ethics, or politics, two and two might make five, but when one was designing a gun or an airplane they had to make four. ... War was a sure safeguard of sanity. ..."

described H G Wells as "too sane to understand the modern world."

George Orwell

"Believing things which we know to be untrue and, then, when we are finally proved wrong, impudently twisting the facts so as to show that we were right."

G Orwell

"If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought."

George Orwell

"...the oppressed are not always right."

"[Poverty] ... annihilates the future. ...

...essence of being human is that one does not seek perfection."

George Orwell

"We have now sunk to a depth at which restatement of the obvious is the first duty of intelligent men."

—George Orwell

"Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play," Orwell wrote. "It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in violence."

"We shall squeeze you empty, and then we shall fill you with ourselves."

from 1984FF

"The relative freedom which we enjoy depends of public opinion. The law is no protection. Governments make laws, but whether they are carried out, and how the police behave, depends on the general temper in the country. If large numbers of people are interested in freedom of speech, there will be freedom of speech, even if the law forbids it; if public opinion is sluggish, inconvenient minorities will be persecuted, even if laws exist to protect them."

Orwell 1943 essay via Malpas:

"...Nazi theory ...specifically denies that such a thing as 'the truth' exists....This prospect frightens me more than bombs."

"...however much you deny the truth, the truth goes on existing..."

"...active measures...you undermine the integrity, the confidence, of your adversary."

"If large numbers of people are interested in freedom of speech, there will be freedom of speech, even if the law forbids it."

Homage to Catalonia essay, 1937

Men can only be happy when they do not assume that the object of life is happiness.

"[W]e have now sunk to a depth at which the restatement of the obvious is the first duty of intelligent men. It is not merely that at present the rule of naked force obtains almost everywhere. Probably that has always been the case. Where this age differs from those immediately preceeding it is that a liberal intelligentsia is lacking. Bully-worship, under various disguises, has become a universal religion. and such truism as that a machine-gun is still a machine-gun even when a 'good' man is squeezing the trigger...have turned into heresies which it is actually becoming dangerous to utter." 1939, quote via Mary Anne Franks.

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

"Of pain you could wish only one thing: that it should stop. Nothing in the world was so bad as physical pain. In the face of pain there are no heroes..." on torture in 1984.

"What I have most wanted to do throughout the past ten years is to make political writing into an art. My starting point is always a feeling of partisanship, a sense of injustice."

in The Crystal Spirit by G Woodcock:

"...looking back through my work, I see that it is invariably where I lacked a political purpose that I wrote lifeless books and was betrayed into purple passages, sentences without meaning, decorative adjectives, and humbug generally..."

All art is propaganda - on the other hand, all propaganda is not art...

If you simplify your English, you are freed from the worst follies of orthodoxy...

I write because there is some lie that I want to expose, some fact to which I want to draw attention, and my initial concern is to get a hearing...

political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible....the great enemy of clear language is insincerity."

"The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history."

— George Orwell

Orwell in Intro to Animal Farm:

"Every line of serious work I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, against totalitarianism...Animal Farm was the first book in which I tried, with full consciousness of what I was doing, to fuse political purpose and artistic purpose into one whole."

Orwell in film Mr Jones re: Animal Farm:

very beginning: I wanted to tell a story that could easily be understood by anyone. A story so simple even a child could understand it.

Truth was too strange to tell any other way.

The world is being invaded by monsters.,,if I tell the story of the monsters through talking farm animals, maybe then you will listen, then you will understand.

The future is at stake, so please read carefully between the lines...

53 minutes in: There comrade is the answer to all our problems. It is summed up in a single word, man. Man is the only real enemy you have.
Remove man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished forever.
1 Hr 20 min in - starving peasant woman: Men came and thought they could replace the natural laws. (there's more...)

'What I have most wanted to do... is to make political writing into an art'
"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

end of Orwell

"Father was teaching us how to work with our hands, to understand that there was always some way to earn money."
Mercedes Oseguera

"Poetry is for saying opposite things simultaneously."
Jackie Osherow

"We miss more by not seeing than by not knowing."
Sir William Osler, MD

"Those who are already convinced of the rightness of their cause rarely stop to think. I hope that on this occasion at least some of them will remember that those who will not learn from history are often fated to repeat it.."
Humphry Osmond

Osnos, Evan:
from Wildland:

"... Image of a landscape primed to burn. Sometimes it felt like metaphor, and sometimes it felt like fat. But eventually I came to understand it as something else – a parable for a time in American history when the land and the people seem to be mirroring the rage of the other. ... the terrain of American politics was primed for a wild land fire. Somebody was going to strike a spark."

"...idealism is not a defense against negligence."
"... impeachment is not a judicial proceeding but a tool of political accountability."
"The peril of ignorance is a perennial American lament"
"[a country] so far out of balance that it [has] lost its center of gravity".
Evan Osnos
quoting: Sam Nunberg "He [Trump] doesn't drink. He doesn't do drugs. His drug is himself." via Osnos

Ossoff, Jon:
"We're running against, like, the Bonnie and Clyde of political corruption in America, who represent politicians who put themselves over the people..."

Oster, Gloria:
"Parents have just gotten to be too hyper about any little thing that doesn't align with their political beliefs," said Oster,

"Putin is acting out of a sense of insecurity, inferiority, and because his archaic form of state doesn't really match the economic and social stage which Russia is at [currently]."
Arkady Ostrovsky on KGB Putin Russia

"There are no limits to the depths to which the mind will go to deceive itself."
Anne Other

Fintan O'Toole:

quoting Trump: "To me, germs are just another kind of negativity..." "The Press and Other Germs."
Like a medieval quack making a profit in times of plague, he will offer a stricken people an ever higher dose of a toxic cure.

from Gellhorn review NY Rev Bks:

"If journalism is a rough draft of history, then war reportage is very rough indeed..."

She was not a neutral observer—she cared far too much for democratic values, and was too enraged by cruelty...

To witness other people's suffering and to write well about it was for her a way of being in the world, not a profession but an ethical act...

Male honor and its savage imperatives are the engines of war and atrocity...

...the very particular balance between moral engagement and cool detachment we encounter in [Gellhorn's] writing - the engagement creates the emotion; the detachment holds it back so that it is not all used up by the reporter and enough space is left for the reader's feelings to be activated...

Her dispatches were not first drafts of history; they were letters from eternity.

end O'Toole

"Congress...535 members...222 lawyers...Lawyers are trained to win arguments....using facts selectively for the purposes of winning, not to establish the truth."

...the U.S. was not founded as a Christian nation. The early settlers were Puritans seeking freedom from authoritarian Christianity. To be a Puritan was to study the Bible and the book of nature in order to discern God's laws, a process called 'natural philosophy', which today we call 'science'."

"Science is always political because the new knowledge it creates requires refining our morals and ethics and challenges vested interests."

"The political right in Weimar Germany called Einstein's theory of relativity a 'hoax' and said he was in it for the money..."

"Hitler's ...Albert Speer..." "Through technical devices like the radio and the loudspeaker, 80 million people were deprived of independent thought."

"With every step away from reason and into ideology, the country moves toward a state of tyranny in which public policy comes to be based not on knowledge, but on the most loudly voiced opinions."

Shawn Lawrence Otto in New Sci 10-29-2011

Ouyang, Helen, NYT Mag:

"...if our brains really are plastic, what is shaped there can be reshaped. Therapies that target the brain instead of the aching back or the sore knee ... in theory could undo chronic pain."

"Nature abhors a vacuum, and the internet turns a vacuum into conspiracies."

"Internet companies aren't responsible for the ugliness of humanity."

Shira Ovide

"...man made disciplines, nature did not."

"I use the periodic chart of atoms as if it's an engineering diagram."

Sanford Ovshinsky

"Hubris syndrome is a disorder of the possession of power, particularly power which has been associated with overwhelming success, held for a period of years and with minimal constraint on the leader."

Lord David Owen and Jonathan Davidson

Owen, Wilfred:

[On WW I]...very strange look...an incomprehensible look...It was not despair or terror, it was more terrible than terror, for it was a blindfold look, without expression, like a dead rabbit's."

Candace Owens:

"Our generation is whiny. We're constantly complaining. Our generation is suffering from peace. We create meaningless problems."

"We Mormons need to wake up and stop adoring what we ourselves despise."

Stephen W Owens on Glenn Beck letter SL Trib 9-1-2010

"Evangelical operatives like Pence, Kelly, Flynn, Pompeo, the Mercers, Conway, Bannon, Sessions and others are happy to commit immoral acts and are ethically non-responsive, their eyes glazing over when journalists ask them if they support the president's most recent atrocity, is because they are members of a fully brainwashed, behaviourally conditioned cult."

Yvonne Owens in Medium pdf

Oxbow incident letter:

Law is a lot more than words you put in a book, or judges or lawyers or sheriffs you hire to carry it out. It's everything people ever have found out about justice and what's right and wrong. It's the very conscience of humanity. There can't be any such thing as civilization unless people have a conscience, because if people touch God anywhere, where is it except through their conscience? And what is anybody's conscience except a little piece of the conscience of all men that ever lived?

Ozbayoglu, Maya:

The climate crisis may center on the term "climate", but it may be one of the biggest social crises humanity has ever faced. Hence, climate justice cannot be achieved without addressing and prioritizing social justice in all parts of the globe. ... Everything has to change, especially our understanding of the impossible."