

P Quotations

"The LDS standard works of scripture are replete with teachings much closer to the ideals of the Democratic Party than the Republican Party. The whole narrative of the Book of Mormon is how the people brought upon them God's displeasure by their pride and wealth and lack of compassion for the poor. The four gospels of the New Testament are replete with references to helping the poor."

"We favor the absolute separation of church and state; No domination of the state by the church; No church interference with the functions of the state; No state interference with the functions of the church, or with the free exercise of religion." (First Presidency statement, May 1907)

Vance Pace sl trib 12-24-2011 mormon religion

"...churches are museums with floorshows. They are a caricature of what Jesus intended. Jesus would be turning over the money-changing tables in their vestibules."

"Arrests are not arrests anymore. They are badges of honor."

Bishop George Packard

"Conviction without responsibility, in the current incarnation of the Republican Party, is raving mad."

"...an even greater danger than violence or jail is the internal mute button known as self-censorship..."

The problem with free speech is that it's hard and self-censorship is the path of least resistance. But, once you learn to keep yourself from voicing unwelcome thoughts, you forget how to think them - and how to think freely at all - and ideas perish at conception."

"... democratic institutions ... have lost their strength since the nineteen-seventies - eroded from within by poor leaders and loss of nerve, undermined from without by popular distrust."

from The Atlantic, 4-2022:

"... flood of state laws to keep various books out of your hands and ideas out of your head..."

Adults keep telling you the pandemic will never end, your education is being destroyed by ideologues, digital technology is poisoning your soul, democracy is collapsing, and the planet is dying - but they're counting on you to fix everything when you grow up...

More education generally makes people more Democratic, but not more democratic...

We owe our beleaguered children, the victims of our inadequacy...

Mirrors are ultimately isolating; young readers also need windows, even if the view is unfamiliar, even if it's disturbing.

The history warriors build their metaphysics of national good or evil on a foundation of ignorance. WEB Du Bois wrote: Nations reel and stagger on their way; they make hideous mistakes; they commit frightful wrongs; they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable."

George Packer

"GDP should ... be regarded as a measure of ecological destruction. ... Our affluence ... is the result of wholesale ecological plundering. ... [We must liberate] ... ourselves from an excess that not only clutters our lives, but also makes our existence so vulnerable."

Niko Paech

Thomas Paine

via Chris Hedges:

"Where liberty is, there is my country," Benjamin Franklin once said to Paine. "Where liberty is not, there is my country," Paine replied. For Paine, the role of a citizen extended beyond national borders. The fight of those living under any system of tyranny was his fight. "When it shall be said in any country in the world 'My poor are happy; neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them; my jails are empty of prisoners, my streets of beggars; the aged are not in want, the taxes are not oppressive; the rational world is my friend, because I am a friend of happiness':

when these things can be said," Paine wrote, "then may that country boast of its constitution and its government."

He saw liberty as being intimately connected with language.

via Christopher Hitchens Rights of Man bk:

"I had thought of the concept of 'cradle to grave' or 'womb to tomb' coverage and had also conceived of it as a 'right.'...He proposed a graduated and very modest income tax, and a duty to be paid on death."

"Paine...noticed that the Bible is shot through with absurdity, inconsistency and immorality, and that it borrows its images wholesale from previously existing mythologies."

"Paine was an engineer and amateur scientist."

...he criticized those who looked only to the interests of their own particular colony, insisting that people should start thinking of themselves as 'Americans'.

Common Sense...was a catalyst that altered the course of history.

He knew very well that the Bible was the only book he could count on many of his audience having read...

Paine saw what was happening to the Indians, and saw also that the theft of their land and the threat to their existence came largely from proselytizing Christianity, which was used as a hypocritical cover for greed.

see Joseph Mather poem on Paine in Hitchens's Rights of Man, pp. 3-4.

...politicians should discover a mode of government that contained the greatest sum of individual happiness with the least national expense...'

Wizard of Oz ref in Hitchens, p. 92.

United Nations, P. 122.

Hitchens: 'Common Sense was a catalyst that altered the course of history.'

C Hitchens in T Paine's Rights of Man

"These are the times that try men's souls...the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly."

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

Every age and generation must be as free to act for itself, *in all cases*, as the ages and generations which preceded it. The vanity and presumption of governing beyond the grave is the most ridiculous and insolent of all tyrannies.

As it is my design to make those that can scarcely read understand, I shall therefore avoid every literary ornament and put it in language as plain as the alphabet...

[The regimes that emerge out of human society] may all be comprehended under three heads: First, Superstition. Secondly, Power. Thirdly, the common interest of society, and the common rights of man. The first was a government of priestcraft, the second of conquerors, and the third of reason."

"The most formidable weapon against errors of every kind is Reason."

"My religion is to do good ... My own mind is my own church....All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit."

"...a long habit of not thinking a thing *wrong*, gives it a superficial appearance of being *right*, ... Time makes more converts than reason."

"I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense; and have no other preliminaries to settle with the reader, than he will divest himself of prejudice and prepossession, and suffer his reason and his feelings to determine for themselves."

"We have been long led away by ancient prejudices, and made large sacrifices to superstition."

"Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness *positively* by uniting our affections, the latter *negatively* by restraining our vices."

...I have always strenuously supported the Right of every Man to his own opinion...He who denies to another this right, makes a slave of himself to his present opinion, because he precludes himself the right of changing it."

"With respect to...religion, if every one is left to judge of his own religion, there is no such thing as a religion that is wrong; but if they are to judge of each others religion, there is no such thing as a religion that is right; and, therefore, all the world are right, or all the world are wrong."

"One good schoolmaster is of more use than a hundred priests."

All the great laws of society are the laws of nature."

The most formidable weapon against errors of any kind is reason.

My own mind is my own church.

"A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of being right."

"I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense."

"...a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right..."

"Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness positively by uniting our affections, the latter negatively by restraining our vices. The one encourages intercourse, the other creates distinctions. The first is a patron, the last a punisher."

"Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one."

"...a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, at raises at first a formidable outcry in defence of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason."

"We have it in our power to begin the world over again. ...The birth-day of a new world is at hand."

"king be the law—let the law be the king."

I draw my idea of the form of government from a principle in nature, which no art can overturn, viz. that the more simple anything is. the less liable it is to be disordered, and the easier repaired when disordered.

...we have long been lead away by ancient prejudices, and made large sacrifices to superstition. Where liberty is not, there is my country." in response to Franklin's: Where liberty is, there is my country.

"All national institutions of churches...appear to me no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit."

"Whenever we read the obscene stories, the voluptuous debaucheries, the cruel and tortuous executions, the unrelenting vindictiveness, with which more than half the bible is filled, it would be more consistent that we call it the word of a demon than the word of God. It is a history of wickedness that has served to corrupt and brutalize..."

"My country is the world."

"It is the good fortune of many to live distant from the scene of sorrow."

"The mind once enlightened cannot again become dark."

"It is only by tracing things to their origin that we can gain rightful ideas of them..." --

Thomas Paine

"Persecution is not an original feature in any religion; but it is always the strongly marked feature of all religions established by law. Take away the law-establishment, and every religion re-assumes its original benignity."

"To argue with a man who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead."

Thomas Paine

"Man did not make the earth, and, though he had a natural right to occupy it, he had no right to locate as his property in perpetuity any part of it; neither did the Creator of the earth open a land-office, from whence the first title-deeds should issue."

Thomas Paine on private property

"My motive and object in all my political works, beginning with Common Sense," Paine remembered in 1806, "... have been to rescue man from tyranny and false systems and false principles of government, and enable him to be free."

via Chris Hedges

"...individual human beings, each in his or her own personal and sovereign right, enter into a compact with each other to produce any government."

Thomas Paine via Garry Davis

"Paine knew that those who seek to monopolize power always retreat into arcane language that is inaccessible to the masses.

... Unchecked legislatures, he warned, could be as despotic as unchecked monarchs.... Paine never veered from the proposition that liberty meant the liberty to speak the truth even if no one wanted to hear it. He died, largely forgotten, a pauper in New York City. Six people went to his funeral. Two of them were black. via Chris Hedges

"Common Sense...was that rarest of writings: words that demonstrably changed minds wholesale."

Eric F Goldman

Thomas Paine urged that everything "beyond what a man's own hands produce" was a gift that came to him simply by living in society, and, hence, "he owes on every principle of justice, of gratitude, and of civilization, a part of that accumulation back again to society from whence the whole came."

"The real man smiles in trouble, gathers strength from distress and grows brave by reflection."

Thomas Paine

"But such is the irresistible nature of truth, that all it asks, and all it wants is the liberty of appearing."

"He who dares not offend cannot be honest."

Thomas Paine.

letter to Jefferson: 'I make you a present of a thought on Louisiana.' re: Louisiana purchase!

end of Paine

"There is no backing down in the North Korean rule book," Mr. Paik said. "It's the very core of their leadership identity and motive."

Hak-soon Paik on North Korea

Palin, Sarah:

"*Going Rogue* is a four-hundred-page paeon to virtuous ignorance."

Jonathan Raban on Sarah Palin

"...violent language can incite actual violence ... metaphor can incite murder. ...Palin added to a climate of violence."

Michael Daly

"I loved the feeling of being in control when my life was not. ... When you find you just don't like a character, you just type four letters and he's dead."

Michael Palmer, on writing, via NY Times obituary

"Would you like an adventure now, or shall we have our tea first?"

Peter Pan, in Jasmine Tea House, Funchal, Levada dos Tornos

"I'm dealing with a different set of nuts."

Leon Panetta

Pang, Camilla:

"being out of place also means you are in your own world where you are free to make the rules."

"humans may be used to connect, but there is a limit to how much we can offer other people without eroding the strong force that protects our own personality, needs and identity"

"mediocrity is the opposite of what we call genius.
...genius is uncontrolled and uncontrollable...it happens through random insights resulting from unforeseen combinations."

W A Pannacker (Hope Colle) on da Vinci

the Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Center, a place meant to honor freedom of thought, a place that no one visits.

VALERY PANYUSHKIN

Pape, Robert A:

via Barton Gellman: " an essential similarity between Milosovic and Trump...

This really is a new, politically violent mass movement. This is collective political violence...

An unpunished plot is practice for the next...

"Go 'Glocal'!"

Julia Taguena Parga, 2005 via Leshner AAAS

"Jack is a bad man and bad men deserve to die."

B A Paris in Behind Closed Doors

"What becomes far from the eyes becomes far from the heart."

Jin Park, Korean proverb.

"Science is the only way of knowing. Anything else is just religion."

Robert Park

"Fertility rate: it's proportional to human ignorance.

Robert Park

"We may have built our economy, but our morality is on the verge of collapse. We must revitalize it."

Park, Seok-hong south korea confucious school

"Trump recognized an opportunity to connect with the electorate over an issue many considered taboo: the discomfort, in some quarters of American society, with the election of the nation's first black president He harnessed it for political gain, beginning his connection with the largely white Republican base that, in his 2016 campaign, helped clinch his party's nomination."

Ashley Parker and Steve Eder wrote in The Times.

Parker, Dorothy:

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."

...Rivers are damp, Acids stain you, And drugs cause cramp. Guns aren't lawful, Nooses give,
Gas smells awful. You might as well live.

What fresh hell can this be?"

Epitaph:

Leave for her a red young rose,
Go your way, and save your pity;
She is happy, for she knows
That her dust is very pretty.

Dorothy Parker

"...we have only two choices: pay to prepare now - or prepare to pay much more later."

Geoffrey Parker on climate change and history.

"...destructive energy released by a suicide goes fissuring chaotically into the future - into family, friends, so society at large - so it also blows backward into the past. It changes everything."

James Parker

Parker, Kathleen:

"...cognitive testing for voters might prove more useful in the long run. Now that's a platform I could get behind."

"When grade-school children are vulnerable to mass murderers, what's the point of government?"

"The idiot has not yet reached 'puberty,' or the transition to public life."

Walter Parker via Anthamatten

Parma, Valentina:

"We can smell fear...emotional contagion..."

Today's American Right is drunk on some very bad history, which is as dangerous as it is false.

Robert Parry

"There is a special shame in being happy in a world of such misery."

Parsloe (Kern)

"Men never commit evil so fully and joyfully as when they do it for religious convictions" - Blaise Pascal

"The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing."

Blaise Pascal

Pascal said, "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone,"

"Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction."

"All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone."

Blaise Pascal

"Our only hope lies in the **frail web of understanding** of one person for the pain of another."

John Dos Passos

Passport USA quotations:

"Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America"

Dwight D Eisenhower

"The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class - it is the cause of humankind, the very birthright of humanity."

Anna Julia Cooper

"Every generation has the obligation to free men's minds ..."

Ellison S Onizuka

"Chance favors only the prepared mind."

Louis Pasteur

"Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world."

Louis Pasteur or Paul Dirac

Patel, Eboo (see K):

[UG course]...'White supremacy is the assumption that the cultural patterns associated with white people — from clothes to language to aesthetic preferences to family structure — are normal, and the patterns associated with people of color are inferior.'

"Understanding white supremacy helped me see my life in a different light."

Raj **Patel**'s *The Value of Nothing*, 2009 (last chapter Anton's Blindness, is pdf-Zapatistas, masks, Polanyi, Adam Smith, Zapatistas, Keynes, Arendt, Dalai Lama, Ayn Rand, "The perpetual quest for economic growth has turned humankind into an agent for extinction."

Anton's Blindness, anosognosia

Karl Polanyi *The Great Transformation* Speenhamland Laws

"'too big to fail' simply means 'so big that it can depend on society to pick it up when it topples.'"

paraphrased: War is God's way of teaching Americans geography; recession is His way of teaching ... economics.

"For [Marz], capitalism bred vampires...

indigenous cultures told of Weendigoes...The modern Weendigo ... is the multinational corporation...

the Magna Carta's twin charter, the Charter of the Forest...a commons right guaranteed freedom in perpetuity over local resources for everyone...The commons was ... both a place and a 'process of freedom'...

Property rights can be far more flexible and elastic than we currently imagine them....

under capitalism, *money is the right to have rights*...

for more and more Americans, freedom is just another word for nothing they can afford...

the passivity of the majority is what allows the powerful to rule...

There are two novels that can transform a bookish fourteen-year-old's life: *The Lord of the Rings* and *Atlas Shrugged*. One is a childish daydream that can lead to an emotionally stunted, socially crippled adulthood in which large chunks of the day are spent inventing ways to make real life more like a fantasy novel. The other is a book about orcs."

"...capitalism dodges the payments of things that it requires in order to be profitable."

"Zapatista democracy makes ours look decrepit and hollow....Caracol...The most dangerous parts of us is our mouths...

What needs to be plucked out of markets is the perpetual and overriding hunger for expansion and profit that has brought us to the brink of ecological catastrophe...

end Patel

"We will not give the Exxon CEO the honor of imparting his well-wishes for our futures when he is largely responsible for undermining them."

Linnea Palmer Paton, WPI student

Patrikarakos, David:

'He's lost his fucking mind ... creeping insanity...

...it's my land. Few of the people I know here are frightened. We are irate - you can feel a sense of unity everywhere.'

'Putin...is a high functioning psychopath...Russia is going to become an even darker and more repressive place...

War in 140 Characters: How Social Media Is Reshaping Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

Patrikarakos, David:

conceptual framework that takes into account how social media has transformed the way that wars are waged, covered, and consumed. We need to better understand the twenty-first-century war.

First, power has shifted from hierarchies or institutions to individual citizens and networks of citizens. Second, the narrative dimensions of war are arguably becoming more important than its physical dimensions. And third, the conflicts I was examining were not "traditional" state-on-state wars. Instead, modern conflict tends to either take place between a state and a non-state actor (as with, for example, Israel and Hamas, or Iraq and Islamic State) or exist somewhere in the nebulous region between the boundaries of war and peace (as I witnessed in Ukraine).

War, like a virus, must mutate to survive.

in Ukraine it became clear that military operations on the ground were supporting information operations on TV and in cyberspace. The boundaries between politics and war, it appeared to me, had become blurred—

social media has irretrievably changed the way that wars are fought, reported on, and consumed. power is moving from hierarchies to citizens and networks, and connection technologies enable that shift in power—defining a hierarchy as the nation-state, as a large media organization, or other such things. And the kinds of capabilities that would have once been reserved for large media organizations or for nation-states have suddenly become available to networks of individuals.

it was during the Arab Spring that Homo digitalis was first revealed.

Alec Ross observed from his experience of working in the White House: “I think the Internet is the single most disruptive force for the sovereign nation-state since the concept was founded with the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia.

Social media creates networks that, by their nature, are not built around the architecture of a single state. They are transnational and care little for borders or nationalism.

end Patrikarakos

“If it takes a temple of consumerism to attract potential converts, I feel we are headed in a direction completely opposite to the direction the gospel encourages.”

Franziska Patterson, Mormon, on City Creek Center

Richard North Patterson

“I don’t want to occupy the guy’s psyche.”..his world view begins and ends with Trump...

The fiction, the story he’s telling, never stops.”

“No way were all men created equal. According to some of the country’s top statisticians, exactly half of them are below average...”

Troy Patterson, Slate on fireworks

Paul, Annie Murphy:

The Extended Mind: The Power of Thinking Outside the Brain

A Philosophy of Walking, by the contemporary French philosopher
Frédéric Gros.

Far more conducive to the act of creation, Gros continues, is “the walking body”—which, he says, is “unfolded and tensed like a bow: opened to wide spaces like a flower to the sun.” Nietzsche, he reminds us, wrote that we should “sit as little as possible; do not believe any idea that was not born in the open air and of free movement.”

the brilliant intellectual team of Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman. The two psychologists carried out much of their groundbreaking work on heuristics and biases—the human mind’s habitual shortcuts and distortions—by talking and walking together, through the bustling streets of Jerusalem or along the rolling hills of the California coast. “I did the best thinking of my life on leisurely walks with Amos,” Kahneman has said.

the ways people use the world to think: the gestures

of the hands, the space of a sketchbook, the act of listening to someone tell a story, or the task of teaching someone else. These “extra-neural” inputs change the way we think;

Barbara McClintock made her Nobel Prize-winning discoveries by imaginatively “embodying” the plant chromosomes she studied,

physicist Carl Wieman, another Nobel Prize winner, figured out that inducing his students to talk with one another was the key to getting them to think like scientists.

our physical movements and gestures play “an important role in an extended neural-bodily cognitive economy”;

Frédéric Gros, the French philosopher who brought Nietzsche's words to my attention, maintains that thinkers ought to get moving in a "quest for a different light." As he observes, "Libraries are always too dark," and books written among the stacks manifest this dull dimness—while "other books reflect piercing mountain light, or the sea sparkling in sunshine."

Friedrich Nietzsche, from earlier in our journey. "Only thoughts which come from walking have any value," he maintained.

Søren Kierkegaard felt similarly. "I have walked myself into my best thoughts," remarked the Danish philosopher.

Walking is "gymnastics for the mind," observed the American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson. "I am unable to reflect when I am not walking;

the mobile intelligence of "the mind at three miles per hour," as the contemporary writer Rebecca Solnit has called the mental state induced by walking.

"Walking," the essay by philosopher and naturalist Henry David Thoreau.

Thoreau expanded on the theme in his journal. "How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live!" he exclaimed. "Methinks that the moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow."

end Paul, Annie

Paul, Pamela NYT:

"That is what art is meant to do — cross boundaries, engender empathy with other people, bridge the differences between author and reader, one human and another...

How do we ask young people just starting out, or older people who have seen so much progress reversed, to care about a country that seems so determined to care so little for them?"

My understanding is that espionage means giving secret or classified information to the enemy. Since Snowden shared information with the American people, his indictment for espionage could reveal (or confirm) that the US Government views you and me as the enemy.

Ron Paul

"This isn't right. It's not even wrong."

Wolfgang Pauli

"I don't mind your thinking slowly: I mind your publishing faster than you think."

Wolfgang Pauli, 1900-1958

Pauling, Linus:

"Best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas."

L Pauling, quoted at Lawrence Hall of Sci.

At his 90th Birthday, Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling was asked the secret of his longevity. "Always hold the hand rail" he answered.

"There is a bravery associated with disbelief and honest doubt."

John Allen Paulos, "

Paumgarten, Nick:

"A kind of visual starvation took hold." on pandemic sequestration

Randy Pausch, The Last Lecture, 2008:

We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand.

...too much stroking and too little real feedback.

Luck is indeed where preparation meets opportunity. (Seneca, Roman philosopher)

Whether you think you can or can't, you're right.

Somebody's got to be the first penguin.

"If you wish to travel far and fast, travel light. Take off all your envies, jealousies, unforgiveness, selfishness, and fears."

Cesare Pavese

"Art should always raise doubts about power, not serve it...we all live on the border between sanity and insanity."

Pyotr A Pavlensky NYT Bone in Throat 2020

"I was praying...for the veil of ignorance to be lifted from the judge's and prosecutor's eyes."

Vincent Pawloski, on DeChristopher, via McEntee

Donald Trump is an opportunist concerned exclusively with his own celebrity and wealth. He acts on any momentary impulse that seems to favor those ends. He is an authoritarian personality devoid of any commitment to the rule of law, political tradition, or even ideology

Robert O Paxton

"We are molded to be served, and when that isn't accomplished, the violence begins."

Eduardo Alfonso Campos Paz Guatemala judge

"A civilization that denies death ends by denying life."

"...blood, the sacred food..."

Octavio Paz

"No being of a social nature can be entirely beyond the tendency to fall to the level of his associates."

Elizabeth Peabody

"Science is one thing and wisdom is another. Science is an edged tool, with which men play like children, and cut their own fingers."

Thomas Peacock

"The carbon emissions of one American today are equivalent to those of around four Chinese, 20 Indians, 30 Pakistanis, 40 Nigerians or 250 Ethiopians...the consumption bomb is still primed and ever more dangerous."

Fred Pearce

"Repeal the 20th century. Vote GOP"

"The right antidote for not doing any of the right things for too long is not to do too much of the wrong thing too fast."

Steven Pearlstein

"Students who live in fear become numb, ...but when [they are] able to really be heard, [they can] feel again. And [become] really motivated to do something about it."

Francesca Peck, Chicago teacher

Peck, M. Scott:

"... the existence of evil is inevitable, at least in this stage in human evolution. Given the force of entropy and the fact that humans possess free will ... "

"This is not a nice book. It is about our dark side, and in large part about the various darkest members of our human community - those I frankly judge to be evil."

entropy and original sin;

the problem of evil.

ordered in Leiden w Tonio on line via [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) 3-29-1998!

M Scott Peck

Peck, Raoul:

"...the world as you think it is, is not the world as it is."

"Young students must be told those stories "and a thousand more.

They must hear those stories from us, the elders, we writers in our empty rooms trying to make our brains bleed directly onto a blank page, and from parents and grandparents and teachers and librarians; adults with our books in our hands, with pages turning to our readers' futures."

Richard Peck

"Do they want to read that someone who is that successful is now failing? Yes. These are people that live their life failing, so they want to read negative things about people who have gone up and then come down."

David Pecker, National Enquirer, via Toobin pdf

"... hedge funds evolved to become a huge crap game of risk that benefited only a few who bet against them."

John Peine

"A man can't play one game all his life."

Pele

"Leadership means asserting your independence."

"It's called a wrap-up smear. You make up something. Then you have the press write about it. And then you say, everybody is writing about this charge. It's a tool of an authoritarian."

"It's like a manhood thing for him. As if manhood could ever be associated with him."

"manifesto of mistruths."

Nancy Pelosi

Plotinus, an ancient roman philosopher, once stated that "You can only apprehend the infinite by a faculty superior to wisdom, by entering into a state in which you are your finite self no longer- in which the divine essence is communicated to you. This is ecstasy. It is the liberation of your mind from finite consciousness" (Plotinus 1 99 1).

"She finds him reprehensible—just totally vile."

referring to Karen Pence on Trump, via Coppin piece

"Look, I'm in a difficult position here. I'm going to have to 100 percent defend everything the president says. Is that something you're going to be able to do if you're on my staff?"

Mike Pence

Pennycook, Gordon:

"...shifting attention to the concept of accuracy can cause people to improve the quality of the news that they share...misinformation fake news

"I believe in a division of labor. You send us to Congress, we pass the laws under which you make money...and you further contribute to our campaign funds to pass more laws to enable you to make more money."

Boies Penrose, Rep. Sen., Pa, late 19th century, speaking to businessmen, quoted by Piven. Plutocracy

3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) is a drug popularly known as "Ecstasy," both in name and in description of its effects. In accordance with Plotinus' interpretation of emotional ecstasy as an unlocking of the mind, MDMA is well known for its ability to remove mental barriers, abolish the fear response, and enhance sensuality.

Alana R Pentney

"Suspicion has its own charm. It makes you feel just and right...Suspicion is a very pleasant commodity."

Shimon Peres

I can take violence and turn it into something positive."

Carlos Perez, Guatemalan artist

"[GOP] rhetoric ... is in collision course with the truth."

Thomas Perez

"We do not say that a man who takes no interest in politics is a man who minds his own business; we say he has no business here at all."

Pericles

"...the American population is fertile ground right now for conspiracy theories and manipulation."

Nathaniel Persily

"The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty.

The activist is the man who cleans up the river."

Ross Perot

Perot via L P Jobs: "Never forget there is a child on the streets of Calcutta today who's dying and who was way smarter than you."

"A generation is in the midst of disappearing. And you have a new generation that is in the midst of being born and that is questioning yesterday's political fault lines. They are in the midst of inventing something, one doesn't yet know what. But they are in the middle of creating something new."

Pascal Perrineau, on Macron's victory

"...know your people...

you don't want to pile on adjectives - use one word."

Anne Perry, Pacific Grove talk

"I, Rick Perry,...proclaim the three-day period...as Days of Prayer for Rain in the State of Texas."

"...Trumpism - a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense."

Rick Perry

Peskin, Sara Manning:

A Molecule Away from Madness: Tales of the Hijacked Brain

real-life details of the crumbling mind,
we are each just a molecule away from madness.

Pessoa, Fernando:

"Freedom is the possibility of isolation."

'[Pessoa] sublimated his erotic yearnings into a mystical chastity.' via Moser review.

"Given the dearth of people he can get along with, what can a man of sensibility do but invent his own friends or at least his intellectual companions?"

"... there's no sin in repeating the truth if the truth hasn't sunk in yet....

"...American political culture evolved from the communitarian patriotic liberalism of Peter's New Deal youth to a get-mine conservatism..." Paul Glastris review of We do our Part.

Charles Peters

"...partisan affiliation...says something about your character."
Jeremy Peters NYT

"...a successful poet was not merely one enemy. As his verses began to be adopted and repeated by others, he became many foes".
Daniel C Peterson

"Salt Lake City ... a camp originally filled with idealists angry at Wall Street soon became concerned about the lives of the city's homeless..."
now Civic Riot anti-inland port group?
Eric Peterson

"Religion is the most dangerous energy source known to humankind...The history, world-wide, of religion-fueled hate, killing, and oppression is staggering."
Eugene H Peterson, The Message

Peterson, Jillian:
The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic

America has been hunting
monsters—even though they were among us before this—for more than two decades,
All the running, hiding, and fighting has failed. It has failed because the monsters are not them.
They are us—boys and men we know. Our children. Our students. Our colleagues. Our
community.
"When you label them monsters, you erase the ability for anyone to think someone in their life
could do this," she told us.
IN THE EVENT THAT I DIE FROM GUN VIOLENCE, PLEASE PUBLICIZE THE PHOTO OF MY
DEATH.
"psychological autopsies," involving extensive in-depth interviews with friends, family members,
and colleagues, often to determine motives behind suicides.

"What will sustain me in my last moments is an infinite curiosity as to what is to follow."
Otto Petersson on death

Petri, Alexandra:
"Books follow you home and pry open your head and rearrange the things inside."
...They are an insidious and deadly poison. Years after you read them, they come back and
bother you late at night.
...
end Petri

"The public has become more familiar with the concept of risk and the fact that it is ubiquitous...
people have become resigned to risk."
Henry Petroski

"If everything and everyone is portrayed negatively, there's a levelling effect that opens the door
to charlatans."
Thomas Petterson

Ann Pettifor see pdf and under Polanyi

"...Internet memes... a unique medium that has the capability to easily and seamlessly transfer
ideologies between groups...these media can potentially enable subcultures to challenge, and
possibly overthrow, hegemonic power structures that maintain the dominance of a mainstream
culture."

once the meme machine has been started, there is no shutting it off, and there is no predicting where it will lead.

Ben Pettis

"...a far greater danger lurks in what has been called subversive inactivity...apathy – indifference – is our greatest national sin."

J Howard Pew

"It's prejudice, not knowledge, that threatens us."

Steven Phelps

"The earth is not dying, it is being killed. And those that are killing it have names and addresses.

"...think about bullets as dollars...weapons of privilege...the long memory."

Utah Phillips

Phillips, Maya:

"...when reality barges in, the art seems to be nothing but farce."

Whitney Phillips and Ryan Milner: The Ambivalent Internet, 2017 Kindle:

"...harness customer review capabilities for a wholly unintended collective purpose: to make strangers laugh on the internet, or at least furrow their brow in consternation...

...they are ambivalent...

there's no point in trying to build a wall around a verb...

"I may not believe in God, but I do believe in nuns....quoting Sister Jeannine Gramick: 'It is about love. It is who you fall in love with that makes you lesbian and gay. Love is the important thing here, not sex'."

Jo Piazza, quoted by Nicholas Kristof

"Our heads are round so our thoughts can change direction."

Francis Picabia

"Nothing has changed the nature of man so much as the loss of silence."

Max Picard

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once one grows up."

"A plagiarist steals from one person. A true artist steals from everybody.

"Art is a lie that let us recognize the truth."

"Without great solitude, no serious work is possible."

The meaning of life is to find your gift.

The purpose of life is to give it away.

Pablo Picasso

"I have always believed that it is important to show a new look periodically. Predictability can lead to failure."

"Predictability leads to failure."

T Boone Pickens

we're in an era where we think there are no consequences to believing nonsense.

Charles P Pierce

Piketty:

"What really matters for economic prosperity is education and relative equality in education."

"The United States is getting accustomed to a completely crazy level of inequality. People say

that reducing inequality is radical. I think that tolerating the level of inequality the United States tolerates is radical....In a way, the United States is becoming like Old Europe, which is very strange in historical perspective...The United States used to be very egalitarian, not just in spirit but in actuality. Inequality of wealth and income used to be much larger in France. And very high taxes on the very rich — that was invented in the United States.”

“...the risk of a drift towards oligarchy is real and gives little reason for optimism.”

“...the level of inequality in the United States is probably higher than in any other society at any time in the past, anywhere in the world.”

“I believe in private property. But capitalism and markets should be the slave of democracy and not the opposite.”

“We just want a way to share the tax burden that is fair and practical.”

“Trickle-down economics could have been true. It just happened to be wrong.”

“The past devours the future.”

“...each camp justifies its own intellectual laziness by pointing to the laziness of the other.”

Whether such extreme inequality is or is not sustainable depends not only on the effectiveness of the repressive apparatus but also, and perhaps primarily, on the effectiveness of the apparatus of justification.”

“Every human society must justify its inequalities...an inviolable natural right [to] strictly private property cannot withstand analysis.... economist.com/thomaspiketty

NYT Review A Brief History of Inequality via Nicholas Lemann:

What caused this progress? Piketty has a straightforward answer: the advent of progressive taxes on income and wealth, and of the comprehensive welfare state. The taxes reduced inequality and paid for the welfare state, which has provided education, health care, old-age pensions and protection against severe deprivation. ...property owners have always used their excessive influence over government to create systems of “military and colonial domination” and environmental despoliation that made them even more wealthy than they were already. The idea that growth can solve the world’s economic woes is “totally insane.” Only a substantial weakening of property rights — a process that in the past included the abolition of slavery, but has many more steps to take - can do that.

Piketty writes as a citizen of the world, suspicious of nationalism, ...Although Piketty favors much higher income tax rates (“virtually confiscatory tax rates have been an immense historical success”), policies that redistribute property rather than income are the heart of his program.

These would include reparations for descendants of enslaved and colonized people, encouraging countries in the global south to tax the fortunes of nonresidents who do business there, cancellation of debts and a program he calls "inheritance for all," in which wealth taxes would reduce large fortunes and provide everyone with a financial cushion.

participatory socialism...

Significant movement in the right direction, by his lights, has always required wars, revolutions, economic depressions and "political movements of great scope."

Piketty ...treats the current system of "hypercapitalism" as being obviously doomed.

end Thomas Piketty

'the Western ego, the primacy of self that our entire civilization is intricately designed to shore up and protect, simply does not exist.' by

Daniel Pinchbeck in Intro to 2013 edition of Watts The Joyous Cosmology.

Pinker

"When people subscribe to an ideology, they suck up evidence that supports their preconceptions and filter out evidence that goes against them. Contrary to the belief of most scientists that denial of climate change is an effect of scientific illiteracy, it is not at all correlated with scientific literacy. People who believe in man-made climate change don't know any more about climate or science than those who deny it. It's almost perfectly correlated with left-wing versus right-wing orientation. And a move toward greater rationality would unbundle them and let evidence inform what the optimal policies ought to be."

"academic discipline, because these disciplines are fictions. Knowledge is a continuous landscape, and is divided into specialties for the convenience of deans and so the registrars can

itemize the bill they send to your parents.

Could anyone

enjoy a sunset less when they come to understand that white light is a mixture of colors, or lose the beauty

of a flower when they learn that it is the plant's way of tricking an insect into spreading its pollen?

For me,

understanding how the world works can only add to the richness of being alive. It is like seeing in color

rather than black and white, or listening to music in stereo rather than mono."

Steven Pinker, 1999 Seven Wonders speech

"Opinions have become loyalty badges for one's tribe."

Steven Pinker

"Trumpism, like Brexit and European populism, are old men's movements: support drops off sharply with age."

end Steven Pinker

"To have language that can circle something living, like a relationship, like putting your arms around a big cedar, feeling its life and power, while allowing the roots and stems to continue to grow. By holding something living like this, the language becomes equally living. It makes us alive. Your essay does this, these things."

Karen Piper, quoting Keith HCN pdf

"Conspiracy theories – fears on nonexistent conspiracies – are flourishing in the United States.

...these tend to come disproportionately from two broad groups of people: the politically disaffected and the culturally suspicious.
Unconstrained, conspiracism leads to doubts about everything, bringing life itself under suspicion.
...conspiracy theories are a key element of extremism.
...the further out a person stands to the Right and Left, the more consistently he relies on conspiracy theories and the more profoundly do they shape his worldview."
...political paranoids need not suffer from personal paranoia...often the two go together."
Daniel Pipes

"Adolescence is so filled with suffering...Cell phones are a substitute for inner thought and development of an inner scaffolding."
Mary Pipher discussion after Reviving Ophelia 5- 17-07

"Increasing human longevity has no meaning, it is ecological nonsense."
Stefano Piraino

"When one person suffers from delusion, it is called insanity. When many people suffer from a delusion, it is called Religion."
If a revolution destroys a systematic government, but the systematic patterns of thought that produced that government are left intact, then those patterns will repeat themselves in the succeeding government.
There's so much talk about the system. And so little understanding."
Robert M Pirsig

"Frightened people are not thinking people; if you can make someone scared enough, you can make them do or believe anything."
Leonard Pitts, Jr. columnist

"You look for a toehold, a place to grab on to, a front - no matter how meager - from which to wage your own siege, against all that has gone so catastrophically wrong"
William Rivers Pitt

Pittsburg Observatory Plaque (via Hibbs?):
"We have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night."

Piven, Francis Fox::

"...it is in fact precisely at the moments when people act outside of electoral norms that electoral-representative procedures are more likely to realize their democratic potential."
"Extremes of inequality are also associated with rising religiosity as people turn heavenward for the solution of the problems of daily life."
"...governing elites in the modern state depend on the acquiescence if not the approval of enfranchised voters."
"...disruption...a power strategy that rests on withdrawing cooperation in social relations."
"...rules constitute a new exterior and constraining social reality. Rules establishing property rights ... p. 28
"...disruptive movements are responsible for the truly brilliant moments of reform in American history...(but) ...are often rolled back."
"Election day should be a national holiday."
"...,the mobilization of collective defiance and the disruption it causes have always been essential to the preservation of democracy."
"There is an intimate connection between what people think is possible in politics and what they think is right...once new possibilities for change that are within the reach of ordinary people become evident,...popular aspirations also expand. ...the mobilization of collective defiance and the disruption it causes have always been essential to the preservation of democracy."
"...people must *recognize their potential power* before they can act on it."

"the people who have been
hurt the most by the trends of the past several decades have so

far remained quiescent. I think the answer to that question is in the force of the blows levied on poorer people by our culture of insult, and the deliberate escalation of that insult over the past forty years....The politics of the past forty years has deeply aggravated the insult of poverty. To smooth the way, new think tanks, along with hordes of lobbyists and new political organizations, revived an ancient argument. The causes of poverty lay not with institutions but with the poor themselves, with their culture of poverty, their promiscuity, their shortsightedness, their criminality. And the safety net programs that eased their plight in fact indulged and worsened all these bad traits. They became "dependent."... No matter the hardship, shame makes protest less likely....it is participation in the movement that transforms people, more than the other way round. Movements make individual problems collective problems. They provide comradeship and support. And they show people not only that there is hope but that they themselves are the reason for hope."

'... political systems grant largely cosmetic concessions to progressive movements.'

"... ordinary people exercise power in American politics mainly at those extraordinary moments when they raise up in anger and hope, defy the rules that ordinarily govern their daily lives, and by doing so, disrupt the workings of the institutions in which they are enmeshed."

Frances Fox Piven

"... we woke from a nightmare to find it was our new reality. ... what makes movements a force ... is the deployment of a distinctive power that arises from the ability of angry and indignant people to at times defy the rules that usually ensure their cooperation and quiescence. ... people in motion, in movements, can throw sand in the gears of the institutions that depend on their cooperation ... movements need numbers but they also need a strategy that maps the impact of their defiance and the ensuing disruptions on the authority of decision-makers.

Francis Fox Piven in The Nation 1-2017

"Those in power now are 'crazy'. But they're also evil. And they will be evil because they are greedy....disensus...Momentum program...

end Piven

Pivi, Paola:

"...Duchamp led me to experience art without form - the experience is not in front of your eyes, but inside the brain, cerebral not retinal."

Pizzagati:

A fascinating [new book](#) — by MIT economist Daron Acemoglu and Harvard political scientist James Robinson — [is arguing](#) that nations start falling apart when their elites amass enough wealth and power to essentially "rig the game" on their own behalf. These rich attempt to bulldoze away anything and anybody that stands in their way. If they succeed, their societies eventually collapse.

from Too Much 6-2013: " The President of the United States makes about 25 times the compensation of the lowest-paid federal employee. We could apply that standard to federal contracting and deny our tax dollars to companies that pay their top execs over 25 times what any of their workers are making."

end Pizzagati

"Phone calls are amazing things...a lot gets misconstrued in written messages...I try to touch base by phone..."

Joseph Plambeck NYT Tech

"...its opponents gradually die out and ...the growing generation is familiarized with the idea from the beginning."

Max Planck

"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."
'Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.'

Plato

"...the community suffers nothing very terrible if its cobblers are bad...; but if the Guardians of the laws and state who alone have the opportunity to bring it good government and prosperity become a mere sham, then clearly it is completely ruined."

Plato

"Democracy is the best form of government only when truth is the number one value of a society." (Plato, *The Republic*)

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber. – Plato

"Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something."

Plato

Pleninger:

Interview with a Fungus by Diana Brooks Pleninger

The Economist's The World in 2004, page 58:

Interviewer: "...what has been the human purpose during recent centuries?"

Fungus: "With the advantage of hindsight, I think we can summarize it as a failed experiment in individualism. The idea of the individual -- and there is no fungal equivalent -- arose during a period of rapid change in human society. In the abstract, individualism looked defensible, even appealing. The ideal individual was to be educated and enlightened, someone we'd all like to know. However, as a practical matter, the culture of enlightened individualism reformed itself after a brief period into a cult of personal freedom. Over the next several centuries, unbridled personal freedom and chance distributions of natural resources led to the creation of certain wealthy and isolated colonies of humans. Their prosperity excited envy and the rest of the world did what they could to emulate them. Large populations of humans moved from a very simple experience of the natural world to the expectation of a lifestyle similar to what the exploiters were enjoying. This clamor for plenitude put enormous stress on the biosphere."

Fungus continues: "Poor quality information tends to ferment into low-grade entertainment. Under the sulphurous glare of continuous, worldwide news broadcasts, human institutions -- government, military, religious, culture itself -- became subjects of human amusement. This unrelenting, self-referential entertainment left a large part of mankind and chronically inebriated and fundamentally uneducable."

end Pleniger

"Creativity....the power to connect the seemingly unconnected."

William Plomer

"You can only apprehend the infinite by a faculty superior to wisdom, by entering into a state in which you are your finite self no longer- in which the divine essence is communicated to you. This is ecstasy. It is the liberation of your mind from finite consciousness"

Plotinus

"Every time a shaman dies, a library is burned."

Mark Plotkin

"...there is no bar low enough to satisfy them."

David Plouffe on GOP legislators

Podemos:

"When they insult you, when they yell, when they lie, when they slander, smile - because we are going to win."

Pablo Iglesias, Podemos leader; #SuOdioNuestraSonrisa: Their Hate, Our Smile.

"Something very interesting has happened in Spain: the people have finally discovered that they are smarter than their own politicians."

Sanchez Leon

"Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things that escape those that dream only at night."

Edgar Allan Poe

"[He was] naïve enough to be really original."

Tomaso Poggio on Donald Glaser

"I like to talk to people and get them to change their views when I think their views are wrong. Why else would anyone write a book?"

Frederik Pohl

"Modern man has used cause-and-effect as ancient man used the gods to give order to the Universe. This is not because it was the truest system, but because it was the most convenient."

Henri Poincare

"The scientist does not study nature because it is useful; he studies it because he delights in it, and because it is beautiful."

"It is by logic we prove; it is by intuition that we invent."

Poincare

"Whatever your cause, it's a lost cause if we don't stop population growth."

David O Poindexter see pdf

"White nationalism is in many ways a mirror image of radical Islamism. Both share a nostalgic obsession with a purist form of identity: for one, a medieval Islamic state; for the other, a white nation unpolluted by immigrant blood."

Sasha Polakow-Suransky nyt op-ed

"The true nature of the international system under which we were living was not realized until it failed." —Karl Polanyi

"To allow the market mechanism to be the sole director of the fate of human beings and their natural environment...would result in the demolition of society."

Karl Polanyi

Polanyi via Ann Pettifor:

This internationalized market system demanded that society be subordinated to its needs....

Markets then became detached from political systems of regulatory democracy, which were necessarily bound by borders.

...that separation was the system's deep flaw and "the clue to its rapid downfall" in 1933. ...Such an institution could not exist...without annihilating the human and natural substance of society. ..

"a society does not become conscious of the true nature of the institutions under which it lived until those institutions have already passed".

Today...[companies] effectively police themselves. They have moved "from offering utopia to selling dystopia", as economic analyst Rana Foroohar argues (see go.nature.com/3822vkb).

The effective organization of the world today is economic, not political. As Polanyi predicted, citizens are belatedly discovering that their politicians and political institutions are impotent against these forces.

"Human society became an accessory of the economic system."

"To allow the market mechanism to be the sole director of the fate of human beings and their natural environment ...would result in the demolition of society."

"As long as (Man) is true to his task of creating more abundant freedom for all, he need not fear that either power or planning will turn against him and destroy the freedom he is building by their instrumentality. This is the meaning of freedom in a complex society; it gives us all the certainty that we need."

Karl Polanyi (end of book, Great Transformation)

Saval review of Dale bk - see pdf:

"... libertarian figures like Hayek and Mises, ... were in fact dedicated to an implausible utopia. An unchecked market was anything but natural. Left to function on its own, it destroys human beings and the planet along with it.

The Great Transformation offers a remarkable amount of insight into how [liberalism] helped commoditize those parts of human culture that should have remained outside the jurisdiction of the market—in particular, land, labor, and money.

"If all men were exterminated, this would not affect the laws of inanimate nature."

"Thought can live only on grounds which we adopt in the service of a reality to which we submit."

"Man is the innovator and explorer, passionately pouring himself into an existence closer to reality."

Michael Polanyi

"I don't like who you've become, my girlfriend had said years earlier.... Wall Street is a toxic culture that encourages the grandiosity of people who are desperately trying to feel powerful.... Wealth Addicts Anonymous. Why not? Because our culture supports and even lauds the addiction....

my boss shot me a withering look. I remember his saying, 'I don't have the brain capacity to think about the system as a whole. All I'm concerned with is how this affects our company.'"

Sam Polk

"You can't just stare at the world. You have to view it from a chosen point of view."

John Polkinghorne

G H Pollack, Cells, Gels, and the Engines of Life Ener and Sons, Seattle, 2001:

"...excavating toward the core of truth requires the peeling back of multiple layers of assumption." P37

"...assumptions are weeds that choke the flowers of truth." P47

"It is not the sheath that counts—but what lies within." P109

"Order, the very hallmark of the living state, is in fact a cloaked mechanism for the storage of potential energy." P253

Pollan, Michael:

book review by Rebecca Tuhus-Dubrow The Nation:

'a hallmark of the psychedelic experience is the dissolution of the ego., the melting of boundaries between the self and ther world...one unusual aspect of the effects of these drugs is their durability...It's not the chemical reaction that matters; it's the resulting experience, which, afterward, remarkably continues to seem legitimate.Users consistently believe, after the chemical has worn off, that they've been granted access to great truths, and often the revelations stay with them and change their lives in profound ways...a drug might hold the key tosurmounting addiction... [via a] reboot of the system...

A potent experience can shake addicts out of ingrained mental patterns and grant them new flexibility, while putting the cravings of the self into a larger perspective. ... for alcoholism, the evidence is similarly intriguing...psychedelics embody a certain orm of spirituality - direct access to revelation, a realm where words are both inadequate and unnecessary...'

“New research shows how psychedelics introduce noise into the brain – how they make it link disparate concepts, shaking us up to produce more unconventional ideas. Whether this will help answer the big questions of consciousness is hard to say, but it seems to be leading us down useful therapeutic avenues: Pollan recounts heart-warming stories of people helped through depression, cancer and addiction.”

Helen Thomson New Scientist review of Pollan

“...what psychedelics seem to be particularly good for is jogging us out of our grooves of habit and allowing us to acquire a fresh perspective on familiar things.”

Michael Pollan

“A high dose psychedelic experience often shrinks the ego...the psychedelic experience seems to bring down these walls of ego and open up this powerful sense of connection...We face existential crises on the order of someone facing a terminal diagnosis. And the fact that psychedelics can help those people is reason enough to explore their relevance for people facing that more collective sense of existential dread.”

“Velocity and truth. Velocity and truth. Keep it honest and keep it fast.”

Pollan on writing, via Michael J Fox.

MDMA, scientifically known as methylenedioxymethamphetamine and more popularly known as Ecstasy or Molly, is a “drug famous for its ability to break down barriers between people and kindle empathy,” wrote Pollan in *How to Change Your Mind*.

“The potential of MDMA to mediate conflict seems to me something well worth researching. We know that the drug opens a space in which people can discuss difficult issues without being defensive, and that it promotes an almost instantaneous bond of trust between people. So I don’t think it’s crazy at all, though admittedly untested in the context of arms negotiations or Mideast peace talks. It’s interesting to think what sort of experiment could test these ideas.

This Is Your Mind on Plants: opium caffeine mescaline

Pollan, Michael

Human consciousness is always at risk of getting stuck, sending the mind around and around in loops of rumination; mushroom chemicals like psilocybin can nudge us out of those grooves, loosening stuck brains and making possible fresh patterns of thought.

The notion of a beyond, of a hidden dimension of reality, or of an afterlife—these, too, may be memes introduced to human culture by visions that psychoactive molecules inspired in human minds.

a psychoactive drug is not a thing—without a human brain, it is inert—so much as it is a relationship; it takes both a molecule and a mind to make anything happen.
Opium

as a political tool to wield against his enemies. In an April 2016 article in *Harper’s Magazine*, “Legalize It All,” Dan Baum recounted an interview that he conducted with John Ehrlichman in 1994—two

Ehrlichman explained that 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 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.”*

The war on terror has taken over from the war on drugs as a justification for expanding government power and curbing civil liberties. And as a matter of public health,

Greeks and Romans,...We're evidently not as good as they were at holding two contradictory ideas in our heads,

my bedside table. Winter is when the gardener reads and dreams and draws up schemes for the borders he will plant come spring,

Opium:

nineteenth-century medicine, in whose arsenal opium—usually in the form of a tincture called laudanum—was easily the most important weapon. In part this was because the principal goal of medical care at that time was not so much to cure

illness as to relieve pain, and there was (and is) no better painkiller than opium and its derivatives. But opium-based preparations were also used to treat, or prevent, a great variety of ills, including dysentery, malaria, tuberculosis, cough, insomnia, anxiety, and even colic in infants. (Since opium is extremely bitter, nursing mothers would induce babies to ingest it by smearing the medicine on their nipples.) Regarded as “God’s own medicine,” preparations of opium were as common in the Victorian medicine cabinet as aspirin is in ours.

fact, it is possible to germinate poppy seeds bought from the supermarket’s spice aisle. Also, eating such seeds prior to taking

civil-liberties lawyers have taken to calling “the drugs exception to the Bill of Rights.”

Taking the warm, plum-size pod between my thumb and forefinger, I nicked its skin with a thumbnail. After a moment a small bead of milky sap formed on the surface; the wound continued to bleed for a minute or two, the sap darkening perceptibly as it oxidized, and then it slowed, clotting. I dabbed the drop of opium with my forefinger, touched it to my tongue. It was indescribably bitter. The taste lingered on my palate for the rest of the afternoon.

heads are undoubtedly the most potent part of the plant.”

Tea:

make a potent tea from dried poppies, pulverizing a handful of heads in a coffee grinder and then steeping the powder in hot water. I asked him to describe the effects of a cup of poppy tea. “It’s not a knock-you-on-your-ass sort of thing, not like smoking opium. In fact, a lot of people will tell you they forget that they are high. It starts with a tickling feeling in the stomach that then rises up into the shoulders and head—this feeling of just . . . joy. You feel optimistic about things; energetic but at the same time relaxed. You’ll remain functional: you won’t say anything stupid and you’ll remember everything that happens. You won’t nod out, though you will feel a strong desire to close your eyes. Any pain you have will go away; the tea will also relieve exogenously caused depression. That’s why poppy tea is served at funerals in the Middle East. It can make sadness go away.”

opportunity by failing to harvest the seedpods while still fresh and full of sap, or opium. Duke suggested that alcohol would make . . . better solvent than hot water for extracting alkaloids from poppies, which made sense: laudanum is a name for just such a tincture of opium. “You can get the equivalent of a shot of heroin from a good green pod dissolved in a glass of vodka,” Duke told me.

crushed the pods in my fist. The shards I stuffed into the bowl of a coffee grinder, which in a few seconds noisily reduced them to a fine dun powder. I boiled a kettle of water and poured it over the dry tea in a mug, stirred the chestnut-colored mixture, and let it steep. The aroma was not at all unpleasant; it smelled of hay,

Poppy tea tastes truly awful. It was nearly as bitter as raw opium and, after the novelty of the flavor wore off, slightly nauseating.

It was a job getting a cup of the stuff down. The tea not only tasted terrible, but it was oddly filling too, and very soon made me queasy, a sensation much like a mild seasickness. I wondered if it was even possible to overdose on poppy tea; it seemed to me your stomach would rebel long before a significant amount could be ingested.

to feel . . . different. Not dramatically different, not “high,” but not exactly the same self I was ten minutes before, either. Remembering what Jim Hogshire had told me about the tea’s analgesic properties, I conducted an inventory of my everyday aches and pains and physical annoyances—a stiffness in the neck I’d woken with, the nasal and throat irritations of a particularly bad hay fever season, the usual dull pain in my knuckles after too many hours at the computer keyboard—and found that all these symptoms had, if not quite disappeared, then dropped beneath the threshold of my attention. They simply didn’t matter. Then I decided it would be a good idea to inventory my mood, and concluded that it was very good indeed. Nothing I would describe as euphoric, but I was suffused body and mind with a distinct feeling of well-being—the words “warm” and “aqueous” appear in my notes. I’m not sure whether it was the mode of self-study I had logged onto, but the mental stance of standing just slightly apart from my self, coolly appraising my sensations and moods, suddenly seemed like the most natural thing in the world. I felt as though I was almost, but not quite, having an experience in the third person.

Hogshire had said that the tea “can make sadness go away,” and now I understood why he had employed that particular phrasing. For the poppy tea didn’t seem to add anything new to consciousness, in the way that smoking marijuana can produce novel and unexpected sensations and emotions; by comparison, the tea seemed to subtract things: anxiety, melancholy, worry, grief. Like the opiate it is, or consists of, poppy tea is a pain killer in every sense.

for the first hour, as I sat there at my desk assessing its effects, I did feel a powerful urge to close my eyes—not from any drowsiness, but from a radical and by no means unpleasant sense of passivity. I just didn’t need to have all that visual information, thank you very much. My senses were functioning normally, yet I didn’t particularly feel like acting on their data. At one point I remember feeling chilled, but couldn’t be bothered to close a window or put on a sweater. I’ll just sit here awhile longer if that’s okay. “Like sitting out on the front porch of one’s consciousness, watching the world go by,” I wrote, somewhat cryptically.

But I found I could think clearly—as long as I thought about one thing at a time. De Quincey had said he found reading a congenial activity while eating opium, and for a while I read a book with perfect concentration. But during the second hour I noticed I was actually feeling energetic, even purposeful. Now I felt like stepping down from porch-consciousness and heading out into the garden to take care of a few chores.

members of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union would relax at the end of a day spent crusading against alcohol with their cherished “women’s tonics,” preparations whose active ingredient was laudanum—opium. Such was the order of things less than a century ago.

LibreOffice to open old files

Caffeine

“Caffeine Withdrawal” included in The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (or the DSM-5 for short), the bible of psychiatric diagnoses,

to be caffeinated is not baseline consciousness but, in fact, an altered state.

noted, the predictable symptoms of caffeine withdrawal: headache, fatigue, lethargy, difficulty concentrating, decreased motivation, irritability, intense distress, loss of confidence(!), and dysphoria—the polar opposite of euphoria.

all writers do: take the blooming multiplicity of the world and our experience of it, literally concentrate it down to manageable proportions, and then force it through the eye of a grammatical needle one word at a time.

masculine metaphor, but much

depends on this mental tumescence.

1,3,7-trimethylxanthine, the tiny organic molecule known to most of us as caffeine.

"I wanna do right," as the country singer Gillian Welch crooned, "but not right now."

"Consciousness feels less transparent than usual, as if the air is slightly thicker and seems to be slowing everything down, including perception."

Alexander von Humboldt, the great German naturalist, called "concentrated sunshine." (Humboldt had a parrot named Jacob that could say only one thing: "More coffee, more sugar.")

molecule—there is no intent in evolution, just lots of blind chance that occasionally yields an adaptation so good that it is extravagantly rewarded—

one of the most important gifts to humanity of both coffee and tea: the fact that you needed to boil water to make them meant that they were the safest things a person could drink. (Before that it had been alcohol,

(Women were welcome in French coffeehouses.) Compared to taverns, coffeehouses were also notably civil places where, if you started an argument, you were expected to buy a round for everyone. To call the English coffeehouse a new kind of public space doesn't quite do it justice; it represented a new kind of communications medium, one that just happened to be made of brick and mortar rather than electricity and wires. You paid a penny for the coffee, but the information—in the form of newspapers, books, magazines, and conversation—was free. (Coffeehouses were often referred to as "penny universities.")

the kind of magical thinking that alcohol sponsored in the medieval mind began in the seventeenth century to yield to a new spirit of rationalism and, a bit later, Enlightenment thinking.

illuminates the reality of things suddenly with the flash of truth." To see, lucidly, "the reality of things": this was, in a nutshell, the rationalist project. Coffee became, along with the microscope, the telescope, and the pen, one of its indispensable tools.

Honoré de Balzac

attacks these delicate and voluptuous linings . . . sparks shoot all the way up to the brain. other people appear to you like motionless figures on a train platform, as you blur by them in caffeinated clouds of impatience.—

Balzac's account of caffeine intoxication

there's nothing inherently "wrong" with an addiction if you have a secure supply, no known health risk, and you're not offended by the idea.

Cognitive psychologists sometimes talk in terms of two distinct types of consciousness: spotlight consciousness, which illuminates a single focal point of attention, making it very good for reasoning, and lantern consciousness, in which attention is less focused yet illuminates a broader field of attention.

caffeine's big contribution to human progress has been to intensify spotlight consciousness—the focused,

linear, abstract, and efficient cognitive processing more closely associated with mental work than with play. This, more than anything else,

Arab traders roasted coffee beans (which are seeds, after all) before they were exported, to ensure they could not be germinated.

But in 1616, a wily Dutchman managed to break the Arab stranglehold on *Coffea arabica*. He smuggled live coffee plants out of Mocha, the Yemeni port city, and took them to the botanical garden in Amsterdam, where they were grown under glass and additional plants were eventually propagated by cutting. (You can create a new, genetically identical plant by rooting a shoot or branch in soil.) One of those clones ended up in the Dutch-controlled Indonesian island of Java, where the Dutch East India Company successfully propagated it, eventually producing enough coffee plants to establish a plantation there. Hence, the prized coffee known as Mocha Java.

caffeine and the minute hand on clocks arrived at more or less the same historical moment.

temporal discipline that coffee and tea could help to enforce.

“wakefulness wrested from Nature,” as

it was tea from the East Indies—heavily sweetened with sugar from the West Indies—that fueled the Industrial Revolution.

the British East India Company (which had limited access to coffee-producing regions) began trading regularly with China in the first part of the eighteenth century that tea could displace coffee as the principal medium for delivering caffeine to the English bloodstream.—

contains fluoride (the English would negate this advantage by adding copious amounts of sugar to their tea); tea also contains a great many vitamins and minerals—one of the highest concentrations in any plant—and prodigious quantities of polyphenols, compounds rich in antioxidants. (Tea contains more polyphenols than red wine.)

first stealing the secrets of tea production from the Chinese (a mission

The introduction of tea to the West was all about exploitation—the extraction of surplus value from labor, not only in its production in India but in its consumption in England as well. In England, tea allowed the working class to endure long shifts, brutal working conditions, and more or less constant hunger; the caffeine helped quiet the hunger pangs, and the sugar in tea became a crucial source of calories.

That neuromodulator is called adenosine; caffeine, its antagonist, keeps adenosine from doing its job by getting in its way. Adenosine is a psychoactive compound that has a depressive and hypnotic (that is, sleep-inducing) effect on the brain when it binds to its receptor. It diminishes the rate at which our neurons fire. Over the course of the day, adenosine levels gradually rise in the bloodstream, and as long as no other molecule is blocking its action, it begins to slow mental operations in preparation for sleep. As adenosine builds up in your brain, you begin to feel less alert and a mounting desire to go to bed—

Why We Sleep is one of the scarier books I've read.

that deep sleep is just as important to our health, and the amount we get tends to decline with age.

the “quarter life” of caffeine is usually about twelve hours,

in order for the English mind to be sharpened with tea, the Chinese mind had to be clouded with opium.

“Well-being” was the term that best described the first feeling I registered, and this built and spread and coalesced until I decided “euphoria” was warranted.

the mind concocts elaborate arguments for the purpose of undermining its best intentions.
Mescaline

fly to Laredo and drive out to the Peyote Gardens, the strip of thornscrub running along either side of the Rio Grande, and the only place in the world where the peyote cactus grows wild. A

rereading Huxley after having had those experiences, I could appreciate how distinct mescaline was from the other psychedelics.

universe. No, Huxley remained very much on this earth, sitting.
“This is how one ought to see, how things really are.”

if one always saw like this, one would never want to do anything else.”

our brains evolved to admit to our awareness only the “measly trickle” of information required for our survival and no more.
reminded of the lovely line Shakespeare gave Hamlet, enduring a different kind of claustrophobia:
“I could be bounded in a nutshell, and count myself a king of infinite space.”

Mescaline
might offer a way to do that, not as a means of escape from circumstance, but as an expansion of it. Instead of an alternate reality, it promised infinitely more of this one.

“A white, for these Red men, is one whom the spirits have abandoned.”

It was in the 1880s, soon after the Plains Indians, kings of infinite space, had lost their freedom to roam the West, and been confined to reservations, that they turned to peyote in order to achieve or recover . . . what exactly?—

Shulgin, who had worked as a chemist at Dupont before he discovered his vocation in the course of a mescaline trip in the late fifties,

He describes being able to perceive hundreds of nuances of color that he had never seen before. “More than anything else,” he wrote years later, “the world amazed me, in that I saw it as I had when I was a child.

A mescaline trip can last fourteen hours. “It’s a commitment,” he said. This probably explains its absence from scientific research—psilocybin, the psychedelic typically used in experiments and drug trials, lasts less than half as long,

the San Pedro cactus, which also produces mescaline, albeit at lower concentrations.the peyote cactus, is perfectly legal to grow. Oddly, however, few Americans or

didn’t call it San Pedro. He called it by its Quechua name, Wachuma.

planted the two-inch cutting in a pot of cactus mix, kept it moist for a few weeks until it rooted, and then, quickly for a cactus, it began to send up a trio of elegant columns of differing heights—a candelabra. The skin was a smooth matte green with a slight bluish tint.

Trout via Zoom. A slender, slightly scraggly-looking man in his sixties, Keeper spoke to me from a rustic cabin in the woods outside Mendocino.
There are now more than one hundred local chapters of Decrim Nature around the country.

If you want to go into the tepee, you would first have to change your mind-set. In the Indigenous perspective, we are here upon Mother Earth. We feel the wind and the wind talks. The sun comes

up in a certain direction and it goes down in a certain direction. And so we build an altar on the ground made from Mother Earth and in the shape of a crescent moon. And we know Grandpa Fire is going to talk to us and commune with us, so we build the fire in a prayerful manner, making offerings along the way. The four elements—the earth, the fire, the water, the air—are going to come into the ceremony at some point in time. And then there is the plant, set upon the altar. Some people call it the flesh of our ancestors, because that's what it is, you know, and at the same time it's a spirit. Different people have different experiences with the medicine. It talks to you at different levels: about what it is you need to see, what it is that you need to feel, or experience. The medicine knows you before you even know yourself. It is like a mirror. When people get up and look in the mirror, they can fix themselves, brush their teeth and see if they look okay, you know, presentable for society. But this medicine is a mirror that allows you to see inside yourself, into the core of your heart and spirit. The peyote knows you. So when you start to think about something, maybe something that needs healing, what you're thinking about, what you're saying, the medicine can hear you. It's not like taking out the DSM, and getting a diagnosis. It's our way of life, talking to things and realizing the life force in all things.

The tepee represents a family, and a home. The poles that hold it up represent the woman, the foundation of the home. And then the covering represents the male protecting the female, and the fire inside. The fire is grandpop, and the flaps represent grandma, the two of them guiding the family prayer from a long time ago. And those little pegs that hold the tepee down, those are all your children. So when you go into the tepee you are going into that spiritual family for help, for prayers, because we are all related whether we want to be related or not.

Sometimes, sometimes if you respect something, you just have to leave it alone.

there is a "client service code" for a religious ceremony with a psychedelic sacrament! Like other psychedelic compounds, the mescaline in peyote induces a state of mental plasticity, one in which you are highly suggestible and therefore open to learning new patterns of thought and behavior.

young Navajo for an explanation. "That is the problem with you whites. You always want to know everything. We just experience it."

I was captivated by it all, and could not imagine ever wanting to do anything but devour with my eyes all that there was to see.

I was a helpless captive of the present moment, my mind having completely lost its ability to go where it normally goes,

On Mescaline

The poet who has done the most work scraping all that meaning, symbolism, and Judeo-Christian crust off the natural world is William Carlos Williams, who I decided that afternoon is the patron saint of mescaline.

Learning from San Pedro

Wachuma cactus, leave it anywhere—on the ground or on pavement, in the sun or darkness—and it will soon sprout a new cactus from the amputated limb. As long as it doesn't freeze hard, the plant will grow

a psychologist quoted in the newspaper explaining that trauma is not necessarily a discrete, dramatic event. What trauma is really about, she said, is the sense of helplessness we feel when we're assailed by unpredictable forces beyond our control. Is this not our reality now?

"Wachuma doesn't heal you by itself," Taloma said. "Its power is in its subtlety. Unlike ayahuasca, which will grab hold of you and take you on a journey whether you want to go or not, this medicine doesn't put anything inside of you. But if you invite it in, it helps to reveal what is already there, and in that way engages you in healing yourself. I have seen miracles."

The second method Taloma showed me for cooking the cactus was both easier and more gratifying,

He called himself a *chakaruna*—a human bridge for people to walk across to get where they need to be.

“In these times people don’t need to reason or ask questions so much. That is not the best way to understand the cosmic mind and Mother-Father Earth, which has become so tired from bearing the heavy, dense weight of human thinking, especially in the last two thousand years.”

“That is why this pause we call the coronavirus is so urgent. It is not a time to analyze or rationalize or to understand. It is a time to replenish and regenerate the absolute energy of the mind.”

We have three bodies, he explained, the physical, the mental, and the spiritual—what he calls “the trinity.” (He called each of them a *pacha*—“a world.”)

present in the moment...the word for a gift in Spanish is *presente*.

He shrugged and told her, ‘I no longer had time for all that shit, so I let it go.’

After the [nicotine] firestorm subsides, your mind feels freshly scrubbed and, at least for a while, cleared and wonderfully calm.

banality is an unavoidable hazard of working with psychedelics; they are profound teachers of the obvious.

Taloma: ‘the future doesn’t exist.’

Cody Swift, founder of the Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative,

end Michael Pollan

Pollitt, Kathy:

“Empathy and respect are not about kowtowing to someone’s cultural and social preferences. They’re about supporting policies that make people’s lives better, whether they share your values, or your tastes, or not.”

“The notion that one reads to increase one’s self-esteem sounds to me like more snake oil. ... Something is being overlooked: the state of reading, and books, and literature in our country at this time. Why, ask yourself, is everyone so hot under the collar about what to put on the required-reading shelf? It is because while we have been arguing so fiercely about which books make the best medicine, the patient has been slipping deeper and deeper into a coma.”

“I ... support free speech... because I don’t think I have a lock on all the truth in the world.... It’s messy, it’s contradictory, it means living with insults and stupidity and even, sometimes, evil and pain. Fortunately, your enemy is in the same position. That may be as good as it gets.”

Kathy Pollitt

“My concern is with the rhythms of nature.”

Jackson Pollock

“Real change remains elusive...something deeper and more universal has been achieved: voice. ...The youth of an entire region are speaking out with whatever tools they have, from social media to feet on the ground.”

John Pollock in Streetbook, Tech Review 9-2011

“Some people think greed is good. But over and over it’s proven that ultimately generosity is better.”

Paul Polman, former Unilever CEO in NYT

Polyakova, Alina:

"When you don't believe a country's a real country and a people's a real people, why would you invest any expertise in a thing you don't think exists?"

Pomerantsev, Peter:

This Is Not Propaganda: Adventures in the War Against Reality

politics becomes a struggle over the construction of identity.
find myself instinctively looking back, searching for a connection to
the past to find a way to think about the future.

"The need for facts is predicated on the notion of an evidence-based future."

Peter Pomerantsev via M Goldberg

"...there's a dark joy in being released from the constraints of legality and factuality..."

When truth dissolves, anything is possible - even epic corruption.

The Soviets tried to make their lies sound factual.

...without an ideology that looks toward the future, there are no goals or progress.

We are all post-Soviet now."

end Peter Pomerantsev

On Mike Pompeo via Economist:

'...an administration of mediocrities...

Pompeo has a long history of talking nonsense.'

Poniewozik, James:

"TV wants conflict. It wants excitement...It wants a fight. It wants more. It is always eating and never full...Trump knew just what to say 'to keep the red light on'."

"Trump is half-man, half-TV, with a camera for an eye that is constantly focused on itself. The redlight is pulsing, 24/7, and it does not appear to have an off switch."

"Mr. Trump and cable news have the same metabolism. Cable news demands a steady stream of excitations and "breaking" updates, a constant instability that keeps you tuning in. Mr. Trump is glad to supply that, and cable news is glad to respond. This creates a perpetual-motion machine. Mr. Trump sees something in the news; he gets mad; he tweets; that becomes the news; repeat....

Before Nov. 8, there was speculation that Mr. Trump would found a Trump TV channel after the election. It turned out a bit differently: This is what Trump TV is."

in review of Station Eleven: 'What's the line between keeping a link to the past and being chained to it?...focused on life after catastrophe rather than the catastrophe itself....

it's a work that celebrates humanity by celebrating humanity's drive to create...

we never know what life will bring. But the show must go on.'

James Poniewozik, nyt

"They do the work that makes all other work possible."

Ai-jen Poo

From Nature's chain whatever link you strike,
Tenth or ten thousandth, breaks the chain alike.

Alexander Pope

"The promise of hydrogen is making it from the sun. The risk of hydrogen is making it from coal."

Carl Pope, Sierra Club

"Know then thyself, presume not God to scan
The proper study of mankind is man."

Alexander Pope

“...the decision to invest in one place rather than another, in one productive sector rather than another, is always a moral and cultural choice.”

Pope John Paul II

Pope Francis (see also Francis):

“unless you believe, you will not understand.” In the 11th century, St. Anselm of Canterbury defined theology as “faith seeking understanding.”

‘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

“The worship of the ancient golden calf has returned in a new and ruthless guise in the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose.”

Pope Francis via Sam Pizzigati

“*Siempre adelante!* Keep moving forward!”

Juniperro Serra via Pope Francis

to visiting teens:

“***“Have courage. Go forward. Make noise.”***

Pope Francis

[“Scientific knowledge reveals options; values determine choices.”](#)

Pope Francis

“Once capital becomes an idol and guides people’s decisions, once greed for money presides over the entire socioeconomic system, it ruins society, it condemns and enslaves men and women, it destroys human fraternity, it sets people against one another and, as we clearly see, it even puts at risk our common home,”

Pope Francis in Bolivia

“He is very critical of ideology because ideologies come from intellectuals and politicians who want to manipulate the hearts of the people,” said Guzmán Carriquiry Lecour, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and a longtime friend of the pope. “For him, ideologies hide and defame reality.”

Monsignor Sánchez Sorondo, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences: “... the pope is like a light on the street to say: ‘This is not the way. This way sacrifices many people and leaves many people excluded.’” “The pope is concerned that the plutocracy is destroying democracy.”

Ken Hackett, the United States ambassador to the Holy See, argues that Francis’ economic views have been wrongly simplified and scoffs at the suggestion that the pope is a socialist as “a naïve characterization.” “I don’t think he hates capitalism. I think he hates the excesses.”

according to Mr. Austen Ivereigh’s biography, *The Great Reformer*, he was sometimes called “La Gioconda,” after the Mona Lisa and her enigmatic smile.

above from NY Times 9-19-2015 pdf

Pope Francis influenced by Leonardo Boff (see quotes).

"We are faced not with two separate crises ... but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental."

...we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." see Leonardo Boff

Pope Francis

"I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined."

"We must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures," he declared in his encyclical on the environment. "The Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism."

Pope Francis via Nicholas Kristof pdf empathy

"Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society?" he asked. "Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money — money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood."

"We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners," Francis said. "I say this to you as the son of immigrants, knowing that so many of you are also descended from immigrants."

Pope Francis speech to Congress

"...indifference that kills....The Mediterranean Sea, cradle of so many civilizations, now looks like a mirror of death."

end Pope Francis

Popejoy, Alice B.:

"'Racial groups' are defined by societies, not by genetics."

Popova:

poetic title of a 2003 paper by the physicist Brian Josephson (see pdf) about Einstein's famous conversation with the Indian philosopher Rabindranath Tagore: "We Think That We Think Clearly, but That's Only Because We Don't Think Clearly."

"The existence of parallel truths is what gives our world its tremendous richness..."

"Critical thinking without hope is cynicism, but hope without critical thinking is naivete."

"...history, I continue to insist, is not what happened, but what survives the shipwrecks of judgment and chance."

"...reading - ..intellectual, emotional, and spiritual surrender to a cohesive thread of thought composed by another human being, through which your own interior world can undergo a symphonic transformation..."

"...the life of the mind...is our single most ferocious frontier of resistance to inequality and injustice."

p.219 pix in A Velocity of Being, Alessandro Sanna, walking the books

I too have long contemplated the question of hope — how it serves as a life-affirming antidote to the cowardice of cynicism, how its active and actionable nature differs from the laziness of passive optimism. Born into a communist dictatorship, one of my earliest memories is sitting atop my father's shoulders, holding a candle into the night air alongside thousands of others gathered at the plaza before the Bulgarian Parliament in the protests that eventually brought down the dictatorship.

"Critical thinking without hope is cynicism. Hope without critical thinking is naïveté."

quoting Erich Fromm: "Optimism is an alienated form of faith, pessimism an alienated form of despair... To have faith means to dare, to think the unthinkable, yet to act within the limits of the realistically possible."

"...curiosity is the true triumph of consciousness...what Einstein called 'the passion for comprehension'...the hallmark of our species..."

the Common Laziness of Optimism and Pessimism

that great gesture of connection we call art.

Rachel Carson — the poet laureate of nature writing — had just awakened the modern ecological conscience and was using her hard-earned stature to issue the radical insistence that children's sense of wonder is the key to conservation.

quoting Thomas Lewis, Fara Amini, Richard Lannon:

Science is an inherent contradiction — systematic wonder — applied to the natural world. In its mundane form, the methodical instinct prevails and the result, an orderly procession of papers, advances the perimeter of knowledge, step by laborious step. Great scientific minds partake of that daily discipline and can also suspend it, yielding to the sheer love of allowing the mental engine to spin free. And then Einstein imagines himself riding a light beam, Kekule formulates the structure of benzene in a dream, and Fleming's eye travels past the annoying mold on his glassware to the clear ring surrounding it — a lucid halo in a dish otherwise opaque with bacteria — and penicillin is born. Who knows how many scientific revolutions have been missed because their potential inaugurators disregarded the whimsical, the incidental, the inconvenient inside the laboratory?

end Popova

Popova, Maria McGill U.:

"Two thirds of authoritarian leaders are removed by their own allies."

Karl Popper:

"The alleged clash between freedom and security...turns out to be a chimera. For there is no freedom if it is not secured by the state; and conversely, only a state which is controlled by the free citizens can offer them any reasonable security."

"Instead of posing as prophets, we must become the makers of our fate...The growth of knowledge depends entirely on disagreement."

"Science must begin with myths,
and with the criticism of myths."

Karl Popper

Popper wrote:

The piecemeal engineer will, accordingly, adopt the method of searching for, and fighting against, the greatest and most urgent evils of society, rather than searching for, and fighting for, its greatest ultimate good.[18]

According to Popper, the difference between "piecemeal social engineering" and "Utopian social engineering" is:

"It is the difference between a reasonable method of improving the lot of man, and a method which, if really tried, may easily lead to an intolerable increase in human suffering. It is the difference between a method which can be applied at any moment, and a method whose advocacy may easily become a means of continually postponing action until a later date, when conditions are more favorable. And it is also the difference between the only method of improving matters which has so far been really successful, at any time, and in any place, and a method which, wherever it has been tried, has led only to the use of violence in place of reason, and if not to its own abandonment, at any rate to that of its original blueprint.[18]

holistic social engineering(see Havel essay)

from Interview at 92:

"At present the greatest danger to the educational efforts is television. Education just cannot go on if you let the television do what it likes. It is impossible for education to work up against television unless television recognizes that it also has an educational task which overrules our mere entertainment. Otherwise we cannot have education. From the democratic point of view television must be controlled, just because its potential political power is almost unlimited. If you get hold of television, you can do whatever you like. And such a power must be controlled. My

proposal is to look at the problem of controlling television as a task similar to that of control of medical people. Medical people have to be controlled too, and they do it very largely themselves. For example they have to have a certain education. The same applies to the system of control of lawyers, who have their own organization which controls them. Thanks to these systems of control the lawyers do not steal the money from their clients and doctors do not kill their patients. And you have to organize all people who work for the television in some kind of organization. They would have to become members of such an organization on the basis of some education, after passing appropriate examinations testing their awareness of the educational tasks, and their responsibility. They would have to learn that their influence is very great and that their responsibility is equally great. It is responsibility for our civilization. Their first aim would be the fight against violence. And on these principles, if some people are found to be irresponsible, their license could be withdrawn. Without such a system of regulation we are running into chaos, violence and crime. The increasing wave of crime is very largely due to television."

"...despite all this I remain an optimist towards the world. It is one's duty to be an optimist. Only from this point of view can one be active and do what one can. If you are a pessimist, you have given up. We must remain optimists, we have to look at the world from the point of view how beautiful it is, and to try to do what we can to make it better."

from NYT obit: Popper argued that communism and fascism were philosophically linked.

"The conspiracy theory of society ... comes from abandoning God and then asking: 'Who is in his place?'"

"It is imperative that we give up the idea of ultimate sources of knowledge, and admit that all knowledge is human; that it is mixed with our errors, our prejudices, our dreams, and our hopes; that all we can do is grope for truth even though it is beyond our reach."

"The future is always present, as a promise, a lure and a temptation."

"...optimism is a duty. The future is open. ... We all contribute to determining it by what we do."

Karl Popper

"Unlimited tolerance must lead to the disappearance of tolerance. If we extend unlimited tolerance even to those who are intolerant, if we are not prepared to defend a tolerant society against the onslaught of the intolerant, then the tolerant will be destroyed, and tolerance with them...."

We should therefore claim, in the name of tolerance, the right not to tolerate the intolerant....any movement preaching intolerance places itself outside the law, and we should consider incitement to intolerance and persecution as criminal."

Karl Popper, via Hedges

end Popper

Port Huron Statement

"If we appear to seek the unattainable, ...then let it be known that we do so to avoid the unimaginable."

"We the people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in universities, looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit..."

Port Huron Statement...'We regard men as infinitely precious and possessed of unfulfilled capacities for reason, freedom, and love. In affirming these principles we are aware of countering perhaps the dominant conceptions of man in the twentieth century: that he is a thing to be manipulated, and that he is inherently incapable of directing his own affairs.'

Porter:

Some inequality may be necessary to encourage investment for growth. But as recent research shows, intense inequality actually stunts growth, making it more difficult for countries to sustain the sort of long economic expansions that have characterized the more prosperous nations of the world.

income distribution contributes more to the sustainability of economic growth than does the quality of a country's political institutions, its foreign debt and openness to trade, the level of foreign investment in the economy and whether its exchange rate is competitive.

America is an outlier among industrial nations. Its distribution of income looks closer to that of Argentina than, say, Germany.

"tax breaks...serve the same function as government spending. They pay for services..."

"...a lot of what the rich do does not, in fact, generate economic growth....three decades of tax cuts may have gilded the pockets of the rich, but they didn't provide much economic juice..."

...nearly 16 million Americans still fall below 50 percent of the poverty line ... No other advanced nation tolerates this depth of deprivation."

end Eduardo Porter

"Nothing is instant except when it hits the fan."

from 'here be dragons' to 'here be God'

"Most academics have little clue as to how clueless the general public really is."

"Some of the most scientifically illiterate people I know are accomplished scientists."

"There are many ways to get rich. Some of them are immoral, most of them are unethical, nearly all of them are legal." ??

"We are most ignorant of what matters most." ??

"I cannot tread water very long" on indecision

History is like doing a giant jig-saw puzzle across space, time, and people - with pieces missing!

People need Purpose -

Passions, Projects.

My Panacea for Sanity - Entropy and Cosmic Rays.

Portuguese philosopher (me)

"... forget about the law - what is a sensible resolution of this dispute?..."

what kind of person wants to have the same identical job for 35 years?...

There are ... reactionary beasts...they want to manipulate the statutes and the Constitution in their own way."

Richard A Posner

Postman:

"What Orwell feared were those who would ban books, what Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one...Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance."

Postman noted, there is no place for rational thinking, because you simply cannot think with images. It is text that enables us to "uncover lies, confusions and overgeneralizations, to detect abuses of logic and common sense. It also means to weigh ideas, to compare and contrast assertions, to connect one generalization to another."

Neil Postman via HOSSEIN DERAHHAN

Postman: 'Technopoly is a state of culture. It is also a state of mind. It consists of the deification of technology, which means that the culture seeks its authorization in technology, finds its satisfactions in technology, and takes its orders from technology...Technopoly eliminates alternatives to itself...It does not make them illegal. It does not make them immoral. It does not even make them unpopular. It makes them invisible and therefore relevant.'

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

end Postman

"It's not about mental illness; it is about promoting an environment of mental health."

Patrick Poulin on guns, Letter SL Trib 'The Role of Guns', 12-25-2012

"The artist is the antennae of the race."

Ezra Pound

"We only knew one speed and one direction: sell the fear."
Joshua Powell, Inside the NRA book.

William Powell:

"If an individual feels strongly enough about something to do something about it...he should get out and do something real..."

I think there is something in the human condition that draws us to violence...

...remorse is different than regret.

When I was alone with a typewriter, I was confident...There's a kind of intoxication that you come to when you're writing. You're writing more and more forcefully, the world is becoming simpler and simpler. You're reaching what strikes you as powerful conclusions...you come to believe what you're writing...

My skeleton's not in the closet. My skeleton is in print...I live with that...

I think I am most comfortable where I know that I don't belong...it's ok for me to be the outsider looking in..."

William Powell in Siskel film: American Assassin; Powell also wrote novel The First Casualty - WWI from Gavrilo Princip's perspective.

from Guardian op-ed: "To paraphrase Aristotle: it is easy to be angry. But to be angry with the right person, at the right time and to the right degree that is hard – that is the hallmark of a civilized person..."

No child should have to earn the right to belong.

end William Powell

"There is something in both the MDMA experience and the net itself that fosters the innate human desire to share the knowledge we have gained, to scatter the seeds of our experience far and wide."

Michael Power, referring to Jeffrey Jenkins of MDMA fame

Jenkins: "MDMA intrigued me .. with its strangely universal experience, its ability to make even the hardest soul empathic...."

Power, Samantha:

A Problem from Hell:

"...Americans...are slow to muster the imagination to reckon with evil..."

We are responsible for our own incredulity...

...the inertia of the governed can not be disentangled from the indifference of the government...

...how can something so clear in retrospect become so muddled at the time by rationalizations, institutional constraints, and a lack of imagination? How can it be that those who fight on behalf of these principles are the ones deemed unreasonable?"

evil lives on

will evil prevail

how do we prevent evil from prevailing

Sergio - relationship to evil

don't black box history....don't check your principles at the door.

Samantha Power Samantha Power 2014 commencement speech:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_j2QmbGxwxQ

"Make the moral argument...Leak the fax...don't check the weather...Don't live in the land of the possible...Push."

"It's oxygen for me. I'm like a plant." on being on the road."

"You learn in government what the obstacles are. But that's not so you can go take a nap. It's so you can figure out how to scale them or work around them."

"Principles and positions only take you so far."

"True equality also requires that we learn to hear, and lift up, the voices of those whom others choose not to hear."

"an indispensable foundation for tackling global threats — it will not be because Americans cave on our principles. It will be because we stand firm, while also never losing sight of the humanity of those with whom we fervently disagree."

from film Watchers of the Sky re Lemkin, sovereignty, genocide:

reporter: 'peace and justice may be incompatible' re ICC.

"It may be naive to think that one piece of paper is going to change the nature of states."

quoting a victim: 'the best way to avoid recurrence of these crimes is to take up arms yourself...

Rwandan genocide began to end when Tutsi rebels began to fight back.

Samantha Power

A Global Revolution of Dignity

Dictators believe order can be purchased for the price of truth...

an insurance fund for investigative journalists, it's now called Reporters Mutual.

kleptocracy to democracy

guide

end Samantha Powers

"I was living without intention....books saved my life...I recognized myself in another, and somehow that simple tether allowed me to slowly pull myself away from one of the most terrifying beliefs common to the kind of ailment I'm describing: that one is utterly alone, uniquely so, and that this condition is permanent....I started to see immersion in a book as a reliable alternative to drink or death..."

Kevin Powers

"...strange things may seem reasonable to men who know only enough to fear the worst"

Thomas Powers

"The current state of knowledge can be summarized thus: in the beginning there was nothing, which exploded."

Terry Prachett on the Big Bang

Vijay Prashad: "We won't go back to normal, because normal was the problem."

Pratkanis on Propaganda:

persuasion vs. propaganda

propaganda or education

"My conscience is a product of the Ten Commandments, the Bill of Rights, the Boy Scout Oath and the Marine Corps Hymn. If I had to follow my conscience or the law, I would follow my conscience."

Harry Pregerson, NYT obit.

Prelogar, Elizabeth:

"The nature of fundamental rights is that it's not left up to state legislatures to decide whether to honor them or not."

Prendergast, John:

"There is so much that can be done between bombing and nothing."

Prescod-Weinstein, Chanda:

"I'm concerned that human expansion into space will exacerbate colonial logics and growing inequalities."

Prestowitz, Clyde V:

The World Turned Upside Down: America, China, and the Struggle for Global Leadership

Silent Invasion, dramatically reveals a CCP strategy to penetrate Australia and decouple it from its ally the United States

autarky - economic independence.

Engineering souls is more important than producing tanks.—Josef Stalin

China does not intend to find a niche for itself in the so-called liberal global order; rather, it is bent

There will always be a risk of war between the United States and communist China. But the greater risk is the dissolution of the free world in the face of gradually advancing coercion by authoritarian forces.

Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not.—Isaiah 6: 9–10

March 2018, the voice of the global economics establishment, the Economist, declared the free world to be on the losing side of an important bet. The free world had bet that globalization would not only open China's markets to free trade and competition but would also liberalize China's political environment. China had bet the opposite:

that it could use the technology and markets of the free world to become a rich and powerful nation without yielding an inch of political liberalization. The Economist announced that China had won the bet. Disturbingly, most of the free world bettors seemed unaware that a wager had existed.

...years ago, in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the apparent turn of China onto the capitalist road, which it described as "socialism with Chinese characteristics," we and our allies engaged in what in hindsight looks like willful self-deception. We thought the world was flat, that all global markets were coalescing into one common market whose benefits would be shared all.

For most of China's long history, it was the Middle Kingdom. Not only the world's biggest, most advanced economy, but its most powerful country, the imperial center that required payment of tribute from surrounding vassal states. Its ruler was the Son of Heaven who had authority over "all under Heaven." In a word, China was the "Ba," or great hegemon.

the Chinese people do not run China. The Communist Party of China does. It recognizes no power above it and brooks no dissent below it. It

Party/ state and its doctrine are the biggest threat that the United States and the free world have ever faced.

"...the past is lying in wait for the present."

Anthony Price, via NYT obit

Price, Kathryn:

"...you can't have an insight if you don't have the material in your brain, which really is long term memories."

"Matter in equilibrium is blind; far from equilibrium, it starts to see."

Ilya Prigogine

'our political institutions fail the most existential threats of our lifetime.'

"...collapse...a rapid descent to a lower level of societal complexity."

Thomas Princen

Princess Bride:

Montoya, Princess Bride character:

"My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die."

"The press is ferocious. It pardons nothing. It only looks for mistakes. Every motive is twisted, every gesture criticized."

Princess Diana

"My country has been stolen from me."

Gavrilo Princip, young assassin who launched WWI; see Powell

"We live in an age of ignorance...Why don't we know what we don't know?"

In the courtroom...knowledge here is interestingly attached to bias, ignorance to balance...

Ignorance is not necessarily evil...it seems to show no bounds...

unlearning...

ignorance explosion proportional to TV viewing?

manufactured ignorance...agnogenesis...

Joe: intentional ignorance

Global warming is no longer a prediction, but an observation."

"Sometimes, the best ones come together at the exact same time, and it takes about as long to write it as it does to sing it. They come along like a dream or something, and you just got to hurry up and respond to it, because if you mess around, the song is liable to pass you by."

"When I grow up, I want to be an old person."

"I always likened the mail route to a library with no books. I passed the time each day making up these little ditties."

"Singing Mailman Who Delivers a Powerful Message in a Few Words." Roger Ebert review.

John Prine, songwriter

"Philosophy tells us what is possible, and science tells us what is true."

Jesse Prinz

"The thing about politicians is that they're very much like prostitutes but only more expensive."

Riccardo Privitera, arms dealer, in Shadow World

"Autism can be best understood as a disability of trust...."

[those who have autism] "face tremendous obstacles of three kinds: trusting their body, trusting the world around them and—most challenging—trusting other people"

Barry Prizant

Robert N Proctor, Agnotology

"We now live in a world where ignorance of a very dangerous sort is being deliberately manufactured, to protect certain kinds of unfettered corporate enterprise. The global climate catastrophe gets short shrift, largely because powerful fossil fuel producers still have enormous political clout, following decades-long campaigns to sow doubt about whether anthropogenic emissions are really causing planetary warming. Trust in science suffers, but also trust in government. And that is not an accident. Climate deniers are not so much anti-science as anti-regulation and anti-government. ...

Ignorance and its diabolic facilitator — the corruption of expertise — both have real-world costs that we ignore at our peril."

"...a chronic crisis that would have to be managed forever if an industry that caused death was to defy death..."

'Common ignorance must be explored and understood as much as common knowledge...

the seemingly noble goal of transparency can be an instrument in the service of organized duplicity...

quotes by copernicus, twain, deGroot, Jefferson Mencken Popper Rumsfeld

Robert N Proctor

"We are living through a massive shift from representative democracy to something called viral direct democracy, now cascading over us in a garbage-laden tsunami of raw data. ...

Darwin: They say he read novels to relax, but only certain kinds—nothing that ended unhappily. If he happened on something like that, enraged, he flung the book into the fire."

Annie Proulx

"Let's channel our discontent into some higher purpose that rises above divisiveness, contempt and the chaotic and accelerating whirlwind of verbal and physical violence."

Francine Prose

[Ayn] Rand's work reads to me like a vulgar rationalization for greed...she tell us ...There is no higher good than individual self-satisfaction.

You cannot worship both the God of Jesus and the mammon of Rand."

Stephen Prothero

Proust:

In Search of the Past; involuntary memory; Time regained

"We do not receive wisdom, we must discover it for ourselves, after a journey through the wilderness, which no one else can make for us, which no one can spare us, for our wisdom is the point of view from which we come at last to regard the world."

"A true journey of discovery lies not in seeking new shores but in finding new eyes."

Marcel Proust

"Real act of discovery is not in finding new lands, but in seeing with new eyes." M Proust also quoted as: "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."

For man is a creature of no fixed age, a creature who has the ability to become years younger in only a few seconds and who, surrounded by walls formed by the periods of time that he has lived through, floats around in their midst but as in a pool whose level keeps constantly changing, thus putting him within reach now of one time period, now of another.

Proust

Arendt wrote, quoting Proust, "the question is not as for Hamlet, to be or not to be, but to belong or not to belong."

Hobson re: Proust:

"I simply admire his persistent and revealing self-analysis and his description of mental life in and at the edges of sleep. His self-observation is much more careful than that of Freud."

"We cannot be taught wisdom," as Proust remarks, "we have to discover it for ourselves by a journey which no one can undertake for us, an effort which no one can spare us."

end Proust

"The first law of political physics - a body at rest will remain at rest until a force is applied to it."

Tom Prugh, WWInst.

"At every crossroads on the road that leads to the future, tradition has placed against us ten thousand men to guard the past."

Stanley Pruisner

"Who you gonna believe? Me or your lying eyes?"

Richard Pryor

"Fascism begins by denying the fundamental freedom and equality of human beings."

Stanislao G. Pugliese ed book on Levi

"Arguing for policies is support of people's personal autonomy seems a novelty for economists."

M. Pugno (in Chirkov)

"...more work to do. Before it can be published...requires ..."carpentry." The structure needs to be sawed up and reassembled, the sentences sanded smooth."

Philip Pullman via nyt mag Sophie Elmhirst

Purdy, Jedediah:

"People are best able to change their ways when they find two things at once in nature: something to fear, a threat they must avoid, and also something to love, a quality ... which they can do their best to honor. Either impulse can stay the human hand, but the first stops it just short of being burnt or broken. The second keeps the hand poised, extended in greeting or in an offer of peace. This gesture is the beginning of collaboration, among people but beyond us, in building our next home."

"...the idea of gender equality was mocked. We know that abolitionism was tarred and feathered. I don't say this to try to make the politics of the Anthropocene seem as morally heroic as those developments were, but only as a reminder that even when it does seem that things are politically hopeless, very basic transformations do sometimes happen."

Jedediah Purdy

"As a driver of global change, humanity has outstripped geology....
...eco-utopian economics ... This market vision has a special affinity with ecology: both are ways of engaging the world's complexity. ...

Disgust with democracy grows where democracy palpably fails."

J Purdy

"City-Creekification ... the exporting of materialistic, capitalist values wrapped in religion." Ra Puriri, Maori Mormon City Weekly story 6-2017

"...memes that were intended to be explicitly anti-Trump weren't as persuasive as those that weren't so explicit...[if] thememe feels like it's coming from the left, ... it forces the the right to entrench."

Mike Purzycki, Meme2020

Pussy Riot:

"The most dangerous censorship is self censorship. Freedom doesn't exist unless you fight for it every day."

Masha Alyokhina

"'Revolution' is talked about as a project, but it's not a project which one can start and finish, framing it with dates as if in a history textbook. Revolution is life, in which one always faces a choice: to act or to stand aside....

revolution is a political process within each one of us: the choice to act and overcome your fear, which appears each time you start to act...

Our enemies are fear and indifference....

Mr Putin? The answer is simple and cynical. This is the image that Russia creates for itself....

the "Iron Curtain" is not a political term from the 20th century, but a wall of mistrust which is built by each one of us when we refuse to take responsibility and to participate in politics. This is the wall of separation between "us" and "them". ...

only trust can become the core that will help us to overcome political hypocrisy...."

"They say if you will strike our regime, we will put you in solitary confinement. They call it prison inside prison. What they don't realise is that it doesn't matter what is around you. Where you keep your freedom is inside you."

Maria Alyokhina (Pussy Riot).

Putin, Vladimir:

Konstantin Remchukov: 'Putin doesn't have an ideology...The key postulate is that everyone is against Russia.'

Biden noted that he had "looked into Putin's eyes and saw no soul."

"The Russian people are backward. They cannot adapt to democracy as they have done in your countries. They need time." Myers review: Putin is order, opposition is disorder. Russia needs a 'managed democracy'. Putin is last man standing between order and chaos.

re: Dresden: I got the feeling then that the country no longer existed. That it had disappeared. It was clear the union was ailing. And it had a terminal disease without a cure - a paralysis of power."

About Putin:

via Economist: 'Regimes that rule by fear, live in fear. They fear that one day the people will no longer tolerate their lies, thieving and brutality. They try to hang on with propaganda, persecution and patronage.' 8-29-2020 What Putin Fears.

seer Gessen Masha quotes here

Merkel: "He lives in another world."

via Friedman: "Garry Kasparov, the former world chess champion, which The Times's Andrew Higgins quoted in his story from Moscow: "Vladimir Putin is a strong leader in the same way that arsenic is a strong drink. Praising a brutal K.G.B. dictator, especially as preferable to a democratically elected U.S. president, whether you like Obama or hate him, is despicable and dangerous."

Economist on Putin-Russia:

MYSTERY, MIRACLE AND authority are three powers alone able to hold the conscience of people captive, explains Fyodor Dostoyevsky's Grand Inquisitor in "The Brothers Karamazov". Mr Putin has mastered all three. Yet none of these is as important as secrecy, the main tool of a good spy.

[Russia] ... will act through non-military means "to undermine the general political and strategic potential of major Western powers, to disrupt national self-confidence, to increase social and industrial unrest, to stimulate all forms of disunity...Anti-British talk will be plugged among Americans, anti-American talk among British. Germans will be taught to abhor both Anglo-Saxon powers. Where suspicions exist, they will be fanned; where not, ignited." So wrote George Kennan, the "wise man" of American diplomacy, in a famous telegram from Moscow in 1946. Seventy years later the telegram seems as relevant as ever, because the system that Kennan described is being rebuilt.

Popular books about biology and physics currently sell better than detective stories. Yulia Shakhnovskaya, the director of the Moscow Polytechnic Museum, where Evgeny Yevtushenko read his poetry in the 1960s, says that education and science have become a form of resistance to politics. "We can't win but that does not mean we should stop resisting, so we try to grow a garden in the middle of hell." She says her main target audience is teenage schoolchildren, who are desperate for knowledge: "Good marks are no longer the main prerequisite for getting a good job in Russia...but the demand for knowledge is still there, so we try to satisfy it by other means."

Putin is not a bloodthirsty tyrant.
Although he has resorted to coercion and selective violence, both at home and abroad, he is neither willing nor able to reproduce the economic foundation of Stalin's regime or impose a reign of terror. His system uses more subtle methods of control and manipulation such

as rigging elections, demoralising
or co-opting the liberal opposition and, most important, deploying
television as a propaganda tool.

Mr Gudkov notes, television propaganda exploits the
syndrome of “learned helplessness”—a psychological condition where
people who have been repeatedly abused give up control and start
believing that “nothing depends on us”. Having a mighty enemy, such
as America, helps alleviate their feelings of failure and weakness.
Russia’s anti-Americanism is based not on any real interaction between
the two countries but on Russia’s domestic failures.

end of The Economist Special Report: Russia 10-22-2016

from Economist tsar putin 10-2017:

Alexander Dugin, a nationalist ideologist, says Russia is entering a time of troubles. “Putin works
for the present. He has no key to the future.”

What makes Putin effective, what makes him dangerous, is not strategic brilliance but a tactical
flexibility and adaptability—a willingness to experiment, to disrupt, and to take big risks. says
Julia Ioffe The Atlantic

“I love reading and I love history...

Reality is not a children’s matinee or the handing out of mandarin oranges...things simply don’t
look like you thought they do, like you wanted them to, like you expected them to...

The ideology of liberal democracy has outlived its purpose...

The question is not about having much power. It’s about using the power you have in the right
way...

‘Russia is playing with the West’s minds’, via Vladislav Surkov

‘We cannot do anything without orders from Moscow - and Moscow is silent.’ told to Putin in 1989
as USSR was breaking up.

from The Putin Interviews by Oliver Stone:

“...a quintessential narcissist ... criticism is to eliminate - literally -the critics.”

Jerrold Post on Putin - and Trump (via Jane Mayer in NYer pdf).

“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

from First Person by Nataliya Gevorkyan +2:

via Nina Krushcheva: ‘He’s a small man of five-six saying he’s five-seven.’

end Putin

“...the challenge of the first half of the century, from the power of industrial monopolies to
depression and war, prompted a cultural response in which Americans thought and acted more as
a group. Over the past half-century, however, they seem to have reverted to a more atomised
condition.”

Robert Putnam paraphrased in Economist story Mourning in America

“This security system...is profoundly corrupt. ...its chief
function ...is to protect bureaucrats and politicians from
being held accountable for their failings, including their wasteful distribution of government
contracts....

Robert Putnam

Most Americans are like the Germans
who did not fear the secret police because they were not Jews....
Christopher Pyle

George Pyle:

"If you want to protect your children from horribly [violent video games](#), or yourself from horribly distorted political attack ads from [corporate interests](#) that want nothing more than to take all your money and leave you the burnt-out shell of a planet as your receipt, the [United States Supreme Court](#) is not going to lift a finger to help you.

...political [malefactors of great wealth](#) are just another form of violent video game, another variety of pornography, another idea that violates any concept of fairness, decency or ethics....

Younger folks also seem more likely to see such things as [fundamentalism](#), [bigotry](#) or [homophobia](#) ... as stupid stuff that old folks are hung up on, things to be laughed at or just ignored."

Constitutional law lesson: The word "citizen" does not appear in the Bill of Rights. Its protections clearly were intended to belong to all "persons"....

We abandon our own ideals and principles in the vain search for security and sameness. We sell short our amazing abilities to adopt, adapt and improve whenever new challenges come along. And we pretend that we can solve our problems by blaming them on Muslims, Mexicans or 'mosexuals.

Murdoch isn't so concerned about picking the winners so much as sucking up to them...

The goal is not victory for any party, but power and access for corporate bigwigs whose only interest is more power and access, which equal more money....

What really happens when too much power ebbs away from government is that it congeals around private wealth, which cares even less about average people than the most insulated bureaucrat."

"Lower tax rates on the rich do not stimulate hiring. They stimulate hoarding."

George Pyle, Salt Lake Tribune

"Utah lawmakers...one of their core beliefs – that life is better when the people are ignorant –...a belief...that order will be better maintained if certain people do not know the truth about something.

..."...the forces of darkness is going to get away with this one, because those most directly affected - Utah's teenagers - have no voice."

"...at least one study suggests that children raised in religious families have a much poorer ability to distinguish fantasy from reality than do children raised in non-religious households. Which, one must wonder, might stem from the same level of intelligence and empathy that, according to another study, make children from non-religious homes more generous and altruistic than those from religious backgrounds."

George Pyle

The Meaning of Life: Try to be nice to people, avoid eating fat, read a good book every now and then, get some walking in, and try to live in peace and harmony with people of all creeds and nations."

Monty Python

