

Democracy In Transition: Spins # 1

Written by

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PEJ News - Richard Walpole's Blogpole - Democracy has always been in transition, and probably always will be. Conversation is one basic element of this experiment that varies in quality and direction. The collections of insights below are organized to bring both thought and joy to this conversation.

<https://www.pej.org> ----- *Revolution* -----

'Never do anything against conscience even if the state demand it.'
Albert Einstein

'However different governments may be, all are ultimately concerned with the control of the many by the few. In this respect, governments have more in common with one another than with their citizens.' *Patrick Watson, Benjamin Barber , in Struggle for Democracy*

'Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men, for the nastiest of reasons, will somehow work for the benefit of us all.'
John Maynard Keynes, economist

'We have been compelled to create a permanent arms industry of vast proportions.....now this conjunction of an immense military establishment and large arms industry is new in the American experience. Our toil, rest and livehood are all involved: so is the very sructure of our society. In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarrented influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.'
Dwight D. Eisenhower,
US Pres
. 1952 - 60,
Farewell Address

'Those who make peaceful revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable.'
John F. Kennedy, US President 1960-63

'God forbid we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion!' *Thomas Jefferson, 1743 -1845, on the spirit of the American revolution*

'Let us base it (the debate) on the one morality that is universal to all humanity: it is wrong to inflict suffering on innocent human beings.' *Vlado Zeman, letter writer, Globe and Mail, May, 2002*

'When the government is wrong, it is dangerous to be right.' *Voltaire*
e , 1694
- 1778

----- *Proverbs* -----

'One dog looks at something, and a hundred dogs at him.' *Chinese*

'If there were neither fools nor knaves in the world, all people would be of one mind.' *Spanish*

'During the pursuit of wisdom man may be termed wise, but the conceit of having attained it renders him a fool.' *Arabic*

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'Wisdom is born, stupidity is learned.' *Russian*

'If you don't scale the mountain you can't view the plain.' *Chinese*

----- *Knowing* -----

'Knowledge is ruin to my young men.' *Adolph Hitler*

'The trouble ain't that people are ignorant: it's that they know so much that ain't so.' *Josh Billings*

'Most people do not care to be taught what they do not already know: it makes them feel ignorant.' *Mary McCarthy*

'There are a great many opinions in this world, and a good half of them are professed by people who have never been in trouble.' *Ma vis Gallant*

'Of all man's miseries the bitterest is this, to know so much and to have control over nothing.' *Herodotus, 484 - 432 BC*

'They know enough who know how to learn.' *Henry Adams, historian*
n 1838
- 1918

----- *Civil Justice* -----

'The spirit of democracy cannot be established in the midst of
terror, whether governmental or popular.' *Mohanda Gandhi*

'The rights you have are the rights given you by this Committee
[House Un-American Affairs Committee]. WE will determine what
rights you have and what rights you have not got.' *J. Parnell*
Thomas, during U.S. McCarthyism,
1950's

'No protracted war can fail to endanger the freedom of a democratic country.' *Alexis de Tocqueville, 1805 - 1859*

'In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded on four essential freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world;

The second is the freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world;

the third is freedom from want - everywhere in the world;

the fourth is freedom from fear - everywhere in the world.' *Franklin Delano Roosevelt, US President, in 1941*

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'We can have justice whenever those who have not been injured by injustice are as outraged by it as those who have been.' *Solon*, 639 - 559 BC,

in

594

BC

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