

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence served our country in many high offices and founded a university. **Thomas Jefferson knew much about government because he himself studied the previous failed attempts at government.** He understood actual history, and the nature of man. That happens to be way more than what most understand today. Jefferson really knew his stuff. It is worth noting here a few things he had to say. John F. Kennedy held a dinner in the white House for a group of the brightest minds in the nation at that time. He made this statement: "This is perhaps the assembly of the most intelligence ever to gather at one time in the White House with the exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

Here are a few quotes from Thomas Jefferson :

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.

Thomas Jefferson said in 1802: **I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies.** If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property - until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.

My reading of history convinces me that **most bad government results from too much government.**

No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.

All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.

For a people who are free, and who mean to remain so, a well-organized and armed militia is their best security.

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.

It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world.

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A Bill of Rights is what the people are entitled to against every government, and what no just government should refuse, or rest on inference.

History, in general, only informs us of what bad government is.

A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government.

All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression.

Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.

Every citizen should be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and Romans, and must be that of every free state. Thomas Jefferson

I was bold in the pursuit of knowledge, never fearing to follow truth and reason to whatever results they led, and bearding every authority which stood in their way.

If Congress errs in too much talking, how can it be otherwise in a body to which the people send one hundred and fifty lawyers, whose trade it is to question everything, yield nothing, and talk by the hour?

Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves are its only safe depositories.

Experience hath shewn, that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny.

Experience demands that man is the only animal which devours his own kind, for I can apply no milder term to the general prey of the rich on the poor.

He who knows best knows how little he knows. Be polite to all, but intimate with few.

I am an Epicurean. I consider the genuine (not the imputed) doctrines of Epicurus as containing everything rational in moral philosophy which Greek and Roman leave to us.

I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another.

I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial by strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country.

I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform their discretion.

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

Leave no authority existing not responsible to the people.

It is in our lives and not our words that our religion must be read.

No occupation is so delightful as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.

Rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others.

That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part.

The constitutions of most of our States assert that all power is inherent in the people; that... it is their right and duty to be at all times armed. No freeman shall be debarred the use of arms.

When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty.

Nothing gives one person so much advantage over another as to remain always cool and unruffled under all circumstances. When angry count to ten before you speak. If very angry, count to one hundred.

One man with courage is a majority. One travels more usefully when alone, because he reflects more.

Only aim to do your duty, and mankind will give you credit where you fail.

When we get piled upon one another in large cities, we shall become as corrupt as Europe. Commerce with all nations, alliance with none, should be our motto.

When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on. Thomas Jefferson