

Quotes by Thomas Jefferson

Government big enough to supply everything you need is big enough to take everything you have ... The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases.

~ **Thomas Jefferson**

I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

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

On every question of construction [of the Constitution], let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

That government is best which governs the least, because its people discipline themselves. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

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**

To take from one, because it is thought his own industry and that of his father has acquired too much, in order to spare to others, who, or whose fathers, have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association, the guarantee to everyone the free exercise of his industry and the fruits acquired by it. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

When the people fear their government there is Tyranny. When the government fears the people there is Liberty. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

Banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

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, and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicity. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

I am not a friend to a very energetic government, it is always oppressive. 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. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

I think myself that we have more machinery of government that is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal. Nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

That government is best which governs the least, because its people discipline themselves. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

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**

The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

Were we directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we should soon want bread. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**

When the people fear their government there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty. ~ **Thomas Jefferson**