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# Quotes about Freedom of Speech

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A people which is able to say everything becomes able to do everything.

- Bonaparte, Napoleon

If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all.

- Chomsky, Noam

We who officially value freedom of speech above life itself seem to have nothing to talk about but the weather.

- Ehrenreich, Barbara

We are willing enough to praise freedom when she is safely tucked away in the past and cannot be a nuisance. In the present, amidst dangers whose outcome we cannot foresee, we get nervous about her, and admit censorship.

- Forster, Edward M.

The primacy of the word, basis of the human psyche, that has in our age been used for mind-bending persuasion and brain-washing pulp, disgraced by Gobblers and debased by advertising copy, remains a force for freedom that flies out between all bars.

- Gordimer, Nadine

We hear about constitutional rights, free speech and the free press. Every time I hear those words I say to myself, That man is a Red, that man is a Communist. You never heard a real American talk in that manner.

- Hague, Frank

The very aim and end of our institutions is just this: that we may think what we like and say what we think.

- Holmes, Oliver Wendell

Every man has a right to utter what he thinks truth, and every other man has a right to knock him down for it. Martyrdom is the test.

- Johnson, Samuel

The freedom of the press works in such a way that there is not much freedom from it.

- Kelly, Grace (Patricia)

People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid.

- Kierkegaard, Soren

How absurd men are! They never use the liberties they have, they demand those they do not have. They have freedom of thought, they demand freedom of speech.

- Kierkegaard, Soren

When one makes a Revolution, one cannot mark time; one must always go forward -- or go back. He who now talks about the freedom of the press goes backward, and halts our headlong course towards Socialism.

- Lenin, Vladimir Ilyich

At no time is freedom of speech more precious than when a man hits his thumb with a hammer.

- Lumsden, Marshall

Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.

- Milton, John

The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with.

- Norton, Eleanor Holmes

Marks on paper are free -- free speech -- press -- pictures all go together I suppose.

- O'Keeffe, Georgia

Free speech is the whole thing, the whole ball game. Free speech is life itself.

- Rushdie, Salman

The first principle of a free society is an untrammelled flow of words in an open forum.

- Stevenson, Adlai E.

The sound of tireless voices is the price we pay for the right to hear the music of our own opinions.

- Stevenson, Adlai E.

In America the majority raises formidable barriers around the liberty of opinion; within these barriers an author may write what he pleases, but woe to him if he goes beyond them.

- Tocqueville, Alexis De

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

- Voltaire

If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.

- Washington, George





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