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Quotes about Totalitarianism

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Totalitarianism is never content to rule by external means, namely, through the state and a machinery of violence; thanks to its peculiar ideology and the role assigned to it in this apparatus of coercion, totalitarianism has discovered a means of dominating and terrorizing human beings from within.

- Arendt, Hannah

Only the mob and the elite can be attracted by the momentum of totalitarianism itself. The masses have to be won by propaganda.

- Arendt, Hannah

One leader, one people, signifies one master and millions of slaves.

- Camus, Albert

People who live in the post-totalitarian system know only too well that the question of whether one or several political parties are in power, and how these parties define and label themselves, is of far less importance than the question of whether or not it is possible to live like a human being.

- Havel, Vaclav

There is a totalitarian regime inside every one of us. We are ruled by a ruthless politburo

which sets our norms and drives us from one five-year plan to another. The autonomous individual who has to justify his existence by his own efforts is in eternal bondage to himself.

- Hoffer, Eric

Man is more disposed to domination than freedom; and a structure of dominion not only gladdens the eye of the master who rears and protects it, but even its servants are uplifted by the thought that they are members of a whole, which rises high above the life and strength of single generations.

- Humboldt, Karl Wilhelm Von

The only successful revolution of this century is totalitarianism.

- Levy, Bernard-Henri

Without general elections, without unrestricted freedom of press and assembly, without a free struggle of opinion, life dies out in every public institution, becomes a mere semblance of life, in which only the bureaucracy remains as the active element. Public life gradually falls asleep, a few dozen party leaders of inexhaustible energy and boundless experience direct and rule. Such conditions must inevitably cause a brutalization of public life: attempted assassinations, shootings of hostages, etc.

- Luxemburg, Rosa

Since it is difficult to join them together, it is safer to be feared than to be loved when one of the two must be lacking.



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