

Thoughts on Civilization

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Civilization is a limitless multiplication of unnecessary necessities.

~ Mark Twain, as quoted in *More Maxims of Mark* (Johnson, 1927)

Art is the signature of civilizations.

~ Beverly Sills

Education is the transmission of civilization.

~ Ariel and Will Durant

The more rapidly a civilization progresses, the sooner it dies for another to rise in its place.

~ Havelock Ellis, *The Dance of Life*

Civilization is the art of living in towns of such size that everyone does not know everyone else.

~ Julian Jaynes, *The Origin of Consciousness*

Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty, and dies with chaos.

~ Will Durant

Every civilization carries the seeds of its own destruction, and the same cycle shows in them all.

~ Mark Twain

Civilization advances by extending the number of important operations which we can perform without thinking.

~ Alfred North Whitehead

Civilization is protest against nature; progress requires us to take control of evolution.

~ Thomas Huxley

It is largely because civilization enables us constantly to profit from knowledge which we individually do not possess and because each individual's use of his particular knowledge may serve to assist others unknown to him in achieving their ends that [humans] as members of civilized society can pursue their individual ends so much more successfully than they could alone.

~ Fredrich August von Hayek

The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.

~ Alfred North Whitehead

