

## Quotations on Power

7.2.4  
b

*You can have power over people as long as you don't take everything away from them. But when you've robbed a man of everything, he's no longer in your power.*

– Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer who was imprisoned for his political views

*Wealth may be an excellent thing, for it means power, and it means leisure, it means liberty.*

– James Russell Lowell, American poet, late 19th century

*When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.*

– Jimi Hendrix, 1960s rock guitarist

*Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men.*

– Lord Acton, 19th-century British scholar and writer

*Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral.*

– Paulo Freire, famous Brazilian educator and thinker (1921–1997)

*Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species—man—acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world.*

– Rachel Carson, environmentalist and author of *The Silent Spring*

*Power, however it has evolved, whatever its origins, will not be given up without a struggle.*

– Shulamith Firestone, feminist and writer (1970s)

*I hope our wisdom will grow with our power, and teach us, that the less we use our power the greater it will be.*

– Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States (1801–1809) and author of the Declaration of Independence

*If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.*

– Mother Teresa, Catholic humanitarian among the poor in India

*People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them.*

– George Bernard Shaw, 1893, British writer and playwright

*Non-violence is the weapon of the strong.*

– Mahatma Gandhi, Indian leader and non-violent rights activist

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*Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.*

– Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882), American thinker and writer

*I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.*

– Dwight D. Eisenhower, United States General and President of the United States (1953–1961)

*Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and co-operation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace.*

– Dwight D. Eisenhower

*The world will never have lasting peace so long as men reserve for war the finest human qualities. Peace, no less than war, requires idealism and self-sacrifice and a righteous and dynamic faith.*

– John Foster Dulles, American Secretary of State (1953–1959) during the Cold War between the U.S. and Soviet Union

*When I recall the path of my own life I cannot but speak of the violence, hatred and lies. A lesson drawn from such experiences, however, was that we can effectively oppose violence only if we ourselves do not resort to it.*

– Lech Walesa, 1983, labour leader and non-violent worker for human rights in Poland

*We must indeed resolutely refuse to be tempted to violence: that is the short cut which invariably turns out to be the blind alley.*

– A.J. Muste, American minister and writer, supporter of non-violence

*An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come.*

– Victor Hugo, French writer and humanitarian

*I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant... I believe that what self-centred men have torn down, men other-centred can build up."*

– Martin Luther King, U.S. civil rights leader, on his acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize

