

# THE MAJORITY

## OF ONE

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### **The Majority of One**

One man with courage is a majority. (Thomas Jefferson)

But where there is one, there is a majority of one, and, when the rights of the majority take away from the rights of the one, then the many will themselves suffer. (Henry David Thoreau)

It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men. (Samuel Adams)

Individual rights are not subject to a public vote; a majority has no right to vote away the rights of a minority; the political function of rights is precisely to protect minorities from oppression by majorities (and the smallest minority on earth is the individual). (Ayn Rand)

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect. (Mark Twain)

Honesty, integrity, and accountability, the values, which should be the hallmark of this government, have instead been thrown under the bus by an arrogant majority, casualties in a misguided campaign to shield from accountability those who abuse this House. (Louise Slaughter)

In a democracy the poor will have more power than the rich, because there are more of them, and the will of the majority is supreme. (Aristotle)

We are too much accustomed to attribute to a single cause that which is the product of several, and the majority of our controversies come from that. (Marcus Aurelius)

The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane. (Marcus Aurelius)

All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression. (Thomas Jefferson)

Neither current events nor history show that the majority rule, or ever did rule. (Jefferson Davis)

In a democracy, the majority of the citizens is capable of exercising the most cruel oppressions upon the minority. (Edmund Burke)

The one pervading evil of democracy is the tyranny of the majority, or rather of that party, not always the majority, that succeeds, by force or fraud, in carrying elections. (Lord Acton)

In Republics, the great danger is that the majority may not sufficiently respect the rights of the minority. (James Madison)

In a republic this rule ought to be observed: that the majority should not have the predominant power. (Marcus Tullius Cicero)

The political machine triumphs because it is a united minority acting against a divided majority. (Will Durant)

The Government of the absolute majority instead of the Government of the people is but the Government of the strongest interests; and when not efficiently checked, it is the most tyrannical and oppressive that can be devised. (John C Calhoun)

It is not worth an intelligent man's time to be in the majority. By definition, there are already enough people to do that. (G H Hardy)

The genius of our ruling class is that it has kept a majority of the people from ever questioning the inequity of a system where most people drudge along, paying heavy taxes for which they get nothing in return. (Gore Vidal)

In the United States, the majority undertakes to supply a multitude of ready-made opinions for the use of individuals, who are thus relieved from the necessity of forming opinions of their own. (Alexis de Tocqueville)

The vast majority of human beings dislike and even actually dread all notions with which they are not familiar... Hence it comes about that at their first appearance innovators have generally been persecuted, and always derided as fools and madmen. (Aldous Huxley)

A belief in hell and the knowledge that every ambition is doomed to frustration at the hands of a skeleton have never prevented the majority of human beings from behaving as though death were no more than an unfounded rumour. (Aldous Huxley)

Nothing is as approved as mediocrity, the majority has established it and it fixes its fangs on whatever gets beyond it either way. (Blaise Pascal)

The wise have always said the same things, and fools, who are the majority, have always done just the opposite. (Arthur Schopenhauer)

In matters of conscience, the law of the majority has no place. (Mahatma Gandhi)

I get a sense that we've all been educated into one school of thought. I'm not surprised at all to find among the overwhelming majority of scientists, are people who would hold one particular view because that's all they're exposed to. (Thabo Mbeki)

It doesn't take a majority to make a rebellion; it takes only a few determined leaders and a sound cause. (H L Mencken)

We submit to the majority because we have to. But we are not compelled to call our attitude of subjection a posture of respect. (Ambrose Bierce)

The great questions of the day will not be settled by means of speeches and majority decisions but by iron and blood. (Otto von Bismarck)

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