

Keeping Hope Alive Change The World You Live In

Blessings to All:



The painting is called "**Hope**". It is a Symbolist oil painting by the English painter George Frederic Watts in 1886. It shows a lone blindfolded female figure sitting on a globe, playing a lyre that has only a single unbroken string remaining. The background is almost blank.

The blindfolded woman is concentrating on the sound of the one string she is playing. It is a testament of her faith in God the hope she clings too, in a world living in darkness. She cannot see what is ahead of her but trusts in God's mercy and justice. She has Hope unflinching. We also are living in a world of darkness. She shows us that we too, must have Hope in God and Our Savior Jesus to bring Light

back into the World of Shattered Dreams. We just need to do our part.

We all have shattered dreams in our lives. Marriages ending in divorce; our children losing their Faith; cancer in our bodies and in the bodies of our family and friends; persecutions of our Faith; genocide and more. No matter what is happening in your life, trust that God is active in your life. Even though the world tells you otherwise...God loves you...and he loves you just the way you are.

Martin Luther King Jr, penned a sermon in 1959 called "Shattered Dreams". It brings out the unmistakable aspect of our humanness. We never give up Hope even when we face the realities that life has in store for us. **Although Dr King's speech was directed at America, it has a Universal message for all the people of the world who suffer injustice.** Below is a poignant passage in his sermon.

"We come to the point of seeing that no matter how long we pray for them sometimes, and no matter how long we cry out for a solution to our problems, no matter how much we desire it, we don't get the answer. The only answer that we get is a fading echo of our desperate cry, of our lonely cry. So, we find Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane praying that the cup would be removed from him. But he has to drink it with all of its bitterness and all of its pain. We find Paul praying that the thorn would be removed from his flesh, but it is never removed, and he is forced to go all the way to the grave with it. And so, in this text, we find Paul wanting to go to Spain for a noble purpose, to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to Spain. Paul never gets to Spain. He ends up in Rome, not as a free man but as a man in prison. This is the story of life. In so many instances, it becomes the arena of unrealized dreams and unfulfilled hopes, frustration with no immediate solution in the environment."

Martin Luther King Jr knew about Hope. He held onto God's promise in his life. Although he did much to help unify America and the God given civil liberties, he was not able to fulfill his dream. In his great speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington Dec in August 1963 he talked about his hope for the future.



"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: **"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.**

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" -- one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.



I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful

symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: *My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, From every mountainside, let freedom ring!*

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when *all* of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

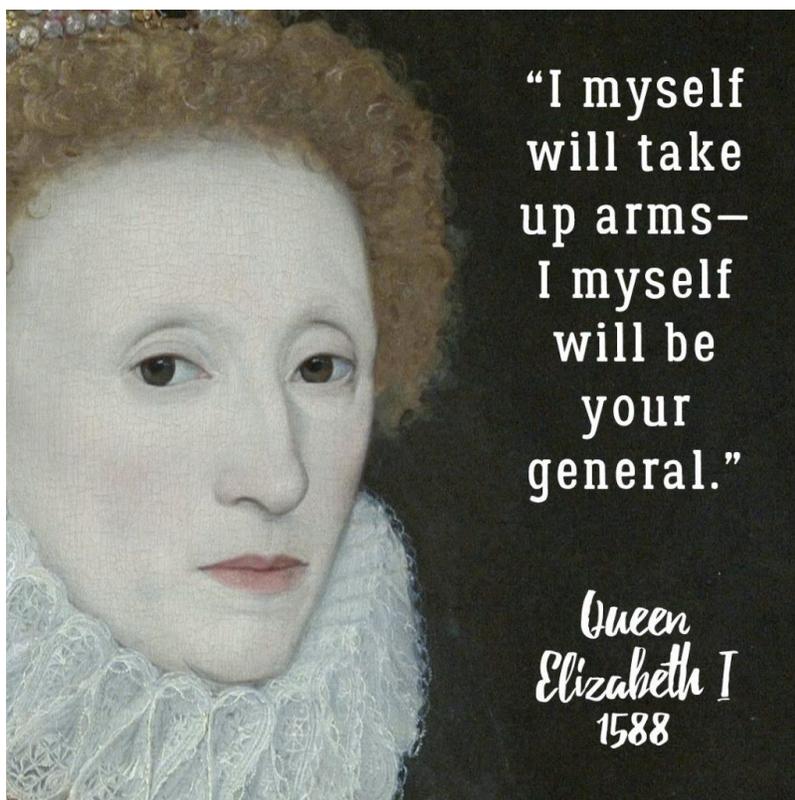
Speeches That Changed the World

Throughout history, the human voice has always been a powerful weapon for change. Many great leaders, great orators, and people with vision have given speeches that made their way into the history books.

Some speeches can inspire people to do better and be better, but then there are the speeches that inspire entire nations to make history. Bolstering the resolve of even a small group of listeners can bring about world-altering changes.

So, we set out to track down some of those special speeches. Every speech on this list led to direct and lasting changes throughout the world, and even to this day, many lines of these speeches might just sound familiar to you.

Queen Elizabeth I—Speech to the Troops at Tilbury



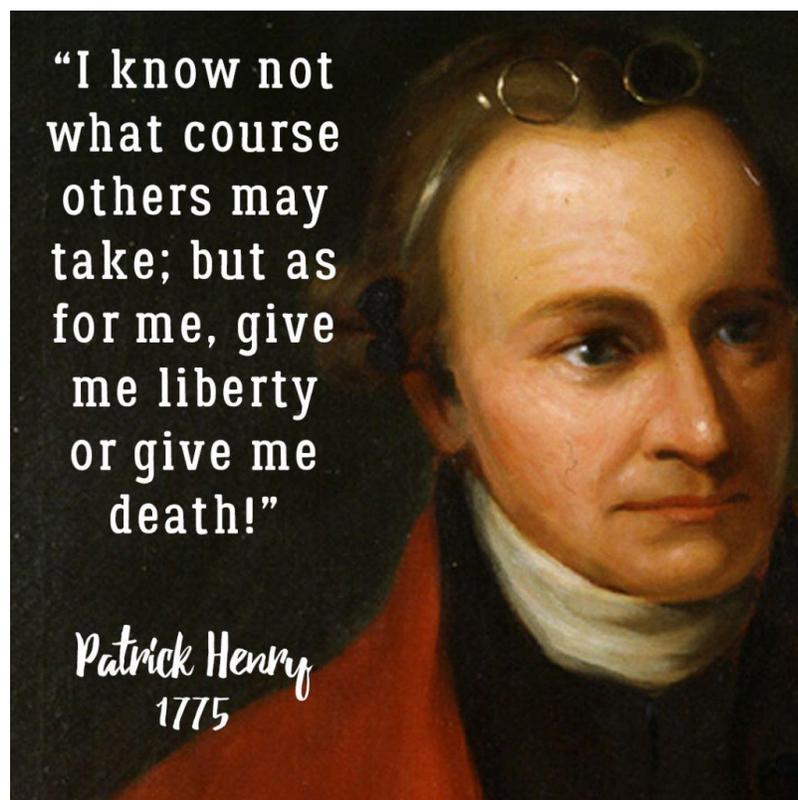
In the 1500s, Spain was considered the most powerful country in the world. When the English became their rivals on the trade routes to the New World, King Phillip II responded by building the Spanish Armada, a fleet of 122 ships. When the armada launched to invade Britain, the English were sorely outnumbered in both troops and ships. But one thing they had that Spain didn't was Queen Elizabeth I.

As the Spanish Armada was sailing up the English Channel in 1588, the English land troops gathered at Tilbury, Essex. The queen made a public appearance to boost morale and delivered her iconic Tilbury

speech. She was famously wearing a white velvet dress and a breastplate, presenting herself not as a queen but as a war leader of mythological proportions. To put it lightly, her speech landed. After a nine-day battle, the Spaniards suffered a humiliating defeat and Britain was secured as a world power. Historians are still

unclear whether the victory happened thanks to superior war tactics or just a series of very lucky breaks, but there's no doubt that the English troops' faith in their queen allowed them to secure victory against incredible odds.

Patrick Henry—Speech at the Second Virginia Convention



Patrick Henry was both a great orator and a Virginian statesman of colonial America. When George III passed the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts, imposing unreasonable taxes on the colonists, Henry was one of the first voices to demand liberty of the American people.

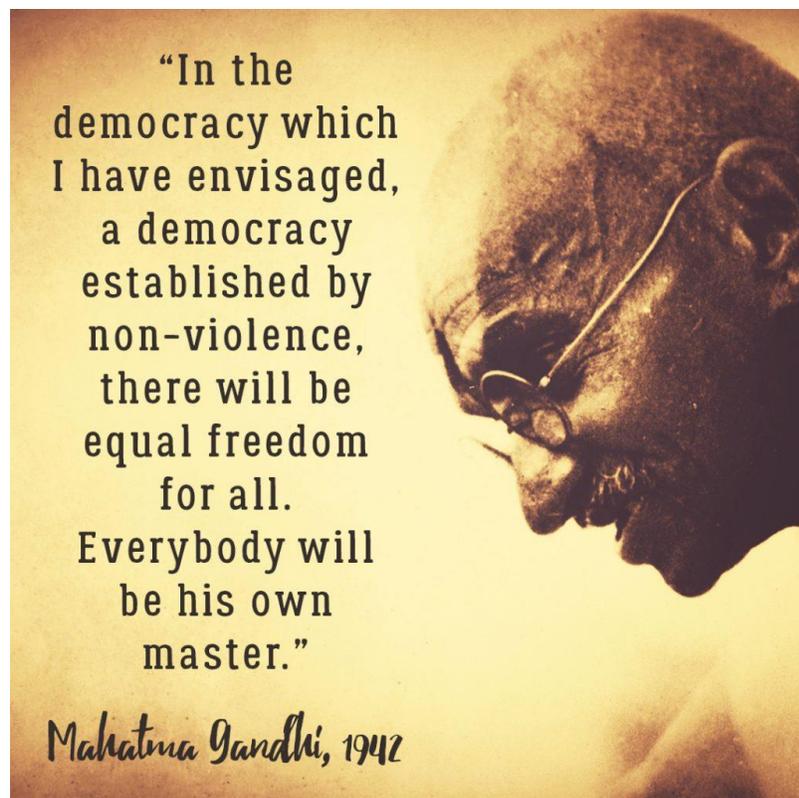
War was brewing, but the vast majority of the colonists weren't sure if it was worth it to engage in the conflict. What chance did they have against the British? While Massachusetts was preparing for war, Virginia was still on the fence. A delegation of Virginian patriots came together at the Second Virginia Convention to vote on how to

proceed in the coming conflict.

This convention became the backdrop for Patrick Henry's famous speech "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death," in which he radically proposed that Virginia organize a militia and prepare for war. Thanks to Henry's speech, his resolutions narrowly passed the assembly, and Virginia joined the Revolutionary War.

This was a huge step toward American independence. Beyond that, young Thomas Jefferson and George Washington were both in attendance to hear Patrick Henry's speech. These men went on to play key roles in the formation of America and to become U.S. presidents.

Mahatma Gandhi—Quit India Speeches



In history, Mahatma Gandhi is widely recognized as a non-violent revolutionary and a seeker of truth.

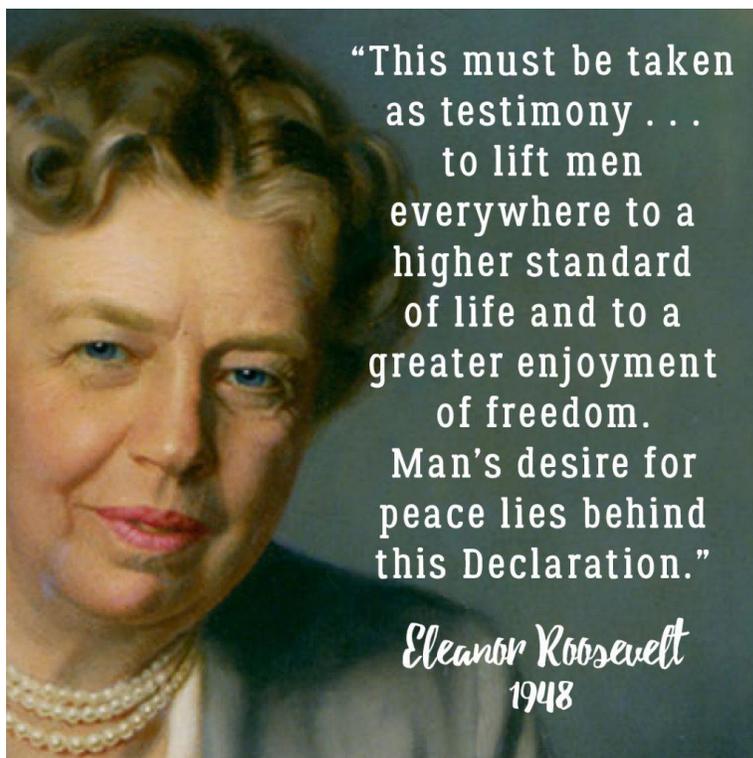
Perhaps one of Gandhi's greatest victories is also linked to one of his greatest addresses ever given. In 1942 virtually the entire world was embroiled in conflicts, and India was no exception. The country had lived under British rule for over a century, and the Indian people were tired of the economic disadvantages and high taxation of the arrangement.

This unrest escalated when Great Britain joined World War II and began dragging India into the conflict as well. In August of

1942, Gandhi delivered his famous “Quit India” speeches, entreating the British to grant the Indian population immediate independence. This speech also called the Indian populace to passive resistance against their British rulers.

The same day of Gandhi's speech, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) passed the Quit India Resolution. The road ahead was long and filled with political turmoil, but eventually in the summer of 1947, India was declared an independent country at last.

Eleanor Roosevelt—Address to the United Nations on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Married to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt was America’s first lady for twelve years. Most historical sources describe her as shy and retiring, but she was a dedicated politician, humanitarian, and activist for the better part of her life.

After President Roosevelt’s death, President Harry S. Truman appointed Ms. Roosevelt to be the U.S. delegate to the United Nations (UN). In this role she accomplished her life’s greatest work by drafting and presenting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

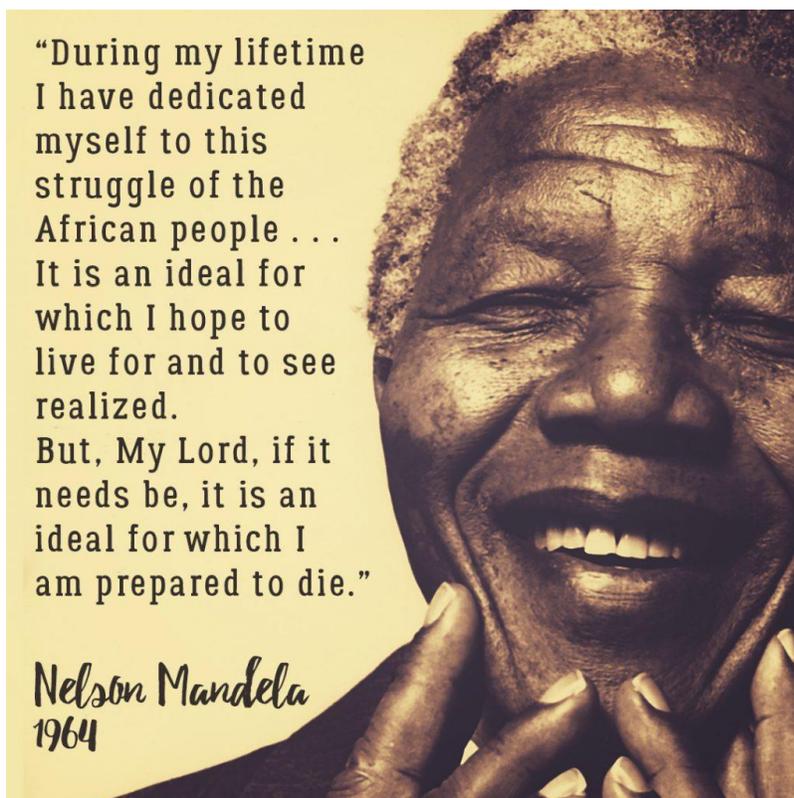
Inspired by the atrocities of World War II, the declaration’s purpose was to define universal human

liberties and ensure that the tragedies of WWII would never happen again. Ms. Roosevelt worked tirelessly for nearly two years to create a draft and resolve numerous stalemates amongst her fellow delegates.

On December 9, 1948, Ms. Roosevelt attended the United Nations General Assembly in Paris to deliver an impassioned speech, urging the assembly to adopt the finished declaration. At 3:00 am the very next day, the UN unanimously accepted the document.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has since influenced national constitutions and human rights agreements all around the world. *The Guinness Book of World Records* recognizes it as the most translated document in the world—translated into 370 languages and dialects.

Nelson Mandela—Speech at the Rivonia Trial



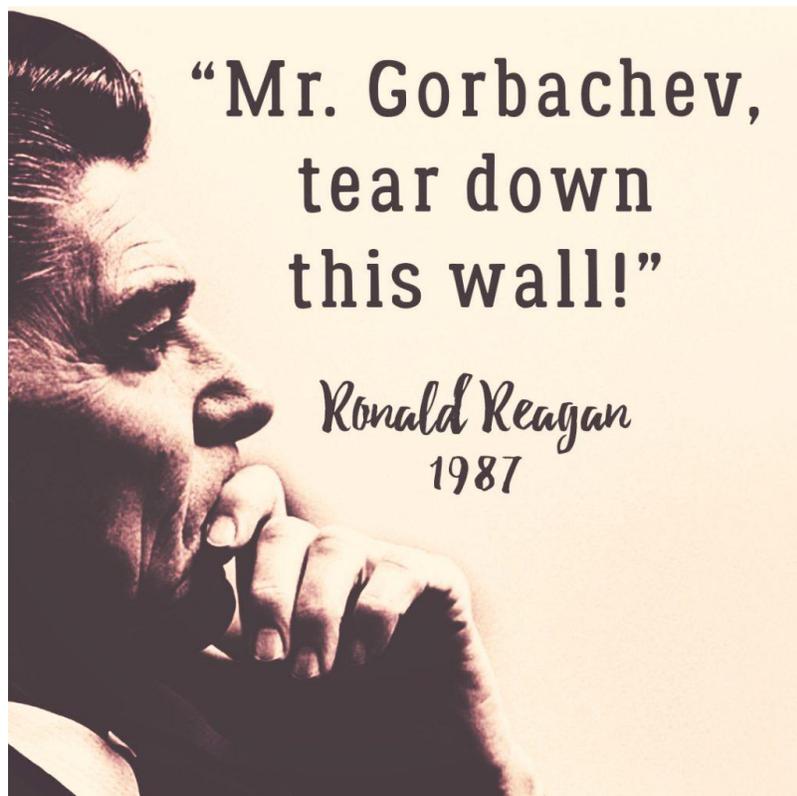
In 1948, South African leadership began enforcing official policies of racial segregation. This apartheid segregation restricted who black Africans could marry, where they could live, and what professions they could work. As the leader of the African National Congress (ANC), Nelson Mandela and his comrades spent years fighting against apartheid. He was arrested several times for treason and sabotage, and when the government raided an ANC hideout in Rivonia, they finally had enough evidence to charge 11 ANC leaders—including Mandela—to life imprisonment.

At the Rivonia Trial in 1964, Mandela stood before the South African Supreme Court. Instead of testifying for himself, he delivered the speech that even today defines him as a leader. In it he expressed his passion for the freedoms of the African people and his hatred for apartheid. The address held the court spellbound for nearly four hours.

Although his words did not save Mandela from being convicted, the speech struck a chord in the hearts of his audience and stirred up unrest in the South African people.

Mandela served 27 years in prison for his beliefs, but his words and his bravery were instrumental in dismantling the apartheid system in his country. He was eventually released from prison in 1990, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, and became the country’s first black head of state and the first to be elected democratically.

Ronald Reagan—Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate



After World War II, the Berlin Wall divided eastern and western Germany into two separate nations: one that was free and one that wasn't. In his address at the Brandenburg Gate, President Ronald Reagan challenged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to finally put an end to the divide and unite Berlin once again.

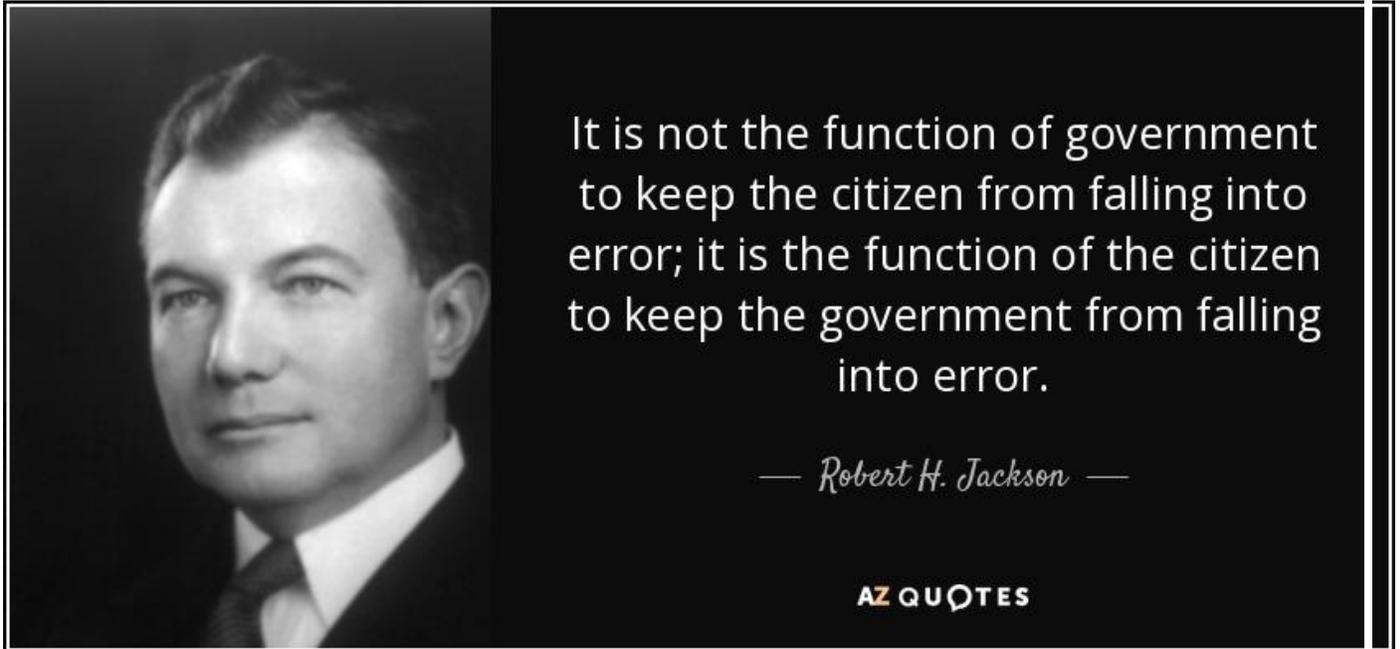
This address was delivered during the height of the Cold War, and even the president's own advisors feared that his remarks were crossing a line. Reagan gave the speech anyway.

There's still a fair amount of debate on just how much influence Reagan's words had in

ending the Cold War, but there's no doubt that his bold declaration, made right next to the most visible symbol of the Iron Curtain, certainly made an impression. The very next year, Gorbachev himself gave his famous "Freedom of Choice" speech to the UN General Assembly, marking the beginning of the Cold War's thaw. On November 9, 1989, the head of the East German Communist Party announced that his citizens were free to cross the border. Crowds showed up with picks and hammers to knock down the edifice, and after 28 years the Berlin Wall finally fell.

Great Quotes About The Rule of Law

US Supreme Court Judge Robert Jackson



Warning About Liberty

Judge Leonard Hand
U.S. Court of Appeals

“The hand that rules the press, the radio, the screen and the far-spread magazine, rules the country.”

St. John Paul II Warning About the Culture of Death In The World



“We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the “culture of death” and the “culture of life”. We find ourselves not only faced with but necessarily in the midst of this conflict: we are all involved, and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life.”



Pray for Life

Pray to Forgive Your Enemies

**Pray that Jesus Will Strengthen You In
This Time of Evil Upon the Earth**

Our Blessed Mother Prays For You



St. Paul Ministry, Cypress, TX

Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

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