

A Legacy of Advice to His Country

Following are selected quotations from the speeches and writings of Dwight David Eisenhower.

MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together. (Jan. 18, 1961—Washington.)

FOREIGN RELATIONS

The best foreign policy is to live our daily lives in honesty, decency and integrity; at home, making our own land a more fitting habitation for free men; and, abroad, joining with those of like mind and heart, to make of the world a place where all men can dwell in peace. Neither palsied by fear nor duped by dreams but strong in the rightness of our purpose, we can then place our case and cause before the bar of world opinion—history's final arbiter between nations. (March 23, 1950—Columbia University.)

FREEDOM

In every corner of the globe it is far less costly to sustain freedom than to recover it when lost. (April 21, 1956—Speech.)

Freedom has been defined as the opportunity for self-discipline. . . . Should we persistently fail to discipline ourselves, eventually there will be increasing pressure on government to regress the failure. By that process freedom will step by step disappear. (Jan. 10, 1957—Washington.)

Here in America we are descended in blood and spirit from revolutionists and rebels—men and women who dare to dissent from accepted doctrine. As their heirs, we may never confuse honest dissent with disloyal subversion. (May 31, 1954—Columbia University.)

AMERICA

The mission of America has been, and is, the expansion of individual liberty, self-reliance and personal responsibility within a system where a government, of conscience and of heart, is the servant of every individual, doing for him what he cannot do for himself. (Oct. 16, 1956—St. Paul.)

Thus American democracy stands upon three main pillars, the first of which is unshakable belief in the dignity of man; the second is a system of free enterprise, and third is nationwide cooperation in support of all functions that the central government must perform in the in-

terests of all. . . . (May 1947—Washington.)

CIVIL RIGHTS

We have discovered, in our society, the true way to advance the cause of civil rights: less oratory and more action, never on a partisan basis, but as a matter of American justice. And all the while, urging patience and understanding, we have respected this truth: the final battle against intolerance must be fought, not in the chambers of any legislature, but in the hearts of men. (Oct. 25, 1956—New York.)

It has always been my faith that eventual triumph of decency and freedom and right in this world is inevitable. (Nov. 13, 1957—radio and television address.)

EDUCATION

If this were a land where the military profession is a weapon of tyranny or aggression—its members an elite cast dedicated to its own perpetuation—a lifelong soldier could hardly assume my present role. But in our nation the army is the servant of the people, designed and trained exclusively to protect our way of life.

Duty in its ranks is an exercise of citizenship. Hence, among us, the soldier who becomes an educator or the teacher who becomes a soldier enters no foreign field but finds himself instead engaged in a new phase of his fundamental life purpose—the protection and perpetuation of basic human freedoms. (Oct 12, 1948—Installation speech at Columbia University.)