

Some change quotes

Compiled by The MA Change team

led by Professor Tom Bourner

Mohandas Gandhi

"Be the change that you want to see in the world."

Heraclitus

"Nothing is permanent but change."

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.)

"Science and technology revolutionize our lives, but memory, tradition and myth frame our response. Expelled from individual consciousness by the rush of change, history finds its revenge by stamping the collective unconsciousness with habits, values, expectations, dreams. The dialectic between past and future will continue to form our lives."

Desmond Tutu

"Forgiveness does not change the past but it does enlarge the future"

Mo Udall

"Any change or reform you make is going to have a consequence that you don't like"

Edmund Burke:

"A state without the means for change is without the means for its conservation"

John A. Simone Sr

"If you're in a bad situation, don't worry it'll change. If you're in a good situation, don't worry it'll change."

Andy Warhol

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself."

Margret Mead

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Bertrand Russell:

"Change is scientific, progress is ethical; change is indubitable, whereas progress is a matter of controversy."

Lynn Hall, *Where Have All the Tigers Gone?*, 1989:

"We did not change as we grew older; we just became more clearly ourselves."

Tom Stoppard:

"If Beethoven had been killed in a plane crash at the age of 22, it would have changed the history of music... and of aviation."

Vice President Dan Quayle, 5/22/89:

"I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy - but that could change."

Ernst Fischer

"In a decaying society, art, if it is truthful, must also reflect decay. And unless it wants to break faith with its social function, art must show the world as changeable. And help to change it."

Reinhold Niebuhr:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference"

Richard Feynman:

"I was born not knowing and have had only a little time to change that here and there."

Albert Einstein:

"If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts."

Winston Churchill:

"A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject."

Henry Havelock Ellis:

"What we call 'Progress' is the exchange of one nuisance for another nuisance."

From "Taxi":

"The great thing about television is that if something important happens anywhere in the world, day or night, you can always change the channel."

Professor Irwin Corey:

"If we don't change direction soon, we'll end up where we're going."

Suzanne Necker:

"Fortune does not change men, it unmaskes them."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

"All things must change to something new, to something strange."

Christina Baldwin:

"Change is the constant, the signal for rebirth, the egg of the phoenix."

William James:

"Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives."

Ramsay Clark:

"Turbulence is life force. It is opportunity. Let's love turbulence and use it for change."

Ingrid Bengis:

"For me, words are a form of action, capable of influencing change."

Miriam Beard:

"Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living."

King Whitney, Jr.:

"Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the

confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better."

Agathon:

"Even God cannot change the past."

James Gordon, M.D.:

"It's not that some people have willpower and some don't. It's that some people are ready to change and others are not."

Pearl Buck:

"A good marriage is one which allows for change and growth in the individuals and in the way they express their love."

Malcolm X, Malcolm X Speaks, 1965:

"Usually when people are sad, they don't do anything. They just cry over their condition. But when they get angry, they bring about a change."

Norman Vincent Peale:

"Change your thoughts and you change your world."

Nelson Mandela, "A Long Walk to Freedom":

"There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered."

Carol Burnett:

"Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me."

H. L. Hunt:

"Decide what you want, decide what you are willing to exchange for it. Establish your priorities and go to work."

Bernard M. Baruch:

"Approach each new problem not with a view of finding what you hope will be there, but to get the truth, the realities that must be grappled with. You may not like what you find. In that case you are entitled to try to

change it. But do not deceive yourself as to what you do find to be the facts of the situation."

Hugh White:

"When you make a mistake, don't look back at it long. Take the reason of the thing into your mind and then look forward. Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power."

Plato:

"You are so young, my son, and, as the years go by, time will change and even reverse many of your present opinions. Refrain therefore awhile from setting yourself up as judge of the highest matters."

John Henry Cardinal Newman:

"Let us take things as we find them: let us not attempt to distort them into what they are not. We cannot make facts. All our wishing cannot change them. We must use them."

Andre Gide:

"Work and struggle and never accept an evil that you can change."

Laurence J. Peter:

"Real, constructive mental power lies in the creative thought that shapes your destiny, and your hour-by-hour mental conduct produces power for change in your life. Develop a train of thought on which to ride. The nobility of your life as well as your happiness depends upon the direction in which that train of thought is going."

H. L. Hunt:

"Decide what you want, decide what you are willing to exchange for it. Establish your priorities and go to work."

Harrison Ford, quoted by Garry Jenkins in "Harrison Ford: Imperfect Hero":

"We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less a second chance."

Gary Lee Phillips:

"In all things that involve social pressures, if we want to see change we have to force the envelope outwards."

Mahatma Gandhi:

"We must become the change we want to see."

Heraclitus:

"Nothing endures but change."

Winston S. Churchill (1874-1965):

"A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject."

Lewis Grizzard:

"Life is like a dogsled team. If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes."

Harry S Truman (1884-1972):

"Men make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

Anonymous:

"Change is good, but dollars are better."

Ralph Waldo Emerson:

"Each man takes care that his neighbor shall not cheat him. But a day comes when he begins to care that he does not cheat his neighbor. Then all goes well -- he has changed his market-cart into a chariot of the sun."

Anthony J. D'Angelo, The College Blue Book:

"Don't fear change, embrace it."

Anthony J. D'Angelo, The College Blue Book:

"Become a student of change. It is the only thing that will remain constant."

Albert Einstein:

"If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts."

Confucius Analects:

"It is only the wisest and the stupidest that cannot change."

Anthony J. D'Angelo, *The College Blue Book*:

"The rules have changed. True power is held by the person who possesses the largest bookshelf, not gun cabinet or wallet."

E. B. White:

"Weather is a great bluffer. I guess the same is true of our human society -- things can look dark, then a break shows in the clouds, and all is changed."

Kin Hubbard:

"Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while."

Gail Sheehy:

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living."

A. N. Whitehead:

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

G. C. Lichtenberg:

"I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better."

German proverb:

"To change and to change for the better are two different things."

Chinese Proverb:

"If we don't change our direction we're likely to end up where we're headed."

Jay Terpstra:

"Nothing's ever really changed. What difference does it make whether it's the Corporate state or the Nation state? In our struggle for freedom we still find ourselves fighting the state."

Marilyn Ferguson:

"The greatest revolution in our generation is that of human beings, who by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives."

Will Durant:

"Civilization exists by geological consent, subject to change without notice."

John Schaar, futurist:

"The future is not a result of choices among alternative paths offered by the present, but a place that is created--created first in the mind and will, created next in activity. The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them, changes both the maker and the destination."

Margaret Meade:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has!"

Jessamyn West:

"We want the facts to fit the preconceptions. When they don't, it is easier to ignore the facts than to change the preconceptions."

Aldous Huxley:

"I wanted to change the world. But I have found that the only thing one can be sure of changing is oneself."

Shunryu Suzuki:

"Without accepting the fact that everything changes, we cannot find perfect composure. But unfortunately, although it is true, it is difficult for us to accept it. Because we cannot accept the truth of transience, we suffer."

Jessamyn West:

"We want the facts to fit the preconceptions. When they don't, it is easier to ignore the facts than to change the preconceptions."

Gerald W. Johnston:

"Nothing changes more constantly than the past; for the past that influences our lives does not consist of what happened, but of what men believe happened."

Eric Hoffer:

"In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists."

Richard Feynman:

"I was born not knowing and have only had a little time to change that here and there."

Gene Oliver, *Life and the Artistry of Change*:

"My past is my wisdom to use today. . . my future is my wisdom yet to experience. Be in the present because that is where life resides."

Leonardo DaVinci, *Notebooks* (c. 1500):

"Obstacles cannot crush me. Every obstacle yields to stern resolve. He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind."

G. A. Effinger, "Marid Changes His Mind", *IASFM*, 1/90:

"...what's the point of ... new technology if you can't find some way to pervert it?"

Howard Chaykin:

"I don't believe in sweeping social change being manifested by one person, unless he has an atomic weapon."

Herbie Blashtfalt:

"If I ever get around to writing that language depompisifier, it will change almost all occurrences of the word "paradigm" into "example" or "model."

Karl:

"If you demand money from someone in exchange for your silence, it's called ``blackmail.''' If your lawyer demands money from someone in exchange for your silence, it's called ``a settlement.'''

Max DePree, chairman and CEO of Herman Miller Inc.,
"Herman Miller's Secrets of Corporate Creativity", The
Wall Street Journal, May 3, 1988:

"If you want the best things to happen in corporate life
you have to find ways to be hospitable to the unusual
person. You don't get innovation as a democratic process.
You almost get it as an anti-democratic process.
Certainly you get it as an antithetical process, so you
have to have an environment where the body of people are
really amenable to change and can deal with the conflicts
that arise out of change and innovation."

Napoleon, "Military Maxims and Thought":

"It follows that any commander in chief who undertakes to
carry out a plan which he considers defective is at
fault; he must put forth his reasons, insist of the plan
being changed, and finally tender his resignation rather
than be the instrument of his army's downfall."

Arthur Evans:

"Nothing, not love, not greed, not passion or hatred, is
stronger than a writer's need to change another writer's
copy."

Victor Belenko, MiG-25 fighter pilot who defected in 1976
"Defense Electronics", Vol 20, No. 6, pg. 110:

"Remember Krushchev: he tried to do too many things too
fast, and he was removed in disgrace. If Gorbachev tries
to destroy the system or make too many fundamental
changes to it, I believe the system will get rid of him.
I am not a political scientist, but I understand the
system very well. I believe he will have a "heart attack"
or retire or be removed. He is up against a brick wall.
If you think they will change everything and become a
free, open society, forget it!"

1977 CIA report:

"There is considerable evidence that great empires and
civilizations have been undone not by barbarian invaders
but by climatic change."

Hans Moravec (on artificial intelligence):

"We are on a threshold of a change in the universe
comparable to the transition from nonlife to life."

Richard Dawkins: "The Selfish Gene":

"Philosophy and the subjects known as 'humanities' are still taught almost as if Darwin had never lived. No doubt this will change in time." --

Bertrand Russell:

"'Change' is scientific, 'progress' is ethical; change is indubitable, whereas progress is a matter of controversy."

Carl Sagan, 1987 CSICOP Keynote Address:

"In science it often happens that scientists say, 'You know that's a really good argument; my position is mistaken,' and then they would actually change their minds and you never hear that old view from them again. They really do it. It doesn't happen as often as it should, because scientists are human and change is sometimes painful. But it happens every day. I cannot recall the last time something like that happened in politics or religion."

George Santayana:

"Skepticism is the chastity of the intellect, and it is shameful to surrender it too soon or to the first comer: there is nobility in preserving it coolly and proudly through long youth, until at last, in the ripeness of instinct and discretion, it can be safely exchanged for fidelity and happiness."

Alfred North Whitehead:

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

Lewis Grizzard:

Life is like a dogsled team. If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes.

André Malraux:

"Between eighteen and twenty, life is like an exchange where one buys stocks, not with money, but with actions. Most men buy nothing."

Sidney Madwed:

"When I was a small boy I was always being told by others, especially grown ups, to behave, to be good. It

never occurred to me that I was always behaving in some manner. But I didn't have the awareness or skill to ask those grown ups what they meant when they told me to behave and to be good. Now I realize that all they wanted was for me to conform to their idea of what was good and not to do what they called bad behavior, which they sometimes changed at will. Even today people are still telling me how I should behave, but now I ask what they mean and sometimes it drives them up a wall."

Benjamin Franklin:

"All human situations have their inconveniences. We feel those of the present but neither see nor feel those of the future; and hence we often make troublesome changes without amendment, and frequently for the worse."

Richard Clark:

"The best current evidence is that media are mere vehicles that deliver instruction but do not influence student achievement any more than the truck that delivers groceries causes change in our nutrition."

Author Unknown:

"Shortchange your education now and you may be short of change the rest of your life."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

"All the means of action - the shapeless masses - the materials - lie everywhere about us. What we need is the celestial fire to change the flint into the transparent crystal, bright and clear. That fire is genius."

Author Unknown:

"People are changed, not by coercion or intimidation, but by example."

Marcus Aurelius:

"Loss is nothing else but change, and change is Nature's delight."

Quintilian:

"Our minds are like our stomachs; they are whetted by the change of their food, and variety supplies both with fresh appetites."

Horace Binney:

"Nature is the most thrifty thing in the world; she never wastes anything; she undergoes change, but there is no annihilation, the essence remains - matter is eternal."

Cicero:

"No liberal man would impute a charge of unsteadiness to another for having changed his opinion."

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.:

"People talk fundamentals and superlatives and then make some changes of detail."

Soren Kierkegaard:

"Prayer does not change God, but changes him who prays."

Author Unknown:

"Prayer doesn't change things. It changes people and they change things."

James Burgh:

"In prosperity prepare for a change; in adversity hope for one."

Francois Fenelon:

"If the riches of the Indies, or the crowns of all the kingdom of Europe, were laid at my feet in exchange for my love of reading, I would spurn them all."

Thaddeus Golas:

"Inside yourself or outside, you never have to change what you see, only the way you see it."

Clarence Day:

"As time goes on, new and remoter aspects of truth are discovered which can seldom be fitted into creeds that are changeless."

Earl of Roscommon:

"What you keep by you, you may change and mend but words, once spoken, can never be recalled."

Joseph Addison:

"From social intercourse are derived some of the highest enjoyments of life; where there is a free interchange of sentiments the mind acquires new ideas, and by frequent exercise of its powers, the understanding gains fresh vigor."

Henry Ward Beecher:

"Our days are a kaleidoscope. Every instant a change takes place in the contents. New harmonies, new contrasts, new combinations of every sort. Nothing ever happens twice alike. The most familiar people stand each moment in some new relation to each other, to their work, to surrounding objects. The most tranquil house, with the most serene inhabitants, living upon the utmost regularity of system, is yet exemplifying infinite diversities."

Henry Steele Commager:

"Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them."

John Oliver Hobbes:

"Men are not so weak as you think. They can always leave anybody or any place without a pang - if they find another person or another place they like better. If they feel pricks and scruples it is merely because they cannot make up their mind that the change will be absolutely to their advantage."

Sidney Madwed:

"The world will change for the better when people decide they are sick and tired of being sick and tired of the way the world is, and decide to change themselves."

Hugh Prather:

"Just when I think I have learned the way to live, life changes and I am left the same. The more things change

the more I am the same. I am what I started with, and when it is all over I will be all that is left of me."

Madame Swetchine:

"In this world of change naught which comes stays and naught which goes is lost."

Alvin Toffler:

"Man has a limited biological capacity for change. When this capacity is overwhelmed, the capacity is in future shock."

Author Unknown:

"Nine out of ten people who change their minds are wrong the second time too."

C.S. Lewis:

"Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up save in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket--safe, dark, motionless, airless--it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable."

Reinhold Niebuhr:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Adrienne Gusoff:

"Shopping is better than sex. If you're not satisfied after shopping you can make an exchange for something you really like."

Marlene Dietrich:

"Most women set out to try to change a man, and when they have changed him they don't like him."

Zsa Zsa Gabor:

"The women's movement hasn't changed my sex life. It wouldn't dare."

Gandhi

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Maya Angelou

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain."

Frank Herbert

"Without change, something sleeps inside us, and seldom awakens. The sleeper must awaken."

Gore Vidal

"Apparently, a democracy is a place where numerous elections are held at great cost without issues and with interchangeable candidates."

Confucius

"Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change."

Kin Hubbard

"Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while."

Gail Sheehy

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living."

G. C. Lichtenberg

"I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better."

German proverb

"To change and to change for the better are two different things."

W. Somerset Maugham

"When you choose your friends, don't be short-changed by choosing personality over character."

Colin Wilson

"The mind has exactly the same power as the hands; not merely to grasp the world, but to change it."

Mahatma Gandhi

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

W. Edwards Deming

"It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory."

Arnold Bennett

"Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts."

Mark Twain

"We are chameleons, and our partialities and prejudices change place with an easy and blessed facility, and we are soon wonted to the change and happy in it."

Kathleen Norris

"None of us knows what the next change is going to be, what unexpected opportunity is just around the corner, waiting a few months or a few years to change all the tenor of our lives."

R. D. Laing

"We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing."

C. G. Jung

"We cannot change anything until we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses."

Kahlil Gibran

"Time has been transformed, and we have changed; it has advanced and set us in motion; it has unveiled its face, inspiring us with bewilderment and exhilaration."

Scott Reed

"This one step -- choosing a goal and sticking to it -- changes everything."

George Santayana

"Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Luigi Barzini

"Public and private food in America has become eatable, here and there extremely good. Only the fried potatoes go unchanged, as deadly as before."

Anon.

"Change is inevitable, except from vending machines."

Anon.

"If at first you don't succeed, change the rules."