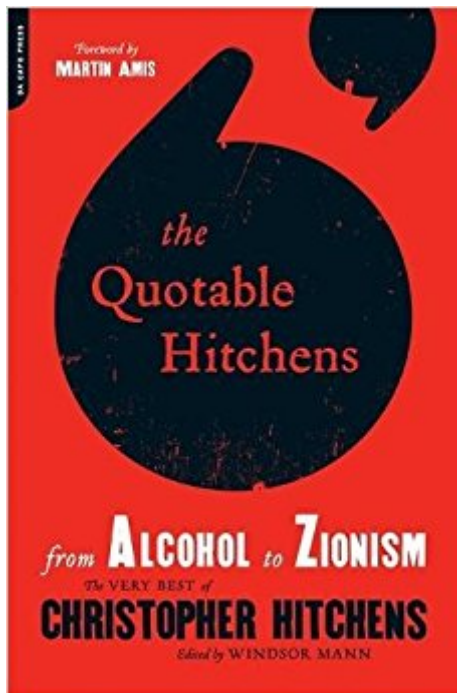




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# The Quotable Hitchens: From Alcohol To Zionism--The Very Best Of Christopher Hitchens



## Synopsis

Over the past few decades, the bestselling author of *Hitch-22* has crisscrossed the globe debating religious scholars, Catholic clergy, rabbis, and devout Christians on the existence of God--appearances that have attracted thousands of people on both sides of the issue. He has been invited to talk shows and events to discuss everything from the death of Jerry Falwell to the sainthood of Mother Teresa, from U.S. policy in the Middle East to the dangers of religious fundamentalism and beyond. And he is always armed with pithy discourse that is as intelligent as it is quotable. *The Quotable Hitchens* gathers for the first time the eminent journalist, public intellectual, and all-around provocateur Christopher Hitchens's most scathing, inflammatory, hilarious, and clear-cut commentary from the course of his storied career. Drawn from his many TV appearances, debates, lectures, interviews, articles, and books, the quotations are arranged alphabetically by subject--from atheism and alcoholism to George Orwell and Bertrand Russell, from Islamofascism and Iraq to smoking and sex.

## Book Information

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"A nice book for the bedside table" my copy is already getting dog-eared [The most scathing, inflammatory, hilarious and (fill in the blank) commentaries on life in all its manifestations.] • *Forbes Magazine*, 6/2/11 "One of those books that you plan to devote five minutes to but end up burning two hours. It's a perfect summer read" you can pick it up and put it down as you quaff martinis and roll around the beach like Deborah Kerr and Burt Lancaster in *From Here to Eternity*. • *The Economist*, 6/1/11 "This book is a gleeful array of biting quips, twisty barbs and some disarmingly well-turned phrases" the book is amusing, and a poignant

reminder of the man's rare talents. • Buffalo News, 5/29/11 • [S]plendiferous compendium of Hitchens. • Washington Times, 5/24/11 • At first glance, the book reminds one of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, but this volume is something more personal, more outre and more funny. Smartly organized by subject, it is a book to be enjoyed both as a long visit with the incomparable social critic and as a quick reference. • Vanity Fair, May 2011 • Quotable Hitchens presents a cavalcade of Vanity Fair's notorious provocateur-in-chief Christopher Hitchens's finest flaming arrows, mud balls, and political grenades. • Times Literary Supplement, UK, 3/18/11 • Without troubling to do the research, you could safely say that Hitchens, formerly the TLS's American correspondent, has a view on everything. Now you can do the research. • Kirkus Reviews, 5/10/11 • The most memorable of Hitchens's work in an alphabetized guide to all things Hitch. • New York Journal of Books, 5/10/11 • The book is great fun, whether sampled by dipping in or swallowed whole and digested slowly, as a snake might do. [The Quotable Hitchens is and will remain an excellent means by which those of us who have long valued his work can celebrate it at a moment's notice and those new to his work now have a new source of material for their Facebook Page or for emblazoning on T-shirts. • Hudson Valley News, 5/14/11 Los Angeles Times, 5/22/11 • A collection of gem-like insights pared from the public intellectual and author's many books and other writings. • New Statesman, 5/23/11 • It often seems as if Christopher Hitchens has spent his life writing and speaking with a collection such as this in mind. • PopMatters.com, 6/12/11 • Over 300 pages of verbal gold. Anyone interested in the art of turning a good phrase in the English language will want to give this volume a look. • American Thinker, 6/13/11 • It's a stimulant to the mind and a tonic to the spirit. Anthony Weiner should read it while in rehab. •

Christopher Hitchens is the author of bestselling memoir Hitch-22 and lives in Washington, D.C. Windsor Mann has been an editor at the Washington Times and a researcher for several best-selling authors. He is a writer and lives in Washington, D.C.

It is the mark of a truly superlative aphorist--which Hitchens, along with being our age's consummate rhetorician, clearly is--that one finds oneself laughing at or being impressed by a quote with which one in no way agrees. "Quotable Hitchens" is a master class in how to express strong opinions in ways that cannot be forgotten. While there are topics covered in the book that not only do I not care much about, but know even less about, each quotation gives some special insight into this strange contrarian's brilliant mind, and for me at least, holds up ideas to be examined in different

lights. I find it impossible to write about Hitchens without lionizing him, even though I think he can be terribly mistaken about things. It's because he's like an uncle I would have wanted as a teen--able to spit in convention's eye with such deadly accuracy that it wins the admiration of even the spit-upon, and so adept with a turn of phrase that even his most erudite opposition (think Hitchens vs. Blair: Be It Resolved Religion Is a Force for Good in the World (The Munk Debates)) can be rocked back on its heels. This book preserves some of the sharpest lines Hitchens has spoken or written, and taken as a whole, they help explain why Hitchens says he's never so happy as when he's hunched over a book or typewriter. For him, language is the ultimate playground.

How we miss Christopher Hitchens. This is a nice compendium of quotations, arranged by subject. The project was apparently commenced while Hitchens was still alive and had, according to foreword material, some degree of blessing from him, although no direct participation. I highly recommend it for those who don't have time to read the larger books, essays, articles from which these passages are extracted. However, the real power of Hitchens' mind and knowledge is found in his longer works, and cherry picking bon-mots, however entertaining, is a pale infusion of the real thing. In e-reader format, the structure is a bit unwieldy, as one cannot simply jump from subject to subject by heading, but is constrained to page through to get to items of particular interest.

Revealing of Hitchens' many contradictions. Fascinating read, and some great one liners.  
Example: [on martinis] "Don't eat the olives. They can be nutritious."

What can one say about the Hitch that hasn't already been said? What can be said, is done thoroughly, by the Hitch himself in this wonderful compendium of our favorite contrarian. A respectful treatise, but without the colorful context of the Hitch's storytelling to surround the quotes, leaves you wanting more. Pontificating was of course the Hitch's forte', and the novel makes you miss that. Still, for any Hitch aficionado, a worthy addition to your collection. Cheers!

Fantastic. A must have for any Hitchens fan!

POSITIVE REVIEW: Must-have bathroom reader for Hitchens fans of all ages (preferably between the ages of 25 and 60).  
NEGATIVE REVIEW: Nothing beats Hitchens' own delivery, with his accent and snootiness, it'd probably be much more enjoyable.

Great insights and springboard for exploring topics and revisiting history with trajectory alternative to what you thought you knew.

Top notch! Not to be read from cover to cover. Quite delightful if randomly read.

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