

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.
Founding Father War Tweets and Replies (about 20 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

In this activity, students take several quotes (not ones found in the book) from American statesmen and Presidents and rewrite them in the form of tweets, paraphrasing them. They also write a modern-day pro-war, pro-big-government official firing back at them, to practice seeing the mindset of those who prefer, as Washington put it, “overgrown military establishments...hostile to republican liberty.”

Instructions

1. Introduce the activity by asking students to recall any of America’s “founding fathers” or statesmen’s quotes on war and its relation to big government. (You might have them turn to the book section.)
2. Read the instructions together.
3. Give students 10–12 minutes to answer the questions individually (or if you’d like, in pairs or small groups).
4. Discuss as a class, making sure to call on each student. You can go around the room and get as many different tweets/replies as you want or have time for!

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Choose three of the below “war quotes” and rewrite them as modern tweets, AND come up with an excuse/reply tweet by a modern, pro-war, pro-big-government politician.

Use the back of this page to write your tweets!

“Overgrown military establishments are under any form of government inauspicious to liberty, and are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty.”

George Washington

“War is the natural engine of executive power.”

Henry Clay

“A war of aggression is not a war for the public good, but a war for the gratification of those who declare it, at the expense of those who must fight it.”

Daniel Webster

“War is a business...conducted for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many.”

Senator Gerald Nye

“The power to make war is the most dangerous power that can be delegated to any government.”

Senator Robert A. Taft

“War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the easiest, most profitable, and most vicious [business]....It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many.”

Major General Smedley Butler

“We are told that the world must be made safe for democracy. But the wars we fight only make the world safe for the state.”

Senator George Norris

“You cannot have a free society and a warmongering state at the same time.”

American author and limited-government advocate Frank Chodorov

“Behind the façade [disguise] of war, the federal government is seizing power that no constitution ever granted it.”

Senator Burton K. Wheeler

Now write your tweet paraphrases and replies on the back of this page!



Name of American:

Quote Paraphrase as a Tweet:

...











Modern, Pro-War, Pro-Big-Gov't Politician's Reply:

...











Name of American:

Quote Paraphrase as a Tweet:

...











Modern, Pro-War, Pro-Big-Gov't Politician's Reply:

...











Name of American:

Quote Paraphrase as a Tweet:

...











Modern, Pro-War, Pro-Big-Gov't Politician's Reply:

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