

33 QUOTATIONS



Clare Boothe Luce

(1903-1987)

Clare Boothe Luce was a witty popular dramatist in the 1930s, as well as an editor of *Vanity Fair*, a traveling journalist, two-term Congresswoman from Connecticut, and Ambassador to Italy and Brazil. In 1935 she married Henry Luce, founder and publisher of *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Although an eloquent advocate for women's rights, Luce is best known for her play *The Women* (1936), satirizing rich women and divorcees with Feminist attitudes, which toured the United States and 18 other countries, ran for 657 performances and was made into a movie full of leading women. Luce is unlike the radical Feminists of the late 20th century in being a humanist and affirming family values. Among her other plays, *Kiss the Boys Goodbye* (1938) is a political allegory about fascism in America and *Margin of Error* (1939) is about the murder of a Nazi agent. Luce was a strong voice in the fight against Communism, though in Congress she voted more often with Democrats than with Republicans.

ORDER OF TOPICS: autobiographical, men, women, family values, Feminism, politicians, human nature, money, Postmodernism, Communism:

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL

I refuse the compliment that I think like a man, thought has no sex. One either thinks or one does not.

You see few people here in America who really care very much about living a Christian life in a democratic world.

I don't have a warm personal enemy left. They've all died off. I miss them terribly because they helped define me.

I'm in my anecdote.

MEN

A man's home may seem to be his castle on the outside; inside is more often his nursery.

A man has only one escape from his old self: to see a different self—in the mirror of some woman's eyes.

There is nothing like a good dose of another woman to make a man appreciate his wife.

WOMEN

Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men.

The practice of putting woman on pedestals began to die out when it was discovered that they could give orders better from there.

Male supremacy has kept woman down. It has not knocked her out.

If God had wanted us to think with our wombs, why did he give us a brain?

The oppressed never free themselves—they do not have the necessary strengths.

Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, "She doesn't have what it takes." They will say, "Women don't have what it takes."

They say that women talk too much. If you have worked in Congress you know that the filibuster was invented by men.

Nobody objects to a woman being a good writer or sculptor or geneticist if at the same time she manages to be a good wife, good mother, good looking, good tempered, well groomed and unaggressive.

Personally, I think if a woman hasn't met the right man by the time she's 24, she may be lucky.

A woman's best protection is a little money of her own.

FAMILY VALUES

Women know what men have long forgotten. The ultimate economic and spiritual unit of any civilization is still the family.

It's matrimonial suicide to be jealous when you have a really good reason.

FEMINISM

Nature abhors a virgin—a frozen asset.

The women who inspired this play [*The Women*] deserved to be smacked across the head with a meat ax and that, I flatter myself, is exactly what I smacked them with.

No good deed goes unpunished.

POLITICIANS

The politicians were talking themselves red, white, and blue in the face.

Much of what Mr. Wallace calls his global thinking is, no matter how you slice it, still Globaloney.

HUMAN NATURE

There is nothing harder than the softness of indifference.

Courage is the ladder on which all other virtues mount.

There are no hopeless situations; there are only people who have grown hopeless about them.

MONEY

Money can't buy happiness, but it can make you awfully comfortable while you're being miserable.

POSTMODERNISM

Censorship, like charity, should begin at home, but unlike charity, it should end there.

Lying increases the creative faculties, expands the ego, and lessens the frictions of social contacts.

Advertising has done more to cause the social unrest of the 20th century than any other single factor.

Technological man can't believe in anything that can't be measured, taped, or put into a computer.

COMMUNISM

Communism is the opiate of the intellectuals, no cure except as a guillotine might be called a cure for dandruff.

