

This memorable quotation is from **Sir Alex Fraser Tytler (1742-1813)**. Scottish jurist and historian, he was widely known in his time and was professor of Universal History at Edinburgh University in the late 18th century.

The quotation is from the 1801 collection of his lectures:

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess from the public treasury. From that time on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the results that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence:

from **bondage** to **spiritual faith**;

from **spiritual faith** to **great courage**;

from **courage** to **liberty**;

from **liberty** to **abundance**;

from **abundance** to **selfishness**;

from **selfishness** to **complacency**;

from **complacency** to **apathy**;

from **apathy** to **dependency**;

from **dependency** back again to **bondage**."