

What in essence has been the spirit which has manifested itself in these great movements which have such profound significance to the whole of human society? In each and all there has been a great Liberalising element at work. They have been essentially Liberal movements. The men and women who allied themselves in the cause of greater freedom which these movements sought to secure, and who in each case were prepared to champion the rights of the many as against the rights of the few, were the Liberals of their day, by whatever name they may otherwise have been called.

Let me repeat, Liberalism, in a word, is the application of the principle of the future in the evolution of the many institutions of human society, whether that principle be applied in the evolution of government, of religion, of education, of science or art. In all alike it expresses itself in a wider freedom obtained through breaking the shackles which have served in the past to bind and impede and in the assertion of the superior rights of the community over special privilege.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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