

DEBATING

Simon Quinn

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This book is dedicated to Andrew Denby,
who repeatedly encouraged me to start writing this book.
He was a good friend and a really nice guy.

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First they came for the Communists, but I was not a Communist so I did not speak out.

Then they came for the Socialists and the Trade Unionists, but I was neither, so I did not speak out.

Then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew so I did not speak out.

And when they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me.

German Protestant Pastor Martin Niemoeller

Every idea is an incitement. It offers itself to belief and if believed is acted upon unless some other belief outweighs it or some failure of energy stifles the movement at its birth. The only difference between the expression of an opinion and an incitement in the narrowest sense is the speaker's enthusiasm for the result; eloquence may set fire to reason.

*Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, dissenting in
Gitlow v The State of New York (1925) 268 US 652*

Free speech is life itself.

Salman Rushdie