

# Politicians

The single most important psychological quality a politician needs is the ability to keep people and things at a certain *distance*.

The lack of such detachment is, by itself, a kiss of death for any politician; encouraging our young intellectuals to avoid this "distance" condemns them to be politically useless.

**Max Weber, "The Politician's Work"**  
**in *Charisma and Disenchantment*,**  
**translated by Damion Searls**  
**[1919 lecture]**