

tocqueville democracy in america analysis

Tocqueville's Democracy in America: A Comprehensive Analysis

Introduction:

Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, published in two volumes in 1835 and 1840, remains a seminal work of political science and sociology. More than just a historical account of early 19th-century America, it offers profound insights into the nature of democracy, its strengths, weaknesses, and potential consequences. This comprehensive analysis delves into Tocqueville's key arguments, exploring his observations on American society, its institutions, and the implications of its democratic experiment for the future. We'll examine his predictions, assess their accuracy, and consider the enduring relevance of his work in the 21st century. This post will provide a detailed breakdown of the book's core arguments, exploring key themes and offering a critical perspective on Tocqueville's enduring legacy.

I. Tocqueville's Journey and Methodology:

Before diving into the analysis, it's crucial to understand Tocqueville's context. Sent to America in 1831 to study the American prison system, he quickly broadened his scope, recognizing the unique opportunity to observe a nascent democracy in action. His meticulous approach involved extensive travel, interviews with a wide range of individuals from various social strata, and careful observation of American institutions and customs. This immersive methodology allowed him to produce a nuanced and insightful portrayal of American society, going beyond superficial observations to uncover deeper social and political dynamics. His approach wasn't simply descriptive; it was analytical, seeking to understand the underlying causes and consequences of American democracy. He employed comparative analysis, constantly contrasting the American experience with European societies, particularly France, to highlight the unique aspects of American development.

II. Key Themes in Democracy in America:

Several core themes emerge as central to Tocqueville's analysis:

The Tyranny of the Majority: Tocqueville was keenly aware of the potential for democratic societies to suppress individual liberties and dissent in the name of the majority. He saw the majority's power as a potential threat to freedom, emphasizing the need for mechanisms to protect minority rights and encourage independent thought. This fear wasn't based on a rejection of

democracy itself, but rather a recognition of its inherent limitations and potential dangers.

Individualism and Association: Tocqueville observed a unique form of individualism in American society, characterized by a focus on personal autonomy and self-reliance. However, he also noted the crucial role of voluntary associations in mitigating the potential isolation of individualism. These associations – churches, political clubs, charitable organizations – provided spaces for civic engagement, fostered social cohesion, and served as counterweights to the potentially overwhelming power of the state.

Equality of Condition: This is arguably the most central theme. Tocqueville saw the pervasive equality of condition in America – the absence of rigid social hierarchies – as both a strength and a weakness. While it fostered social mobility and individual opportunity, it also risked leading to a homogenization of society and a decline in social distinction. This equality, he argued, shaped not only social structures but also political culture and individual attitudes.

The Role of Religion: Tocqueville recognized the significant role of religion in American life, not just as a source of spiritual guidance but also as a social force that promoted morality, community building, and social stability. He saw religion as a crucial element in tempering the potentially destabilizing effects of democratic equality.

The Importance of Local Government: Tocqueville admired the decentralization of power in the American system, particularly the strength of local government. He believed this decentralization fostered civic participation, provided a vital check on central authority, and ensured a more responsive and effective government.

III. Tocqueville's Predictions and Their Relevance Today:

Tocqueville wasn't just an observer; he was a predictor. He foresaw certain challenges that democracies might face, including the potential for the tyranny of the majority, the erosion of individual liberties, and the rise of a soft despotism characterized by pervasive state control and a decline in civic engagement. While his predictions haven't always unfolded precisely as he envisioned, many of his concerns remain remarkably relevant in contemporary society. The rise of populism, the increasing influence of social media, and the challenges of maintaining individual liberties in an increasingly interconnected world all resonate with Tocqueville's warnings. His work serves as a crucial reminder of the ongoing need for vigilance in protecting democratic values and institutions.

IV. A Detailed Outline of Democracy in America

Name: Democracy in America

Outline:

Introduction: Sets the context of Tocqueville's journey and observations, outlining his methodology and the scope of his analysis.

Part 1: Volume I – The Influence of Democracy on the Progress of Society in America: This section focuses on the physical and social landscape of America, exploring its geography, history, and social structures. It lays the groundwork for understanding the unique character of American democracy. Key chapters cover topics like the American political system, the judicial system, and the role of public opinion.

Part 2: Volume II – The Influence of Democracy on the Manners and Customs of the Americans: This volume delves deeper into the social and cultural fabric of American society, examining topics such as individualism, religion, the family, and the role of women. It explores the impact of democracy on American character and values. Key chapters cover topics like the spirit of equality, political associations, and the effects of democracy on social relations.

Conclusion: Summarizes Tocqueville's main arguments and offers concluding reflections on the nature of democracy, its challenges, and its potential future.

V. Detailed Explanation of the Outline Points:

(A) Introduction: The introduction lays the foundation for the entire work. It contextualizes Tocqueville's observations within the broader historical and political landscape of his time, explaining his reasons for undertaking the study and outlining his methodology. He emphasizes his goal of understanding the unique character of American democracy and its potential implications for the future.

(B) Part 1: Volume I: This section is primarily descriptive, but its descriptions are highly analytical. Tocqueville meticulously details the American political system, emphasizing its decentralized nature, the role of local government, and the balance of power between different branches. He analyses the judicial system, highlighting its independence and its crucial role in protecting individual rights. He explores the influence of public opinion, recognizing its power while also cautioning against the potential dangers of the "tyranny of the majority."

(C) Part 2: Volume II: This section delves into the social and cultural dimensions of American society. Tocqueville's analysis of individualism is particularly insightful, highlighting both its positive and negative aspects. He examines the role of religion, recognizing its importance in shaping social morality and fostering community. He explores family structures and the status of women, demonstrating how democratic principles impacted social relationships. This part also examines the rise of associations and their role in civic life and the potential limitations that could hinder the success of democracy.

(D) Conclusion: The conclusion synthesizes Tocqueville's observations and

offers his final reflections. He summarizes his key arguments concerning the strengths and weaknesses of American democracy, emphasizing both its potential for progress and its inherent dangers. He leaves the reader with a sense of the ongoing challenges of maintaining a vibrant and just democracy, underscoring the need for vigilance and proactive measures to protect its core principles.

VI. FAQs:

1. What is the central argument of Democracy in America? Tocqueville's central argument revolves around the unique nature of American democracy and its potential consequences, both positive and negative. He explores the interplay between equality, individualism, and the potential dangers of the tyranny of the majority.
1. What is the "tyranny of the majority"? This refers to the potential for a democratic society to suppress individual liberties and dissent in the name of the popular will.
1. How does Tocqueville view individualism? Tocqueville views individualism as both a strength and a weakness. While it promotes autonomy and self-reliance, it can also lead to social isolation and a decline in civic engagement.
1. What role does religion play in Tocqueville's analysis? Religion is seen as a crucial social force that promotes morality, community, and social stability, acting as a counterbalance to the potential dangers of democratic equality.
1. What is the significance of local government in Tocqueville's analysis? Local government is seen as a vital check on central authority, promoting civic participation and ensuring a more responsive and effective government.
1. What are some of Tocqueville's predictions that remain relevant today? His concerns about the tyranny of the majority, the erosion of

individual liberties, and the rise of a soft despotism continue to resonate in contemporary society.

1. How does Tocqueville's work compare to other political theories? His work offers a unique perspective that blends empirical observation with insightful theoretical analysis, differing from more purely philosophical or ideological approaches.
1. What is the lasting impact of Democracy in America? It continues to be a foundational text in political science and sociology, providing invaluable insights into the nature of democracy and its challenges.
1. Where can I find a reliable copy of Democracy in America? Many editions are available online and in bookstores, with various translations and accompanying analyses.

VII. Related Articles:

1. The Tyranny of the Majority in Modern Democracies: An examination of Tocqueville's concept in the context of contemporary political issues.
1. Tocqueville and the Rise of Populism: An analysis of the relevance of Tocqueville's work to the current wave of populist movements.
1. Individualism vs. Collectivism in Tocqueville's America: A comparative study of the two concepts as they manifest in American society.
1. The Role of Religion in Maintaining Social Order: A Tocquevillian Perspective: An exploration of the role of religion in shaping social norms and values.

1. Decentralization and Local Governance: Lessons from Tocqueville: A discussion of the importance of local government in fostering civic participation.
1. Tocqueville's Predictions and the Future of Democracy: An assessment of the accuracy of Tocqueville's predictions and their implications for the future.
1. Comparing Tocqueville's America with Contemporary Societies: A comparative analysis of American democracy then and now.
1. The Influence of Democracy in America on Political Thought: An examination of the impact of Tocqueville's work on subsequent political theorists.
1. Critical Perspectives on Tocqueville's Democracy in America: A review of different interpretations and critiques of Tocqueville's work.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: An Analysis of Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America Elizabeth Morrow, 2017-07-05 Democracy in America, published in 1835 and 1840, challenged conventional thinking about democracy when it first appeared and is still cited today for its in-depth analysis of what makes a successful democracy.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Democracy in America Alexis De Tocqueville, 2009-01-01 Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America (De la démocratie en Amérique) is a classic text detailing the United States of the 1830s, showing a primarily favorable view by Tocqueville as he compares it to his native France. Considered to be an important account of the U.S. democratic system, it has become a classic work in the fields of political science and history. It quickly became popular in both the United States and Europe. Democracy in America was first published as two volumes, one in 1835 and the other in 1840; both are included in this edition.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Democracy in America (Volumes 1 and 2, Unabridged) [translated by Henry Reeve with an Introduction by John Bigelow] Alexis De Tocqueville, 2016-09 In 1831, the then twenty-seven year old Alexis de Tocqueville, was sent with Gustave de Beaumont to America by the French Government to study and make a report on the American prison system. Over a period of nine months the two traveled all over America making notes not only on the prison systems but on all aspects of American society and government. From these notes Tocqueville wrote Democracy in America, an exhaustive analysis of the successes and

failures of the American form of government, a republican representative democracy. Tocqueville believed that over the past seven hundred years the social and economic conditions of humanity were progressively becoming more equal. The future was, in his opinion, inevitably drawing humanity towards the democratic ideal thus diminishing the power of the aristocracy. Tocqueville's predictions of the changing nature of human civilization seem almost clairvoyant in retrospect. First published in two volumes in 1835 and 1840, *Democracy in America* remains one of the most important historical documents of America and political analysis of its form of government. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper, includes both unabridged volumes as translated by Henry Reeve, and an introduction by John Bigelow.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Tocqueville and His America* Arthur Kaledin, 2011

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Interpreting Tocqueville's Democracy in America Ken Masugi, 1991 In this book a collection of scholars probe *Democracy in America's* understanding of the modern world from the perspective of political theory. The 18 authors provide original analyses, ranging from close textual exegeses to applications of Tocqueville's method - in one case to contemporary Asia. Race, women's liberation, capitalism, bureaucracy, individualism, religion and alienation are among the subjects covered. The book does not seek to cover every facet of Tocqueville's analysis of America, but rather to bring out significant themes, especially those of interest to political theorists, which have otherwise not been fully appreciated. The contributors treat Tocqueville as a serious political philosopher, though they disagree on whether theory or practice was his ultimate objective.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Tocqueville's Discovery of America Leo Damrosch, 2010-04-07 Alexis de Tocqueville is more quoted than read; commentators across the political spectrum invoke him as an oracle who defined America and its democracy for all times. But in fact his masterpiece, *Democracy in America*, was the product of a young man's open-minded experience of America at a time of rapid change. In *Tocqueville's Discovery of America*, the prizewinning biographer Leo Damrosch retraces Tocqueville's nine-month journey through the young nation in 1831-1832, illuminating how his enduring ideas were born of imaginative interchange with America and Americans, and painting a vivid picture of Jacksonian America. Damrosch shows that Tocqueville found much to admire in the dynamism of American society and in its egalitarian ideals. But he was offended by the ethos of grasping materialism and was convinced that the institution of slavery was bound to give rise to a tragic civil war. Drawing on documents and letters that have never before appeared in English, as well as on a wide range of scholarship, *Tocqueville's Discovery of America* brings the man, his ideas, and his world to startling life.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Tocqueville in America* George Wilson Pierson, 1996 Alexis de Tocqueville and Gustave de Beaumont, traveled the breadth of America to inquire into the future of French society as revolutionary upheaval gave way to a representative government similar to America's. This text reconstructs from their diaries and letters and newspaper accounts their nine-month tour and evolving analysis of American society.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: The Chicago Companion to Tocqueville's Democracy in America James T. Schleifer, 2012-04-02 One of the greatest books ever to be written on the United States, *Democracy in America* continues to find new readers who marvel at the lasting insights Alexis de Tocqueville had into our nation and its political culture. The work is, however, as challenging as it is important; its arguments can be complex and subtle, and its sheer length can make it difficult for any reader, especially one coming to it for the first time, to grasp Tocqueville's meaning. The *Chicago Companion to Tocqueville's "Democracy in America"* is the first book written expressly to help general readers and students alike get the most out of this seminal work. Now James T. Schleifer, an expert on Tocqueville, has provided the background and information readers need in order to understand Tocqueville's masterwork. In clear and engaging prose, Schleifer explains why *Democracy in America* is so important, how it came to be written, and how different generations of Americans have interpreted it since its publication. He also presents indispensable

insight on who Tocqueville was, his trip to America, and what he meant by equality, democracy, and liberty. Drawing upon his intimate knowledge of Tocqueville's papers and manuscripts, Schleifer reveals how Tocqueville's ideas took shape and changed even in the course of writing the book. At the same time, Schleifer provides a detailed glossary of key terms and key passages, all accompanied by generous citations to the relevant pages in the University of Chicago Press Mansfield/Winthrop translation. The Chicago Companion will serve generations of readers as an essential guide to both the man and his work.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Tocqueville and the Nature of Democracy

Pierre Manent, 1996 One of France's leading and most controversial political thinkers explores the central themes of Tocqueville's writings: the democratic revolution and the modern passion for equality. What becomes of people when they are overcome by this passion and how does it transform the contents of life? Pierre Manent's analysis concludes that the growth of state power and the homogenization of society are two primary consequences of equalizing conditions. The author shows the contemporary relevance of Tocqueville's teaching: to love democracy well, one must love it moderately. Manent examines the prophetic nature of Tocqueville's writings with breadth, clarity, and depth. His findings are both timely and highly relevant as people in Eastern Europe and around the world are grappling with the fragile, complicated, and frequently contradictory nature of democracy. This book is essential reading for students and scholars of political theory and political philosophy, as well as general readers interested in the nature of modern democracy.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Alexis de Tocqueville Hugh Brogan, Denis Hugh Vercingetorix Brogan, 2007-01-01 A comprehensive portrait of the great French political thinker explores his life, work, travels in the United States, and writing of *Democracy in America*.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: An Analysis of Alexis de Tocqueville's

Democracy in America Elizabeth Morrow, 2017-07-15 *Democracy in America*, published in 1835 and 1840, challenged conventional thinking about democracy when it first appeared and is still cited today for its in-depth analysis of what makes a successful democracy.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Tocqueville in Arabia Joshua Mitchell, 2013-08-27 We live in the democratic age. So wrote Alexis de Tocqueville, in 1835, in his magisterial work, *Democracy in America*. This did not mean, as so many have believed after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, that the political apparatus of democracy would sweep the world. Rather, Tocqueville meant that as each nation left behind the vestiges of its aristocracy, life for its citizens or subjects would be increasingly isolated and lonely. In America, more than a half century of scholarship has explored and chronicled our growing isolation and loneliness. What of the Middle East? Does Tocqueville prediction—confirmed already by the American experience—hold true there as well? Americans look to the Middle East and see a rich network of familial and tribal linkages that seem to suggest that Tocqueville's analysis does not apply. A closer look reveals that this is not true. In the Middle East today, citizens and subjects live amidst a profound tension: familial and tribal linkages hold them fast, and at the same time rapid modernization has left them as isolated and lonely as so many Americans are today. The looming question, anticipated so long ago by Tocqueville, is how they will respond to this isolation and loneliness. Joshua Mitchell has spent years teaching Tocqueville's classic account, *Democracy in America*, in America and the Arab Gulf and, with Tocqueville in Arabia, he offers a profound account of how the crisis of isolation and loneliness is playing out in similar and in different ways, in America and in the Middle East. While American students tend to value individualism and commercial self-interest, Middle Eastern students have grave doubts about individualism and a deep suspicion about capitalism, which they believe risks the destruction of long-held loyalties and obligations. Where American students, in their more reflective moments, long for more durable links than they currently have, the bonds that constrain the freedoms Middle Eastern students imagine the modern world offers at once frighten them and enkindle their imagination. When pondering suffering, American students tend to believe its causes can be engineered away, through better education and the advances of science. Middle Eastern students tend still to offer religious accounts, but are also enticed by the answers Americans

give—and wonder if the two accounts can coexist at all. Moving back and forth between self-understandings in America and in the Middle East, Mitchell offers a framework for understanding the common challenges in both regions, and highlights the great temptation both will have to overcome—rejecting the seeming incoherence of the democratic age, and opting for one or another scheme to re-enchant the world. Whether these schemes take the form of various purported Islamic movements in the Middle East, or the form of enchanted nationalism in American and in Europe, the remedy sought will not cure the ailment of the democratic age. About this, Mitchell comes to the defense Tocqueville long ago offered: the dilemmas of the democratic age can be courageously endured, but they cannot be resolved. We live in a time rife with mutual misunderstandings between America and the Middle East. Tocqueville in Arabia offers a guide to the present, troubled times, leavened by the author's hopes about the future.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *The Fragility of Freedom* Joshua Mitchell, 1999-05-15 In this fresh interpretation of Tocqueville's thought, Joshua Mitchell explores the dynamic interplay between religion and politics in American democracy. Focusing on Democracy in America, *The Fragility of Freedom* examines Tocqueville's key works and argues that his analysis of democracy is ultimately rooted in an Augustinian view of human psychology. As much a work of political philosophy as of religion, *The Fragility of Freedom* argues for the importance of a political theology that recognizes moderation. An intelligent and sharply drawn portrait of a conservative Tocqueville.—Anne C. Rose, *Journal of American History* I recommend this book as one of a very few to approach seriously the sources of Tocqueville's intellectual and moral greatness.—Peter Augustine Lawler, *Journal of Politics* Mitchell ably places Democracy in America in the long conversation of Western political and theological thought.—Wilfred M. McClay, *First Things* Learned and thought-provoking.—Peter Berkowitz, *New Republic*

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Democracy's Victory and Crisis* Axel Hadenius, 1997-08-28 Leading scholars from a range of disciplines address questions central to the development and survival of democratic rule.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *The Meaning of Democracy and the Vulnerability of Democracies* Vincent Ostrom, 1997 Considers the social requirements for a thriving democracy

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *The Old Regime and the Revolution* Alexis de Tocqueville, 1856

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Alexis de Tocqueville: Democracy in America* (LOA #147) Alexis de Tocqueville, 2004-02-09 An exclusive new translation of the most perceptive and influential book ever written about American politics and society—"the bible on democracy" (The Texas Observer) This Library of America volume presents de Tocqueville's masterpiece in an entirely new translation—the first to fully capture his style and provide a rigorous, faithful rendering of his profound ideas and observations Alexis de Tocqueville, a young aristocratic French lawyer, came to the United States in 1831 to study its penitentiary systems. His nine-month visit and subsequent reading and reflection resulted in this landmark masterpiece of political observation and analysis. In *Democracy in America*, Tocqueville vividly describes the unprecedented social equality he found in America and explores its implications for European society in the emerging modern era. His book provides enduring insight into the political consequences of widespread property ownership, the potential dangers to liberty inherent in majority rule, the vital role of religion in American life, and the importance of civil institutions in an individualistic culture dominated by the pursuit of material self-interest. He also probes the deep differences between the free and slave states, writing prophetically of racism, bigotry, and prejudice in the United States. Brought to life by Arthur Goldhammer's clear, fluid, and vigorous translation, this volume of *Democracy in America* is the first to fully capture Tocqueville's achievements both as an accomplished literary stylist and as a profound political thinker.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Aristocracy in America. From the Sketch-book of a German Nobleman* Francis Joseph Grund, 1839

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Letters from America* Alexis de Tocqueville, 2010 Alexis de Tocqueville arrived in the United States for the first time in May 1831, commissioned by the French government to study the American prison system. For the next nine months he and his companion, Gustave de Beaumont, traveled and observed not only prisons but also the political, economic, and social systems of the early republic. Along the way, they frequently reported back to friends and family members in France. This book presents the first translation of the complete letters Tocqueville wrote during that seminal journey, accompanied by excerpts from Beaumont's correspondence that provide details or different perspectives on the places, people, and American life and attitudes the travelers encountered. --from publisher description.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: The Making of Tocqueville's Democracy in America James T. Schleifer, 2000 It is impossible fully to understand the American experience apart from Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*. Moreover, it is impossible fully to appreciate Tocqueville by assuming that he brought to his visitation to America, or to the writing of his great work, a fixed philosophical doctrine. James T. Schleifer documents where, when, and under what influences Tocqueville wrote different sections of his work. In doing so, Schleifer discloses the mental processes through which Tocqueville passed in reflecting on his experiences in America and transforming these reflections into the most original and revealing book ever written about Americans. For the first time the evolution of a number of Tocqueville's central themes--democracy, individualism, centralization, despotism--emerges into clear relief. As Russell B. Nye has observed, Schleifer's study is a model of intellectual history, an account of the intertwining of a man, a set of ideas, and the final product, a book. The Liberty Fund second edition includes a new preface by the author and an epilogue, *The Problem of the Two Democracies*. James T. Schleifer is Professor of History and Director of the Gill Library at the College of New Rochelle

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Democracy in America Alexis de Tocqueville, 2008-08-08 This new edition of *Democracy in America* makes Tocqueville's classic nineteenth-century study of American politics, society, and culture available — finally! — in a brief and accessible version. Designed for instructors who are eager to teach the work but reluctant to assign all 700 plus pages, Kammen's careful abridgment features the most well-known chapters that by scholarly consensus are most representative of Tocqueville's thinking on a wide variety of issues. A comprehensive introduction provides historical and intellectual background, traces the author's journey in America, helps students unpack the meaning behind key Tocquevillian concepts like individualism, equality, and tyranny of the majority, and discusses the work's reception and legacy. Newly translated, this edition offers instructors a convenient and affordable option for exploring this essential work with their students. Useful pedagogic features include a chronology, questions for consideration, a selected bibliography, illustrations, and an index.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *American Institutions and Their Influence* Alexis de Tocqueville, 1854

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Tocqueville Harvey Mansfield, 2010-06-24 A study of the thought and works of Alexis de Tocqueville written by one of the premier political scientists of our time. Exploring his observations of contemporary democratic politics and his predictions for the triumph and pitfalls of democracy in the future, the volume features the new liberalism of Tocqueville's masterpiece, *Democracy in America*.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Tocqueville Lucien Jaume, 2013-03-21 A major intellectual biography of Toqueville that restores democracy in America to its essential context Many American readers like to regard Alexis de Tocqueville as an honorary American and democrat—as the young French aristocrat who came to early America and, enthralled by what he saw, proceeded to write an American book explaining democratic America to itself. Yet, as Lucien Jaume argues in this acclaimed intellectual biography, *Democracy in America* is best understood as a French book, written primarily for the French, and overwhelmingly concerned with France. America, Jaume says, was merely a pretext for studying modern society and the woes of France. For Tocqueville, in short, America was a mirror for France, a way for Tocqueville to write indirectly about his own society, to

engage French thinkers and debates, and to come to terms with France's aristocratic legacy. By taking seriously the idea that Tocqueville's French context is essential for understanding Democracy in America, Jaume provides a powerful and surprising new interpretation of Tocqueville's book as well as a fresh intellectual and psychological portrait of the author. Situating Tocqueville in the context of the crisis of authority in postrevolutionary France, Jaume shows that Tocqueville was an ambivalent promoter of democracy, a man who tried to reconcile himself to the coming wave, but who was also nostalgic for the aristocratic world in which he was rooted—and who believed that it would be necessary to preserve aristocratic values in order to protect liberty under democracy. Indeed, Jaume argues that one of Tocqueville's most important and original ideas was to recognize that democracy posed the threat of a new and hidden form of despotism.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Reading Tocqueville* R. Geenens, A. De Dijn, Annelien De Dijn, 2007-11-09 This volume sets up a dialogue between the 'historical' and the 'contemporary' Tocqueville. How does a contextualization of Tocqueville, or a focus on his embeddedness in nineteenth-century political culture, add to our understanding of his political thought? How has the use of his writings in political debate influenced the reception of his work?

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Alexis de Tocqueville on Democracy, Revolution, and Society* Alexis de Tocqueville, 1980 Alexis de Tocqueville possessed one of the most fertile sociological imaginations of the nineteenth century. For more than 120 years, his uncanny predictive insight has continued to fascinate thinkers, and his writings have continued to influence our interpretations of history and society. His analyses of many issues remain relevant to current social and political problems. In this volume John Stone and Stephen Mennell bring together for the first time selections from the full range of Tocqueville's writings, selections that illustrate the depth of his insight and analysis.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *The Recollections of Alexis de Tocqueville* Alexis de Tocqueville, 1896

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Toward Democracy* James T. Kloppenberg, 2016 James T. Kloppenberg presents the history of democracy from the perspective of those who established its principles, offering a fresh look at how ideas about representative government, suffrage, and the principles of self-rule and ideals have shifted over time and place.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Tocqueville's Civil Religion* Sanford Kessler, 1994-01-01 Tocqueville's thinking about American religion is highly relevant to contemporary debates regarding America's origins, the current strength of American Christianity, and the proper role of religion in American public life. Kessler skillfully demonstrates how Tocqueville incorporates his ideas into an analysis of the American character, a factor in American politics that he considered more important than the Constitution

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *The American Democracy* Alexis de Toqueville, 2020-12-17 The primary focus of Democracy in America is an analysis of why republican representative democracy has succeeded in the United States while failing in so many other places. Also, Tocqueville speculates on the future of democracy in the United States, discussing possible threats to democracy and possible dangers of democracy. These include his belief that democracy has a tendency to degenerate into soft despotism as well as the risk of developing a tyranny of the majority. He observes that the strong role religion played in the United States was due to its separation from the government, a separation all parties found agreeable. Tocqueville also outlines the possible excesses of passion for equality among men, foreshadowing the totalitarian states of the twentieth century as well as the severity of contemporary political correctness.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *The Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media* Robert Y. Shapiro, Lawrence R. Jacobs, 2013-05-23 With engaging new contributions from the major figures in the fields of the media and public opinion The Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media is a key point of reference for anyone working in American politics today.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *From Vienna to Chicago and Back* Gerald

Stourzh, 2010-02-15 Spanning both the history of the modern West and his own five-decade journey as a historian, Gerald Stourzh's sweeping new essay collection covers the same breadth of topics that has characterized his career—from Benjamin Franklin to Gustav Mahler, from Alexis de Tocqueville to Charles Beard, from the notion of constitution in seventeenth-century England to the concept of neutrality in twentieth-century Austria. This storied career brought him in the 1950s from the University of Vienna to the University of Chicago—of which he draws a brilliant picture—and later took him to Berlin and eventually back to Austria. One of the few prominent scholars equally at home with U.S. history and the history of central Europe, Stourzh has informed these geographically diverse experiences and subjects with the overarching themes of his scholarly achievement: the comparative study of liberal constitutionalism and the struggle for equal rights at the core of Western notions of free government. Composed between 1953 and 2005 and including a new autobiographical essay written especially for this volume, *From Vienna to Chicago and Back* will delight Stourzh fans, attract new admirers, and make an important contribution to transatlantic history.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: *Why Parties?* John H. Aldrich, 2012-07-24 Since its first appearance fifteen years ago, *Why Parties?* has become essential reading for anyone wishing to understand the nature of American political parties. In the interim, the party system has undergone some radical changes. In this landmark book, now rewritten for the new millennium, John H. Aldrich goes beyond the clamor of arguments over whether American political parties are in resurgence or decline and undertakes a wholesale reexamination of the foundations of the American party system. Surveying critical episodes in the development of American political parties—from their formation in the 1790s to the Civil War—Aldrich shows how they serve to combat three fundamental problems of democracy: how to regulate the number of people seeking public office, how to mobilize voters, and how to achieve and maintain the majorities needed to accomplish goals once in office. Aldrich brings this innovative account up to the present by looking at the profound changes in the character of political parties since World War II, especially in light of ongoing contemporary transformations, including the rise of the Republican Party in the South, and what those changes accomplish, such as the Obama Health Care plan. Finally, *Why Parties? A Second Look* offers a fuller consideration of party systems in general, especially the two-party system in the United States, and explains why this system is necessary for effective democracy.

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globe for its profound insights and rigorous analysis. I highly recommend 'Democracy in America: Volumes 1 & 2' to readers interested in political theory, American history, and the foundations of democracy. Tocqueville's nuanced and perceptive exploration of democratic principles offers a valuable perspective on the complexities of governance and society.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Democracy in America; Volume 4 Alexis De Tocqueville, 2023-07-18 Democracy in America is a classic work of political science written by the French aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville in the early 19th century. It examines the nature of democracy in the United States, its strengths and weaknesses, and its effects on American society and culture. The book is a landmark in the study of democracy and remains a relevant and insightful analysis of American political life. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: Alexis de Tocqueville: Democracy in America (LOA #147) Alexis de Tocqueville, 2004-02-09 An exclusive new translation of the most perceptive and influential book ever written about American politics and society—"the bible on democracy" (The Texas Observer) Alexis de Tocqueville, a young aristocratic French lawyer, came to the United States in 1831 to study its penitentiary systems. His nine-month visit and subsequent reading and reflection resulted in this landmark masterpiece of political observation and analysis. In Democracy in America, Tocqueville vividly describes the unprecedented social equality he found in America and explores its implications for European society in the emerging modern era. His book provides enduring insight into the political consequences of widespread property ownership, the potential dangers to liberty inherent in majority rule, the vital role of religion in American life, and the importance of civil institutions in an individualistic culture dominated by the pursuit of material self-interest. He also probes the deep differences between the free and slave states, writing prophetically of racism, bigotry, and prejudice in the United States. Brought to life by Arthur Goldhammer's clear, fluid, and vigorous translation, this volume of Democracy in America is the first to fully capture Tocqueville's achievements both as an accomplished literary stylist and as a profound political thinker.

tocqueville democracy in america analysis: The Revival of Democracy in America and the Better Angels of Your Nature Renaud Lassus, 2021-02-04 A worthy heir to Alexis de Tocqueville's landmark nineteenth-century analysis of the democratic experiment in the United States, Renaud Lassus's The Revival of Democracy in America is both a brisk, lucid assessment of the nation's current political and social climate and a resounding call for optimism at a moment when the prevailing winds seem to be blowing the other way. The book's first part is devoted to a nuanced and expansive diagnosis of the various crises, from immigration and economic inequality to media fragmentation and the outsize role of money in politics, that have created tensions and fault lines in American society. Lassus argues persuasively that these problems, some of which have been taking root for more than a generation, are complex and intertwined, but not insurmountable. Indeed, the book's second section presents evidence of an ongoing renewal of thought and action in support and defense of America's core democratic values, sea changes in political orientations and public attitudes toward such issues as climate change, corporate governance, genetic modification, and artificial intelligence. These shifts are giving rise to new coalitions and consensus among both Washington insiders and actors not traditionally active in civic discourse, with encouraging implications for not just the United States but European democracies as well. Populism, Lassus concludes, no longer has a monopoly on political innovation. The Revival of Democracy in America is an ambitious and illuminating synthesis of multiple intersecting narratives, a case against the

temptations of despair, and a document of a fraught but consequential moment in history, likely to be as valuable to future readers as Tocqueville's book is today. Renaud Lassus is Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs in the Economic and Treasury Affairs department of the Embassy of France in the United States. He has spent nearly a decade in Washington, D. C. cultivating relationships with economic and political actors and developing a nuanced perspective on American society. The Revival of Democracy in America is his first book.

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