



Democracy in America, Volume 1 (Vintage Classics)

By Alexis De Tocqueville

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Out of Alex de Tocqueville's travels through the U.S. in the 1830's came an insightful study of a young democracy and its institutions. This 2 volume edition presents Tocqueville's original text. Footnotes, bibliography.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In 1831 French aristocrat Alexis de Tocqueville came to the United States to investigate its prison system. America was then a nation of 13 million people populating 24 states, with a largely unsettled territorial claim stretching westward to the Pacific. Seriously distracted from his original mission, the 25-year-old Tocqueville ended up writing about America's people, culture, history, geography, politics, legal system, and economy in ways so insightful and prophetic that today historians, professors, and politicians still consider his work *Democracy in America* a classic.

"For [Tocqueville] America was both the enticing object and the universal symbol of a New World in the making," writes historian and author Daniel J. Boorstin in his introduction to Volume I. "He was a master at seeing and describing the symbolism. Even more important, he wrote with an uncanny feeling for the grand currents of history and with a wholesome sense of how much and how little we can deflect those currents." This edition, the first in a two-volume set, is the Henry Reeve text, revised by Francis Bowen, and further edited by Phillips Bradley. (Click here for information about Volume II of *Democracy in America*.) If you've never read *Democracy in America*, take this opportunity to discover Tocqueville's startlingly astute observations on a democracy in its infancy.

Review

"No better study of a nation's institutions and culture than Tocqueville's **Democracy in America** has ever been written by a foreign observer; none perhaps as good."

--*The New York Times*

Praise for the work of Joseph Epstein:

"Epstein is one of the premier contemporary American essayists...What is so remarkable about Epstein as an essay writer is that he'll begin a discussion at some personal place...and end up in another place relevant to us all. He enjoys making language work, not making it jump through hoops for show." --*Booklist*

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"If Epstein's ultimate ancestor is Montaigne, his more immediate master is Mencken. Like Mencken, he has fashioned a style that successfully combines elegance and even bookishness with street-smart colloquial directness. And there is nothing remote or aloof about him."

--John Gross, *Chicago Tribune*

From the Paperback edition.

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

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Mike Yerkes:

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Ralph Smith:

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Richard Kowalski:

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