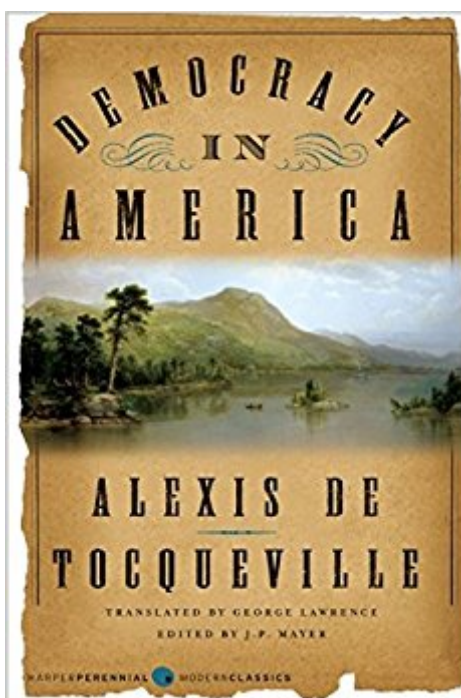


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Democracy In America (Harper Perennial Modern Classics)



Synopsis

The complete edition based on the revised and corrected text of the 1961 French editionOriginally penned in the mid-eighteenth century by Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America remains the most penetrating and astute picture of American life, politics, and morals ever written, as relevant today as when it first appeared in print nearly two hundred years ago. This edition, meticulously edited by the distinguished de Tocqueville scholar J. P. Mayer, is widely recognized as the preeminent translation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As Alexis de Tocqueville traveled through the young United States, he wrote in his introduction to the first volume of Democracy in America, "the more clearly I saw equality of conditions as the creative element from which each particular fact derived, and all my observations constantly returned to this nodal point." And there is an abundance of observations to be found here, with chapters that consider everything from "judicial power in the United States and its effect on political society" to "why the Americans erect some pretty monuments and others that are very grand." Why does Tocqueville remain one of the most insightful analysts of American society? Certainly there is the comprehensive nature of his project, but one must also take into account the brilliance of his prose, with just the right balance of elegance and clarity. Democracy in America is as accessible to

the modern reader as the work of any contemporary journalist, political scientist, or sociologist--and in many cases more so. It is an essential volume for anybody concerned with American history.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"[George Lawrence's] wonderful style has given us a work that will be a standard for many years." --

--Library Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a classic. A timeless classic. A prophetic classic. This was written back in the day when it took greatness to get funded , and then your expedition and research took years, and great people allowed time to write well. And the educated folks wrote to distant posterity. And time went by and blew away the chaff. This is the surviving kernel of truth and honesty before the era of political correctness. I'm done with dated writings targeting best seller status in the facebook era."Everywhere I go I'm asked if the universities stifle writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them. There's many a best seller that could have been prevented by a good teacher." -- Flannery O'Connor

Alexis de Tocqueville sees America, her people and institutions, from a foreign perspective and draws numerous insights which are timeless. His ability to contrast early American culture with Europe and cultures of ages past shows the reader how and why things were different in America at the time of his visit. Each of the pieces fits together well, progressing along a line of growing appreciation from a man willing to see things as they are as opposed to one who simply wants to critique. Perhaps most compelling are the warnings de Tocqueville sets forth, many of which have not been heeded by America. These prescriptions for continued social harmony no doubt should be revisited and examined for their ability to bring about the best outcomes for all. In any case, de Tocqueville presents an excellent political primer for anyone interested in a deep understanding of social structure, it's causes, benefits, and hazards.

According to the professor who taught the course, this is the best translation. I certainly liked this copy better than my 30 year copy old tiny typeface. This edition was very readable, both in language and typeface.

Must read. Together with his history of the French Revolution, and Doyle's Oxford History, and Schama's Citizens, it is an education in civics.

I majored in Political Science in college. It seems like every course referenced this book, but none actually studied it. All the professors just want to sell the students their own commentary on the classics, I suppose. This book is centuries old, but remains an amazing resource for anyone wanting to understand the American republic. To me, that's remarkable.

Not an easy read... but worth every minute.

If one wants to exercise his or her brain, then this is the book for you. This book is an easy read with many eye opener looks at America back then through the eyes and mind of one who did not live here, but who saw and experienced a culture which was unlike any he had experienced before. Really excellent reading.

Every American should read this book- kind of amusing that a Frenchman would come to know us better than we know ourselves- and so early in our history too.

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