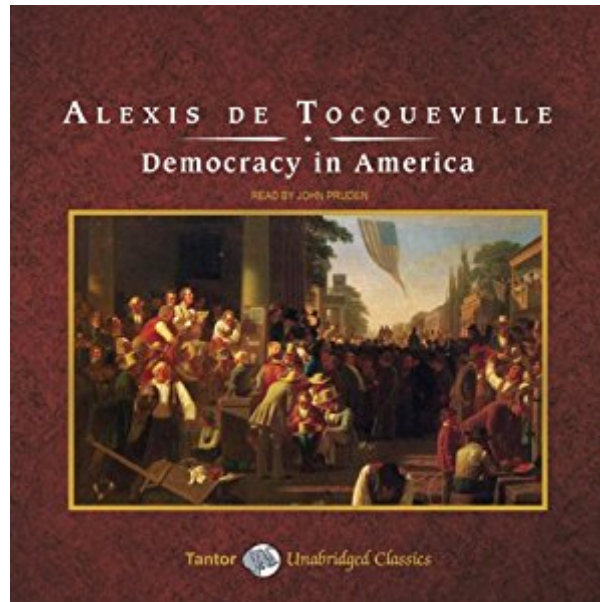




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Democracy In America



Synopsis

In 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville, a young French aristocrat and civil servant, made a nine-month journey through the eastern United States. The result was *Democracy in America*, a monumental study of the strengths and weaknesses of the nation's evolving politics. Tocqueville looked to the flourishing democratic system in America as a possible model for post-revolutionary France, believing its egalitarian ideals reflected the spirit of the age - even that they were the will of God. His insightful work has become one of the most influential political texts ever written on America and an indispensable authority for anyone interested in the future of democracy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Library of America: Alexis de Tocqueville
Alexis De Toqueville was a Frenchman who became enchanted with American ideals and it's Constitution. His writings start off not with the political, but in an entirely different context; his descriptions of the flora, fauna and terrain of the Great Mississippi valley read as though it flowed from the pen of one of the Bartrams. At that point, it becomes apparent that it was more than political ideals that intrigued him - it was the entire concept of America from sea to sea.>> pg 45
Regarding Plymouth Rock:

This is a must read for anyone who truly wants an honest look at our nation when it was still young, as it was being evaluated by a not-unsympathetic outsider as he tried to understand the direction we might trend politically, socially, economically, and spiritually if we weren't careful, and why this

political experiment in a Constitutional Republic would work here, in The United States of America, when it didn't seem to work anywhere else in the world. He explores the blessings and shortfalls of a democracy, who we were as a people when he visited our nation, and why we were as we were. His only mistake? He called us a "democracy." Our only mistake? We have forgotten that we are a Constitutional Republic, not a democracy. He was almost prophetic in his warnings because of his and our "mistakes."

This is a review of the Library of America 2004 edition of *Democracy in America* translated by Arthur Goldhammer, found here: [Alexis de Tocqueville: Democracy in America: A new translation by Arthur Goldhammer \(Library of America\)](#). Unfortunately it lumps together reviews of several different editions from several publishers, so it is difficult to know which edition is being reviewed. For this reason, and because many others have reviewed the content of Tocqueville's amazingly insightful work, I will focus solely on the physical aspects of the Library of America edition. In my opinion, the Library of America edition is excellent. It is not the least expensive edition, but I believe it is worth the extra dollars, and is really quite reasonably priced given the quality. Considering it contains over 900 pages covering both volumes 1 and 2 of *Democracy in America*, the book is remarkably compact at 5 inches wide by 8 inches tall by 1.25 inches thick. This is made possible by using thin paper which still appears to be quite durable. The hardbound binding also appears to be very durable, and even contains a built-in ribbon marker. Even the dust jacket is made from heavier than usual stuff. The font used for the text is large and very clear. The 2004 translation by Goldhammer is in what I would call a modern style of English that I found easy to understand. In other words, I didn't have to fight the translation in order to follow and think about what Tocqueville was actually saying. There are several helps included. The frontispiece contains a map from the original 1835 edition that describes North America as it was when Missouri and Arkansas were the westernmost states. Translated from the French, it proved to be quite helpful at times. The end of the volume contains a chronology that is a pretty thorough biography of Tocqueville himself. There is also an extensive index, along with notes on the text and translation. All in all, I found this to be an understandable and durable edition that does justice to Tocqueville's timeless work. I recommend it.

the Real Democracy in America.. all of it.. nothing has been taken out of these books written in 1862.. just compare these books with the *Democracy in America* that is on the bookstore shelves these days.. condensed down to one little paperback volume.. completely omitting any mention of what really made America exceptional and great. If you ever have to read *Democracy in America*..

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