

The Growth of White Man's Democracy:**I. Growth of Democracy—Universal White Manhood Suffrage**

- A. From 1824 to 1840, democracy was extended to more Americans
1. Before 1800, voting was limited to property owners
 2. By 1840, property restrictions were removed or relaxed to allow more white men to vote
 3. Democracy in America was more widespread than in any other country in the world
 4. The new surge in democracy did not fit Jefferson's vision of an American republic
- B. By 1830, a "democracy of commoners" was seen as more acceptable than a "republic of aristocrats"
1. America promoted equal opportunities for white men under the law & in the professions
 2. But, America was not equal: ownership of land, low-paid industrial workers, rich vs. poor farmers
- C. Reasons for universal manhood suffrage
1. Westward expansion & statehood increased demands for suffrage among "common men"
 2. Western states lacked natural aristocrats serve as republican leaders
 3. The extension of suffrage in the West pressured eastern politicians to do the same
 4. By 1840, the U.S. experienced near universal white manhood suffrage (but not for blacks or women)
- D. Impacts of universal manhood suffrage
1. Political parties developed new forms of politicking
 - a. Entertaining parades, campaigns, slogans were used
 - b. Organized state "political machines" were formed & demanded loyalty from politicians
 - c. Partisan newspapers increased in number & in readers
 2. Increased democracy in the 1830s & 1840s led to
 - a. Massive voter turnout in elections
 - b. direct methods of selecting presidential electors, state governors & judges, & county officials
- E. Even art became more democratic as artists tried to appeal to the masses: romance, horror, landscapes

II. The Elections of 1824 & 1828

- A. The Election of 1824
1. The election was a 4-man race among JQ Adams (NE), Crawford (South), Clay & Jackson (West)
 2. Jackson got the most electoral & popular votes but did not earn a majority in the Electoral College
 3. The House of Reps chose Adams & Jacksonians claimed a "corrupt bargain" had been made with Clay
- B. The JQ Adams presidency was difficult & he failed to continue the nationalist policies of the Monroe era
- C. The Election of 1828
1. "Jacksonians" allied themselves with Calhoun (SC), Van Buren (NY), & western newspapers
 2. These "Jacksonian Democrats" are today's Democratic Party
 3. The election of 1828 showed the effectiveness of political parties & propaganda in elections
 4. Jackson was popular & won in a landslide but no one knew what kind of president he would be

III. Conclusions

Democracy in America

In 1831, two young Frenchmen -- Alexis de Tocqueville and Gustave de Beaumont -- received permission to travel to the U.S. for the purpose of studying the U.S. prison system. Both were at odds with the new French government of Louis Philippe, and they were looking for an excuse to leave France. They were also intrigued with the notion of American democracy and eager to see the country. So Tocqueville, then only 25, and Beaumont, 28, spent nine months traveling throughout the U.S. in search of America's essence. They ventured as far west as Michigan where guides led them through the unspoiled wilderness. They headed south to New Orleans, risking their lives to travel during the worst winter in years. But the majority of their time was spent in Boston, New York and Philadelphia; they were warmly received by the elite and had little difficulty arranging meetings with some of the most prominent and influential thinkers of the early 19th century.

Tocqueville interviewed presidents, lawyers, bankers and settlers and even met with Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Maryland -- the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. He also recorded his thoughts and observations on America's social and political institutions, and reported meticulously on the structure of government and the judicial system. *Democracy in America*, the book that resulted from his journey, set the stage for discussions about democracy that are still being carried on today. Tocqueville and Beaumont also fulfilled their original assignment; *The U.S. Penitentiary System and its Application in France*, their assessment of the prison system received wide acclaim and was influential among prison reform circles in Europe.

FACTS FROM THEIR TOUR OF AMERICA

Year: 1831-1832

Official purpose: Study the U.S. prison system and report back to France

Unofficial purpose: Observe America

Tocqueville's age: 25

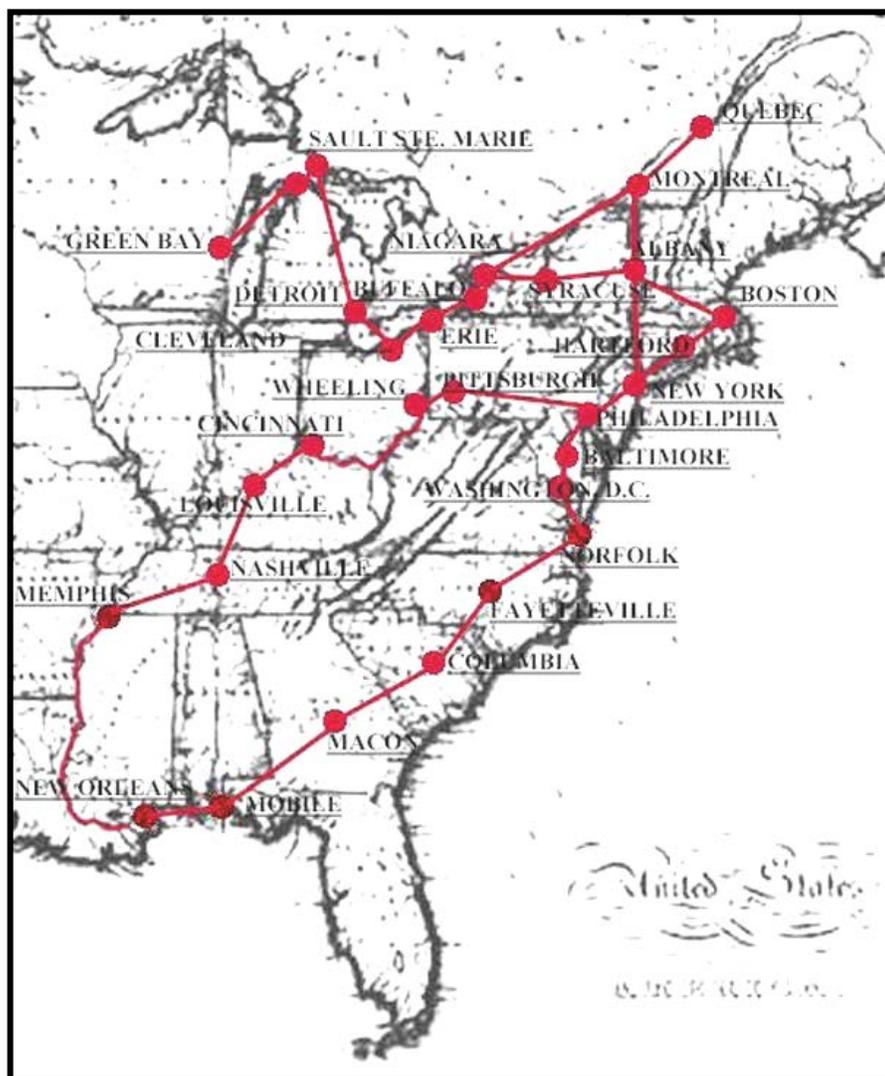
Beaumont's age: 28

Number of days spent in the U.S.: 271

Number of states in the Union: 24

Number of states visited: 17

Number of presidents met: 2
Andrew Jackson, (current)
John Quincy Adams, (former)



The first volume of Democracy in America was published in 1835 and received great acclaim. The second volume followed in 1840. Here are some excerpts from Democracy in America.

My Interpretation

MONEY

"...I know of no other country where love of money has such a grip on men's hearts or where stronger scorn is expressed for the theory of permanent equality of property."

WOMEN AND MEN

"In America, more than anywhere else in the world, care has been taken constantly to trace clearly distinct spheres of action for the two sexes, and both are required to keep in step, but along paths that are never the same."

REVOLUTION

"If there ever are great revolutions there, they will be caused by the presence of the blacks upon American soil. That is to say, it will not be the equality of social conditions but rather their inequality which may give rise thereto."

TOWN GOVERNMENT

"In towns it is impossible to prevent men from assembling, getting excited together and forming sudden passionate resolves. Towns are like great meeting houses with all the inhabitants as members. In them the people wield immense influence over their magistrates and often carry their desires into execution without intermediaries."

CONSTITUENTS (VOTERS)

"The electors see their representative not only as a legislator for the state but also as the natural protector of local interests in the legislature; indeed, they almost seem to think that he has a power of attorney to represent each constituent, and they trust him to be as eager in their private interests as in those of the country."

SPEECHES IN CONGRESS

"There is hardly a congressman prepared to go home until he has at least one speech printed and sent to his constituents, and he won't let anybody interrupt his harangue until he has made all his useful suggestions about the 24 states of the Union, and especially the district he represents."

NEWSPAPERS

"I am far from denying that newspapers in democratic countries lead citizens to do very ill-considered things in common; but without newspapers there would be hardly any common action at all. So they mend many more ills than they cause."

JOURNALISTS

"They certainly are not great writers, but they speak their country's language and they make themselves heard."

What does Toqueville's commentary reveal about American society and American government in the 1830s?

American Society

American Government