HeinOnline is proud to partner with Alan Keely, Associate Director for Collection Services at Wake Forest Law Library, to showcase a new and exciting version of Alexis de Tocqueville’s classic work, *Democracy in America*, complete with more than 1,000 annotations and references. Meticulously researched by Keely, this interactive digital edition takes students and researchers back to Tocqueville’s 1831, providing full-text links to the works Tocqueville read while he traveled, researched, and wrote *Democracy in America*. Keely’s annotations provide insight into Tocqueville’s thinking, grounding the work within the context in which it was written. Jump from the pages of *Democracy in America* into the works referenced by Tocqueville with HeinOnline’s unparalleled access to historical content. Pull up full-text images right to the referenced portion and then dive in deeper, easily navigating between both the reference work and Tocqueville’s. Move on to secondary references for more analysis and discussion of the continuing relevance of *Democracy in America* today.

**ABOUT THE TEXT**

In 1831, political scientist and historian Alexis de Tocqueville spent nine months in the United States studying the effects of democracy on American society. In 1835, Tocqueville published the first volume of his masterwork, *Democracy in America*, comparing American democratic practices to what he saw as democracy’s failing in France.

Critical and prescient, *Democracy in America* is both an observation of America and a warning to it, a study of democracy and the dangers within it, containing the author’s first articulation of what we know today as the Tocqueville effect: that as social conditions improve, societal frustrations increase.
Tocqueville took more than five years to write *De la démocratie en Amérique*. The first volume, consisting of parts one and two, was published in a two-volume edition in 1835 (Paris: Charles Gosselin). In the intervening five years before the publication of the second volume, six further editions of the first volume were published by Gosselin.

While Tocqueville started work on the second volume shortly after the publication of the first, he would not complete it until 1840. The second volume was finally published in another two-volume edition in 1840 (Paris: Charles Gosselin) and is commonly referred to as the 8th edition. Tocqueville would see several more editions through to press before his death in 1859, with the last edition published in his lifetime being the 13th (Paris: Pagnerre, 1850).

The first English-language translation of the first volume was prepared by Henry Reeve and published in 1835 under the title *Democracy in America* (London: Saunders and Otley). The “First American Edition” of *Democracy in America* was published in 1838 (New York: Dearborn). After the publication of many revised versions all over the world, a new “American” edition was prepared in 1862 (Cambridge, Mass: Sever and Francis). Based on the original Reeve translation from London, this edition, translated by Francis Bowen, contained edits consisting of notes, revised and rewritten translations, and other additions. Over the next thirty years, the Bowen edition would be republished by numerous publishers.

Because the majority of HeinOnline users are likely to be English speakers, an English translation serves as the basis for the digital edition. There was no question that the specific edition selected would need to be based on the last editions Tocqueville saw through to press, therefore containing his final thoughts on the work. The consensus of modern scholarship is that the most accurate editions of the French text published during Tocqueville’s lifetime are, for the first volume, the 13th edition (Paris: Pagnerre, 1850) and, for the second volume, the 12th edition (Paris: Pagnerre, 1848).

As for English translations, the original intent of the Bowen edition was to prepare an exact reprint of the Henry Reeve translation published in London in 1862. However, in comparing Reeve's translation with the original text, Bowen considered the translation to be “utterly inadequate and untrustworthy.” Bowen felt that his edition of the first volume should be considered a completely new translation. Of the second volume, Bowen felt that Reeve's translation was much better than that of the first.

While newer English translations published in the latter half of the 20th century and into the 21st century are more attuned to the nuances and subtleties of the French and English languages, copyright restrictions prohibit the use of these editions for this project. Further, of the numerous editions published since 1945, most are of the problematic Reeve translation. Hence, given the bibliographic linkage between the various editions from Tocqueville and Reeve to Bowen, the Bowen text published in its first edition (Cambridge, Mass.: Sever and Francis, 1862) was chosen as the basis for our digital edition.
ABOUT THE EDITOR

Alan Keely, Associate Director for Collection Services at Wake Forest Law Library, is a librarian by profession with a strong background in history and literature. After reading Democracy in America during the summer of 2017, Keely imagined that linking all of the source material which Tocqueville had used or cited when writing his book could add another dimension to the experience of reading the classic. Keely painstakingly researched the book, identified sources, provided analysis and annotations, built the links, and entered all of the data for the digital edition to ultimately create an interactive version featuring citations, links, and extensive editorial notes.

USING THE DIGITAL EDITION

Browse Tocqueville’s Democracy in America in HeinOnline via the tabs at the top of the main landing page. The digital edition is broken into two tabs, one tab for each volume. Standard HeinOnline page navigation, search, export, and other functionality remains at the top of the page in each volume.

Sources

The unique Sources feature included in this database directs the user to Keely’s annotations on Tocqueville’s text, with links (when available) to the full text of the material discussed.

As users page through the volume, sources for the current page will automatically expand in a separate window. Click the Sources tab at the top of the table of contents to control the appearance of this automatic function.
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