"The American Revolution broke out, and the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people came out of the townships and took possession of the state. Every class was enlisted in its cause; battles were fought and victories obtained for it; it became the law of laws. ...

The people reign in the American political world as the Deity does in the universe. They are the cause and the aim of all things; everything comes from them, and everything is absorbed in them." (*Democracy in America*, 1836)

Alexis-Charles-Henri Clérel de Tocqueville was a classical liberal political philosopher and cultural historian.