Reading Number 4

from *Diminished Democracy*

by Theda Skocpol

p. 17, ¶ 2, line 1– “A new civic America has thus taken shape since the 1960s, as professionally managed advocacy groups and institutions have moved to the fore, while representatively governed, nation-spanning voluntary membership federations – especially those with popular or cross-class memberships – have lost clout in national public affairs and faded from the everyday lives of most Americans.”

p. 18, ¶ 2, line 1– “After more than a century of civic live rooted in nation-spanning membership federations, why did America’s associational universe change so sharply in the late twentieth century?”

p. 18, ¶ 3, line 1– “The great civic transformation of our time happened too abruptly to be attributable primarily to incremental processes of generational replacement.”

p. 19, ¶ 1, line 1– “As Alexis de Tocqueville recognized long ago, people in a democracy use many of their voluntarily created associations to gain leverage and to express shared identities and widely share values.”

_Ibid._– “That is why civic leaders and organizers are so crucial. They are the ones who take the initiative, who define and jump-start the arts of ‘combination’ Tocqueville rightly considered central to democracy.”

_Ibid., ¶ 3, line 3– “A confluence of trends and events sparked a shift from membership mobilization to managerial forms of civic organizing.”

_Ibid., line 7– “New political opportunities and challenges drew resources and civic activists toward centrally managed lobbying.”

p. 20, ¶ 3, line 1– “The result was a transformed civic America– still a nation of organizers but much less a nation of joiners, because civic leaders were no longer committed to mobilizing vast numbers of fellow citizens into ongoing membership activities...”

**Review Question:** What impact has the attacks of September 11, 2001 had on America’s civic organizations?