Note: Alexis De Tocqueville was a French aristocrat who toured America during the early 1800s.

1. His insights have proved to be prophetic regarding the unique characteristics of Americans and American political culture.

2. He saw the impact of democracy on people and society that even the Founders had not seen clearly.

p. 452, ¶ 3– “The second degree in the right of association is the power of meeting. When an association is allowed to establish centres of action at certain important points in the country, its activity is increased, and its influence extended. Men have the opportunity of seeing each other; means of execution are more readily combined….”

p. 453, ¶ 1– “The most natural privilege of man, next to the right of acting for himself, is that of combining his exertions with those of his fellow-creatures, and of acting in common with them. I am therefore led to conclude that the right of association is almost as inalienable as the right to personal liberty…”