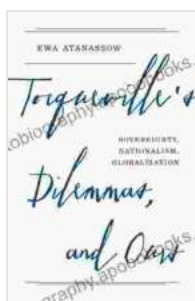


# Tocqueville Dilemmas and Ours: Sovereignty, Nationalism, Globalization

Alexis de Tocqueville, a keen observer of democracy in America, identified a profound tension at its core: the paradoxical relationship between individualism and equality. This tension, he argued, would shape the destiny of democratic societies, both for better and for worse.

In our own time, we are witnessing a resurgence of this tension, as the forces of globalization and nationalism clash with one another. On the one hand, globalization has created unprecedented opportunities for economic growth and cultural exchange. On the other hand, it has also eroded traditional notions of sovereignty and national identity.

This resurgence of Tocqueville's dilemmas has profound implications for our understanding of democracy and the future of the nation-state. In this article, we will explore these dilemmas in greater depth and consider how they might be resolved.



## Tocqueville's Dilemmas, and Ours: Sovereignty, Nationalism, Globalization by Bruce E. Stewart

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Print length : 336 pages

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Tocqueville identified two primary dilemmas that democracy would face. The first was the tension between individualism and equality. In a democratic society, he argued, individuals are free to pursue their own interests, but they must also be equal before the law. This tension is inherent in democracy, and it will never be fully resolved.

The second dilemma that Tocqueville identified was the tension between sovereignty and nationalism. In a democratic society, the people are sovereign, but they must also be united by a sense of national identity. This tension is also inherent in democracy, and it will never be fully resolved.

These two dilemmas are closely intertwined. Individualism can lead to a decline in national unity, while nationalism can lead to a decline in individual freedom. The challenge for democratic societies is to find a way to balance these competing forces.

The dilemmas that Tocqueville identified are still relevant today. In fact, they have become even more acute in the age of globalization. Globalization has created unprecedented opportunities for economic growth and cultural exchange. However, it has also eroded traditional notions of sovereignty and national identity.

The rise of nationalism in recent years is a backlash against the perceived threats of globalization. Nationalists believe that their countries are being threatened by foreign influence and that they need to take back control of their bFree Downloads and their economies.

The resurgence of nationalism is a serious challenge to democracy. Nationalism can lead to discrimination, violence, and even war. It is also a

threat to global cooperation, which is essential for solving the world's most pressing problems.

There is no easy way to resolve the dilemmas that Tocqueville identified. However, there are some principles that can guide us.

- **First, we must recognize that the tension between individualism and equality is inherent in democracy.** There is no way to eliminate this tension completely, but we can find ways to mitigate it. One way to do this is to promote a strong sense of social solidarity. When people feel connected to one another, they are less likely to act in ways that harm the community.
- **Second, we must recognize that the tension between sovereignty and nationalism is also inherent in democracy.** There is no way to eliminate this tension completely, but we can find ways to manage it. One way to do this is to promote a strong sense of national identity that is based on shared values and principles. When people feel a sense of belonging to a nation, they are less likely to be drawn to extreme forms of nationalism.
- **Third, we must find ways to balance the forces of globalization and nationalism.** Globalization can be a force for good, but it can also be a threat to democracy. We need to find ways to harness the benefits of globalization while mitigating its risks. One way to do this is to strengthen global institutions and promote international cooperation.

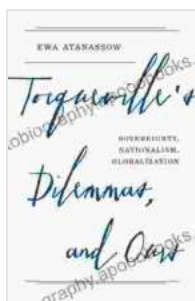
The dilemmas that Alexis de Tocqueville identified are still relevant today. However, they are not insurmountable. By recognizing these dilemmas,

understanding their causes, and identifying principles for resolving them, we can build stronger and more resilient democracies.

Alexis de Tocqueville was a brilliant observer of democracy. His insights into the tensions that would shape democratic societies are still relevant today. In the age of globalization, we are witnessing a resurgence of these tensions, as the forces of globalization and nationalism clash with one another.

The dilemmas that Tocqueville identified are not easy to resolve. However, they are not insurmountable. By recognizing these dilemmas, understanding their causes, and identifying principles for resolving them, we can build stronger and more resilient democracies.

The future of democracy depends on our ability to balance the forces of individualism and equality, sovereignty and nationalism, and globalization and nationalism. By finding ways to resolve these dilemmas, we can create a more just, equitable, and prosperous world for all.



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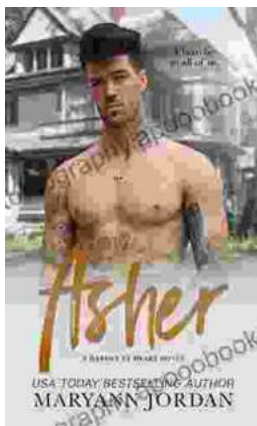
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