Record Nr. UNINA9910817212403321 Autore Tocqueville Alexis de <1805-1859.> Titolo Letters from America / / Alexis de Tocqueville ; edited, translated, and with an introduction by Frederick Brown New Haven, ; ; London, : Yale University Press, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-280-57124-1 9786613600844 0-300-15383-X Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (304 p.) BeaumontGustave de <1802-1866.> Altri autori (Persone) BrownFrederick <1934-> Disciplina 973 973.5 Soggetti National characteristics, American - 19th century United States Description and travel Sources United States Social life and customs 1783-1865 Sources United States Politics and government 1783-1865 Sources Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes excerpts from traveling companion Gustave de Beaumont. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- THE CROSSING -- IN NEW YORK -- UPSTATE NEW YORK AND WEST -- NEW ENGLAND --FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW ORLEANS -- THE LAST LEG: F ROM NEW ORLEANS TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK -- APPENDIX -- INDEX Sommario/riassunto Young Alexis de Tocqueville arrived in the United States for the first time in May 1831, commissioned by the French government to study the American prison system. For the next nine months he and his companion, Gustave de Beaumont, traveled and observed not only prisons but also the political, economic, and social systems of the early republic. Along the way, they frequently reported back to friends and family members in France. This book presents the first translation of the complete letters Tocqueville wrote during that seminal journey, accompanied by excerpts from Beaumont's correspondence that provide details or different perspectives on the places, people, and

American life and attitudes the travelers encountered. These delightful

letters provide an intimate portrait of the complicated, talented

Tocqueville, who opened himself without prejudice to the world of Jacksonian America. Moreover, they contain many of the impressions and ideas that served as preliminary sketches for Democracy in America, his classic account of the American democratic system that remains an important reference work to this day. Accessible, witty, and charming, the letters Tocqueville penned while in America are of major interest to general readers, scholars, and students alike.