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Autore	Jaume Lucien
Titolo	Tocqueville : the aristocratic sources of liberty // Lucien Jaume ; translated by Arthur Goldhammer
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Altri autori (Persone)	GoldhammerArthur
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Soggetti	Historians - France Democracy - Philosophy Political science - France - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Note generali	Translation of: Tocqueville : les sources aristocratiques de la liberte biographie intellectuelle. Paris : Fayard, c2008.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	What did Tocqueville mean by "democracy"? -- Attacking the French tradition : popular sovereignty redefined in and through local liberties -- Democracy as modern religion -- Democracy as expectation of material pleasures -- Tocqueville as sociologist -- In the tradition of Montesquieu : the state-society analogy -- Counterrevolutionary traditionalism : a muffled polemic -- The discovery of the collective -- Tocqueville and the Protestantism of his time: the insistent reality of the collective -- Tocqueville as moralist -- The moralist and the question of l'honnte -- Tocqueville's relation to Jansenism -- Tocqueville in literature: democratic language without declared authority -- Resisting the democratic tendencies of language -- Tocqueville in the debate about literature and society -- The great contemporaries : models and countermodels -- Tocqueville and Guizot : two conceptions of authority -- Tutelary figures from Malesherbes to Chateaubriand.
Sommario/riassunto	Many American readers like to regard Alexis de Tocqueville as an honorary American and democrat--as the young French aristocrat who came to early America and, enthralled by what he saw, proceeded to write an American book explaining democratic America to itself. Yet, as Lucien Jaume argues in this acclaimed intellectual biography,

Democracy in America is best understood as a French book, written primarily for the French, and overwhelmingly concerned with France. "America," Jaume says, "was merely a pretext for studying modern society and the woes of France." For Tocqueville, in short, America was a mirror for France, a way for Tocqueville to write indirectly about his own society, to engage French thinkers and debates, and to come to terms with France's aristocratic legacy. By taking seriously the idea that Tocqueville's French context is essential for understanding Democracy in America, Jaume provides a powerful and surprising new interpretation of Tocqueville's book as well as a fresh intellectual and psychological portrait of the author. Situating Tocqueville in the context of the crisis of authority in postrevolutionary France, Jaume shows that Tocqueville was an ambivalent promoter of democracy, a man who tried to reconcile himself to the coming wave, but who was also nostalgic for the aristocratic world in which he was rooted--and who believed that it would be necessary to preserve aristocratic values in order to protect liberty under democracy. Indeed, Jaume argues that one of Tocqueville's most important and original ideas was to recognize that democracy posed the threat of a new and hidden form of despotism.
