



MARS HILL AUDIO

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Part 1

1 Introduction

- 2 John Witte, Jr.**, on the life and work of legal historian Harold Berman and on the revolutionary changes throughout the history of law in the West
- 3 Hugh Brogan**, on Alexis de Tocqueville's understanding of democracy, equality, liberty, free association, social status, and the dangers of centralized government
- 4 Daniel Ritchie**, on Tocqueville's analysis of the dangers of individualism (and how they might be avoided)

Part 2

- 1 Daniel Walker Howe**, on the confidence in progress and Providence in early 19th-century America
- 2 George McKenna**, on how the Puritan understanding of God's purposes in history shaped American political culture
- 3 Patrick Deneen**, on the differences between Aristotelian and modern political philosophy
- 4 Patrick Deneen**, on how Wendell Berry's thought demonstrates his identity as a "Kentucky Aristotelian"

* An asterisk means that the book is in print; if you wish to purchase it from our friends at Splintered Light Books, call 1.800.979.3310.

more on

Harold Berman, 1918-2007

The book by John Witte, Jr. which was the occasion for our interview was Witte's *God's Joust, God's Justice: Law and Religion in the Western Tradition** (Eerdmans, 2006). Harold Berman's 1983 book, *Law and Revolution: The Formation of the Western Legal Tradition** (Harvard) was his most influential work. Its sequel, *Law and Revolution II: The Impact of the Protestant Reformation on Western Legal Theory** (Harvard) was published in 2006. Berman was also the author of *Faith and Order: The Reconciliation of Law and Religion* (Scholars Press, 1993), as well as numerous other studies on a variety of subjects in jurisprudence. Witte and Berman collaborated for many years at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at the Emory University Law School (see www.law.emory.edu/index.php?id=1570).

more on

Tocqueville, Democracy, & Individualism

Hugh Brogan's *Alexis de Tocqueville: A Life** (2006) was published by Yale University Press. The translation of *Democracy in America** by Harvey C. Mansfield and Delba Winthrop (Chicago, 2000) contains many helpful notes and a very thoughtful editors' introduction. Joseph Epstein's brief *Alexis de Tocqueville: Democracy's Guide** (HarperCollins, 2006) is a delightful introductory work. In *Tocqueville and the Nature of Democracy** (Rowman and Littlefield, 1996), French philosopher Pierre Manent argues that "Tocqueville underscores the fact that democratic man is governed by the dogma of the sovereignty of the people over his individual actions. This dogma is silent on the content or the ends of these actions. The rights of man are deliberately silent on the ends of man. The more that man considers himself as a being who possesses rights, the more the guarantee of these rights progresses, the more the question of ends is pushed back, and the silence becomes deafening." As a result, Manent concludes, "To love democracy well, it is necessary to love it moderately." Some similar themes are explored by political philosopher Claes G. Ryn in *Democracy and the Ethical Life: A Philosophy of Politics and Community** (Catholic University, 1990). Another twentieth-century French thinker who interacted profitably with Tocqueville was Raymond Aron, best known for his incisive critique of Marxism, *The Opium of the Intellectuals** (Transaction, 1955, 2001). In the first volume of his *Main Currents in Sociological Thought** (Basic Books, 1965), Aron compares Tocqueville's

examination of the relationship between economic and political life with that of Marx, Comte, and Montesquieu. In *The Rise of the Imperial Self: America's Culture Wars in Augustinian Perspective** (Rowman and Littlefield, 1996), Ronald W. Dworkin contrasts the democratic man of the early nineteenth century with the late twentieth-century "expressive individualism." Dworkin concludes: "Unlike Tocqueville's American, the expressive individualist will not bow his head before an altar unless doing so feeds his own pride, and he will not conform to any predetermined order unless his autonomy and individuality are preserved."

Other Works Mentioned

Daniel Walker Howe's *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848** (Oxford, 2007) is the sixth volume to be published in the Oxford History of the United States. Six further volumes are projected. George McKenna's *The Puritan Origins of American Patriotism* (2007) was published by Yale University Press. Patrick Deneen's essay "Wendell Berry and the Alternative Tradition in American Political Thought" is contained in the anthology *Wendell Berry: Life and Work** (Kentucky, 2007), edited by Jason Peters. The book contains essays by a few former *Journal* guests (Allan Carlson, John Leax, and Sven Birkerts) and an essay by MARS HILL AUDIO board member Jeremy Beer. Patrick Deneen's *Democratic Faith** (2005) was published by Princeton University Press.



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The MARS HILL AUDIO *Journal* is produced at our studio in rural central Virginia, outside of historic Charlottesville. The *Journal* is one of several audio products we distribute, all of them intended to encourage greater wisdom about interaction with contemporary culture.

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