

**THE OLD ORDER  
CHANGETH: A VIEW OF  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649049370

The Old Order Changeth: A View of American Democracy by William Allen White

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE**

**THE OLD ORDER  
CHANGETH: A VIEW OF  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY**



**THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH**



THE MACMILLAN COMPANY  
NEW YORK · BOSTON · CHICAGO  
ATLANTA · SAN FRANCISCO

MACMILLAN & CO., LIMITED  
LONDON · BOMBAY · CALCUTTA  
MELBOURNE

THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD.  
TORONTO

# THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

A VIEW OF AMERICAN  
DEMOCRACY

BY

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE

AUTHOR OF "A CERTAIN RICH MAN," "IN OUR TOWN,"  
"STRATAGEMS AND SPOILS," ETC.

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1910

*All rights reserved*

COPYRIGHT, 1910,  
By THE MACMILLAN COMPANY.

Set up and electrotyped. Published May, 1910.



Norwood Press  
J. S. Cushing Co. — Berwick & Smith Co.  
Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.



## CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. OUR DEMOCRACY IN THE BEGINNING . . . .	1
II. HOW OUR DEMOCRACY BECAME MODIFIED . . . .	8
III. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE CHANGE . . . .	32
IV. CERTAIN DEFINITE TENDENCIES . . . .	65
V. PROGRESS IN AMERICAN CITIES . . . .	97
VI. THE LEAVEN IN THE NATIONAL LUMP . . . .	131
VII. THE SCHOOLS THE MAINSPRING OF DEMOCRACY .	169
VIII. THE COURTS THE CHECKS OF DEMOCRACY . .	197
IX. A LOOK AHEAD . . . . .	230
APPENDIX . . . . .	255

# THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

## CHAPTER I

### OUR DEMOCRACY IN THE BEGINNING

ANY view of a going concern, like our American democracy, inevitably must be a partial view, because it must be a fleeting one. The facts about our democracy to-day obviously are not the facts of yesterday, nor are they the facts of to-morrow. The democracy in the United States which De Tocqueville saw in the early part of the nineteenth century is not the American democracy rising to power in the twentieth century. Perhaps, indeed, we did not have a democracy at all during the early decades of the nineteenth century. Certainly that democracy passed into the more typical republican form of government during the middle and latter decades of the century. And it seems likely that we are about to revert (or progress, if you would choose that verb) from the republican form under which our nation waxed fat and strong after the Civil War,

to another form — a form participated in more largely than ever before by the voter, a form more zealous for the rights of the individual, and a form more directly guided by the masses — government “of the people, for the people, by the people.”

We are a different nation from that which De Tocqueville saw when he visited us nearly one hundred years ago. We have a different government, though our Constitution has not been changed, fundamentally, from that of the government which he saw. We live on a different economic basis than that which sustained us in the twenties and thirties of the last century. And our social organization has been improved since the days of the fathers of the Republic. A century ago our politicians and statesmen dwelt apart from the people. Alexander Hamilton longed for a House of Lords. Fancy a statesman yearning for such an institution now! The education of the masses was neglected. Schooling was difficult compared with the present facility for obtaining education. Leaders seemed to lead in that day. Now they trail at least a biennium behind the people. Americans were isolated and more or less queer when De Tocqueville saw us. The world is a snug little community now, with opinions about the inhabitants of Mars. The big house