



Name:

Date:

/// Critique the Critique

Directions: Answer each of these questions in your own words, based on what you have learned about the founding principles behind the United States of America, your knowledge of American history, and what you have observed in your own life, regarding contemporary American culture.

Questions

1. What aspects of American culture in 1835 may have led Alexis de Tocqueville to make this claim about Americans and money?

"As one digs deeper into the national character of the Americans, one sees that they have sought the value of everything in this world only in the answer to this single question: how much money will it bring in?"



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2. What role did economic issues play in the Founding Fathers' decisions about how to structure the United States government, including what powers the government would hold over trade and commerce?

3. How has democracy in the United States fared since 1835? What events in American history might support Tocqueville's claim? What events could be said to refute or disprove it?



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4. What about today—is there still a strong relationship between the purpose and goals of the U.S. government and the accumulation of wealth?

5. How has the relationship between wealth and government affected various groups of citizens in the United States?



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6. In your opinion, what has been the overall effect of capitalism (free market enterprise) on American democracy?