

Modern Interpretation of Tocqueville's Conditions for Habits of the Hearts and Minds of Men (and Women) in American Communities

The first four of these conditions can be viewed as collective while the last three can be viewed as personal.

1. Equality of opportunity, knowledge and status exist in the community
 - No one person has all the answers or all the authority
 - Collective wisdom
2. Settings exist in the community for meaningful and sustained dialogue
 - Meetings in the town square or other public gathering spaces
3. Shared interests and reasons of mutual support are to be found in the community
 - Self-interest is served by assisting others
4. Civic associations (non-government community-oriented institutions) are prevalent in the community
 - Citizens solve local problems rather than solely waiting for the government to act
5. Emphasis is placed on useful action within the community
 - Community members are aware of each other and the problems to be solved in the community
6. Emphasis is placed on experience-based action within the community
 - Informed action based on experience, not theory
7. Abiding belief is to be found in the community regarding human progress and a sense of greater purpose in life
 - Religion encourages tight-knit communities focused on fellowship
 - Commitment based on dedication to a higher principle or purpose.
 - Idea that every person is worthy of respect by virtue of being human

Excerpt from William Bergquist in Library of Professional Psychology, with some adjustment

<https://library.psychology.edu/de-tocqueville-and-the-communities-of-heart/3/>