


# Part IV

## Party System Change



It has been observed that man rarely retains his customary level in the presence of very critical circumstances; he rises above, or he sinks below his usual condition, and the same thing occurs in nations at large. Extreme perils sometimes quench the energy of a people instead of stimulating it; they excite without directing its passions; and instead of clearing, they confuse its powers of perception.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*