

“Why the Americans are so restless in the midst of their prosperity”  
A chapter from *Democracy in America*  
By  
Alexis de Tocqueville

Questions for discussion:

1. Does Tocqueville think Americans are unhappy because they have a mistaken view of happiness?
2. Why does a society devoted to equal opportunity weaken each individual?
3. Why does Tocqueville think absolutely equal conditions of life could be a misfortune?
4. According to Tocqueville, how should people live to be happy?
5. Does Tocqueville think Americans are restless because they don't know what they want or because what they want is unobtainable?