

“The subject of the book itself is variety: America, its system, its democracy, its society, its role which it sometimes wants to be a message, its assertion of leadership to the extent of domination, its hesitation at taking on the leadership mantle when confronted with setbacks, and its bewilderment upon failure and lack of ‘response’... You feel, as you wander with the author amongst citations and testimonies, in the midst of a garden of fragrant thoughts.”

Ghassan Tuéni, from the Preface to the 2001 Arabic edition

“A wise and piercing account of what America once was and might be.”

Owen Fiss, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law, Yale University

“Chibli Mallat, one of the most creative thinkers in the Middle East today, offers us a vision of what America has been and still might become. In an American season of a presidential campaign, there is much to be learned here, for running throughout the work is a call for Presidential leadership domestically and internationally. Mallat’s is a vision filled with hope, even as he recognizes the difficulty of mobilizing an America that tends toward isolationism and self-satisfaction.”

Paul W. Kahn, Robert W. Winner Professor of Law and the Humanities, and Director of the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School



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Democracy in fin-de-siècle America

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Chibli Mallat is an international lawyer and law professor. His books include *The Renewal of Islamic Law* (Cambridge 1993), *The Middle East into the 21st Century* (Reading 1996), *Introduction to Middle Eastern Law* (Oxford 2007) *Iraq: Guide to Law and Policy* (Aspen 2009) and *Philosophy of Nonviolence* (Oxford 2015).