I. Regrets from Workshop Contributors who weren’t able to come: Aurelian Craiutu, Jim Wunsch, Gustavo Gordillo, and Krister Andersson.

II. Brief listing of chapter themes

III. Book not possible without support of Workshop and Vincent Ostrom’s application of Tocquevillian Analytics. Effort to update Tocqueville and apply to modern world and extend analysis to non-western world—China, Japan, Burma, Africa, Guatemala, Latin America.

IV. I came to Workshop not as student or professor but as someone who saw that his experience working in Africa confirmed relevance of Workshop methodology in general and Vincent’s insights concerning Tocqueville’s methodology in particular which included normative and empirical perspectives. I also noted that Workshop scholars were shaped by their own personal experience and integrated this experience into their analysis. Workshop like Tocqueville not only wanted to understand the world but also to make a better world/ e.g. Tun Myint was involved in Burmese 8888 movement before becoming a scholar. Gustavo Gordillo involved in rural land reform.

V. Links between Tocqueville, Saul Alinsky, and Barack Obama.

   A. All three believed in grassroots democracy, citizen participation in public affairs, and freedom of association as mechanism for empowering the people. Yet they came from different backgrounds and experiences. Tocqueville was a French noble, Alinsky the son of a Russian immigrant, and Obama the son of an African father and a white mother from Kansas.

   B. Alinsky, a radical community organizer best known for his neighborhood organizing efforts in Chicago, quoted Tocqueville in Reveille for Radicals and Rules for Revolution.

   C. Tocqueville himself entered politics and won a seat as French deputy by organizing at the local level and overcoming conservative opposition. Unlike his opponent, he preferred to campaign in his district rather than spend lots of time courting political party leaders in Paris. Tocqueville consulted his constituents from all classes and steadily increased his margins of victory.

   D. After Obama graduated from college, he moved to Chicago and became a community organizer for a group that had been trained by Alinsky. Like Tocqueville and Alinsky, Obama also believed that citizens should be empowered to take a prominent role in public affairs affecting their lives.
He became the Democratic Party’s candidate for president by organizing citizens at the local level and won the presidency, thanks to his ability to mobilize grassroots support.

E. Tocqueville died in 1859, Alinsky was born in 1909, and Obama became President in 2009. All three, Tocqueville, Alinsky, and Obama, made important contributions to society through the rigor of their analysis, their commitment to principle, and ability to integrate normative principles and rigorous analysis.

F. Conclusions: Workshop scholars and activists constitute a growing international community of scholars who respect cultural differences and cross national, generational, and gender lines to work together to perfect the “art” and “science” of politics.