



Riches, Class and Power: United States Before the Civil War (Paperback)

By -

Taylor Francis Inc, United Kingdom, 1990. Paperback. Condition: New. Revised ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Until publication of Riches, Classes, and Power, Alexis de Tocqueville's vision of the United States as a generally egalitarian nation predominated. While historians might quarrel about the social sources of egalitarianism, they did not dispute the soundness of the basic model; and Tocqueville's vision clearly dominated America's sense of itself as well. A self-acknowledged congenial skeptic, Pessen decided to find out whether the facts of American life sustained Tocqueville's conclusions. Riches, Class, and Power, represents more than five years intensive research on the wealth, family backgrounds, careers, marriages, residential patterns, uses of leisure, life-styles, social standing, and influence and power of the wealthy in four of the five largest cities in the United States before the Civil War. Pessen examines New York City, Philadelphia, Boston and the then-separate city of Brooklyn in the 1820s and 1840s. His claim is that the massive evidence on urban life of the time sharply refutes Tocqueville's thesis. A National Book Award finalist for history, Riches, Class, and Power undoubtedly helped reshape America before the Civil War. In his...



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