What is democracy? asks David Campbell in his introductory poetic piece originally written in German and presented in 9 languages in 11 interpretations. This is a forty lines poem of pluralism and of one thousand social blossoms and all grades of light and shadow of a world of a democratic polity. Definitions and analytical frameworks. The whole book is dedicated to the reconstruction of a model that would allow the empirical measurement of different facets of democracy in a variety of countries, for which the empirical data would be available. The author hesitates to formulate any research hypotheses prior to the data are collected and analysed systematically within the frameworks of the elaborated functionalist and normative model. What we learn from Democracy in America is that democracy nudes and broadens people’s horizons. It tutors their sense of pluralism. It prods them into taking greater responsibility for how, when and why they act as they do. The fabled distinction between what people can see with their eyes and what they are told about the emperor’s clothes breaks down. Democracy gradually destroys or modifies that great inequality of man and woman, which has appeared hitherto to be rooted eternally in nature. The more general point he wanted to make is this: under democratic conditions, people’s definitions of social life as natural or taken for granted are gradually replaced by self-consciously chosen arrangements that favour equality as sameness. In Inequality and American Democracy, editors Lawrence Jacobs and Theda Skocpol headline a distinguished group of political scientists in assessing whether rising economic inequality now threatens hard-won victories in the long struggle to achieve political equality in the United States. Inequality and American Democracy addresses disparities at all levels of the political and policy-making process. Kay Lehman Schlozman, Benjamin Page, Sidney Verba, and Morris Fiorina demonstrate that political participation is highly unequal and strongly related to social class. America is a republic. Nevertheless, more and more voices today are calling for America to become a direct democracy. Egalitarianism threatens our republic by undermining the social, familial, religious, and economic distinctions and inequalities that undergird our liberty.