

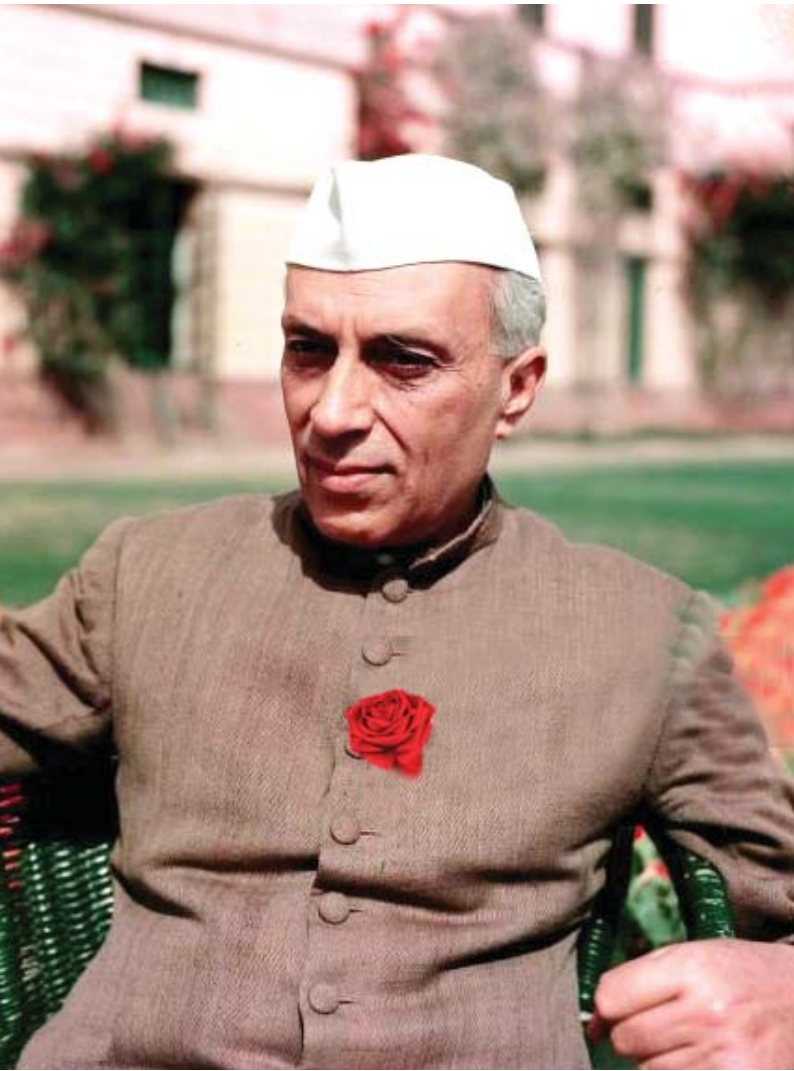
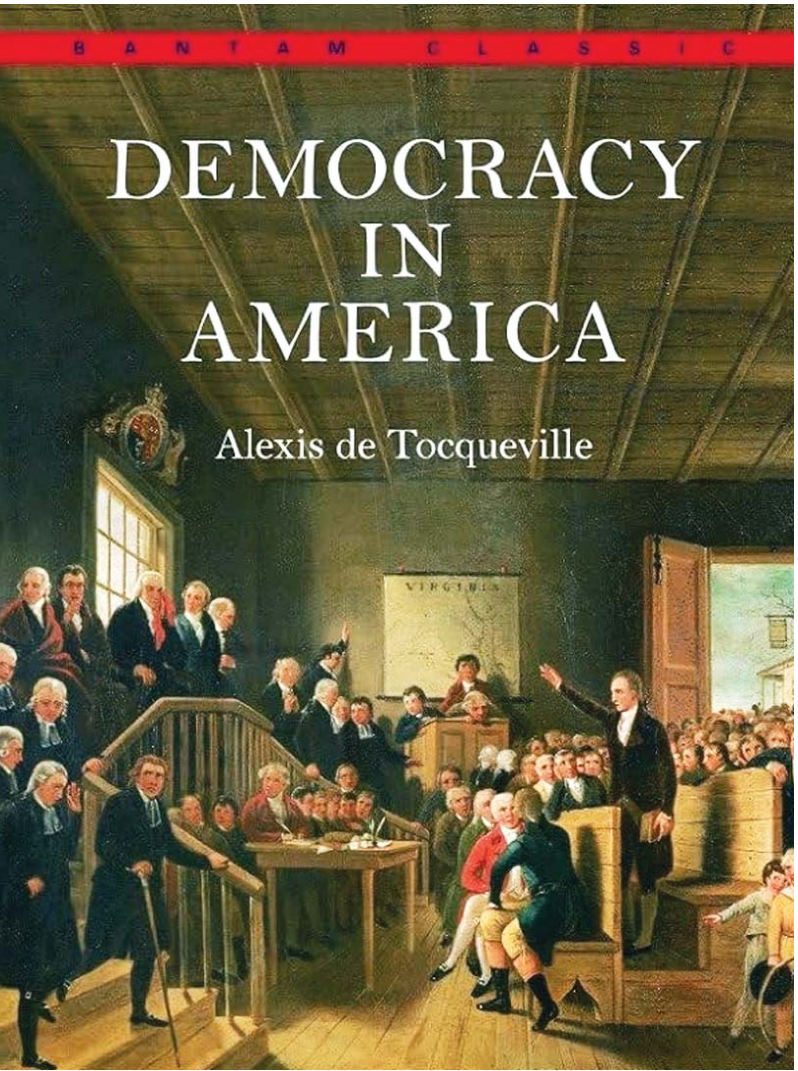
Mahatma Gandhi.



Alexis de Tocqueville.

# It Is A Natural Match-Lawyers And Politicians

In 1835, Alexis de Tocqueville in his book Democracy in America wrote: "There is hardly any political question in the United States that sooner or later does not turn into a judicial question." Nearly two centuries later, this observation by Tocqueville has emerged as conventional wisdom and his observation is especially apt within the Indian context. In every democracy, the electoral arena is in close competition with the judicial arena in determining its course. This is especially true of India. The freedoms that all democratic societies hold sacred are mostly sanctified at the altar of the judiciary. This is especially true in the Indian context.



Jawaharlal Nehru.

Shweta Bansal  
hannon Alder serendipitously summed up their lives when she said, "There comes a time in life when you can no longer put off choosing. You have to choose one path or the other. You can live safe and be protected by people just like you, or you can stand up and be a leader for what is right. Always, remember this: People never remember the crowd; they remember the one person that had the courage to say and do what no one would do." "Politicians were mostly people who had too little morals and ethics to say lawyers," said George RR Martin, and yet these none chose to play the game of thrones and win and lost and still live to tell the tale. I did say nine charmed lives. I hope that their fascinating stories will captivate the reader for their obvious relevance in decoding India as we see it today. Indian society today has evolved over the last 70 years around the enshrined in the Constitution and men like these have been keepers of the flame. They have looked at the laws and the directives and tried to walk the tightrope of interpretation with not just an eye for the greater good, but also through the prism of their own party ideologies, for what are men if not partisan creatures?" Pratap Bhanu Mehta points out: "During the national movement, the ideologies of the lawyer-politicians were more pronounced. One knew what Ambedkar stood for, what Gandhi aligned with and what was Nehru's ideology." Contemporary lawyer-politicians



Ravi Shankar Prasad.



Abhishek Manu Singhvi.



Shannon Alder.



Salman Khurshid.



Arun Jaitley.



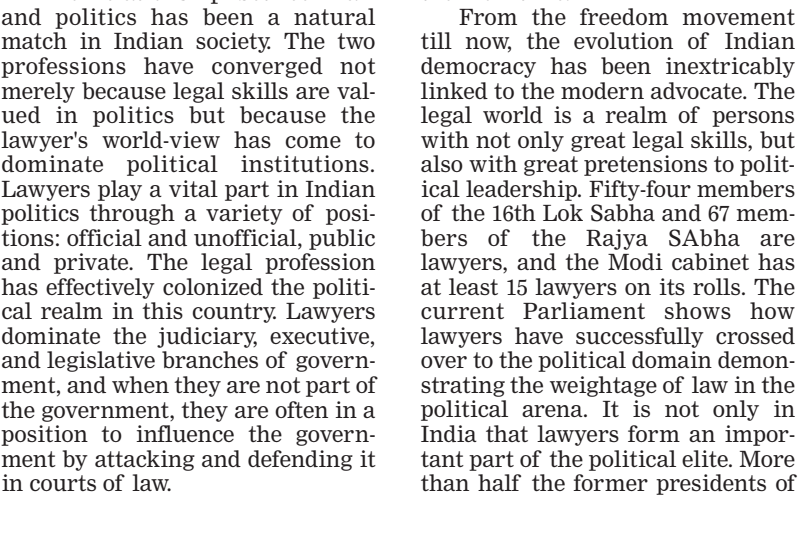
Kapil Sibal.

men, it is conventional route of student politics before they became politicians. Salman Khurshid plunged into politics as the heir to a political legacy. Ram Jethmalani, Shanti Bhushan, Kapil Sibal, and Abhishek Manu Singhvi have taken more circuitous routes, ending up as politicians only after establishing themselves as very successful lawyers with political clientele. P Chidambaram's big break in politics came with Rajiv Gandhi and once he entered politics, law became incidental to it. While Baig, Chidambaram, Sibal and Khurshid have successfully contested Lok Sabha elections, the rest have been entrants through the Upper House of Parliament. With the exception of Baig, all have been at the national centre stage, although Baig enjoys mass popularity. Ultimately, the men covered in this book provide examples of lawyer-politicians who have enriched and made a difference in our public life. Their stories are meant to enlighten, inform, and hopefully spur a change in perception. One may agree or disagree with their politics, have an opinion on their choice of cases and clients but one cannot deny their impact. It is my belief that without the contribution of these nine men in both law and politics, the legal political history of India would not be the same. Drawing up any kind of list is fraught with danger, especially a list of India's foremost lawyer-politicians. I will almost certainly be accused of acts of omissions and commissions, but I have tried to be as thorough as possible in telling stories of men who have played a key role in the seminal cases of our time, shaped the opinion of government, the judiciary, and the public.

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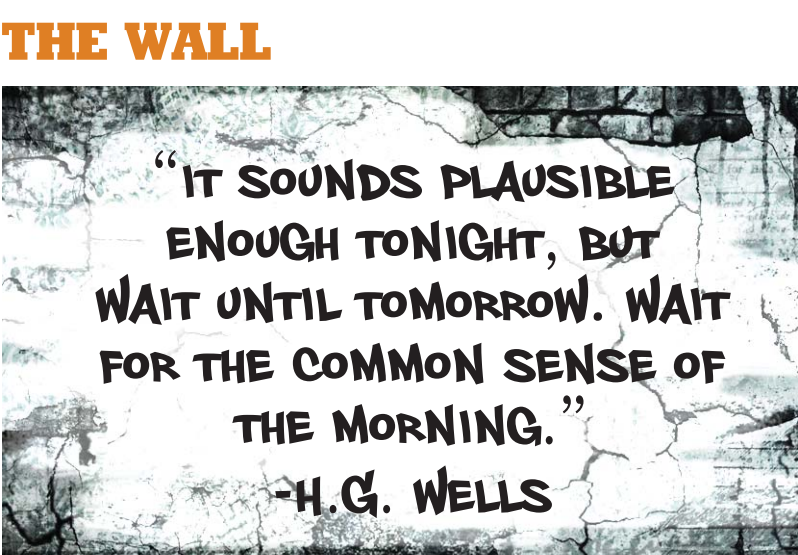
Bill Clinton.



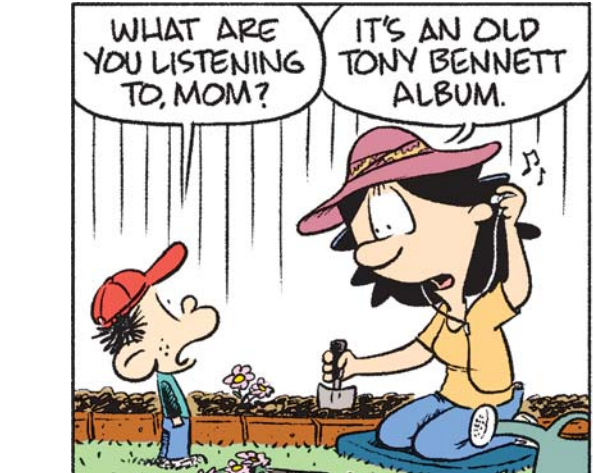
Barack Obama.



Margaret Thatcher.



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS

