

DEATH OF A NATION

**PLANTATION POLITICS
AND THE MAKING OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**DINESH
D'SOUZA**



**ALL
POINTS
BOOKS**

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[Master Thomas] told me, if I would be happy, I must lay out no plans for the future. He said . . . he would take care of me . . . and taught me to depend solely upon him for happiness.

—FREDERICK DOUGLASS,
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass,
an American Slave

To our Gang of Four, who complete our family:

Brandon, Danielle, Justin and Julienna

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PREFACE

On Gaining and Losing a Country

To make us love our country,
our country ought to be lovely.

—EDMUND BURKE, *Reflections on
the Revolution in France*¹

A nation is so much more than its laws, its political system, even its founding documents. When I first came to America as an exchange student in 1978, I knew little of the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. What first struck me about America was its people. To me, they were a sort of tribe. As a tribe, they had their own mannerisms and styles of speech, their own customs and cuisine, their own way of life and of looking at the world.

Anthropologists call these “folkways.” The contemporary word for them is “culture.” A nation, political scientist Benedict Anderson says, is an “imagined community,” by which he means a community of people who have never met each other but are linked through their common mores and mutual acceptance of each other as fellow citizens. Such loyalty, Anderson notes, can run very deep in that nations, like religions, are one of the very few things that people are willing to die for. People will die for America but they won’t die for the Democratic Party, the Los Angeles Raiders, or the United Way.²