

# The United States Capitol as Temple of American Democracy

**David Asatiani**

**Abstract** In the early democratic era in America, the United States Capitol was a temple of popular government in its every possible manifestation which made it truly unique. Its significance was variously accentuated through use of architectural forms and symbols. The history of construction of the Capitol, before it was extended, its placement specifics within the landscape of the capital city as well as awareness of citizens in dealing with this national icon greatly aid in understanding the nature of the early American Republic. To succeed in understanding the cultural significance of the Capitol to the Nation, one needs, moreover, to apply certain imponderables, revealed through the symbols and conception of the building in relation to the socio-political history of the country. It is therefore of essential importance to make use of analysis methods of history and cultural anthropology in order to fully grasp the emotional significance conveyed by the Capitol.

**Keywords** Capitol iconology, political architecture, city planning