

## Practical Aspects of Gun Control

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**Editorial Note:** This paper was originally published as an 8-part series between 20 Jan 2013 and 25 May 2013. A few minor portions have been edited, and I have also included a new section on the treatment of former slaves after the Civil War as well as a comment on the mentally ill.

In the original essay on this topic [1], I was clear in my opinion that the way to reduce mass shootings is to lock up the dangerous people in appropriate mental institutions, not to impose regulations on the 150 million citizens who exercise their rights. This paper considers the practical aspects of “gun control”.

### 1 The Cultural Aspect

The advocates for disarmament of the American people are constantly misinforming us with claims that other advanced nations have adopted “sensible” laws regarding gun ownership, and that we Americans should “get modern”, join up with “civilized society”, and either abolish the Second Amendment or neuter it with regulations. But these same disarmament advocates fail to point out (knowingly or not) that the real issue regarding the Second Amendment is not what kind of guns should be available; it is ultimately about the degree of individual freedom that the citizen possesses and how it is to be preserved; to what extent the people should passively trust any government (with its enormous powers); and whether in fact, any government is willing or capable of fulfilling its promises in times of emergency. The debate is not about guns per se, just as the First Amendment is not about the color of ink or the scheduling of talk shows.

The so-called American “gun culture” is nothing more than a by-product of the American “freedom culture”. The advocates for disarmament claim that other nations and societies have “progressed” to the point that privately-owned arms are now unnecessary, and that the Second Amendment is an interesting but useless anachronism. It is in fact the other way around: many other nations and societies have “re-gressed” to the point that the individual freedom is being abolished in the face of bureaucratic tyranny. The nations of Europe were the first to develop the concept of individual liberty, but now most of them have abandoned it; a few illustrations should suffice to show that these so-called “progressive” nations are not worthy of emulation when it comes to firearm restrictions, since these same restrictions are symptoms of a larger problem, namely, the degradation of the importance of the individual.

The once free and vigorous Germans have fallen furthest. It was the Germanic peoples that infused the subjects of the Roman Empire with the notion of individual freedom, so foreign to Roman understanding. And so it was for many centuries, until the gradual encroachment of the state under the influence of the Prussians. The Germans were prepared for the scientific prescription of tyranny outlined by their fellow countryman Karl Marx in the 1870’s. Only the scientific German mind could conceive of Marxism, the foundation of the modern systematic totalitarian systems of Fascism and Communism. For some reason, the Germans have gradually combined traditional duty with modern blind obedience. It was no surprise that the German people embraced Hitler when he said in 1933 [2]:

“Our aim is to draw from the midst of the people a class of leaders which shall be as hard as steel. When in this way the people have been rightly trained through its political leadership, then the social spirit will come to its own, for he who thinks only in terms of economics will never be able to think and act truly socially.”

Or Hitler again in 1935 [3]:

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"The question of fallibility or infallibility [of the government] is not under discussion; the individual has as little right to question the action of the political leaders as the soldier to question the orders of his military superiors."

The past few centuries of history shows that the average German will do anything that anyone with a government ID tells them to do -- "Tote that barge" -- "Lift that bale" -- "Round up those Protestants" -- "March those Jewish children into that gas chamber." Never a hint of protest, or questioning of authority; they have become so suppressed in their thinking that they no longer believe there is any legitimate need for self-defense; they implicitly trust all government employees. They are willing to have all means of resistance licensed and registered. They will not object to the universal weapon confiscation that Hitler implemented, simply because the government says they must. It is true that the people of Germany collectively own about 5 million firearms, subject to some of the strictest control in existence; each firearm must be licensed, and a justification for the license must be stated. Self-defense is not a valid reason.

The German mindset is nothing new. The German Confederation (1815 - 1866) was a full police state, complete with censorship, arbitrary searches, internal passports, no right to trial by jury, and no right to bear arms [4]. The German Empire (1866 - 1918) continued in much the same manner, complete with persecution of Catholics and protection of the anti-Semite National Socialists [5]. Even after the First World War, a civil service bureaucracy with a strong tradition of exercising absolute authority, and which retained all its traditional privileges, continued to dominate the German people [6].

The Germans have had their Frederick William, their Bismarck, and their Hitler; another one will arise sooner or later, and there will be no domestic resistance to him. Tyrants do not tolerate competition. When that new German tyrant emerges, he will find it a simple matter to seize absolute control by seizing all the guns; it will be easy because the registration and licensing requirements will point him to all the potential sources of resistance.

The British once had a long tradition of individual freedom, but has eroded since the Second World War. Apparently the British have fallen prey to the notion that guns are only for evil. They have lost their original notion of human dignity and the right to self defense; they are no longer a model useful to America. For some reason, the British no longer read Blackstone [7]:

"Both the life and limbs of a man are of such high value, in the estimation of the law of England, that it pardons even homicide if committed *se defendendo*, or in order to preserve them. For whatever is done by a man, to save either life or members, is looked upon as done upon the highest necessity and compulsion."

They no longer read even Hobbes. Here was a man who advocated the absolute divine right of kings, believed one was guilty until proven innocent, and endorsed the punishment of groups for the crimes of individuals; and yet recognized the immutable right of self-defense, both for oneself and for others [8]:

"Whensoever a man transferreth his right, or renounceth it, it is either in consideration of some right reciprocally transferred to himself, or for some other good he hopeth for thereby. For it is a voluntary act: and of the voluntary acts of every man, the object is some good to himself. And therefore there be some rights which no man can be understood by any words, or other signs, to have abandoned or transferred. As first a man cannot lay down the right of resisting them that assault him by force to take away his life, because he cannot be understood to aim thereby at any good to himself. The same may be said of wounds, and chains, and imprisonment, both because there is no benefit consequent to such patience, as there is to the patience of suffering another to be wounded or im-

prisoned, as also because a man cannot tell when he seeth men proceed against him by violence whether they intend his death or not."

The modern British have even forgotten John Locke, who extends defense to liberty and property [9]:

The state of war is a state of enmity and destruction; and therefore declaring by word or action, not a passionate and hasty, but a sedate settled design, upon another man's life, puts him in a state of war with him against whom he has declared such an intention, and so has exposed his life to the other's power to be taken away from him, or anyone that joins with him in his defense, and espouses his quarrel: it being reasonable and just I should have a right to destroy that which threatens me with destruction. ... For I have reason to conclude, that he who would get me into his power without my consent, would use me as he pleased, when he got me there, and destroy me too when he had a fancy to it: for nobody can desire to have me in his absolute power, unless it be to compel me by force to that, which is against the right of my freedom, i.e., to make me a slave. To be free from such force is the only security of my preservation: and reason bids me look on him, as an enemy to my preservation, who would take away that freedom, which is the fence to it: so that he who makes an attempt to enslave me, thereby puts himself into a state of war with me. ... This makes it lawful for a man to kill a thief, who has not in the least hurt him, nor declared any design upon his life, any further than by the use of force, so as to get him into his power, as to take away his money, or what he pleases from him: because in using force, where he has no right, to get me into his power, let his pretense be what it will, I have no reason to suppose, that he, who would take away my liberty, would not when he had me in his power, take away everything else. And therefore it is lawful for me to treat him, as one who has put himself into a state of war with me, i.e., kill him if I can, for to that hazard does he justly expose himself, whoever introduces a state of war, and is aggressor in it.

Britain has produced some of the best moral and legal minds in history, being the first to properly understand liberty and defense, yet the modern British subject cannot legally practice self-defense for themselves or their family, nor to defend their property, nor to preserve any liberty. While it is possible to obtain a Firearms or Shotgun Certificate, allowing one to own a gun, self-defense cannot be legally cited as the reason for wanting one.

Perhaps the Parliament decided that they should have a clean, tidy kingdom, and should not have to tolerate the Queen's innocent subjects going about defending themselves from her criminal subjects. Having adopted this notion that self-defense being obsolete -- regarded now as too messy, too violent -- Parliament decided it is better to disarm the innocent than to have this kind of inconvenience. Better the peaceful subject tolerate any indignity or violence than to resist. Parliament accordingly passed a series of laws disarming the people in response to a school shooting there, knowing full well that no law prohibiting self-defense will affect them personally any more than laws affect the Queen or the criminals. So the modern law-abiding British gave up all their guns (except for an occasional two-shot hunting shotgun) for Queen, country, and public safety; the only problem being that it has not made the subjects safe, since the criminal subjects do not care about the innocent or the law.

The French and most other European governments (except for the Czech Republic and Switzerland) have imposed similar restrictions on the people's ability to keep arms: requiring licenses and "justifications", and imposing limits on the number of cartridges that can be purchased annually.

The Chinese are certainly no model for America. Their entire history is one of enslavement by one warlord or another. There is neither a history of, nor a desire for, freedom as understood in the West. The Communists, simply the largest and most successful warlords, are now permitting a little economic free-

dom, but will never tolerate true political freedom, or any notion of the importance of the individual. They will certainly never permit the notion of self-defense to catch on, nor permit the tools thereof to be possessed freely by the people; it would be the end of their reign.

The Japanese have a similar tradition of allowing themselves to be suppressed by arbitrary government power; it was only in 1945 they accepted the concept that the emperor was not a god. All guns are prohibited to the people, although the Yakuza (Japanese mafia) is not inconvenienced at all. That makes perfect sense to the powerful: sometimes the Yakuza works for the government, sometimes the government works for the Yakuza; but the taxpaying Japanese people are always at the mercy of both.

The people of India have a history similar to the Chinese, except they have been pushed around by tribal leaders and colonial masters rather than warlords.

Nothing need be said about the people of Africa: it is the only continent where slavery is still practiced, by blacks enslaving blacks, and sometimes Arabs enslaving blacks. This is the place where the notion of individual life and liberty is so suppressed that they are willing to watch two million of their children die of malaria every year because some bureaucrat at the UN outlawed DDT. It is the place where the genocides are most recent (Rwanda, Sudan, Zimbabwe) and in which children are fighters in the numerous tribal and civil wars.

The "rights of persons" is talked about in many places, but America is one of the few places left where those rights are taken seriously enough that the people retain the power to enforce them if necessary. America inherited these concepts from the British, who have now largely abandoned them. Only a small fraction of the American people believe that self-defense is evil, or that government can always be trusted so long as the people have the power to vote. Granted, the American politicians have made some progress in weakening these sentiments by increasing dependence on government programs. But for now, the American culture, generally speaking, still embraces not only the notion of liberty, but recognizes the need for arms in the hands of the people to protect it.

## **2 The Historical Aspect**

We shall now review gun control, or as it is more properly called, citizen disarmament, in its historical context. It is no secret that governments always lust for more power, and the one clear path to power is to make the people defenseless. A few examples will show that an unarmed population is ripe for any brand of tyranny the powerful care to dish out, not to mention the professional criminal element.

### **2.1 Examples from World History**

#### **2.1.1 The Roman Empire**

The correct name of the "Roman Empire" was "The Senate and People of Rome". The fact is that the people never mattered too much; and after a while, neither did the Senators as the emperors increased their powers. The empire declined gradually from many causes, most of them related to exorbitant taxes: so bad in fact, that although Italy has the best farmland in Europe, the empire ultimately had to import food because the farmers were literally taxed off their land. The people were always unarmed, and always subject to the caprices of the higher ranks. But things became much worse for the people once the Germanic tribes began to encroach on the territory. Consider the words of the historian de Sismondi, regarding the results of domestic civil wars and the subsequent attitudes of the barbarians upon entering Italy in the middle of the third century AD [10]:

Ninety-two years of nearly incessant civil war taught the world on what a frail and unstable foundation of virtue of the Antonines had reared the felicity of the empire. The people took no share whatever of these intestine wars; the sovereignty had passed into the hands of the legions, and they disposed of it at their leisure; while the cities, indifferent to the claims of the pretenders, having neither garrisons, fortifications, nor armed population, awaited the decision of the legions without a thought of resistance. Yet their helpless and despicable neutrality did not save them from the ferocity or rapacity of the combatants, who wanted other enemies than soldiers, richer plunder than that of a camp; and the slightest mark of favor shown by a city to one pretender to the empire, was avenged by his successful competitor by military executions, and often by the sale of the whole body of the citizens as slaves. ...

In all their invasions, the barbarians preserved the recollection of the long terrors and the long resentment with which the Romans had inspired them. Their hatred was still too fresh and fervent to allow them to show any pity to the vanquished foes. Till then they had seen nothing of the Romans but their soldiers; but when they suddenly penetrated into the midst of these magnificent and populous cities, at first they feared that they should be crushed by a multitude so superior to their own; but, when they saw and understood the cowardice of the enervated masses, their fear changed into the deepest scorn. Their cruelty was in proportion to these two sentiments, and their object was rather destruction than conquest. The population, which had been thinned by the operation of wealth and luxury, was now further reduced by that of poverty. The human species seemed to vanish before the sword of the barbarians. Sometimes they massacred all the inhabitants of a town; sometimes they sent them into slavery, far from the country of their birth.

### **2.1.2 The Frankish Empire under Charlemagne, Louis I, and Charles II (the Bald)**

The famous Charlemagne (whom the French regard as Charles I, one of their greatest kings) presided over a system of continuous foreign warfare and increasing domestic poverty and serfdom. He engaged in no less than 53 military campaigns during his reign (768 - 814), mostly against the Saxons and Slavs [11]. Meanwhile, the main domestic feature of his reign was internal disintegration as evidenced by the growth of servitude and the expansion of overt slavery. These trends came about because the small freeholders were ruined by the wars; the politically-connected nobility deprived freemen of inheritances through court intrigue; and some people voluntarily became serfs in return for protection, since the disarmed population could no longer defend their rights or property [12].

The domestic situation became slightly better under the just Louis I (814-843), but very much worse under the corrupt and incompetent Charles II (843-877). The general trends of the empire included a growing irresponsibility of the nobility, interested now only in their wealth and power, continual degradation of the once-free farmers, overall weakness, both morally and spiritually, and exposure of the unarmed people to every evil, foreign and domestic alike. The consequences of these trends came to their fruition during the invasions of the Danes beginning in 841 [13]:

In the year 841, Oscar, duke of the Northmen or Danes, ascended the Seine as far as Rouen, took and pillaged that great city, to which he set fire on the 14th of May, and continued to lay waste and plunder the banks of the Seine during a fortnight. Not an individual appeared to resist him. The inhabitants of the country were confounded in one common state of degradation and servitude with the cattle, which aided them in their labors; those of the towns were vexed, oppressed, unprotected; all were disarmed; all had lost the requisite determination, as well as physical strength, to defend their lives as well as the slender remnant of property which the nobles had left them. ... The progress of cowardice and debasement among the sons of Charlemagne's soldiers, -- among the French, in whom courage seems generated by the very air they breathe, -- is one of the most

remarkable phenomena, but also one of the best attested, of the age we are contemplating: it proves to what a degree slavery can annihilate every virtue, and what a nation may become in which one caste arrogates to itself the exclusive privilege of bearing arms. ... Another division, leaving their boats at Rouen, had advanced by land as far as Beauvais, and had spread desolation throughout the adjacent country. The Danes passed two hundred and eighty-seven days in the country lying on the Seine; and when they quitted it, with their ships laden with the spoil of France, it was not to return home, but to transfer the scene of their depredations to Bordeaux. Yet, we do not hear what either Lothaire or Charles the Bald were doing during this period; nor why those nobles who had reserved to themselves the exclusive right of bearing arms, could not draw a sword in defense of their country. Those ambitious chiefs, who had destroyed at once the power of the king and of the people, seemed now to rival each other only in abject pusillanimity."

### 2.1.3 The Byzantine Empire

The risk of civilian disarmament is not limited to foreign invasion. The Byzantine Empire, oriental successor to the Eastern Roman Empire, likewise continued the old tradition of rendering the population unarmed and defenseless. By the twelfth century the empire came to be dominated by a military aristocracy, which preyed upon the people as it wished [14]:

The military were the ruling class in the state and they lived off the rest of the population. ... Military service had become the only lucrative profession. The people were crushed by intolerable burdens. The state increased its demands for taxation, and the last straw was provided by the usual extortions of the tax-collectors, who now included a number of foreigners to the great resentment of the taxpayers. In the cities a great many sold their freedom in order to find protection in the service of some powerful lord, a practice by no means unusual in Byzantium. ... But the whole trend of the times, with the growth of the great estates, and the overburdening and impoverishment of the lower classes, made it inevitable that ever wider strata of the population were bartering their freedom to become, if not slaves, then at least serfs.

### 2.1.4 France during the Hundred Years War

People are often forced to fend for themselves when the government either turns out to be derelict in its duty, or becomes part of the criminal element itself. Guizot, quoting the contemporary chronicler William of Nangis, writes of conditions in France between 1350 and 1390 [15]:

"There was not", he says, "in Anjou, in Touraine, in Beauce, near Orleans and up to the approaches in Paris, any corner of the country which was free from plunderers and robbers. They were so numerous everywhere, either in little forts occupied by them or in the villages and country-places, that peasants and tradesfolks could not travel but at great expense and great peril. The very guards told off to defend cultivators and travelers took part most shamefully in harassing and despoiling them. It was the same in Burgundy and the neighboring countries. Some knights who called themselves friends of the king and of the king's majesty, and whose names I am not minded to set down here, kept in their service brigands who were quite as bad. What is far more strange is that when those folks went into the cities, Paris or elsewhere, everybody knew them and pointed them out, but none durst lay a hand upon them."

## 2.1.5 England under Henry VII and Henry VIII

The risk of consolidation of power is evident in the history of the first two Tudor kings of England, Henry VII (1485-1509) and Henry VIII (1509-1547). The social structure of feudalism was rapidly declining, and Henry VII enforced the Statute of Livery and Maintenance in order to reduce the nobility [16, 17]:

The introduction of gunpowder had ruined feudalism. The mounted and heavily-armed knight gave way to the meaner footman. Fortresses which had been impregnable against the attacks of the Middle Ages crumbled before the new artillery. Although gunpowder had been in use as early as Crecy, it was not until the accession of the House of Lancaster that it was really brought into effective employment as a military resource. But the revolution in warfare was immediate. ... Broken as was the strength of the baronage [from the civil wars of 1453-1485] there still remained lords whom the new monarch [Henry VII] watched with jealous solicitude. Their power lay in the hosts of disorderly retainers who swarmed around their houses, ready to furnish a force in case of revolt, while in peace they became centers of outrage and defiance to the law. Edward [V] had ordered the dissolution of military households in his Statute of Liveries, and the Statute was enforced by Henry with the utmost severity.

Here we see Henry VII suppressing the organized bands of nobles who had caused the civil unrest during the War of the Roses and afterward. But to concentrate power in one place did not work out too well; we see that within 40 years under Henry VIII, the unarmed people became subject to the worst tyranny in England's history [18]:

The ten years which follow the fall of Wolsey [1531] are among the most momentous in our history. The New Monarchy at last realized its power, and the work for which Wolsey had paved the way was carried out with a terrible thoroughness. The one great institution which could still offer resistance to the royal will was struck down. The Church became a mere instrument of the central despotism. The people learned their helplessness in rebellions easily suppressed and avenged with ruthless severity. A reign of terror, organized with consummate skill, held England panic-stricken at Henry's feet. The noblest heads rolled on the block. Virtue and learning could not save Thomas More: royal descent could not save Lady Salisbury. The putting away of one queen, the execution of another, taught England that nothing was too high for Henry's "courage" or too sacred for his "appetite". Parliament assembled only to sanction acts of unscrupulous tyranny, or to build up by its own statutes the great fabric of absolute rule. All the constitutional safeguards of English freedom were swept away. Arbitrary taxation, arbitrary legislation, arbitrary imprisonment were powers claimed without dispute and unsparingly exercised by the Crown.

In the space of a few pages, the great historians de Sismondi, Ostrogorsky, Guizot, and Green demonstrate that an unarmed population is regarded with contempt by foreigners and domestic tyrants alike. All the other honest historians have reached like conclusions. These are but a few instances where history shows the risk of disarmament -- I mean risk to the people, not to the government; governments are never disarmed. It should not be necessary to add to these the more recent examples: a) the policy of universal starvation-and-gulag under Lenin and Stalin in Russia; b) the same under the Kim regimes in North Korea; c) the genocide of the Jews by Hitler, d) the massacre of the Armenians by the Turks; e) the genocide of his fellow Cambodians by Pol Pot; f) the garden-variety tyrannies of Pinochet in Chile, Amin in Uganda, Mussolini in Italy, Franco in Spain, and Castro in Cuba; g) the genocide of the recently-disarmed Tutsi's by the Hutu's in Rwanda (as the American administration stood by and watched); and last but not least, h) Mao Zedong [Tse-tung] of China. Together, these regimes murdered about 200 million of their own people in the 20th century alone. Why would we expect any better behavior from governments in the 21st century?

## 2.1.6 Conclusion

When disarmed, people are executed, massacred, and sold into slavery according to the whims of the armed. We in America may have little fear of an invasion by Canada or Mexico, but be certain that every domestic government contains the possibility of tyranny, and there is of course no need to mention the deeds of criminals who take the same opportunity whenever offered. We shall see a similar case of tyranny in America as enacted by the southern Democrats against the newly-freed slaves. But first, it is necessary to address the right to bear arms in the context of American history and in so doing, uncover the true purpose of the Second Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

## 2.2 American History

Three very important things must be kept in mind in the course of analyzing the Second Amendment. First, the original Constitution as ratified did not contain a Bill of Rights, nor did it provide any powers to disarm the people. Second, the first eight Amendments to the Constitution apply to individuals, but, contrary to the claims of some, do not *grant* any rights: they *recognize* rights that already existed and cite these as express limitations of the powers of the new federal government. Third, the phrase "well-regulated" in the Second Amendment has two different meanings, neither of which has anything to do with the legitimacy of private arms.

### 2.2.1 The Powers of the People Aside from the Constitution

To gain a true understanding of whether the people are to be armed, we need look no further than the comments made by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay in *The Federalist Papers* [19]. Keep in mind that *The Federalist* was written during the ratification period as a means to explain the Constitution to the voters of New York; clearly the amendments were not in existence. Let us examine then the sentiments of the founding generation on the subject of an armed population, referencing the Constitution prior to the adoption of the Second Amendment.

Hamilton advocates a "select" militia in *The Federalist #29*, and then shows it cannot be a danger to liberty given that the people in general are fully armed:

The attention of the government ought particularly to be directed to the formation of a select corps of moderate extent, upon such principles as will really fit them for service in case of need. By thus circumscribing the plan, it will be possible to have an excellent body of well-trained militia ready to take the field whenever the defense of the State shall require it. This will not only lessen the call for military establishments, but if circumstances should at any time oblige the government to form an army of any magnitude, that army can never be formidable while there is a large body of citizens, little, if at all, inferior to them in the discipline and use of arms, who stand ready to defend their own rights and those of their fellow-citizens.

Thus Hamilton recognizes the right of the people to defend against the government and its select militia should the need arise; clearly the people must be armed in order to have that power.

Madison lays out in the *Federalist #46* a scenario in which the federal government became tyrannical, and how the people would be expected to respond:

To these [the army of the federal government] would be opposed a militia amounting to near half a million of citizens with arms in their hands, officered by men chosen from among themselves, fighting for their common liberties, and united and conducted by government [states] possessing their



affections and confidence. It may well be doubted whether a militia thus circumstanced could ever be conquered by such a proportion of regular troops. Those who are best acquainted with the last successful resistance of this country against the British will be most inclined to deny the possibility of it. Besides the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation, the existence of subordinate governments, to which the people are attached, and by which the militia officers are chosen, forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition, more insurmountable than any which a simple government of any form can admit of. Notwithstanding the military establishments in the several kingdoms of Europe, which are carried as far as the public resources will bear, the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms. ... Let us not insult the free and gallant citizens of America with the suspicion, that they would be less able to defend the rights of which they would be in actual possession, than the debased subjects of arbitrary power would be to rescue theirs from the hands of their oppressors.

It is important to note that the population of the thirteen states at the time of writing was about 3 million or so; the half-million referenced by Madison would constitute about 15 to 20% of the total population, a far higher ratio than the numbers of any standing army. The existing right to possess arms by the people is, as Madison contends, the remedy for a tyrannical government.

It is inconceivable that the original Constitution would recognize the legitimate right of the people not only to be armed, but to take up arms against a domestic tyranny, but then be amended during the first years of operation to remove that right. It is quite the contrary: the Bill of Rights exists because the anti-Federalist faction, ever wary of encroachment by governments, demanded a Bill of Rights so as to clarify the limits of governmental power. Madison was initially opposed to a bill of rights, agreeing with Hamilton that it would cause confusion. As Hamilton put it in *The Federalist #84*:

I go further and affirm that bills of rights, in the sense and to the extent in which they are contended for, are not only unnecessary in the proposed Constitution, but would even be dangerous. They would contain various exceptions to powers not granted; and, on this very account, would afford a colorable pretext to claim more than were granted. For why declare that things shall not be done which there is no power to do?

### 2.2.2 The Bill of Rights Limits Powers

The main contention between the Federalists and anti-Federalists was that the anti-Federalists demanded a bill of rights to ensure that those basic guarantees were clear as a limitation on the power of the government. Madison changed his mind about a Bill of Rights once the ninth necessary state ratified it, and many state ratification documents came to Congress with recommendations that a Bill of Rights be added to it. He was one of the people in the First Congress who actively promoted amendments to the Constitution. In his speech before Congress on 8 Jun 1789, Madison laid out the case for a bill of rights, and then indicated his means of proving they were limitations on the power of the government [20]:

There have been objections of various kinds made against the constitution: Some were levelled against its structure, because the president was without a council; because the senate, which is a legislative body, had judicial powers in trials of impeachments; and because the powers of that body were compounded in other respects, in a manner that did not correspond with a particular theory; because it grants more power than is supposed to be necessary for every good purpose; and controls the ordinary powers of the state governments. I know some respectable characters who opposed this government on these grounds; but I believe that the great mass of the people who opposed it disliked it because it did not contain effectual provision against those encroachments on particular rights, and those safeguards which they have been long accustomed to have

interposed between them and the magistrate who exercised the sovereign power: nor ought we to consider them safe, while a great number of our fellow citizens think these securities necessary.

It has been a fortunate thing that the objection to the government has been made on the ground I stated; because it will be practicable on that ground to obviate the objection, so far as to satisfy the public mind that their liberties will be perpetual, and this without endangering any part of the constitution, which is considered as essential to the existence of the government by those who promoted its adoption.

The amendments which have occurred to me, proper to be recommended by congress to the state legislatures, are these:

Madison then pointed out specific places in the text of the existing Constitution where specific changes to the language were to be made. After discussing the preamble, mode of election and apportionment, and compensation to representatives, he then began on the rights of the people:

Fourthly. That in article 1st, section 9, between clauses 3 and 4, be inserted these clauses, to wit, The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal rights of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext infringed.

The people shall not be restrained from peaceably assembling and consulting for their common good; nor from applying to the legislature by petitions, or remonstrances for redress of their grievances.

The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; a well armed, and well regulated militia being the best security of a free country: but no person religiously scrupulous of bearing arms, shall be compelled to render military service in person.

Note that the insertion of the guarantees of freedom of the press, religion, assembly, and keeping and bearing arms are all to be located in the same place in the Constitution on equal terms. Note also that the principle of being armed precedes the statement about militias. The intent of what we now know as the bill of rights was to insert these provisions into Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution, but was probably put into the familiar form as a matter of readability. It is this Section 9 which lists all the powers *denied* to the federal government. It is clear then, that far from granting any rights, the Second Amendment, just as with the other portions of the Bill of Rights, recognizes pre-existing rights and expressly denies the government any power to negate any of them.

But that is not all. The expert jurist St. George Tucker, who wrote the interpretation of the Constitution as used in most law schools for at least one hundred years, applied this same logic even in light of the Second Amendment as actually adopted [21]:

"A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep, and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

This may be considered as the true palladium of liberty. ... The right of self defense is the first law of nature: in most governments it has been the study of rulers to confine this right within the narrowest limits possible. Wherever standing armies are kept up, and the right of the people to keep and bear arms is, under any color or pretext whatsoever, prohibited, liberty, if not already annihilated, is on the brink of destruction. In England, the people have been disarmed, generally, under the specious pretext of preserving game: a never failing lure to bring over the landed aristocracy to support any measure, under that mask, though calculated for very different purposes. True it is, their bill of rights seems at first view to counteract this policy: but the right of bearing arms is confined to protestants, and the words suitable to their condition and degree, have been interpreted to authorize the prohibition of keeping a gun or other engine of destruction of game to any farmer or

inferior tradesman, or other person not qualified to kill game. So that not one man in five hundred can keep a gun in his house without being subjected to a penalty.

### 2.2.3 The Meaning of "Well-Regulated"

General Washington made numerous comments and complaints regarding difficulties with the militia in the early stages of the Revolution. He wrote to William Livingston, Governor of New Jersey, on 24 Jan 1777 [22]:

Sir: The irregular and disjointed state of the militia of this province makes it necessary to inform you, that, unless a law is immediately passed by your legislature, to reduce them to some order, and oblige them to turn out, in a different manner from what they have hitherto done, we shall bring very few into the field, and even those few will render little or no service.

He wrote a similar letter to the Pennsylvania Council of Safety five days later [23]. Washington requested aid from Governor Jonathan Trumbull (a colonial governor who sided with the Americans) on 6 Mar 1777 [24]:

Sir: I flatter myself, that I should never again be under the necessity of trespassing upon the public spirit of your state, by calling upon her for another supply of militia; but, such has been the unaccountable delay in the recruiting of the Continental Battalion, chiefly owing to the long time that unhappily elapsed before the officers were appointed, that I see no prospect of keeping the field till the new levies can be brought into it, but by a reinforcement of militia. For want of proper laws in the southern governments, their militia were never well regulated; and since the late troubles, in which the old government were unhinged, and new ones not yet firmly established, the people have adopted a mode of thinking and acting for themselves. It is owing to this, that when a summons is issued for militia, those only turn out that please, and they for what time they please, by which means they sometimes set off for their homes in a few days after they join the army.

After New Jersey passed a law establishing the rules for calling out militia, Washington wrote again to Livingston on 5 Apr 1777 [25]:

As you must certainly be best acquainted with the circumstances of your own state, I entirely acquiesce with any mode which you may think most expedient in regard to calling out your militia at this time.

During this time, and at other times thereafter, Washington noted that the militia was not reliable in the early part of the war, as he mentions in a letter to the President of Congress on 26 Mar 1777 [26]:

For want of proper coercive powers, from disaffection, and other causes, the militia of this state are not to be depended upon. They are drawn out with difficulty; and at a most enormous expense, as their acts will show; they come, you can scarce tell how, they go, you hardly know when. In the same predicament are those of Pennsylvania. Numbers from this state have joined the enemy, and many more are disposed to do so ...

This is not to imply that Washington held the militia in low regard; he commended their conduct numerous times [27]. The salient point to be made from these passages, given the general difficulties of acquiring sufficient troops (and money) to prosecute the war, that the phrase "well-regulated" in the Second Amendment has nothing to do with "regulation" of who may and may not possess arms; it does not even refer to training per se. It refers to a set of laws by which the militia, when called into service, will actually

show up for duty. The Second Amendment, in its militia capacity, simply allows the federal government to call upon the armed people for duty, should a national emergency require it.

The phrase "well-regulated" had other meanings during the colonial period, often used as a euphemism for "disciplined" or "practiced". While it is impossible to know if Madison had that connotation in mind when he wrote the text of the Second Amendment, it certainly fits the notion of a militia requiring little training when called into service. Hamilton, as General Washington's aide during the war, was certainly familiar with the concept of readiness: he illustrates this "disciplined" and "practiced" notion in *The Federalist #29*:

To oblige the great body of yeomanry, and of other classes of citizens, to be under arms for the purpose of going through military exercises and evolutions, as often as might be necessary to acquire a degree of perfection which would entitle them to the character of a well-regulated militia, would be a real grievance to the people, and a serious public inconvenience.

#### **2.2.4 Conclusion**

Neither the text of the Constitution nor the Second Amendment grants any powers to prohibit the right of the people to possess arms of the people; given that the purpose of arms was for defense of self and liberty, it may be safely concluded that the arms in question are those equal in nature to the professional armies and the "select" militia.

Only the most casual thinker could believe that the National Guard is the "militia" referred to in the Second Amendment. There are several reasons why it could not be so. First, the militia was expected to provide their own arms; but the members of the National Guard are supplied arms by the government, and are to be turned into the government when their duty is over. Secondly, the militia is to be commanded by officers chosen at the state level; but the National Guard is under the plenary authority of the President; the state only asks the President to call them out. Third, the Second Amendment refers to the "people" which everywhere else in the Constitution means individuals; it is inconceivable that Madison would use the word "people" here if he meant specific military organizations controlled by the federal government.

As to whether the Second Amendment curtails only the federal powers, but leaves the states open to impose any restrictions they please, it is necessary that only three things be observed. First, the first eight amendments define pre-existing liberties of the people. Second, they exist to clarify limitations on the power of government. Third, according to Article 6 of the Constitution, all state officers are required to support the federal Constitution by oath or affirmation. It is illogical to suppose that the officers of state governments, having taken an oath to support the federal Constitution that recognizes limitations on powers due to the liberties of the people, should have powers at the state level to circumvent those liberties. But I further recognize that there is no end of arrogance among the power-mad at either state or federal levels.

### **3 The Moral Aspect**

In considering the moral aspect of citizen disarmament, commonly called "gun control", it is helpful to return once again to English jurist William Blackstone [28]:

In these several articles consist the rights, or, as they are frequently termed, the liberties of Englishmen: liberties, more generally talked of than thoroughly understood; and yet highly necessary to be perfectly known and considered by every man of rank or property, lest his ignorance of the

points whereon they are founded should hurry him into faction and licentiousness on the one hand, or a pusillanimous indifference and criminal submission on the other. And we have seen that these rights consist, primarily, in the free enjoyment of personal security, of personal liberty, and of private property. So long as these remain inviolate, the subject is perfectly free; for every species of compulsive tyranny and oppression must act in opposition to one or the other of these rights, having no other object upon which it can possibly be employed. To preserve them from violation, it is necessary that the constitution of parliament be supported in its full vigor; and limits, certainly known, be set to the royal prerogative. And, lastly, to vindicate these rights when actually violated or attacked, the subjects of England are entitled, in the first place, to the regular administration and free course of justice in the courts of law; next, to the right of petitioning the king and parliament for redress of grievances; and lastly, to the right of having and using arms for self-preservation and defense. And all these rights and liberties it is our birthright to enjoy entire; unless where the laws of our country have laid them under necessary restraints. Restraints in themselves so gentle and moderate, as will appear upon further inquiry, that no man of sense of probity would wish to see them slackened. For all of us have in our choice to do every good thing that a good man would desire to do; and are restrained from nothing, but what would be pernicious either to ourselves or to our fellow-citizens.

So it is that every citizen is to be aware of his rights to life, liberty, and property, and at the risk of being both a coward and traitor to freedom and posterity, be prepared with arms to defend those freedoms should the government fail to perform its duties to preserve them. But what about those "necessary restraints" that Mr. Blackstone refers to -- doesn't "gun control" fall under the category of "gentle and moderate" restrictions conducive to the happiness of the people? No. Gun control is quite the opposite: it is the means by which you, the citizen, are turned into a helpless dependent subject because it removes the ultimate restraint upon the power of governments and criminals alike. It is the means by which you, the citizen, are convinced that your life, liberty, and property are not worth fighting for; and you should leave that to the professionals, since you might get hurt and not be able to pay taxes. It is the means by which your moral compass is forced to always point toward the government, begging them to save you; or maybe worse, subordinate yourself to the whims of some gang of professional criminals.

Is it moral to leave people in situations where the police are not available or cannot be of use, such as Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Sandy, the LA riots after the O. J. Simpson verdict, or the many riots that took place in the 1960's, including most major cities? The police have not signed up to protect you from everything. The police generally do a fine job, but their task is to investigate crimes after they have occurred, make arrests in accordance with the evidence, and thus bring the suspect into the justice system. The judicial system may limit the future actions of criminals, but has no effect on the crime that is about to happen. You, as a moral agent, are responsible for your own safety. In fact, the police are not legally obligated to protect you from anything, or even to show up when they are called, especially in those unusual times when the number of calls greatly exceeds the capacity of the system to respond. Is it moral on your part to demand that the police risk their lives to defend yours? The police do not sign up for responding to large-scale civil breakdown. Many of the police in New Orleans fled to Baton Rouge during Hurricane Katrina; many LAPD members fled to San Bernardino during the LA riots. Rightfully so -- they have families to look out for, which supersedes your needs and demands. What if the attack on New York City on 11 Sep 2001 had been a larger, more general attack in which the normal governance had broken down? The criminals would have gone berserk, as they are always looking for an excuse. History shows that you will be on your own. The National Guard troops were in their barracks by sundown during the LA riots; in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina they actually disarmed the citizens, leaving them easy prey for the gangs.

Politicians are always protected by bodyguards with high-capacity weapons -- this is more than hypocrisy; it is immorality of the highest order: no moral government would permit its employees to arrogate an exemption for themselves while requiring the common people to go about unarmed. Recall that all legislative authority is vested in the Congress; consider now the words of James Madison in *The Federalist Papers* #57:

I will add, as a fifth circumstance in the situation of the House of Representatives, restraining them from oppressive measures, that they can make no law which will not have its full operation on themselves and their friends, as well as the great mass of society. This has always been deemed one of the strongest bonds by which human policy can connect the rulers and people together. It creates between them that communion of interests and sympathy of sentiments of which few governments have furnished examples; but without which every government degenerates into tyranny. If it be asked what is to restrain the House of Representatives from making legal discriminations in favor of themselves and a particular class of the society? I answer: the genius of the whole system; the nature of just and constitutional laws, and the manly spirit which actuates the people of America -- a spirit which nourishes freedom, and in return is nourished by it.

The same principle applies at the state and local government levels. How can a just government exempt itself from its own laws? But yet it is evident that "We the People" have failed to enforce this dictum upon our politicians; we see at every turn numerous exemptions to the laws created for the benefit of politicians, bureaucrats and their associates. It is especially evident in the gun laws: our (allegedly) morally-superior government employees parade the streets with taxpayer-paid (supposedly) morally-superior bodyguards, while the people are forced by law to remain defenseless at all times and in all places.

Vice President Joe Biden took the time recently to look down his nose and lecture us lowlifes that we only need a double-barrel shotgun for self-defense, even at home. I wonder what type of weapons, containing how many rounds, and of what type, his Secret Service detail carries with them when protecting him, even in his home.

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) recently released a video claiming "that no one is going to take my guns away". He's right -- no one is going to take his guns away because he is a member of the (allegedly) morally-superior ruling elite. He will have access to all the guns and ammunition he wants for the rest of his life, and so will all his friends and family for all of their lives. It will be interesting to see what Senator Manchin thinks of you and your rights in the upcoming disarmament votes in Congress.

When the government is armed and the people are not, one has tyranny; when the people are armed and the government is not, one has anarchy; in America, both are armed, wary of each other, and each side is able to suppress the worst instincts of the other. But our modern politicians do not like the idea of any challenges to their quest for arbitrary power.

Criminals know two things: a) they will always be able to get a gun, no matter what the law is; and b) they are likely to get shot by their intended victims if those intended victims have guns. It is evident that criminals always favor gun control for the same reasons the politicians do: it has no effect upon their livelihood and makes their job easier. Conversely, armed people don't have to take any crap from criminals or from governments. It is immoral to be afraid of criminals, but yet that is what our government demands. The reason they demand it is simple: the government needs the existence of large criminal networks to justify part of its existence, and it also helps keep the people in fear.

We commonly hear arguments that "one doesn't need a semi-automatic rifle" since the Second Amendment was written during a time when only muzzle-loading muskets were available. But exactly the same

argument could be made about radio, TV talk shows, and internet sites, since only newspapers existed when the First Amendment was written. I would be curious to know, given their self-appointed superior moral righteousness, what part of the First Amendment is the mainstream media willing to give up in order to reduce the incidence of libel, defamation of character, and slander?

"We the People" would do well to recall the words of Alexander Hamilton in *The Federalist #78*:

There is no position which depends on clearer principles that that every act of a delegated authority, contrary to the tenor of the commission under which it is exercised, is void. No legislative act, therefore, contrary to the Constitution can be valid. To deny this would be to affirm that the deputy is greater than his principal; that the servant is above his master; that the representatives of the people are superior to the people themselves; that men acting by virtue of powers may do not only what their powers do not authorize, but what they forbid.

The U. S. Constitution clearly states that the right the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; and every state and local officer swears an oath to also uphold the federal Constitution. Under what pretended morality do they claim power to do what is prohibited by their oath? Or carve out exemptions to the laws for themselves? Or tell us that we are not morally suitable to possess the tools necessary to take care of ourselves should the need arise?

#### 4 The Technological Aspect

Some prominent members of the media are opposed to the Second Amendment on the grounds that modern guns (so they claim) are too dangerous; that the Second Amendment logically only applies to muzzle-loading single shot muskets of the type commonly in use at the time of the adoption of the Constitution. What they seem unable to understand (or are unwilling to admit they understand) is that the modern semi-automatic pistol or rifle is nothing more than the 21st century equivalent of the Brown Bess musket, just as the daily newspaper, radio, TV, and the internet are nothing more than 21st century equivalents of the weekly newspaper and handbill. If the members of the media claim it is logical for gun owners to be limited to 10-round magazines, it is equally logical that TV news shows be limited to 10 minutes per day and newspapers to 10 pages. If the citizens are to be limited on a logical basis to purchasing one gun per month, there is no reason why *The New York Times* cannot logically be limited to publishing one day per month, and the TV networks likewise limited to broadcasting once per month. If we are to have logical background checks on anyone who seeks to buy a gun, there is no logical reason why we should not impose background checks on every reporter, editor, publisher, writer, broadcaster, advertiser, and producer. If gun owners are to be logically forced to put trigger locks on their guns, and keep ammunition stored separately in their own homes in order to prevent "accidental discharge", there is no logical reason why a government employee cannot be deployed to lock down all newspaper, radio, and TV productions until the intended material is reviewed in order to prevent "accidental disclosure of inconvenient facts". In short, if the rights of the people are to be denied simply due to the advance of technology, it is evident that every right could logically be so limited. This may be a good way for the people to obtain a more "responsible" media: demand a plan to regulate it the same as the Second Amendment. Let us see if our illustrious First Amendment advocates are willing to be restricted to the same extent as the Second Amendment advocates they are so quick to demonize.

But that is not the only technological aspect to be considered. If we look back at the long development of the firearm, we see a steady progression in its improvements [29]. Here is a quick summary of the advance of firearms technology:

1249: The first description of gunpowder in Europe (which we would now call blackpowder).

- 1346: Cannon were used by the English at the Battle of Crecy.
- 1381: The first cannon that could be deployed by a single person (town of Augsburg).
- 1418: Mortars were used at the Battle of Cherbourg.
- 1460: The first matchlock rifle was invented.
- 1586: The first paper cartridges invented.
- 1610: The first magazine-fed rifle was invented.
- 1690: The first "revolving" pistol was invented (the barrels revolved instead of the cylinder).
- 1730: The first breech-loading rifles were invented.
- 1774: The percussion cap method of ignition was invented (i.e., first use of self-priming cartridges).
- 1830: The double-barrel sporting shotgun in popular use.
- 1835: The modern 6-shot revolver was invented.
- 1840: The combined self-priming cartridge was invented.
- 1845: The first magazine-fed pistol was invented.
- 1860: The lever-action rifle was invented.
- 1862: Invention of the belt-fed rapid-fire gun (Gatting).
- 1866: Gun-cotton (which we now call gunpowder or smokeless powder) was invented.
- 1884: Invention of the first full-automatic belt-fed machine gun.
- 1885: The first semi-automatic rifle with detachable magazine was invented (Mannlicher).
- 1886: The first bolt-action rifle with a detachable magazine was invented.
- 1895: The automatic repeating rifle (full-automatic machine gun) was invented.
- 1902: The semi-automatic shotgun was invented.
- 1918: The hand-held full-automatic machine gun (Thompson) was invented.

It is not necessary to go any further. All the common firearms now in production are simply improvements and variations on these; including those for greater safety or for a variety of calibers. The famous AK-47, M-1, M-14, and M-16 semi- and selective-fire types were not invented until the middle decades of the 20th century. The important thing to remember is that all the guns that are now so feared by governments are based on technology that is over one hundred years old; comparable to being afraid of telephones, washing machines, and toasters. Secondly, anyone with a machine shop capable of 1920's accuracy and tolerances can build as many machine-guns (and all lesser types) as necessary. If drug dealers can build ocean-going submarines to smuggle cocaine into the U. S., it does not take much imagination to see that a similar thing can be done with clandestine production of guns, should the government attempt to regulate the current legal ones out of existence.

## 5 The Statistical Aspect

It has been said that a good statistician can take any three numbers and justify whatever conclusion he is being paid to come up with. We will consider some of the statistics concerning citizen disarmament, but first, let us consider a few elements of basic logic.

Consider two families, both with young children. They live in houses next door to each other. One home has a bathtub and the other does not. How much more likely is it that a child in the home containing a bathtub will "drown in a bathtub in their home", compared to the children living in the house without the bathtub? It is evident that the children living in the house with no bathtub have zero chance of drowning in a bathtub in their home, since there are none. Therefore, statistically speaking, children in homes with bathtubs are infinitely more likely to drown in a bathtub than the neighbor children, although drowning in bathtubs is fairly rare.

The School Bus Information Clearinghouse [30] reports that in the U. S., 6 children per year are killed in school bus accidents, while another 29 children per year are killed either getting on or off a school bus, or



are killed accidentally while waiting for a school bus. When you consider how many children are riding school busses every day, it is evident that they are pretty safe. But consider the children who are home schooled, or who walk to school: they never take a school bus. Therefore, the children who ride school busses, although deaths are exceeding rare, are in a statistical sense infinitely more likely to be killed in school bus accidents than those who do not ride them.

If a person has an automobile accident, is it more or less likely that the accident will have occurred within 25 miles from home, or more than 25 miles from home. I am certain that it is the former: accidents are not called 'deliberates'; they are most likely to occur wherever the typical person is most of the time relative to their home. Since most people do not drive more than 25 miles from home on a typical day, most car accidents should occur near home than away from it. Accidents in the home occur in a very familiar place.

I'm a mental midget with a public school education, and even I could figure those out. But our illustrious gun-control fanatics are always seeking to convince us that guns in the hands of the citizens are an abnormality in "civilized" society; that they cause suicides; that they cause crime in general; and are to be greatly dreaded, and then prohibited. These fanatics seek to impose their quest for power by repeating weak claims that can be neither proven nor disproven; by pretending that correlation equals causation; sometimes by simply lying. Let us consider a few examples.

## 5.1 Regarding Suicide and Presence of Guns

The advocates for gun control pretend that a high rate of gun ownership leads to a high rate of suicide. It is easy to determine factually whether such a claim proves cause-and-effect, or if gun ownership and suicides are even correlated. Figures for gun ownership rates and the suicide rates are readily available for a many nations [31, 32]. The data is presented as number of guns per 100 persons (which is easily converted to number of guns per 100,000) to match the suicide rate data in number per 100,000. Now, if guns cause suicide, or make suicide more likely, then we should find high suicide rates in nations with high gun ownership rates. It is obvious that not all suicides are the result of gunshot wounds, but suffice to say, even if guns only make suicide easier, then the same proposition would have to hold: one would expect high suicide rates in nations with high gun ownership rates, and vice-versa. The results for a sample of 37 nations are shown on Figure 1.

Here I have shown gun ownership and suicide rates for 37 nations, sorted by continent. For each continent, I have chosen the ones with the highest gun ownership rate with a corresponding number from the same continent with the lowest ownership rate. Those values can be seen in the second column. For example, Switzerland, Finland, Serbia, Cyprus, Sweden, Norway, and France have the highest gun ownership rates in Europe, counterbalanced by Poland, the Netherlands, Scotland, Hungary, and England, Slovakia, and Portugal having the lowest gun ownership rates of the 37 nations in Europe. The fourth column indicates the number of guns per 100,000 residents. The fifth shows the suicide rate per 100,000. Next, the sixth and seventh columns show the rank of gun ownership and rank of suicides for this data. The eighth column is the ratio of gun presence to suicides (i.e., the overall number of suicides per gun); note how small the numbers are. To make this data more readable, I have multiplied them by a factor of 1 million, as shown in the second-to-last column. The last column indicates the rank of suicides per gun for this set of 37 nations. There was insufficient data for Africa.

Consider the top five nations and bottom five nations for gun presence and their respective suicide rates. The U. S. is first in gun ownership rate, 34th in suicide rate. Likewise, Switzerland is second and 20th; Finland is third and 7th; Serbia is fourth and 6th; and Cyprus is fifth and 32nd. On the other hand, South Korea is 33rd in gun ownership, but ranks first in suicide rate. Likewise, China is 27th in gun ownership

rate, 2nd in suicides; Hungary is 24th and third; Japan is 36th and 4th; and Russia is 18th and fifth. In other words, some nations have high gun rates and high suicide rates (Finland and Serbia); some have high gun rates and low suicide rates (U. S. and Cyprus); some have low gun rates and low suicide rates (Tajikistan and Philippines), and some have low gun rates and high suicide rates (Japan and Poland), and the others fall somewhere in between as expected. If the claims of the gun-control advocates were true, one would expect that the rate of gun possession in general would lead to higher rates of suicide in general. But the large dispersion in the data proves that gun presence and suicide rates are not correlated.

Continent	Gun ownership rank (continent)	Nation	Guns per 100,000	Suicides per 100,000	Gun ownership rank (this data)	Suicide rate rank (this data)	Raw suicides per gun	Suicides per gun x 1 million	Rank, suicides per gun
North America	1	U. S.	88800	12.0	1	13	0.0001351	135.1	34
	2	Canada	30800	11.5	10	18	0.0003734	373.4	28
	3	Mexico	15000	4.0	15	30	0.0002667	266.7	30
South/Central America	1	Uruguay	31800	15.8	9	8	0.0004969	496.9	22
	2	Panama	21700	5.5	12	28	0.0002535	253.5	31
	3	Peru	18800	0.9	13	36	0.0000479	47.9	37
	4	Paraguay	17000	3.6	14	31	0.0002118	211.8	33
	17	El Salvador	5800	8.0	23	25	0.0013793	1379.3	15
	18	Dom. Rep.	5100	2.3	26	34	0.0004510	451.0	24
	19	Cuba	4800	12.3	28	12	0.0025625	2562.5	10
	20	Ecuador	1300	7.1	31	26	0.0054615	5461.5	6
Europe	1	Switzerland	45700	11.1	2	20	0.0002429	242.9	32
	2	Finland	45300	16.8	3	7	0.0003709	370.9	29
	3	Serbia	37800	19.5	4	6	0.0005159	515.9	21
	4	Cyprus	36400	3.6	5	32	0.0000989	98.9	35
	5	Sweden	31600	11.9	6	14	0.0003766	376.6	27
	6	Norway	31300	11.9	7	15	0.0003802	380.2	26
	7	France	31200	15.0	8	10	0.0004808	480.8	23
	29	Portugal	8500	11.5	19	19	0.0013529	1352.9	16
	30	Slovakia	8300	9.9	20	21	0.0011928	1192.8	17
	31	England	6200	11.8	22	16	0.0019032	1903.2	14
	32	Hungary	5500	21.7	24	3	0.0039455	3945.5	8
	33	Scotland	5500	11.8	25	17	0.0021455	2145.5	13
	34	Netherlands	3900	8.5	30	24	0.0021795	2179.5	12
	35	Poland	1300	15.4	32	9	0.0118462	11846.2	4
	Asia	1	Pakistan	11600	0.9	16	37	0.0000759	75.9
2		Russia	8900	21.4	18	5	0.0024045	2404.5	11
3		Georgia	7300	4.3	21	29	0.0005890	589.0	19
4		China	4900	22.0	27	2	0.0044898	4489.8	7
5		Philippines	4700	2.1	29	35	0.0004468	446.8	25
24		South Korea	1100	31.7	33	1	0.0288182	28818.2	2
25		Tajikistan	1000	2.6	34	33	0.0026000	2600.0	9
26		Kyrgyzstan	900	8.8	35	23	0.0097778	9777.8	5
27		Japan	600	21.7	36	4	0.0361667	36166.7	1
Australia/NZ	28	Singapore	500	7.0	37	27	0.0140000	14000.0	3
	1	New Zealand	22600	13.2	11	11	0.0005841	584.1	20
	2	Australia	15000	9.7	17	22	0.0006467	646.7	18

**Figure 1: Gun Ownership and Suicide Rates for 37 Nations.**

In fact, if I were corrupt like our gun-control fanatics, I could use the preceding facts to make the false assertion that guns prevent suicide. Of course such a proposition is false - no rational person could believe it. But enough dummies would believe it if I had the means to get the media to repeat it a hundred billion times. Congress would then pass a law requiring depressed persons to prove they owned guns.

The second-to-last column in Figure 1 shows the number of suicides per gun (magnified by a million to make the numbers easier - the real rate of suicides per gun are shown in the third-from-right column). There is again a wide dispersion in the data, from a low of 47.9 in Peru to a high of 36166 in Japan. This suggests, although does not prove, that suicide in nations like Japan involves means other than gunshot wounds; but may indicate a high correlation of immediate access to guns as a factor in places like Peru. Are you going to give up your rights because of the behavior of people in Peru?

	Source	Suicide Method by Percentage, Men					Suicide Method by Percentage, Women					Note
		All Pois-onings	Hanging	Drowning	Firearms	Falls & other	All Pois-onings	Hanging	Drowning	Firearms	Falls & other	
U. S.	Ref [33]	7.4	20.4	0.9	60.6	10.7	31.5	16.9	2.1	35.7	13.9	
Canada	Ref [33]	10.6	44.4	2.3	21.6	21.0	39.3	36.8	4.0	3.8	20.6	
Mexico	Ref [33]	6.2	68.8	0.5	20.5	4.0	28.4	51.3	0.7	13.4	6.2	
Uruguay	Ref [33]	3.0	41.1	2.7	47.8	5.3	10.5	27.5	9.1	35.7	17.1	
Panama	Ref [33]	19.7	63.5	0.0	11.9	5.0	49.2	44.1	0.0	2.2	4.4	
Peru	Ref [33]	56.9	14.1	3.3	11.8	13.8	84.8	7.3	2.4	1.2	4.2	
Paraguay	Ref [33]	16.0	42.9	1.6	30.4	9.1	41.0	27.1	1.9	21.5	8.5	
El Salvador	Ref [33]	86.6	8.4	0.3	3.8	0.8	95.1	3.2	0.0	1.4	0.4	
Dom. Rep.	Ref [33]	24.9	42.8	2.5	20.2	9.6	42.7	31.9	3.6	8.4	13.2	
Cuba	Ref [33]	10.6	76.8	0.6	3.4	8.6	21.8	27.4	1.3	0.7	48.8	
Ecuador	Ref [33]	33.8	41.3	1.6	19.2	4.1	66.6	23.9	0.8	5.3	3.4	
Switzerland	Ref [33]	13.9	27.3	3.0	33.5	22.4	38.5	19.1	10.1	3.4	28.6	
Finland	Ref [33]	17.8	33.1	3.5	26.7	18.8	49.7	20.3	10.6	2.6	16.8	
Serbia	Ref [33]	4.5	57.6	3.3	20.1	14.5	14.0	57.2	7.9	5.2	15.7	
Cyprus		No data										
Sweden	Ref [33]	16.3	39.4	5.3	17.1	22.0	43.0	25.1	12.4	0.9	18.5	
Norway	Ref [33]	11.3	37.9	4.6	27.1	19.0	33.8	32.3	13.5	2.0	18.4	
France	Ref [33]	9.6	48.9	3.9	22.1	15.5	28.3	29.2	12.4	4.1	25.9	
Portugal	Ref [33]	16.4	52.2	4.3	11.1	16.0	32.7	31.2	11.6	3.2	21.2	
Slovenia	Ref [33]	4.3	64.7	2.5	11.8	16.7	11.7	53.1	12.2	1.2	21.8	
England	Ref [33]	15.1	55.2	2.4	3.5	23.7	41.4	35.9	4.7	0.6	17.6	
Hungary	Ref [33]	11.6	70.3	1.4	4.0	12.7	35.1	43.4	4.5	0.6	16.4	
Scotland	Ref [33]	15.1	55.2	2.4	3.5	23.7	41.4	35.9	4.7	0.6	17.6	
Netherlands	Ref [33]	13.1	47.9	6.6	4.4	28.0	25.8	33.6	11.0	0.6	29.0	
Poland	Ref [33]	2.1	91.2	0.5	1.1	5.2	8.7	77.6	3.0	0.2	10.5	
Pakistan	Ref [34]	26.0	40.0		15.0	10.0	26.0	40.0		15.0	10.0	1
Russia		No data										
Georgia	Ref [33]	7.9	53.2	0.9	3.2	34.8	8.6	50.8	0.8	0.8	39.1	
China	Ref [34]	69.0	20.0	5.0			69.0	20.0	5.0			
Philippines		No data										
South Korea	Ref [33]	37.9	39.2	3.2	0.4	19.3	43.6	26.0	3.8	0.1	26.6	
Tajikistan		No data										
Kyrgyzstan		No data										
Japan	Ref [33]	3.8	68.7	2.6	0.2	24.6	7.2	59.9	7.8	0.0	25.2	
Singapore	Ref [34]	5.9	16.6			72.4	5.9	16.6			72.4	2
Australia	Ref [33]	9.1	45.4	1.3	11.5	32.7	27.2	36.4	3.9	2.6	29.9	
New Zealand	Ref [33]	7.4	48.4	1.9	11.2	31.1	20.1	42.5	4.4	2.2	30.7	

1. Source data did not distinguish between sexes; assumed to be equal.  
2. Jumping from high places is the chosen method for 72.4% of suicides in Singapore.

**Figure 2: Suicide Method by Percentage for 37 Nations**

It must be observed that the gun rate is the overall number of guns per unit population; it says nothing about how often guns are used in suicides. The data for suicide method is shown in Figure 2, based on data assembled by the World Health Organization [33] and researchers in Taiwan [34].

The results in Figure 2 show that the expectation from Figure 1 is about right: even in nations with fairly widespread gun ownership, hanging and poisoning are the most common methods of suicide. Gunshot wounds are the chosen method for more than 40% of suicides only in the U. S. and Uruguay. Even in nations with fairly high gun rates, such as Finland, Sweden, Serbia, and Norway, hanging is the method of choice. Even in Peru, which had the lowest ratio of suicides per gun, only 12% of suicides were by gunshot wound. This suggests, although does not prove, that the presence of guns does not affect the suicide method in general. This data does not address the question about the suicide method chosen for those with ready access to guns in their homes. I would expect that people who choose to commit suicide would choose to do so by the fastest method rather than poisoning themselves with arsenic over a six-month period. The important point is that the widespread availability of guns in a society does not increase the general suicide rate (Figure 1), nor does it affect the method of suicide in a significant manner (Figure 2).

## 5.2 Regarding "Violent Crime and Household Risk"

Those who advocate for gun control often claim they do so in the interest of public safety, meaning the potential reduction in violent crime or safety in the home. To justify the attack on your rights they will often cite crime statistics, and claim that their particular disarmament measure will reduce crime by a certain amount. Then, when their favorite gun control measure has been in effect for ten or twenty years, and the crime rates have nonetheless gone up, they will still claim victory for disarmament on the curious and improvable notion that "the rise in crime would have been higher without the gun control we so heroically imposed". A more important justification for gun control in recent times is "to keep the children safe", especially since the massacre by gunfire at the Sandy Hook gun-free school zone. I will only say in regard to that shooting -- if the politicians and bureaucrats are dumb enough to establish lax security, it is best not to advertise it; at least keep the crazies guessing about it. We cannot expect politicians and bureaucrats to admit their mistakes, nor do I accuse them of respecting the Constitution. So we are left with an examination into the statistics of the situation to see for ourselves if gun control is justified or not.

When speaking of crime and the associated statistics, it is wise to remember that there are three types of violent crimes: a) the ones committed by professional criminals as part of their livelihood, b) ones committed by typically non-violent criminals who find it necessary on occasion to perform a deed of violence; and c) the ones committed by those who are normally regular citizens, but decide to commit a violent crime motivated under transient conditions of jealousy, anger, hatred, or greed.

As to the first class of criminals, like the various ethnic mafias, and certain gangs like MS-13 or the Aryan Brotherhood, it should be recognized that no amount of gun control will have any affect on them. Guns are a necessary implement of their trade, and will be obtained by them no matter what. If a person makes a living as an auto mechanic, he naturally has wrenches and screwdrivers as they are the tools of his trade. Likewise with IT engineers with their computers and salesmen with their telephones. No professional criminal will ever be deprived of the use of guns, as they are the most expedient means for conducting their business. Their victims are usually other professional criminals, and the causes for the crime are a violation of long-standing rules of the organization or encroachment by outsiders on traditional rights to commit other crimes (such as labor union control, loan-sharking, prostitution, gambling, etc.).

As for the second class of criminals, including the common street drug dealer, burglars, con men, car thieves, and so on: they do not use guns in the course of normal business, but have occasion to do so at

various times. Some are always armed as a matter of self-protection; but all of them have ready access to guns regardless of gun control when they are needed. They can be obtained from other professional criminals, especially ones of the first class, who will never be disarmed. (Sometimes the BATF provides arms to already fully-armed Mexican drug cartels.) This class of criminals generally use guns when violence is necessary, since it is the most expedient and effective method. This class of criminals also usually preys on others of their class, usually over gang colors or in battles to determine drug-dealing territory.

Continent	Gun ownership rank (continent)	Nation	Guns per 100,000	Murders per 100,000	Gun ownership rank (this data)	Murder rate rank (this data)	Raw murders per gun	Murders per gun x 1 million	Rank, murders per gun
North America	1	U. S.	88800	4.8	1	14	0.0000541	54.1	28
	2	Canada	30800	1.6	10	20	0.0000519	51.9	29
	3	Mexico	15000	22.7	15	3	0.0015133	1513.3	7
South/Central America	1	Uruguay	31800	5.9	9	11	0.0001855	185.5	24
	2	Panama	21700	21.6	12	4	0.0009954	995.4	11
	3	Peru	18800	10.3	13	8	0.0005479	547.9	18
	4	Paraguay	17000	11.5	14	7	0.0006765	676.5	13
	17	El Salvador	5800	69.2	23	1	0.0119310	11931.0	2
	18	Dom. Rep.	5100	25.0	26	2	0.0049020	4902.0	4
	19	Cuba	4800	5.0	28	13	0.0010417	1041.7	10
Europe	20	Ecuador	1300	12.7	31	6	0.0097692	9769.2	3
	1	Switzerland	45700	0.7	2	34	0.0000153	15.3	37
	2	Finland	45300	2.2	3	17	0.0000486	48.6	30
	3	Serbia	37800	1.2	4	23	0.0000317	31.7	34
	4	Cyprus	36400	1.7	5	19	0.0000467	46.7	31
	5	Sweden	31600	1.0	6	31	0.0000316	31.6	35
	6	Norway	31300	0.6	7	35	0.0000192	19.2	36
	7	France	31200	1.1	8	28	0.0000353	35.3	33
	29	Portugal	8500	1.2	19	26	0.0001412	141.2	26
	30	Slovakia	8300	1.5	20	21	0.0001807	180.7	25
	31	England	6200	1.2	22	24	0.0001935	193.5	23
	32	Hungary	5500	1.3	24	22	0.0002364	236.4	20
	33	Scotland	5500	1.2	25	25	0.0002182	218.2	21
	34	Netherlands	3900	1.1	30	29	0.0002821	282.1	19
35	Poland	1300	1.1	32	27	0.0008462	846.2	12	
Asia	1	Pakistan	11600	7.8	16	10	0.0006724	672.4	14
	2	Russia	8900	10.2	18	9	0.0011461	1146.1	9
	3	Georgia	7300	4.3	21	15	0.0005890	589.0	17
	4	China	4900	1.0	27	30	0.0002041	204.1	22
	5	Philippines	4700	5.4	29	12	0.0011489	1148.9	8
	24	South Korea	1100	2.6	33	16	0.0023636	2363.6	5
	25	Tajikistan	1000	2.1	34	18	0.0021000	2100.0	6
	26	Kyrgyzstan	900	20.1	35	5	0.0223333	22333.3	1
	27	Japan	600	0.4	36	36	0.0006667	666.7	15
Australia/NZ	28	Singapore	500	0.3	37	37	0.0006000	600.0	16
	1	New Zealand	22600	0.9	11	33	0.0000398	39.8	32
	2	Australia	15000	1.0	17	32	0.0000667	66.7	27

**Figure 3: Gun Ownership and Homicide Rates for Selected Nations**

Then there is the last and smallest class of criminals: the wife who found her husband was cheating with her best friend; the embezzler who was discovered by his boss; a murder for retribution; a murder for the insurance payout; or the occasional mental incompetent who thinks he is a cartoon character and proceeds to shoot people in a theater.

Figure 3 shows a selection of data [35] for gun ownership rates vs. homicide rates for various nations, similar to what was shown earlier on suicide rates. Again, the data shows no correlation between gun ownership rates and murder rates. There are nations with very low gun ownership rates and correspondingly low murder rates (Japan, Singapore, Poland, and China). There are no nations among the top ten in gun ownership rates that were also in the top ten in murder rates; the closest correlation of that nature occurs with Uruguay (#9 in gun ownership rate, #11 in murder rate). Others in the top ten in gun ownership have very low murder rates under 2.2 per 100,000 (Canada, Finland, Serbia, Cyprus, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, and France); the only exception was the U. S. (first in gun ownership, 14th in murder rate at 4.8 per 100,000). The most interesting statistics comes from nations with moderate to low gun ownership rates, but very high murder rates (Mexico, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Kyrgyzstan). The others in this data fall somewhere between these extremes; once again the dispersion in the data demonstrates that gun ownership rates are unrelated to murder rates; if anything, high gun ownership by the general public may prevent the murder rates from approaching truly pathological levels as in El Salvador, Mexico, and Panama.

It is important in this debate to keep in mind who is doing the killing and who is doing the dying. If professional criminals are killing other professional criminals, a net good to society results, and we should wish the murder rate to be higher than it is. The reverse applies if innocent people are dying. Figure 4 shows some data on what type of people are doing the dying. As shown here, a very high percentage of the homicide victims in large U. S. cities have long prior arrest records. I will not make the Democratic Party assumption that an arrest equals a conviction, nor do I assume that the prior arrests were for violent crimes; but suffice to say, these victims were more likely to be criminals themselves than not. Most homicides are committed either with guns or knives, and most homicides occur in the large cities. I will not make the Democratic Party assumption that "large city" equals "black people". The racist sentiments of the Democratic Party are adequately refuted by the homicide data on Figure 3: of the top ten nations in murder rate (within this data set), none have a sizeable black population. The crime of murder is not confined to any one race in particular; it is confined to criminals in general.

<b>Homicide Data, General Reference [43]</b>			
<b>City</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>% of Murder Victims with Prior Arrests</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Milwaukee	2011	77	[36]
New Orleans	2011	64	[37]
Baltimore	2007	91	[38]
Philadelphia	2011	62	[39]
Newark	2009, 2010	85	[40]
Chicago	2003-2011	77	[41]
New York City	2012	70	[42]

**Figure 4: Arrest Status of Homicide Victims in the U. S.**

Let's pursue this idea of criminals killing criminals a little further, and examine how it fits into the overall homicide rates in the U. S. Figure 5 shows an extract from the FBI Uniform Crime Report [44]; it cites the totals for homicides by weapon type for several recent years. It is easy to see that rifles, including the

much-maligned AK-47 and other semi-automatic types, accounted for a very small portion of gun-related homicides. In fact, for the year 2011, the total number of homicides committed by rifles constitutes less than 4% of all homicides by firearm, and about 2.5% of all homicides regardless of weapon. Secondly, the overall homicide rate is generally decreasing as shown in the second-to-last row, where it has declined from 4.96 per 100,000 in 2007 to 4.06 in 2011, a drop of about 20% or so. Third, the fraction of total homicides committed with guns and knives is about 80% of the total, which has remained fairly constant over time.

<b>FBI UCR Expanded Homicide Data Table 8 [44]</b>					
<b>Murder Victims by Weapon, 2007-2011</b>					
<b>Weapons</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,916</b>	<b>14,224</b>	<b>13,752</b>	<b>13,164</b>	<b>12,664</b>
Total firearms:	10,129	9,528	9,199	8,874	8,583
Handguns	7,398	6,800	6,501	6,115	6,220
Rifles	453	380	351	367	323
Shotguns	457	442	423	366	356
Other guns	116	81	96	93	97
Firearms, type not stated	1,705	1,825	1,828	1,933	1,587
Knives or cutting instruments	1,817	1,888	1,836	1,732	1,694
Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	647	603	623	549	496
Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) <sup>1</sup>	869	875	817	769	728
Poison	10	9	7	11	5
Explosives	1	11	2	4	12
Fire	131	85	98	78	75
Narcotics	52	34	52	45	29
Drowning	12	16	8	10	15
Strangulation	134	89	122	122	85
Asphyxiation	109	87	84	98	89
Other weapons or weapons not stated	1,005	999	904	872	853
<sup>1</sup> Pushed is included in personal weapons.					
Population (millions)	301.580	304.375	307.007	309.330	311.587
Total murder rate per 100,000	4.95	4.67	4.48	4.26	4.06
Gun & knife murder rate per 100,000	3.96	3.75	3.59	3.43	3.30

**Figure 5: FBI UCR Homicide Data for US, 2007-2011**

Now let's consider the relevant homicide rate, defined as cases where the victim was not himself a professional criminal. Since most professional criminals are killed (by other criminals) with knives and guns, we can adjust the data in Figure 5. To obtain the relevant number of homicides, we can subtract from the total homicides committed by guns and knives the fraction in which the victims are criminals. Again, I am not assuming that all victims with arrest records are the same type of professional criminal as the perpetrator, nor am I assuming that the statistics for the big cities are the same as other areas. But, such an analysis is useful to establish the relevance of crime statistics instead of the sensational one used to jus-

tify degrading your rights. Figure 6 shows how the murder rate for 2011 would be altered if only relevant crimes were included, that is, if varying fractions of criminal victims were subtracted from the total. The red line marked "50% excl" means that half of the homicides committed with guns and knives were subtracted from the total, on the supposition that half of those victims were criminals themselves. Again, we do not know the actual percentages, but a figure of half of all murders committed with guns and knives could conceivably be correct, given the statistics in Figure 5.

It is easy to see from Figure 6 that the *relevant* murder rate (cases in which the victim was not a criminal himself) is far less than the officially stated one: if the trend of the blue line is correct (60% of victims killed with knives and guns were themselves criminals), the murder rate for 2011 falls from 4.05 to 2.05, a reduction of nearly half. This proves that all we have to do to cut the murder rate in half is to get the professional criminals to stop killing each other. But they can never do that -- after all, we're talking about their livelihood. Yet, the professional politicians, ever anxious to protect and defend their criminal pets, are fond of using the actions of professional criminals to justify taking your Second Amendment rights away. But killing the Second Amendment is not about reducing crime, as we will see shortly.

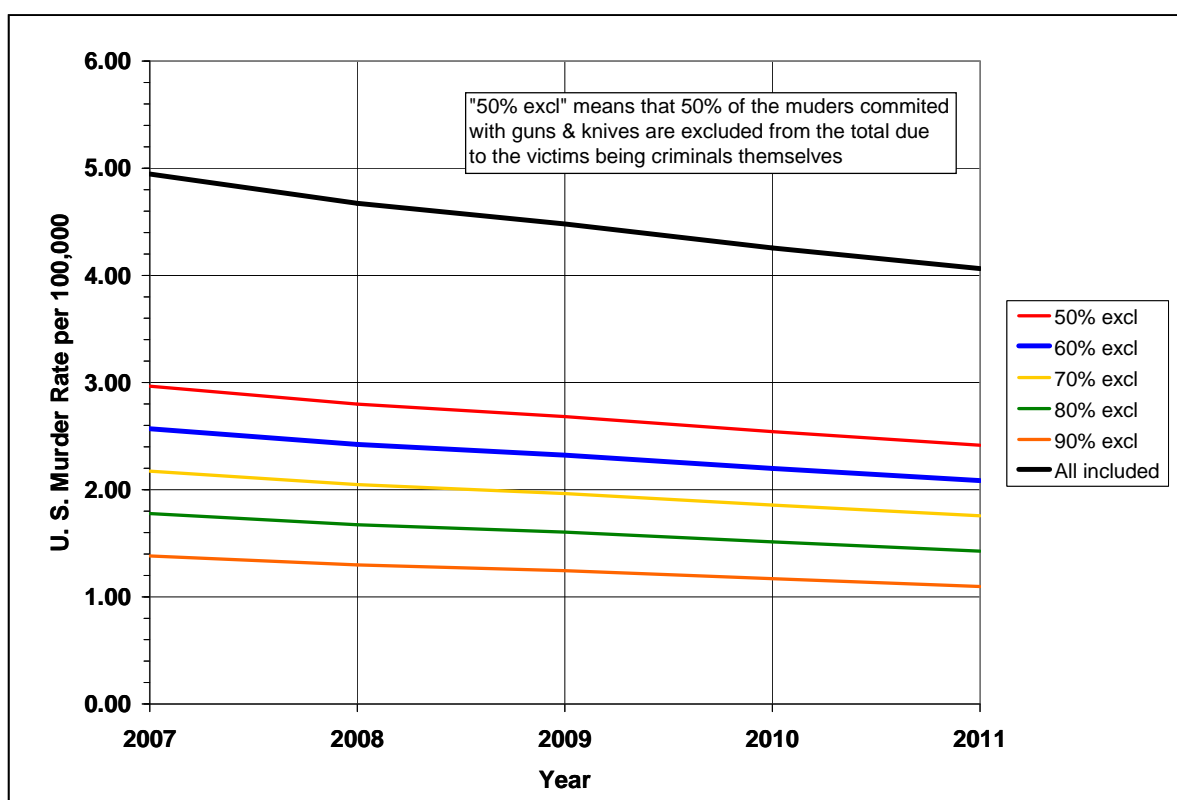


Figure 6: Relevant U. S. Murder Rates (by Excluding Victims Who Are Professional Criminals)

One last statistical topic commands our attention. What about the "household risk" of owning a gun? Won't the children find it and accidentally shoot themselves? The same thing applies to common household cleaning products -- won't children find them and poison themselves? Shall we have trigger locks on Windex and Mr. Clean, or perhaps require a background check to purchase Comet and Formula 409? It is the duty of parents to manage their household risk in every respect, which includes power tools, clean-



ing agents, guns, electric outlets, kitchen knives, medicines, and even bathtubs. If the parents are derelict or incompetent, it is unlikely that any law will help; certainly not a law that reduces your rights.

We are sometimes deluged with claims such as "you are 43 times more likely to shoot a family member with your gun as you are to shoot a burglar". It turns out that that particular statement was proven false some years ago. But let's suppose it was true. It would prove, if it proved anything, that the very low murder rate with guns (in which neither perpetrator nor victim was a professional criminal) is still 43 times lower than the incidence of burglars being shot; it excludes the hundreds of thousands of cases in which burglars are deterred by looking down the wrong end of the barrel; it also proves that burglary is therefore pretty rare in armed societies. It is rare because burglars do not like to be shot. The point is that being armed (if you choose to do so) offers a greater general protection against external threats than the increased risk at home; otherwise, responsible people (the vast majority) would not do it. Not every household should be ordered to possess firearms; but those who wish to do so should not be prevented or inconvenienced.

But what about the 24 innocent children who were killed by a retard with a gun at the Sandy Hook Elementary gun-free zone? I will only respond with two questions of my own. What about the 200 children killed by Mr. Obama's drone attacks? Were they not also innocent?

## 6 The Political Aspect

We have seen thus far that gun control does not have any positive benefits: it certainly does not reduce crime, nor affect suicide rates. It is a well-known fact that the places in America with the strictest gun control suffer from the highest crime rates. So why do so many politicians continue to introduce and vote for legislation that restricts the keeping and bearing of arms by the citizens? Note that I singled out, as they do, the citizens; there are exactly zero gun-control laws on the books that negatively affect the arms possessed by government and its employees. I believe there are two classes of gun-control advocates at the political level. First is the wishful thinker who actually believes that regulation of liberty and property will lead to a "safe and just" society. The second is the more obvious: these are the ones who seek absolute power over the people. Both agree that more government is the solution to man's problems in modern society, conveniently forgetting that governments are staffed by men with the same inclinations, faults, ambitions, and criminal tendencies in about the same proportion as society in general.

The first category of gun control advocates are an odd lot to be sure. These are the one who believe out of blind confidence in their fellow man (for there is no evidence to support it) that the death rates from accidents, crimes, and suicides can be made arbitrarily low if only the rate of gun ownership can be made arbitrarily low. They believe without reason or facts that the primary cause of untimely death and injury is you, the citizen, exercising your rights. They believe that with suitably strict regulation, the evil within men that leads to crimes will be suddenly expunged, and we will, by simple rule of law, enter into a period of peace, harmony, and happiness; primarily because they have confidence that everyone else (including the current gun-owning future/potential criminals) are just as benevolent deep down as they are; the problem is not the evil motivation of men, only the hardware they possess. I do not need to point out that this type of thinker is divorced from reality, and even worse, is willing to reject all the contrary evidence in order to maintain their self-imposed fictions. The British have been disarmed within the past twenty years; but the streets of that nation are not safer than before. A British soldier was recently fatally stabbed and nearly beheaded on a London street in broad daylight by two fanatics who were happy to explain it all to the camera while holding the bloody axes and knives in their hands. The people of Chicago, Detroit, and Los Angeles have been disarmed within living memory, but those places are likewise more dangerous than they were prior to the 1960's. I am doubtful that anything can be done about this first class of gun control advocates; with contrary facts in plain view, they persist in seeking to "educate" the people about

the virtues of disarmament. They are wildly successful because most members of the popular media and most famous celebrities agree with this basic (false) notion about the inherent goodness of men; hence the ubiquity of their propaganda campaigns. Repeat a big enough lie often enough and pretty soon it becomes part of the mechanical subconscious, especially among the young.

Now before we get to the second type of advocate, it is important to understand the common attributes of all gun control laws [45]. The common characteristics are:

- a. Manufacturing, sale, and importation of firearms and ammunition, or parts thereof, to be performed only by enterprises or individuals licensed by the government.
- b. The principal components of all firearms must be labeled with a serial number.
- c. Only persons of a certain age, who are of sound mind, and have not been convicted of crimes are eligible to own firearms.
- d. Records of all sales and transfers are to be maintained by the licensed dealers and manufacturers, including name and address of the recipient and the serial number of firearm
- e. Government organizations at all levels are exempt from all provisions.

It is not necessary to analyze them any further, for all the desired power and ultimate disarmament flows from these few provisions. Once these general conditions are in place, it is a simple matter to further alter the regulations: impose taxes on possession; require licenses for ownership of guns and ammunition (not only manufacturers); make people liable for the actions of others; make them liable to surprise inspections; restrict the nature and type that may be possessed; regulate ammunition; restrict the types of persons who may buy and sell; and even cancel licenses as necessary to make gun and ammunition ownership impossible. Then the government has all the power.

But what is the underlying motive for governments to enhance their arbitrary power by obtaining a monopoly on personal arms? There are probably three general reasons, given, as shown previously, that gun control leads if anything to more dangerous conditions for the people. First is the desire or belief that regulation of every aspect of everyone's lives will lead to a perfect society; in this respect the politicians are infected with the same delusions as the first class, which also infected Lenin, Stalin, and Mao. A second reason is that the government would have both the means and the motive to purge the nation of "undesirables", same as Hitler in Germany, Stalin in Russia, the military dictators in Guatemala, the Ottomans in Turkey, Pol Pot in Cambodia, and the temporary internment of American citizens of Japanese descent by Franklin Roosevelt in the U. S. A third possible reason is that governments want power for the sake of power such that their jobs are made easier and less dangerous, as they will have nothing to fear from the people. This would allow the government to have a monopoly on the commission of crimes with no possibility of retribution or prosecution. It also makes life easier for the criminal element, who would become the natural allies of the government.

Licensing leads invariably to registration, and registration leads to confiscation as soon as the political conditions are right. Once the government knows who has what types of firearms and ammunition, it is a simple matter to target those people for taxation, restriction, and eventual confiscation (or as U. S. Attorney General Eric Holder put it, "mandatory gun buy-backs"). In America, the politicians are proud to point out that the federal gun control laws prohibit the establishment of a registry of gun owners. But there is a fallacy to this argument, namely, that although it is technically prohibited, there is no penalty associated with violating it, and, lacking specific definitions and penalties, no one can be prosecuted. If a secret federal registration of gun owners exists in America and is uncovered, the worst that can happen to the government employees is a month-long taxpayer-paid administrative leave/vacation during the "investigation" followed by raises and promotions. The goal of all gun control, historically considered, is the disarmament of the people; the most efficient path to disarmament is registration and confiscation under the ru-

bric of "public safety". History has shown that it takes only a few sensational crimes, as in Great Britain, Australia, and the U. S. to get the politicians babbling about "public safety".

The politicians in America are likely to use the recent United Nations "Arms Trade Treaty" [46] to implement a de facto registration of gun owners in America. They can claim deniability by saying they did not realize the treaty could be used as an excuse by the bureaucracy to supersede the Second Amendment to the Constitution. This treaty protects and defends the same entities that have been responsible for at least 100 million mass murders by governments; but restricts you, the individual, from possessing tools necessary to defend yourself. The U. N. accuses you, the individual, of being the cause of worldwide mass murder.

If the police chiefs, mayors, governors, members of Congress, and the President wish to claim that public safety demands that your Second Amendment rights be restricted, let them first swear under penalty of perjury that they have permanently disarmed the ethnic mafias, the Cripps, the Bloods, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), the Hell's Angels and all the other professional criminal gangs, and further let them swear under penalty of perjury they have disarmed all non-affiliated criminals. Let them swear under penalty of perjury that no criminal will ever acquire arms. Let them swear that no officer of the law will ever commit a crime. Let them swear that all their bodyguards are disarmed. They will never do any of these, since they know that disarming the criminals is impossible, and are afraid to make promises about the conduct of government employees. They will however accuse you of making unreasonable demands. Secondly, they will not do it because if all the aforementioned persons were disarmed (an impossibility, but for sake of argument), the only guns left would be in the hands of normal citizens, which are not a threat to public peace or safety. Their refusal only proves that they respect the criminals more than they respect your rights.

That is not the end of their hypocrisy. Once the police chiefs and the mayors get the gun control laws they desire passed, surely they will then disarm the police, right? After all, with gun control in place, the job of the police officer will be perfectly safe, right? And the same goes for the state and federal officers, right? It is easy to see this hypocrisy: no government ever disarms itself, it only disarms the people.

It shall repeat once again the basic principles of the U. S. Constitution and its allocation of legitimate powers, as explained by Hamilton and Madison. First, no legitimate government can exempt itself from the laws [*The Federalist* No. 57]:

I will add, as a fifth circumstance in the situation of the House of representatives, restraining them from oppressive measures, that they can make no law which will not have its full operation on themselves and their friends, as well as on the great mass o society. This has always been deemed one of the strongest bonds by which human policy can connect the rulers and the people together. It creates between them that communion of interests and sympathies of sentiments of which few governments have furnished examples; but without which every government degenerates into tyranny. If it be asked what is to restrain the House of Representatives from making legal discriminations in favor of themselves and a particular class of society? I answer: the genius of the whole system; the nature of just and constitutional laws; and above all, the vigilant, manly spirit which actuates the people of America -- a spirit which nourishes freedom, and in return is nourished by it.

If this spirit shall ever be so far debased as to tolerate a law not obligatory on the legislature, as well as on the people, the people will be prepared to tolerate anything but liberty.

Repeating again: secondly, the American people have a legitimate right to resist tyranny [*The Federalist* No. 28]:

If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no resource left but in the exertion of that original right of self defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government, and which against the usurpations of the national rulers, may be exerted with infinitely better prospect of success against those of the rulers of an individual State....

The obstacles to usurpation and the facilities of resistance increase with the increased extent of the state, provided the citizens understand their rights and are disposed to defend them. The natural strength of the people in a large community, in proportion to the artificial strength of the government, is greater than in a small, and of course more competent to a struggle with the attempts of the government to establish a tyranny....

American politicians have long used their power against black people in America [47]. When black people were enslaved in the South, they were routinely denied the right to keep and bear arms, thus ensuring that the institution of slavery would remain largely unchallenged. But the (Democrat) politicians in the South were likewise undeterred when formal slavery was abolished after the Civil War. No sooner had the fighting stopped when the Democrats in the South began passing "Jim Crow" laws, designed to keep the black people defenseless. One of the favorite techniques was to pass laws designed to prohibit the sale of less expensive guns, the only ones the black people could afford. Another tactic was to make gun ownership by members of the (Democrat) Ku Klux Klan easy, but nearly impossible for black people. A third tactic was to allow the police to choose who could own guns and who could not -- guess who the Democrats in the South decided were not good enough? But this last tactic was not used solely the South; New York City used the same scheme under its "Sullivan Law" to disarm the Italian immigrants.

I think I have shown that there is no practical formula for "gun control", as it magnifies the powers of the criminal element and the government alike at the expense of the liberties of the people.

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**Appendix: "Retard Control, Not Gun Control"**  
(Edward D. Duvall, 26 Dec 2012)

We have now just passed one of the darkest Christmas seasons in memory, after so many small children were murdered by a clinical retard at an elementary school in Newtown, CT. The tiny bodies were not even cold when our Marxist politicians, ever alert to exploit a tragedy, took to the airwaves to demand that all the other citizens give up their Second Amendment rights because of the action of a single retard. President Obama has since commissioned a task force to develop new and innovative ways to disarm the people; their report is due sometime in Jan 2013.

When I use the word "retard", I am not referring to those who have below-average IQ; I am referring to those who have been recognized as clinically insane by competent mental health authorities - the people that pose a clear danger to themselves and others.

Most of the recent mass shooters, including Retard Jared Loughner of Tuscon AZ fame, Retard James Holmes of Aurora CO fame, and the latest one, Retard Adam Lanza of Newtown CT fame, were all profoundly mentally ill. In fact, the Christmas Eve shooter of Webster NY, Retard William Spengler, had previously served 17 years in prison for murdering his grandmother. All were known to be retards by the local health officials -- why was nothing done to intervene? Is this how our illustrious government seeks to protect us -- by failing in its duty while taking away the rights of the people?

I suspect that the government prefers to let these retards walk free until they commit some horrific crime; it keeps the rest of the people nervous and fearful. History shows that people who are afraid are more willing to give up their liberties if they can be convinced that doing so will ensure their safety. What better way for the politicians and the bureaucrats to kill two birds with one stone: implement some gun control to reduce the Second Amendment guarantee while assuring the weak-minded that we will have a safer nation because of it? It is typical for that type of politician, already suitably divorced from reality, to actually believe they can eliminate evil by passing laws to regulate inanimate objects. The real problem, as far as these shootings are concerned, is that we no longer have a viable mechanism to commit these retards to institutions, where they can either be treated as they require by expert medical practitioners and restored to mental health, or comforted and cared for in a place where they can only hurt each other. It is unfortunate that some will fall into the latter category; but that is how it is. Or maybe our illustrious politicians would prefer small children being killed in their schools by retards on the loose, either by shooting, by burning the building down, or running them down with a pickup truck.

The National Rifle Association released a statement recommending, among other things, that perhaps instead of giving up liberty, we should have armed guards in the schools. I am not convinced that it is the ultimate answer, but suffice to say that our Marxist politicians immediately rejected the idea and castigated the NRA for being "tone deaf". The mainstream media of course neglected to mention that there are about 130,000 elementary and high schools in America and about a third of them have had armed guards for decades. They will never mention it; doing so would only remind the voters that armed guards in the public schools are necessary only in cities where the Democratic Party has established their brand of paradise: Boston, Providence, New York, Philadelphia, Newark, Baltimore, Washington DC, Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Gary, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, and St. Louis. It is odd indeed that the Marxist politicians would criticize the NRA for recommending something that the Democrats have been doing for decades. But this omission makes perfect sense when you recall that the goal is not public safety -- if it were, we would be committing dangerous retards to institutions where they belong. The goal is to disarm the people.

It is not just the opportunistic politicians joining the gun-control/disarmament bandwagon. Now Dr. Fareed Zakaria (commentator for CNN and political advisor to Mr. Obama) also desires to solve the retard problem by essentially killing off the Second Amendment. In his 23 Dec 2012 article [A-1], *Evidence Overwhelming: Loose Guns Laws to Blame*, Dr. Zakaria cites reductions in homicides in other nations after gun prohibition, ridicules existing gun laws in the U. S. as being too lenient, then concludes: "Instead, why not have the government do something much simpler and that has proved successful: limit access to guns." He is referring, as stated earlier in the column, to banning all semi-automatic and automatic firearms, as was done in Great Britain, Japan, and Australia. That brings up an important topic. Dr. Zakaria is a native of India; India has draconian gun prohibition laws which are a holdover from the British colonial regime. If India is such a free and safe society, why did Dr. Zakaria emigrate to the U. S., so full of gun owners? He must have thought there was greater freedom here. He was right. What he fails to realize is that freedom exists here but not in India partly because the people are armed. As the famous Indian activist Mahatma Gandhi wrote [A-2]:

"Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms, as the blackest."

Apparently Dr. Zakaria disagrees with Mr. Gandhi and would like to turn the American people into the suppressed subjects that the Indian people were when ruled by Her Majesty Queen Victoria. If His Lordship Viceroy and Governor-General Dr. Zakaria won't believe Mr. Gandhi, perhaps he will believe a leader of his adopted nation, Senator (later Vice President) Hubert H. Humphrey [A-3]:

"Certainly one of the chief guarantees of freedom under any government, no matter how popular and respected, is the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. This is not to say that firearms should not be very carefully used, and that definite safety rules of precaution should not be taught and enforced. But the right of citizens to bear arms is just one more guarantee against arbitrary government, one more safeguard against the tyranny which now appears remote in America, but which historically has proved to be always possible."

This is the basic fact that His Lord Highness Fareed and other like-minded Marxists deliberately ignore, hoping you will not notice. Only an armed population has a reasonable chance of remaining free, given the usual long-term trend of every government toward absolute power. This pattern is true throughout history, no matter the form or construction of the government. We shall see in the coming weeks ever more shrill demands by the Marxist element for you, the citizen, to give up your right to be armed; which is in essence, a demand that you give up your long-term prospects for freedom. We shall see who in Washington, if any, are willing to oppose them.

The best answer to the random shootings is retard control, not gun control. If and when the government finds a backbone and takes action to ensure that retards are placed in their proper environment (where they can get real treatment), we will have fewer tragedies like the Newtown incident.

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