



الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية  
DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA



وزارة التعليم العالي و البحث العلمي

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

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**Divided America: Analyzing the Contradiction of Gun between Right and  
Control under Trump's Presidency**

*A DISSERTATION Submitted to the Department of English in Partial fulfillment of the Requirement for  
the Degree of Master in Language and Culture*

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Academic Year 2020/2021

## **Acknowledgments**

First we would like to thank our creator Allah for giving us strength to accomplish our academic work and the will to finish this dissertation.

We would like to thank our supervisor Ms. Baghiani Amira for the incredible support and patience. Thank you for the help , and the time you offered to us in order to make this work academic and flawless. Thank you for directing us to unlimited number of resources and pushing us to give our best.

We would like to gratitude the jury members for their time in reading and evaluating our work

We would like to thank our teachers at Abbas Laghrour University for providing us with the knowledge we need to enrich ourselves and to make our world better place.

## **Dedication**

This dissertation is dedicated to: The sake of Allah, my  
Creator and my Master, My great teacher and messenger, Mohammed (May Allah bless and grant  
him), who taught us the purpose of life

## **Abstract**

In the last decade, gun violence became a fact of life in the United States of America. The main problem in this issue lies on how Trump's efforts to balance between gun rights and public safety in the country. With the controversial debate in Congress between Democrats and Republicans that centred on whether regulations on individual's rights to use arms would save lives and reduce crimes or not. This study adopts the historical and analytical approaches in order to examine the gun violence from different perspectives. Proponents of gun control legislation assert that enforcement of gun control laws secure the lives of people. By contrast, opponents assert that prohibiting people from exercising their right to bear arms would not reduce crime and that individuals would have adequate means for self-defense.

## Résumé

Ces dix dernières années, la violence armée est devenue une réalité aux États-Unis. Le principal problème dans ce dossier réside dans la manière dont les efforts de Trump pour équilibrer le droit des armes à feu et la sécurité publique dans le pays. Avec le débat controversé au Congrès entre démocrates et républicains, qui s'est concentré sur la question de savoir si les réglementations sur les droits des individus à utiliser les armes sauveraient des vies et réduiraient ou non les crimes. Cette étude adopte les approches historiques et analytiques afin d'examiner la violence armée sous différents angles. Les partisans de la législation sur le contrôle des armes affirment que l'application des lois sur le contrôle des armes à feu sécurise la vie des gens. En revanche, les opposants affirment qu'interdire aux individus d'exercer leur droit de porter des armes ne réduirait pas la criminalité et que les individus disposeraient de moyens de légitime défense adéquats.

## ملخص

في الرئيسية المشكلة تكمن . الأمريكية المتحدة الولايات في الحياة حقائق من حقيقة النارية الأسلحة عنف أصبح ، الماضي العقد في في للجدل المثير الجدل مع . البلاد في العامة والسلامة السلاح حقوق بين التوازن لتحقيق ترامب جهود كيفية في المسألة هذه ستنتقد الأسلحة إستخدام في الأفراد حقوق بشأن اللوائح كانت إذا ما على تركز الذي والجمهوريين الديمقراطيين بين الكونغرس من النارية الأسلحة عن الناجم العنف دراسة أجل من والتحليلية التاريخية النهج الدراسة هذه وتعتمد . لا أم الجرائم من وتقلل الأرواح من النقيض وعلى . الناس حياة يضمن النارية الأسلحة مراقبة قوانين إنفاذ أن الأسلحة مراقبة تشريع مؤيدو ويؤكد . مختلفة منظورات الكافية بالوسائل سيتمتعون الأفراد وأن الجريمة من يقلل لن السلاح حمل في حقهم ممارسة من الناس منع أن المعارضون يؤكد ، ذلك النفس عن للدفاع.

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>SMI</b>	<b>Serious Mental Illnesses</b>
<b>NRA</b>	<b>National Rifle Association</b>

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## **Introduction**

Guns have figurative, cultural, and economic worth in the United States, additionally to their different applications. Many Americans respect hunting, sport shooting, and gun collecting traditions, as well as the security and safety they may give. Hunting is a big part of the tourism industry in a lot of places. Hundreds of thousands of Americans work in the gun business, which includes teachers and shooting range operators, as well as makers, distributors, and dealers of weapons and ammunition.

The study at hand represents a secondary analysis of a series of survey that were conducted by Gallup.

The scope of the study encompasses data collected by means of the survey during the last decade.

The gap to be tackled through this research is to explore the Americans' history of gun ownership and violence and the debates that took place through the timeline. The study is also to investigate the Americans opinion regarding the handguns ownership and the violence and mass shootings that took place in the United States in last decade.

Based on that, in order to carry this investigation, we set the following research questions to guide our study:

- Which year had the highest number of gun ownership supporters?
- What is the Americans' stance regarding handguns ownership and violence?

The thesis at hand includes three chapters. The first two chapters are dedicated to the literature review, where chapter one deals with history of guns in the United States of America. The second chapter

discusses briefly the contradiction of gun between right and control. Finally the third and last chapter deals with the practical part of the thesis as starts with a brief description of the study design and sample, then provides an interpretation of the secondary data and finally discusses the later vis-à-vis our research questions.

## **Chapter One**

### **The History of Guns in the United States of America: An Overview**

#### **1.1. The Gun and the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Court Decisions**

Americans own more than 200 million firearm. Each year around 640,000 crimes, including 16,000 crimes are committed with guns, mostly handguns. Some people think that gun-control laws, which restrict gun ownership, can help reduce crimes. Others think that guns keep Americans protected and gun laws ought to be less strict (Zimring and Franklin 57).

Americans have different views on gun laws. According to a 2011 Gallup Poll, the public divides 44 percent go with stricter gun laws, 43 percent go with keeping gun laws as they are, and 11 percent go with making gun laws less strict. Twenty years earlier, the same poll found roughly 80 percent of Americans favoring stricter gun laws .

Gun control goes through stiff opposition in the United States. Millions of Americans show that ownership is a right. They argue that guns are not the issue. Rather than fining law-abiding gun owners, they prefer punishing those who use guns to commit crime. The National Rifle Association (NRA) led the opposition and the gun industry. The NRA represents approximately 4-million hunters and gun enthusiasts. The gun industry, consists of manufacturers and retailers, gain billions of dollars annually. Together they make a strong opposition to legislation imposing control on guns .

Through the years, however, the federal government has enacted five main nationwide gun

laws. In 1934, it banned the ownership of machine guns, stopped guns, and silencers. The gun control act of 1968 limited the importation and sale of cheap handguns. Known as Saturday Night Specials, and banned the interstate sale of handguns. The brady Act, passed in 1993, calls for a five-day waiting period for all handgun purchases. The 1994 crime bill prohibited the import and manufacture of some military assault weapons. A 1996 law prohibited anyone convicted of a domestic violence offense

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having or using a gun .

The 1994 assault-weapon prohibition expired in September 2004. President George W. Bush pointed out that he favored extending the prohibition, but congress refused to extend it( Jacobs & James 681). Supporters of the prohibition say that assault weapons pose big dangers to the public, and having a reason for private citizens to possess them is nonsense. Opponents say that few murders are committed with assault weapons those are by criminals who can easily get around the ban) and the ban violates the second Amendment ( Jacobs and James B. Why ban assault weapons).

### **1.1.1. The Second Amendment**

United States Constitution was ratified in 1791 as part of the Bill of Rights, and it established a constitutional check on Congress' ability to create, arm, and discipline the federal militia under Article I Section 8. “A properly regulated Militia, being essential to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed,” says the Second Amendment (Henigan and Dennis 107). The Second Amendment, also known as an individual's right to keep and bear weapons for self-defense, was envisioned by the Constitution's architects, according to College of William & Mary law professor and future U.S. District Court judge St. The “true palladium of liberty” was described by George Tucker in his major book Blackstone's Commentaries: With Notes of Reference to the Constitution and Laws of the Federal Government of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Virginia, published in 1803(Spitzer & Robert 349). In addition to limiting federal power, the Second Amendment gave state governments the “last coup de grace,” allowing them to “thwart and fight the national government,” as Luther Martin (1744/48–1826) put it. Finally, by

making every citizen a soldier and every soldier a citizen, it entrenched the ancient Florentine and Roman constitutional concept of civic and military virtue ( Halbrook and Stephen P. The Swiss Confederation in The Eyes of America's Founders).

### **1.1.2. Notable Court Decisions**

The killings in Arizona and the attempted assassination of Representative Gabrielle Giffords have

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once again brought attention to the United States' gun control regulations, which are among the most lax in the industrialized world. With 4 out of 10 Americans claiming to own a gun and surveys showing that Americans are approximately evenly split between those who want tougher gun regulations and those who want to preserve gun laws as they are, it's clear that the debate is far from over (Fox et al. 313).

#### **1.1.2.1. Federal Efforts**

As the argument over more gun control laws continues, it's crucial to remember that present gun control rules are based on many portions of US federal law, beginning with the Second Amendment to the US Constitution: "Because a well-regulated militia is essential to the security of a free state, the people's right to keep and bear arms must not be infringed upon." The Supreme Court handed down the most major gun-policy judgment in the case of District of Columbia v. Heller in 2008, which found that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to carry a weapon, and McDonald v. Chicago, which applied the finding to the states. It was the first time in US history that the Supreme Court had to consider whether the Second Amendment should be upheld. The strong National Rifle Association (NRA), which represents gun owners, has carefully maintained this privilege and has fought any proposed law that they believe will erode it. Following the 2008 judgment, there was a significant increase in the number of legal cases filed in lower federal courts (Cottrol and Robert . Law and Order).

Over 80 lawsuits have been filed in an attempt to repeal current gun regulations. The existing firearms regulations have been repealed with surprising regularity. The Brady Law and the Assault

Weapons Ban are two additional major federal gun control legislation. In 1994, the Brady Law was enacted, mandating a criminal background check before a firearm could be sold. It established a nationwide quick criminal background check system and was named after Jim Brady, then-President Ronald Reagan's press secretary, who was badly injured in an assassination attempt on the president in 1981. The system maintains track of criminals and mentally ill people so that they can't get firearms

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(Spitzer and Robert 111-141). Following the Virginia Tech murder by a troubled student who should not have been allowed to buy a gun, a new law was passed in 2008 that provided funds to states to enhance criminal background records, albeit many states, including Arizona, are still behind. The Assault Weapons Ban was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1994. Until 2004, the United States prohibited people from owning certain types of assault weapons. During President George W. Bush's administration, the prohibition was allowed to expire. Jared Lee Loughner, the young man accused in the Arizona massacre, bought a semi-automatic Glock handgun from a Tucson gun shop in November, according to police. As a result, some members of Congress have called for the assault weapons prohibition to be revived. Arizona, like the majority of states, has no laws prohibiting the use of large-capacity ammunition magazines, such as the one used in the Tucson incident. Large-capacity ammunition was controlled by the Assault Weapons Ban, which expired in 2004, and only a few states currently limit magazines to a maximum of 10 rounds, in most circumstances .

### **1.1.2.2. Right to Carry Laws**

Gun enthusiasts have been successful in persuading several states to enact legislation enabling more individuals to carry concealed pistols during the previous 30 years.

The authorities must grant a concealed firearms permit if a person satisfies specific conditions, according to these regulations. Being a resident, being over 18, passing a criminal background check, taking a firearm safety class, and paying a fee are all common requirements. The laws in the remaining states are ones that gun owners would like to see changed. Ten states have “may issue” legislation, which indicate that authorities may grant a permit if a person satisfies specific criteria, but

they are not required to do so and frequently do not. Illinois is one of the few states that prohibits the carrying of a concealed firearm (Swanson and Jeffrey 179).

### **1.1.2.3. Extention of Places Where Weapons May Be Carried**

Many gun aficionados think that law-abiding citizens should be free to carry their firearms nearly

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everywhere, and they are working to remove the legal hurdles that prohibit them from doing so. Guns have been prohibited in National Parks for almost a century, where hunting is prohibited. People can bring weapons into National Parks if they follow federal law and the gun regulations of the state where the park is located, according to a new federal legislation approved in 2010. As a result, anybody with a state-issued concealed weapon permit can now carry a pistol in nearly all national parks. Many states make it illegal to bring loaded firearms into bars and other establishments that sell alcohol (even if you have a permit). Four states, Tennessee, Arizona, Georgia, and Virginia, have recently approved legislation enabling people to enter such places with firearms as long as they follow state law. Eighteen additional states allow firearms in bars and eateries that provide alcohol. Because gun enthusiasts think that law-abiding individuals should be able to protect themselves and others, and that criminals would carry weapons regardless of the law, they favor right-to-carry legislation and expanding the areas where guns can be carried. Opponents argue that more firearms will put more people in risk and lead to more shooting wounds and fatalities( Jacobs & James 681).

## **1.2. The Gun Control Laws in the U.S.**

In addition to restoring the assault weapons prohibition, proponents of gun control support a slew of additional legislation, all of which are opposed by gun owners (Goss et al.2010).

Gun owners must register their firearms and obtain a state firearms license: Supporters argue that, just as the state registers cars and issues driver's licenses, the state should similarly license and register gun owners. They believe that such a system would help keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Opponents feel that this is the first step toward prohibiting guns, which would only serve to keep guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens. They also claim that the car comparison is

incorrect. They claim that cars cause far more deaths than guns, and that automobile ownership, unlike gun ownership, is a privilege, not a right .

### **1.2.1. Make it mandatory for gun makers to implement safety features**

Built-in locks and, eventually, "smart firearms" that can only be handled by the lawful owner are

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among the proposals. Supporters think that will prohibit others from using guns. Opponents argue that these gadgets raise expenses, risk misfiring firearms, and may be unlawful .

Make it mandatory for bullet producers to provide serial numbers on each bullet: The serial number would also be printed on the ammunition box, and vendors would keep track of who purchased each box. Supporters argue that bullets are frequently collected at crime scenes and that possessing serial numbers would aid in the investigation of crimes. The serial number would also be printed on the ammunition box, and vendors would keep track of who purchased each box. Supporters argue that bullets are frequently collected at crime scenes and that possessing serial numbers would aid in the investigation of crimes .

Limit each person's gun purchases to one per month: Middlemen who buy guns in bulk from dealers and sell them to minors and criminals account for a large portion of the illegal gun trade. Supporters claim that the measure will prevent intermediaries from purchasing firearms. Opponents believe that criminals can easily get around the rule by buying guns in large groupings. They claim that only law-abiding citizens will be barred from purchasing firearms .

Large-capacity ammo clips should be prohibited: It would be illegal to possess or sell ammunition clips containing more than 10 rounds of ammunition under this proposal. Supporters argue that these clips aren't required for hunting or self-defense, although they've been utilized in a number of recent mass killings. Opponents argue that these clips encourage self-defense, particularly in the case of a mob attack .

Supporters of gun control refer to other Western democracies with tight gun regulations and lower rates of violent crime, such as Canada. They reference a research published in the New England

Journal of Medicine in 1988 that compared the distance between a Canadian city, Vancouver, and an American metropolis, Seattle, which are about 100 miles away. In Seattle, the probability of being killed with a pistol was roughly five times higher. And someone assaulted in Seattle had double the chance of dying as someone assaulted in Vancouver. Gun control advocates think that strong gun rules

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will reduce violent crime in the United States. Gun control opponents argue that there is no link between guns and violent crime. They point to countries like Switzerland and Israel, which require citizen soldiers to keep their weapons at home but have low murder rates. Gun control measures, according to critics, have little influence on criminals. They point to the United States capital of Washington, D.C. It had effectively banned handguns until recently, yet it nevertheless had one of the highest murder rates in the country. They argue that gun control laws make it more difficult for law-abiding persons to purchase firearms, which is a constitutional right (Spitzer and Robert. The politics of gun control).

### **1.3. Gun Ownership in America: National Survey on Private Ownership and Use of Firearms**

According to popular opinion, roughly half of all American families own firearms, a view backed up by a lengthy series of national polls dating back to 1959. However, according to statistics from a 1994 telephone poll (National Survey of Private Ownership of Firearms—NSPOF), just 35% (plus or minus 1.3%) of households possess weapons. This estimate might be somewhat wrong, but not by much. The conventional wisdom seems to be out of date. The National Opinion Research Center's General Social Poll (GSS) is the finest accessible survey series on gun ownership. During the 1990s, their estimates were lower than some others, ranging from 40 to 43 percent. The GSS estimate for 1994, in particular, was just 41%. In 1994, a telephone poll found that 38 percent of homes had guns, which was even lower than the previous year's estimate (Weisberg et al. An introduction to survey research, polling, and data analysis).

Despite the fact that there are enough weapons in private hands to supply one to every adult in America, just one-quarter of people own firearms. Those with more than one gun are more likely to:

In 1994, 74% of people had two or more. Gun ownership is concentrated, although not to the extent that other durable items are. The "80/20 rule," as it is known in marketing circles, states that the top fifth of all customers account for four-fifths of all purchases by value. According to the NSPOF, the wealthiest 20% of weapon owners owned 55% of all privately owned firearms. <sup>3</sup> In 1994, ten million

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people possessed 105 million firearms, with the remaining 87 million guns spread around the country.

People who owned many firearms tended to have a diverse assortment of rifles, shotguns, and pistols.

<sup>4</sup> We discovered that 68 percent of handgun owners also possessed at least one rifle or shotgun, indicating that they have some familiarity with and interest in firearms for sports purposes.

Furthermore, recreation was the most prevalent reason for gun ownership. In 1994, around 35 percent of gun owners (15 million individuals, or 8% of the adult population) hunted, with an equivalent number engaging in sport shooting other than hunting. Given the significant overlap between the two categories, about half of the nation's 44 million gun owners (23 million) engaged in a gun sport in 1994. In 1994, 40% of individuals who solely possessed handguns did so for recreational purposes, nearly entirely for sport shooting other than hunting. Self-defense was mentioned as another motivation for gun ownership. Overall, 46 percent of gun owners (41 percent of males and 67 percent of females) owned weapons (mostly pistols) primarily for crime prevention (41 percent of males and 67 percent of females). Almost three-quarters of individuals who solely owned pistols used them for self-defense. Of course, some people desire the safety of a gun because they are more prone than others to live dangerous lives or interact with violent people. Those who had been detained for non-traffic offenses were more likely to have guns in their possession (37 percent compared to 25 percent in the general population). However, the majority of people do not possess weapons, and the NSPOF includes numerous topics to investigate why. Guns were considered as harmful, "immoral," or generally undesirable by almost two-thirds of gunless adults in 1994. The other one-third were at least interested in getting weapons and would do so if their financial situation or motivation improved (Cook et al. Guns in America).

## 1.4. U.S. Public Opinion and Media Coverage

### 1.4.1. Public Opinion

Following the Miller decision, federal appeals courts affirmed gun-control legislation that were

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challenged on the basis of the Second Amendment. In *D.C. v. Heller*, the United States Supreme Court, in a 5–4 decision, overturned a D.C. statute that effectively prohibited handguns, ruling that the Second Amendment guarantees “an individual right to keep and bear arms.” The court ruled that the government could not prohibit people from owning and using firearms for self-defense in their homes. Two years later, in *McDonald v. Chicago*, the court held that the right to keep and bear weapons applies to state governments under the 14th Amendment because it is “among those basic liberties indispensable to our system of organized liberty.” The effect of these decisions on gun-control laws is not clear (Jhonson et al. Court decision dealing with armguns).

The decision in *Heller* stated:

The right guaranteed by the Second Amendment, like most rights, is not limitless. From Blackstone until the nineteenth-century decisions, commentators and judges consistently clarified that the right did not include the ability to possess and carry any weapon in any form or for any purpose....For example, under the Second Amendment or state counterparts, the majority of 19th-century judges that considered the issue concluded that bans on carrying concealed firearms were legal....Nothing in our opinion should be interpreted to call into question long-standing prohibitions on felons and the mentally ill possessing firearms, laws prohibiting the carrying of firearms in sensitive areas such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms (Kopel and David B. The second amendment in the nineteenth century).

**Table 1.1. Arguments on handgun control**

Against Handgun Control	For Handgun Control
Gun regulation infringes on a fundamental right that all Americans have: the right to	The right to bear arms under the Second Amendment is limited. The vast majority of

<p>self-defense. The right to keep and bear weapons is so vital that it is protected by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.</p>	<p>gun-control legislation impose acceptable limitations on this freedom.</p>
<p>Guns provide individuals with safety due to our society's high rate of violence and lack of competent policing.</p>	<p>Guns are considerably more likely to do harm to members of the owner's family than to defend them from criminals.</p>
<p>“People aren't killed by guns. People murder each other.” Most adult males in Switzerland are required to maintain automatic firearms at home for the army, despite the country's low murder rate.</p>	<p>Guns exacerbate poor situations. Because firearms are so easily available, our murder rate is greater than in other countries.</p>
<p>“When firearms are made illegal, only outlaws will be able to own them.” Criminals will always find a method to get firearms or other weapons. The highest murder rates in the country are found in Washington, D.C., and other areas with strict gun regulations.</p>	<p>The majority of gun crimes in Washington, D.C. are perpetrated with weapons purchased in adjacent states with permissive gun regulations.</p>
<p>Instead of punishing regular folks, the correct method to prevent criminals from utilizing weapons is to have criminals who do use them face greater consequences.</p>	<p>Criminals who use weapons already face mandatory punishments.</p>
<p>Instead than punishing regular folks, the best approach to prevent criminals from utilizing</p>	<p>Criminals who use weapons already face mandatory punishments.</p>

weapons is to make criminals who do use them face greater consequences.	
There are just too many firearms in circulation in the United States for gun control measures to be effective.	Until the 1920s, Canada had laws that were comparable to ours. There, gun control has worked.

### 1.4.2. Media Coverage

The tendency of journalists to depict some groups in the United States as "the other" — framing stories as if certain people aren't part of the world where journalists and the majority of their viewers live — is a recurrent complaint leveled at them. Consider rural America. Scholars have documented this technique, and the Journalist's Resource has developed tip sheets to help newsrooms become more aware of the practice and its consequences. For example, a few months back, we spoke with Sarah Smarsh, a journalist who focuses on class and middle America, and asked her to describe how writers might better represent rural regions. We've gathered information to assist journalists think about how they cover another group with whom some seem to have a hard time connecting: gun owners and users (Heider and Don. Routledge).

They are used for hunting, sport, and personal defense in the United States, and they are also collected as a hobby. Members of the Boy Scouts of America and the Cub Scouts of America, both long-standing organizations that serve millions of youngsters each year, learn how to load a gun. Former deputy editor of The Trace, a nonprofit journalism organization focusing on gun violence, Ben Hallman, has written on the news media's failings in this area. In an essay for the Columbia Journalism Review, he describes how reporters "structure stories in ways that make it obvious they perceive gun-owning Americans... as radically different." According to Pew Research Center survey statistics, more over 4 in 10 individuals in the United States live in a gun-owning home. In rural regions, about 6 out of 10 people are unemployed. In the Northeast, 27 percent of residents have a gun in their house, compared to 45 percent in the South. Trent "Tate" Steidley, an assistant professor in the

Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Denver, told Journalist's Resource that news coverage seldom portray gun owners in their entirety. Gun owners, for example, are “by and large, white, Protestant, middle-aged to older males with moderate to conservative leanings,”

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according to Steidley, who has researched media coverage of gun owners and teaches a course called “Guns in Society.” He claims that the media's concentration on gun violence in densely populated places gives the impression that gun owners are all bad people. In a telephone conversation, he added, “The sorts of things highlighted in the press tend to focus on violence in large places like Chicago and New York, but most gun owners reside in rural areas.” “There is a significant disparity between those two facts.” Other issues with the way gun owners are depicted are highlighted in a research published in the journal *Written Communication*. Between October 1999 and April 2000, Doug Downs, an associate professor at Montana State University's Department of English, studied newspaper stories, editorials, and letters to the editor from 31 major newspapers in the United States and Canada. He discovered that outside of courtrooms, morgues, and protests, media rarely covered gun owners and tended to portray them as a homogenous entity. Downs notes in the journal paper, published in 2002, that gun owners are frequently “characterized as selfish, inept, and reckless, caring more about firearms than people.” Another important finding: newsrooms appear to be “silencing viewpoints on gun ownership that would present it in a more favorable light than the frames of a global worldview,” he adds. A research headed by Steidley examines how the mainstream media covers the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Between January 2000 and June 2011, he and his co-author, Cynthia Colen, an associate professor at Ohio State University, looked at how the *New York Times* responded to news releases from the NRA and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. Their findings show that the Brady Campaign's press releases resonate more with the *Times*, and that the newspaper is ready to provide information to aid the Brady Campaign's efforts but not the NRA's. When Steidley and Colen examined press releases from the Brady Campaign, they found that an increase of one press release per week

containing a message emphasizing the tragic outcomes of gun violence improved the odds of Brady being included in the *Times*' coverage by 52.2 percent. An increase of one Brady press release per

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week announcing administrative information — annual meetings and conventions, for instance — increased the odds the organization would be included in coverage by 56.1 percent, according to the study, published in *Social Science Quarterly* in 2017.

all facts regarding SMI, such as the fact that the majority of persons with SMI are not violent and that Meanwhile, the authors conclude that “regardless of the type or frequency of packages utilized in weekly NRA press releases, press releases do not predict NRA media coverage.” The researchers conclude, "It's possible that the Brady Campaign packages are more successful since rights to safety and weapons control are likely to connect with urban people." “Packages used in NRA news releases portraying gun ownership as normal, on the other hand, are designed to resonate with rural dwellers in ‘middle America.’ Such findings would corroborate [previous research] conclusions that New York Times writers covering the NRA have little affinity for the organization's culture and have little motivation to learn about it.” The media's portrayal of one sort of gun user, mass shooters who appear to have a significant mental disorder, is causing concern among researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (SMI). Between 1997 and 2012, a research team led by Emma "Beth" McGinty, deputy director of John Hopkins' Center for Mental Health and Addiction Policy Research, examined 1,280 print and broadcast news stories about mental illness and gun violence. Here's what they discovered: Fewer than 10% of the news items studied include five essential forecasting violence among people with SMI is difficult.

Here's what they discovered: Fewer than 10% of the news items studied include five essential facts regarding SMI, such as the fact that the majority of persons with SMI are not violent and that forecasting violence among people with SMI is difficult. In an article published in the *American Journal of Public Health* in 2014, McGinty and her colleagues write, “News media coverage of gun violence by persons with SMI may lead the public to view SMI as an important cause of gun violence,

when in reality, other factors — such as criminals' easy access to firearms — are more strongly associated with violent crime.” Although increased public awareness of the issue may increase support

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for gun violence prevention legislation, it may also intensify unfavorable views toward people with SMI.” (Slee et al. The nature of school bullying).

The National Rifle Association and the Media: The Motivating Force of Negative Coverage, a book authored by the late Brian Anse Patrick, a scholar of propaganda and tenured professor of communication at the University of Toledo, was recommended by Steidley to journalists. Patrick's research is based on work he completed for his doctoral dissertation, which was reviewed by a team of faculty at the University of Michigan. While Patrick was openly pro-gun and sharply critical of the mainstream press — and those biases are evident in the book — his research is based on work he completed for his doctoral dissertation, which was reviewed by a team of faculty at the University of Michigan. Interviews with journalists are included in the book, and they provide insight into how some members of the media see and approach gun problems( Patrick and Brian Anse. The Nation Rifle Association and The Media).

## Chapter Two

### Debating the Gun Ownership in the U.S: Pros and Cons

#### 2.1. The Role of Political Party on Laws Enacted

When Congress enacted President Bill Clinton's crime bill in 1994, which included a ban on assault weapons as a crucial feature, the victorious Democrats were not in the mood to fire skyrockets. The measure as a whole was deeply weak, and it only survived a procedural challenge in the Senate because six Republicans crossed party ranks to favor gun control( Andrea. Deciphering Clinton).

In an editorial on the crime bill, the Washington Post called the simplistic analogies between legislation and manufacturing sausage "grossly unjust to sausage manufacturers." The Post, on the other hand, lauded the assault weapons ban as "the first step toward a more sensible national strategy on gun control."

After 26 years and hundreds of thousands of gunshot deaths, gun control activists are still waiting for that second step toward sanity. In fact, we are back to square one because there were insufficient votes in Congress to keep the assault weapons ban from expiring in 2004 ( Davidson and Osha Gray. Under Fire).

Democratic strategists voiced cautious confidence in the immediate aftermath of the 1994 crime bill vote, claiming that they had finally neutralized the "law and order" issue that Republicans had been flogging since Richard Nixon's 1968 campaign. In a front-page news analysis, the Los Angeles Times stated, "Clinton may correctly boast that... he succeeded in breaking a six-year stalemate in which gun control opponents on one side and death penalty opponents on the other had

been able to block passage of any bill.” ( Lawrence and Jhon A. The class of 74).

That positive atmosphere persisted until 1994, when Newt Gingrich was elected House Speaker. “The NRA had a fantastic [election] night,” Clinton wrote in his book, *My Life*, with apparent anguish. “They defeated both Speaker Tom Foley and Jack Brooks, two of the most capable members of Congress who had told me that this was going to happen. Foley was the first Speaker in

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more than a century to be defeated.”

As a result, an Iron Law of American politics was born: only politicians with secure seats dared to challenge the all-powerful National Rifle Association ( Miller et al. *democracy in The Streets*).

Stricter gun laws have routinely received majority approval in national polls. For the past 20 years, the Gallup Poll has asked the same question: “In general, do you believe that the regulations governing the sale of guns should be made more stringent, less stringent, or remain the same?” Gallup's technique, which asks about attitudes rather than particular legislation, is an appropriate way to gauge voter sentiment ( Miller et al. *Democracy in the streets*).

With the exception of a few dips during Barack Obama's administration, support for the "stricter" option has generally remained greater than 50% since 2000. The most recent Gallup Poll on the issue, taken approximately a month before the 2020 election, is typical. A solid 57 percent majority backed tighter regulations, while only 9 percent desired even more lax gun laws. The remaining 34% favored the status quo.

Considering the fact that, for more than a quarter-century — through Columbine, Sandy Hook, Las Vegas, and now Atlanta and Boulder — the majority of American voters have desired stricter gun legislation. Instead, they got inactivity at the federal level and open-carry excesses in swing states like Michigan.

It's difficult to remember of any topic where the unrelenting hostility of a single political party has obstructed majority rights for so long. Perhaps civil rights prior to the 1960s fit this bottled-up-for-

decades paradigm, but only if Southern segregationist Democrats were a different political party .

The NRA was always a minor role in terms of political funding. For example, more than \$3 billion was spent on federal elections in 2012, including untraceable "black money." The NRA contributed roughly \$20 million, accounting for less than 1% of the total. With the exception of a \$55 million gamble on Donald Trump in 2016, the NRA's financial clout has dwindled over the years to

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the point that, by 2018, the scandal-plagued, near-bankrupt organization was being outspent by anti-gun groups.

For decades, the NRA was also feared due of its members' alleged single-issue zeal. However, Trump's ascent energized people of all stripes, and the power of gun-rights fanatics as a separate voting bloc eroded. Immediately following the 2020 election, the Monmouth University Polling Institute polled a national sample of Americans to determine the most pressing problem confronting the new president. Only 1% of those questioned mentioned firearms, and that includes people on both sides of the debate ( Fogarty and Brian E. Fascism).

What appears to have occurred is that militant gun ownership has evolved from a stand-alone issue powerful enough to unseat a Democratic House speaker in 1994 to simply one among a slew of wedge issues that will characterize the GOP in 2021.

But there is still a ray of optimism. With the NRA crippled and the Second Amendment reduced to just another battleground in the never-ending culture war, there may come a day when good Republicans realize they have been cowering in the face of chimera. Because that is what the gun lobby is today: a mythical beast fueled by political reminiscences from the 1994 elections .

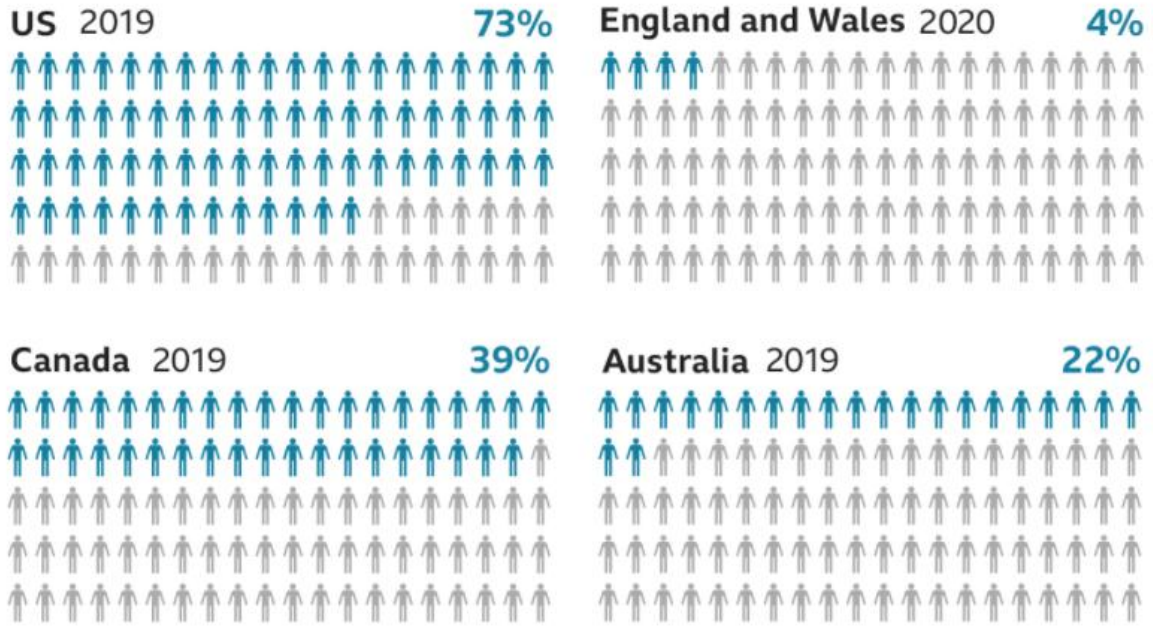
## **2.2. Policing Gun Violence**

### **2.2.1. Gun Deaths in America**

Gun-related killings accounted for roughly three-quarters of all homicides in the United States in 2019. This is a higher percentage of homicides than in Canada, Australia, England and Wales, and

many other nations (as shown in figure 2.1). ( Waller and Irvin. Science and secrets of ending violent crime).

**Figure.2.1. International gun homicide numbers**



Sources: FBI/Home Office/Australian Bureau of Statistics/Statistics Canada

According to a 2016 study published in the American Journal of Public Health, there is a substantial link between higher levels of gun ownership in a state and higher rates of firearm suicide for both men and women. During the epidemic, the number of mass shootings decreased. According to Mother Jones, an investigative publication that has been documenting such events since 1982, there were just two in the entire year of 2020. A mass shooting is defined by Mother Jones as the death of three or more persons. It excludes violent crimes such as robbery and gang-related violence from its figures. Other data from the Gun Violence Archive indicate that mass shootings may have increased

last year. It employs a broader definition of shootings, which includes robberies as well as those in which victims are shot and injured. The Las Vegas assault in 2017 was the worst mass shooting in modern US history, and eight of the top ten shootings in terms of victims occurred within the last ten years.

In 2019, the United States had the 32nd highest rate of gun violence deaths in the world, with

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3.96 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. That was over eight times higher than the rate in Canada, which was 0.47 deaths per 100,000 people — and nearly 100 times higher than the average in the United Kingdom, which was 0.04 deaths per 100,000.

The rates can be significantly higher when calculated on a state-by-state basis. The rate in the District of Columbia is 18.5 per 100,000, the highest in the country. Louisiana has the second-highest rate: 9.34 per 100,000 people. The rates in Georgia and Colorado, the sites of the two most recent mass shootings, are somewhat higher than the national average: 5.62 per 100,000 in Georgia and 2.27 in Colorado .

To be sure, there are a number of nations where gun violence is far worse than in the United States, notably in Central America and the Caribbean. The prevalence of gangs and drug trafficking, according to Mokdad, is a key factor. "The gangs and drug traffickers fight each other for greater territory, and they attack the police," Mokdad explained. And those who are not( Abizanda et al. Citizens security).

In America, mass shootings occur on a daily basis, if not more frequently. There were 417 similar assaults in 2019. There were 610 mass shootings in 2020, about two every day, killing 513 people and wounding 2,543. However, mass shootings are only a small part of the problem. Last year, over 20,000 individuals were killed by guns, with another 40,000 wounded .

2021 is on track to be the worst year for gun violence in America in the previous two decades. This year, there have been 296 mass shootings in the United States, according to the Gun Violence Archive. A mass shooting is defined as a shooting that kills four or more persons. America was

experiencing one of its safest times in decades ( Spitzer and Robert J. The politics of gun control).

This year alone, over 10,000 individuals have been slain by gun violence. According to a survey of 24 major cities, murders climbed by 24% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020, and by 49% compared to the same period in 2019. Homicides are expected to rise by roughly 14 percent in New York, 22 percent in Los Angeles, and 13 percent in Washington, D.C. by

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2021 in comparison to 2020( McWilliams and Jhon C. The 1960s Cultural Revolution).

### **2.2.2. More Gun, More Gun Violence?**

Since 2016, almost 40,000 Americans have been murdered by gun violence each year, outnumbering the number of persons killed in automobile accidents (39,000), despite the fact that there were 221.7 million licensed drivers and only 72 million registered gun owners in 2017. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this number of Americans murdered by guns (almost 40,000) is comparable to those killed by breast cancer (43,000) and pancreatic cancer (45,000).

According to the Small Arms Survey, 393 million firearms were found in American homes in 2018, which is more than the country's population. According to Worldmeter, the population of the United States was 327 million people in 2018 (Parncutt and Richard. The human cost of anthropogenic global warming).

According to a Gallup poll conducted in 2020, 44 percent of Americans reported owning a gun or having someone in their family possess one. According to a 2017 Pew Research study, gun owners are more likely to be male, White, reside in the country, and not have a college degree. Approximately two-thirds of gun owners have more than one handgun, and the average gun owner has eight firearms, according to statistics.

The majority of gun owners possess a handgun or a pistol (72 percent). A rifle is the second most common kind (62 percent), followed by a shotgun (54 percent). Gun categories are wide, and the

term "rifle" encompasses semiautomatic weapons such as the AR-15. In 2016, this type accounted for more than 60% of all rifle sales. Approximately 40% of gun owners have at least one loaded and easily available gun at all times, and 63 percent have at least one gun that is never locked up (Wallace and E Gregory. Assault Weapon Myths).

Though "assault" firearms get the most attention, they were responsible for just 32% of mass shooting killings from 2009 to 2018. In an overwhelming majority of mass shootings (81 percent), at

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least one pistol is used, and in a smaller majority (60 percent), just a handgun is used, although typically in conjunction with a high-capacity magazine (Greene Colozzi. Justice Quarterly).

Handguns continue to be the most often utilized kind of weapon in "normal" shootings, accounting for 62 percent of killings in 2019. Nonetheless, AR-15 and related weapons kill more people faster than other types of guns and have been used in the bloodiest mass shootings in America, including Las Vegas (58 people murdered), Orlando (49 people killed), and Newtown, Connecticut (27 people, primarily children slain).

While America has 120.5 weapons for every 100 people, the numbers for the rest of the world are far lower. Yemen (52.8 weapons per 100 people), Serbia (39.1/100), Montenegro (39.1), and Uruguay have the next highest rates of gun ownership (also 34.7). Canada comes in second with 34.7 firearms per 100 persons, which is less than a third of the rate of gun ownership in the United States. In reality, the United States has 4.4 percent of the world's population yet possesses 42 percent of the world's firearms. Other nations, such as Italy, have a gun culture, but major shootings are uncommon.

With 4.43 gun deaths per 100,000 persons in 2017, the United States ranked 28th in the world. According to Ali Mokdad, a professor of global health and health metrics science at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the countries that ranked higher, including El Salvador, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, and Jamaica, are primarily those grappling with drug trafficking and gang activity. When just high-income nations are included, however, the United States comes top, with more than twice as many gun-related murders per 100,000 people than its nearest "competitor," Chile.

The first mass shooting happened in 1966, when a shooter from a clock tower at the University of Texas murdered 17 people. Since then, 1,316 people have been killed in mass shootings as of May 1, 2021. While the number of mass shootings has not grown much in recent years, the death toll has. Between 2009 and 2018, the average number of individuals shot in such instances increased from seven to thirteen.

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Despite popular belief, the majority of mass shootings (those killing or wounding more than four people) occur in private houses, not public places. Moreover, despite their attention-grabbing headlines, mass shootings account for a minuscule percentage of total murders in the United States—in 2019, they accounted for around one out of every 400 gun-related death. ( Hoffman and Bruce. Inside Terrorism).

Every day in America between 2013 and 2016, 316 people were shot. Every day, at over 100 of them perish. Almost half of all Americans (44 percent) have a friend or family member who has been shot. Almost every American will come into contact with at least one victim of gun violence over their lifetime. In Singapore, the country with the lowest gun mortality rate in the world, the probability of any individual being shot is assessed to be one in a million. In Japan, it rises to two in a million, while, in the United States, it increases to 1,060 per million. At least one survivor wishes that people will go beyond their thoughts and prayers.

In 2020, almost 40 million firearms were sold in the United States, reaching an all-time high. Nonetheless, an estimated 22% of existing gun owners acquired their most recent handgun without a federal background check in 2017. Much of this is due to the federal law's so-called "gun show loophole". Unlicensed dealers are excluded from completing background checks on their purchasers if they sell weapons in private transactions, online, or at gun shows. This loophole allows persons with prior violent criminal convictions, serious mental health issues, and others who would otherwise be barred from acquiring a gun from a licensed dealer to do so with no questions asked.

Complicating matters even further is the emergence of “ghost guns”—firearms that can be 3-D

printed or constructed at home from components or a kit, but lack serial numbers, making the weapons untraceable—which are particularly tempting to people who cannot pass background checks. Approximately 10,000 ghost firearms were discovered by law police in 2019. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms stated the same year that over a third of the firearms recovered from crimes in California were ghost guns. President Joe Biden stated in early April that he would instruct the Justice

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Department to draft a regulation to limit the manufacturing of ghost guns.

### **2.2.3. Is Gun Violence Increasing?**

The year 2021 is on track to be the worst year for gun violence in the United States in the previous two decades. There have been 296 mass shootings in the United States this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive. A mass shooting is defined as a shooting in which four or more persons are killed. The United States has been enjoying one of its safest times in decades. On Wednesday, Vice President Joe Biden launched a new plan to tackle it. It calls for a "zero tolerance" approach for gun dealers who breach federal law, the deployment of strike teams to cities to combat illicit gun trafficking, and the encouragement of localities to use federal pandemic relief monies for enforcement and crime prevention. Two toddlers barely escaped being shot in New York Downtown when a shooter sprayed a guy with bullets on a crowded city street. Gunfire erupted early one morning in Austin's entertainment sector last month, killing one person and injuring 13 others. Gun violence has claimed the lives of over 10,000 people so far this year. Homicides climbed by 24 percent in the first quarter of 2021 when compared to the same period in 2020 and by 49 percent when compared to the same period in 2019. In comparison to 2020, killings are up almost 14% in New York, 22% in Los Angeles, and 13% in Washington, D.C. in 2021 ( Webster et al. Firearms on Collages).

Austin is on pace to break its own homicide record, which was established just a year ago. Mayor Steve Adler of A "We have far too many illicit firearms in the hands of the wrong people. "We need to attempt to locate those illegal firearms and remove them from the streets," Adler said on CBS' "This Morning." "David Begnaud is the chief national reporter. Austin wants to change that.

The remedy, according to sociologist Patrick Sharkey, extends beyond illicit guns and law enforcement.

"As a response to violence in the United States, we have this knee-jerk reaction where we just think about the cops and the jail system," Sharkey added.

He analyzes gun violence in the United States, and despite recent demands to cut funding, modify

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some parts of policing, or disband police forces entirely, Sharkey believes that is not the solution.

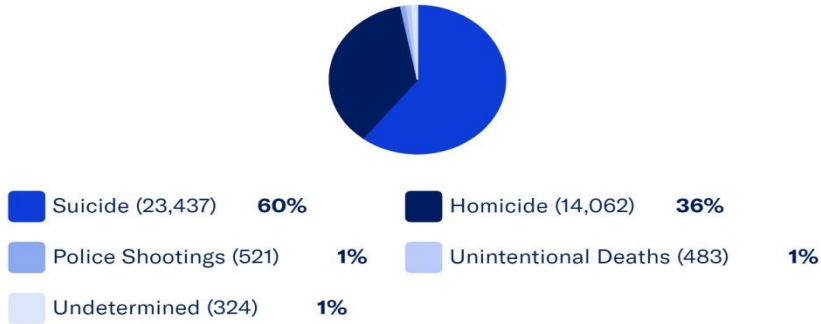
He responded, "No, I don't believe it's a good idea." "We don't have another set of institutions capable of responding to gun violence like the police because we have 300, 400 million firearms on the streets. Our major focus should be on funding other organizations that deal with addiction, mental illness, and after-school activities."

According to one study, violent crimes account for just around 1% of all police responses in the United States. Giving police more time to focus on this, Sharkey believes, will allow the community to basically police itself through initiatives aimed at improving people's lives. (Bibas et al. Intergrating remorse and apology into criminal procedure).

#### **2.2.4. More Guns, More Gun Accidents and Suicides?**

Every day, over 100 Americans are killed by guns, with another 230 being shot and injured. Gun violence has far-reaching consequences in America, affecting the lives of millions of people who witness it, know someone who has been shot, or live in terror of the next shooting. Everytown has compiled the most extensive, publicly available statistics to demonstrate the scope of everyday gun violence. Significant data gaps still exist, owing to inadequate and insufficient data collecting at the state and federal levels. To properly comprehend the entire cost of gun violence in America, these gaps must be filled.

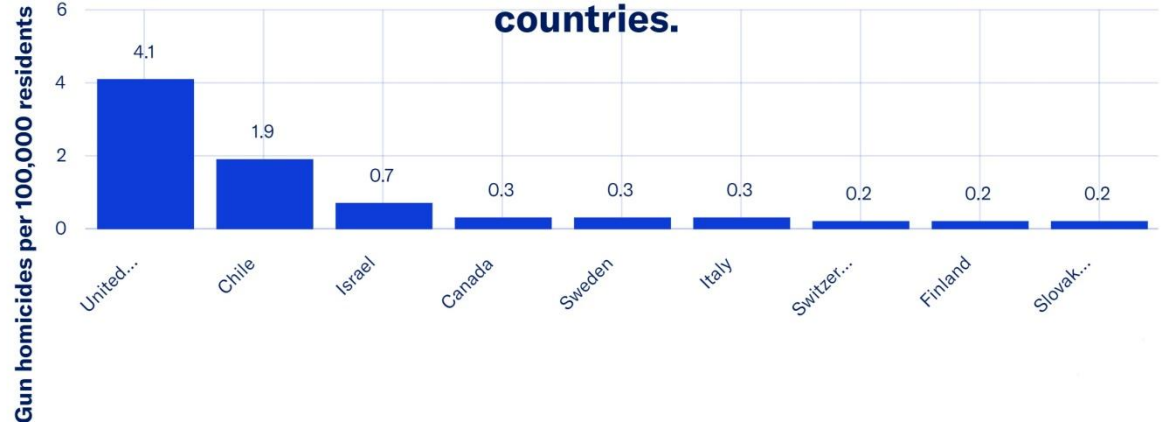
### Gun Deaths by Intent



### Homicide

Homicides account for more than a third of all gun deaths. <sup>9</sup> The prevalence of gun violence in the United States is alarming: the incidence of gun homicide in the United States is 25 times higher than in other high-income nations. Gun killings are concentrated in cities; half of all gun homicides occurred in just 127 cities, accounting for almost a quarter of the population of the United States. <sup>12</sup> Gun murders are most common in racially divided areas with high rates of poverty in these cities. The bulk of gun homicide victims are African-Americans. <sup>14</sup> In reality, black people are ten times more likely than white people to be killed by a gun .

### The US gun homicide rate is 25 times that of other high-income countries.



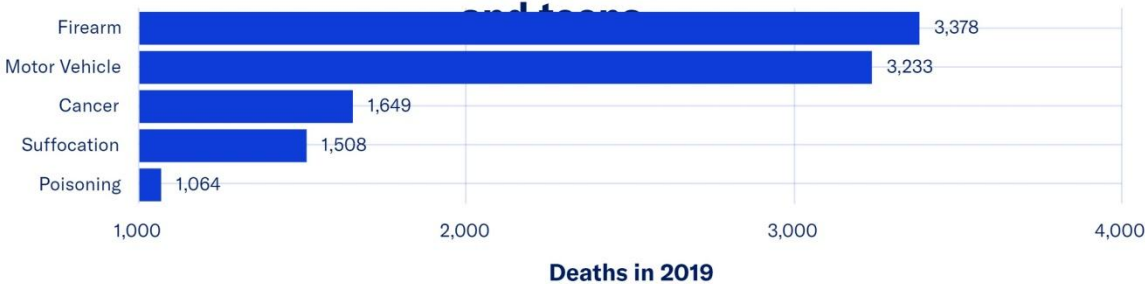
### Children and teenagers:

For American children and teenagers, firearms are the biggest cause of mortality. 16

Every year, more than 1,800 children and teenagers are killed by guns.

17 Gun murders among children under the age of 13 are most common in the home and are usually linked to domestic or family violence. Gun murder kills 14 times more black children and teenagers than white children and teenagers of the same age.

### Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens



### Domestic violence:

Women in the United States are 21 times more likely than women in other high-income

nations to be killed by a gun. Every month in the United States, an average of 57 women are shot and murdered by an intimate partner, with many more shot and wounded. An intimate partner has shot or attempted to shoot nearly one million women living today. An

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intimate partner has threatened about 4.5 million American women alive today with a gun. When a woman has access to a gun, she is five times more likely to be killed in a domestic violence incident

### **2.2.5. More Guns, Less Crime?**

A team led by Stanford University law professor John Donohue discovered that state laws making it simple to carry concealed weapons lead to more violent crime in the most comprehensive analysis yet released on the impact of concealed carry legislation. The Stanford study adds to a long line of prior research that have reached similar results concerning so-called right-to-carry (RTC) legislation. It is the most conclusive rebuttal of the gun lobby's "more guns, less crime" dogma — which, predictably, remains resistant to peer-reviewed research on the causes of gun violence.

The researchers evaluated the effects of right-to-carry firearm legislation in 33 states that enacted them between 1981 and 2007 using diverse statistical techniques and the most extensive data ever gathered, monitoring violent crime before and after and adjusting for other circumstances. The precise findings differed depending on the statistical approach used. The bottom line did not change. Regardless of the model employed, the study discovered that in states that implemented RTC, “violent crime is much greater after 10 years than would have been the case had the RTC statute not been implemented.” (Cook and Philip J. The Great American Gun War).

The ramifications are not insignificant. RTC laws increased violent crime by 13% to 15% in the ten years after their implementation. The research found, “There is not even the smallest suggestion in the data from any econometrically good analysis that RTC laws reduce violent crime.” States that implemented RTC “not only experienced higher rates of violent crime, but also had larger increases in incarceration and police than other states,” according to the study, implying that RTC states generated higher levels of violent crime while increasing investments to prevent and punish it.

“More firearms, fewer crime” has never been a sure bet. Defensive gun usage against criminals

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is uncommon. Because aggressors are opportunistic and maintain the advantage of surprise, even trained professionals, such as police officers, may be restricted in their capacity to repel an armed assault. Simultaneously, so-called good folks with firearms often supply criminals with weapons. According to the latest study, “the most common event each year combining crime and a decent person with a gun is not self-defense but rather the theft of the good guy's gun, which occurs hundreds of thousands of times each year.”

The widespread availability of weapons encourages criminals to arm themselves in public. In a poll of convicts jailed for gun charges, two-thirds said the possibility of confronting an armed victim influenced their decision to use a gun in some way ( wright et al. *The Armed Criminam in America*).

The Stanford research is neither the be-all nor end-all of gun violence or even RTC. More research is required to fully comprehend the complicated and cascading impacts of firearm policies on real-world outcomes. However, the most recent high-quality study points to a clear conclusion that should come as no surprise: Allowing civilians to carry concealed, loaded firearms without regard for qualifications, security requirements, or training.

### **2.3. Developments under the Trump Administration**

When asked what he planned to do about the "gun problem," President Donald Trump said, "we have done far more than most administrations." Trump has taken some steps to enhance federal gun control, but his administration has also relaxed gun laws. After the mass killings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, Trump said on Aug. 4: "We're talking to a lot of people, and a lot of things are in the works, and a lot of positive things." And we have accomplished far more than most administrations. And it does — it's not — it's not really spoken about much, but we've done a lot. However, perhaps more needs to be done.”

On March 23, 2018, Trump signed an appropriations bill that contained the Fix NICS Act, a bipartisan bill to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The act,

introduced by Republican Senator John Cornyn and Democratic Senator Chris Murphy, and co-

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sponsored by 76 other senators, required federal agencies to submit semiannual certification reports to the attorney general on their compliance with record-keeping and transmission requirements, as well as plans to increase coordination and automated reporting. It imposed monetary sanctions on political appointees who did not comply .

According to a February bipartisan letter from senators urging agencies, specifically the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, to fully comply with the new law, the attorney general was also required to “establish implementation plans for each state and tribal government” and to “determine if the state is in compliance with the benchmarks contained in the implementation plan.”

Trump has sent conflicting public signals about his support for universal background checks, which would encompass private transactions by unlicensed persons, including some sales at gun shows and over the internet. When the Democratic-controlled House enacted such a bill in February, Trump threatened to veto it, and the bill died in the Republican-controlled Senate ( Feinberg and Lotte E. Homeland Security).

Following the tragic mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Trump convened a bipartisan meeting with members of Congress on Feb. 28, 2018, to discuss gun violence prevention measures. During the meeting, Trump appeared to back legislation presented by Sens. Joe Manchin and Pat Toomey after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Background checks would have been expanded to include private transactions by unlicensed persons at gun shows and over the internet. The bill was defeated in a procedural vote in the Senate by a vote of 54-46 ( DeVos et al. Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety).

After Democrats took control of the House in 2019, the House passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act on Feb. 27, which, like the Manchin-Toomey legislation, would expand federal background checks to gun purchases and transfers between private parties, including those sold at gun shows or over the internet that are not currently covered by law. The bill passed 240-190,

mostly along party lines, with eight Republicans voting in favor.

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The next day, the House approved the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019, which attempted to plug the so-called "Charleston Loophole" by increasing the time frame for conducting a background check from three to ten business days.

The administration indicated in a policy statement that if both measures were enacted, Trump would veto them. The Bipartisan Background Checks Act, according to the statement, "would impose onerous restrictions on certain weapon transactions." According to the statement, the bill "would require that certain transfers, loans, gifts, and sales of firearms be processed by a federally licensed importer, manufacturer, or dealer of firearms" and "would thus impose permanent record-keeping requirements and limitless fees on these everyday transactions."

The Enhanced Background Checks Act, on the other hand, would be opposed by Trump because it would "unduly impose burdensome delays on persons wanting to acquire a firearm" by "overly increasing the minimum period that a licensed business is required to wait for background check results."

Neither bill has been heard in the Senate, which is dominated by Republicans.

## Conclusion

Guns has been a top of discussion for the longest in the United States, Many Americans regard possession of guns as a right for the reason that firearms have been a major part of their daily lives were some own guns for hunting, sport shooting, and gun collecting traditions, as well as for security and safety reasons. However there are other consequences to owning such arms, where many mass shooting incidents took place during the last decade and many lives were taken with the help of guns.

The research at hand represents a secondary analysis of a series of surveys that were carried out by Gallup. The capacity of the thesis covers only the data gathered via of the survey conducted during the last ten years.

The gap to be filled by means of the current study is to explore the Americans' history of firearms possession in relation to violence and to bring into sharper focus the main points and parties involved in the debate about the subject. The study is also to investigate the Americans beliefs concerning the possession of guns and the violence and mass shootings that took place in the United States in last decade.

The two main research questions that motored our study are as follows:

- • □ Which year had the highest number of gun ownership supporters?
- • □ What is the Americans' stance regarding handguns ownership and violence?

The current work is divided into three main chapters. The first two chapters constitute the theoretical part of the thesis, where chapter one deals with history of guns in the United States of America. The second chapter discusses briefly the contradiction of gun between right and control. Finally the third and last chapter deals with the practical part of the thesis as starts with a brief description of the study design and sample, then provides an interpretation of the secondary data and finally discusses the later vis-à-vis our research questions.

Findings from the study revealed that through the last decade the year that had known the most support for gun ownership from the Americans was the year 2016. The results also revealed that,

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unlike the belief that Gun possession is the main reason behind violence and mass shooting, most of the Americans believe that other reasons like extremist viewpoints are the main factors that are more likely to encourage crimes than does the mere ownership of a firearm.

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