



Gun Rights in a Lawless Age: 2nd Amendment Issues

"I have a very strict gun control policy. If there is a gun around, I want to control it."

--Clint Eastwood

Ivan Pereira opened a Pandora's Box in an ABC online opinion piece entitled *America has a gun violence problem. What do we do about it?* [America has a gun violence problem. What do we do about it?](#)

Mr. Pereira quotes from all kinds of government statistics to paint a grim picture of gun violence in the United States. We all know about mass shootings. But they account for less than 1% of all the deaths by firearms. Between 2015-2019 there were 191,000 gun deaths in our country. [GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE](#). About 75,000 were homicides. Close to 10,000 were suicides. The rest were accidental firearm discharges.

Certainly, people kill. So do guns. The focus of Mr. Pereira's article is that these problems could be solved if people didn't have guns in their homes. That's like scratching your fingers across the blackboard at a National Rifle Association meeting. They would quickly remind Mr. Pereira of the Second Amendment right to bear arms in America. So what does the Bible say about this?

Social Upheaval & Gun Sales

Two recent studies showed an unprecedented surge in gun sales during the pandemic after the social unrest in the streets following the George Floyd killing. A July 15, 2020 *Washington Post* article entitled [Spike in violent crime follows rise in gun-buying amid social upheaval](#)

reported on studies by the Brookings Institute and the University of California at Davis. Reporter Christopher Ingraham writes, “Together, they point to a society arming itself against social upheaval in a time of institutional failure.” Three phrases jump out of Mr. Ingraham’s well-crafted sentence: “society arming itself,” “social upheaval” and “institutional failure.” Society is arming itself.

“...society arming itself...”: According to the Brookings Institute, federal background checks show that three million firearms were sold from March-June in 2020 alone. [Spike in violent crime follows rise in gun-buying amid social upheaval](#). No country in the world has a better armed citizenry than the United States. There are nearly three hundred million privately owned firearms in the U.S., a hundred and six million handguns, a hundred and five million rifles, and eighty-three million shotguns. There are guns in half the households in America. [The United States of Guns](#)

Here’s another statistic worth pondering. The hunters in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and West Virginia alone would make up the largest army in the world. [America’s OTHER Largest Army in the World](#). Imagine the size of an army that included every gun-owning hunter in our fifty states!

“...social upheaval...” The 2020 *Washington Post* article was written in the aftermath of the summer of protests, riots, looting and destruction of properties following George Floyd’s death. They also spoke of the pandemic that added to the social upheaval in causing people to head for gun shops. Since the article’s publication, the chaos and violence have only increased, especially in our Democrat-controlled cities. And the pandemic has continued unabated.

“...institutional failure...” Various versions of “defund the police” have proven to be disastrous social experiments. From the White House, to Congress, to big city mayors, there has been wholesale institutional failure. A January 12, 2022 *USA Today* article showed a Quinnipiac University poll with dismal stats on Americans’ disapproval of almost every sector of American life. [file:///Biden's approval rating drops to new low of 33%25 on concerns about his handling of COVID, economy/poll](#)

So, people are arming to protect themselves from the results of progressive policies, while progressives point to the spike in gun ownership presenting a clear and present danger to our country. What do you think as a follower of Christ? Let’s look at this more-complex-than-you-think hot button issue.

1. The Right to Bear Arms

Second Amendment of U.S. Constitution: “A well-regulated militia, being necessary for a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be abridged.”

[I recommend highly a debate between a conservative, Joyce Lee Malcolm, the Patrick Henry professor of constitutional law and the Second Amendment at George Mason University, Virginia and a progressive, Dr. Emma Long, a lecturer in American studies at the University of East Anglia on a *History Extra* online debate. [file:///The historians' view/ what are the real issues in the US gun control debate%3F](file:///The%20historians%27%20view%2F%20what%20are%20the%20real%20issues%20in%20the%20US%20gun%20control%20debate%3F)]

- Distinction between English Bill of Rights “bear arms for defense” and U.S. Constitution “for a well-regulated Militia” linked to “a free State”.
- Progressives argue the right to bear arms was for hunting, or protecting oneself and family on a wild frontier, or for local militias before a standing army. None these things now necessary, so guns no longer necessary. The dangers of too many guns are a greater danger today than our ancestors faced in 1791.
- Conservative view: “well-regulated militia” and “free State” are irrevocably linked. Necessary to:
 - 1) aid the standing army in case of foreign invasion to keep the free State;**
 - 2) stand against the government if it ceases to function as a free State;**
 - 3) protect ourselves if lawlessness takes away a functioning free State.**
- The progressive agenda that wants to do away with an armed citizenry might do well to examine how their policies have led to social upheavals and institutional failures that make weapons of protection necessary.

2. The Christian's Constitution

- 1. Scriptures can become a game of "pick and choose."** [Matthew 26:52-54; Luke 22:35-39]
- 2. Jesus is the same Lord in both Old and New Testaments.**
- 3. Weapon ownership was common and necessary for God's people in biblical days.** [Numbers 26:20; Luke 22:38; Matthew 26:52-54]
- 4. The Law of home invasion.** [Exodus 22:2; 1 Timothy 5:8]
- 5. We may use weapons, but not trust in them.** [Matthew 26:52-54; Psalm 20:7]
- 6. We should take great care with weapons.** [Matthew 26:52-54]
- 7. Lawless Days Ahead.** [Matthew 24:12-29]