

Guns, Abortion, and History

The emotional debate between pro-gun and anti-gun advocates is a not unlike the abortion debate. Both sides have very strong views and some think that the other side is not only absolutely wrong but also crazy. I can assure you that pro-gun NRA members like myself are just as horrified and saddened by what happened in Newtown as anybody, including the anti-gun movement. And we strongly reject the accusation levied against us that we have blood on our hands with the same determination that the pro-choice abortion proponents have when it is levied against them.

Some history: Buying guns after 1993 made it harder than buying guns after 1986, which made it harder than buying guns after 1968, which made it harder than buying after 1934, all dates of major new gun law restrictions. For instance, before 1993, there were no NICS background checks. Before 1968, anybody could buy a gun through the mail and have it sent directly to their house. Prior to 1934, anybody could buy a machine gun and a silencer right off the shelf. Since they were invented over 100 years ago, we as U.S. citizens have always been able to buy semi-automatic firearms with so-called high capacity magazines and since 1963 in particular, the AR-15. Look at high school yearbooks prior to about the 1970's. Schools regularly had rifle teams, and students went to school with guns strapped to their backs. So what has changed and why the sudden apparent increase in mass shootings?

Our view is it can't be because guns are easier to acquire than in the past because they're not. It can't be that guns are more capable than guns in the past because despite what they might look like, they're not. It can't be because we have magazines of over ten rounds because we've always had them. There must be other factors underlying the root causes of these tragedies, but they're being drowned out by the emotional and demonizing vitriol against guns and gun owners. The media unfairly blames the NRA for these tragedies' because of their positions, but for instance, it's the ACLU who resists allowing mental health records be added to the background check system, not the NRA.

Blaming gun owners, the NRA, and proposed new laws like the 50% ammunition tax will do absolutely nothing to stop future mass killers. Let's really open our minds and look at why today

we have problems that we didn't have in the past when gun capabilities were the same and guns were much easier to get.

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