

How dangerously close we have come to allowing our Republic to implode.

It alarms me what people are willing to do because they are scared.

As the public is willing to squander their personal freedoms born of an irrational fear of a lack of security I remember the words noted by Thomas Jefferson quoting Cesare Beccaria,

"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

I honor the victims of Sandy Hook. I fully support the discussion to understand what drives people to horrendous acts of violence against each other. To that end, I believe we need to discuss how mental illness has been addressed and how we have swept under the carpet the impact of the drugs we use to treat them. For it is an individual who has committed this crime.

I will, however, never support the vile and cynical use of this horrible event to, as stated by Rahm Emanuel (White House Chief of Staff to President Barack Obama) "You never let a serious crisis go to waste", to further an agenda to curb freedoms that have been in place to protect against tyranny for over two hundred years.

The argument could be made that once the government becomes more and more ubiquitous and the ability of the public to defend itself against them becomes diminished, it can and will start to rob us of our freedoms. Should the power of our government fall into less than scrupulous hands, be they Republican, Democrat or other; what is the chance that every one of our politicians is honorable and completely selfless? Would you trust them as the reach of the government get deeper into your life? Should we not limit this reach, if only as a precaution? How genuine are their motives?

As noted by Thomas Jefferson,

"The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

We have historical example after example of how these efforts rise and fall under their own weight of corruption, as the reach of government grows ever deeper into the personal lives of its constituency. The only system that has stood the test of time is the United States Constitution. This is due to one simple fact, one truth, that this is one of the only government documents whose genius is, not in what it tells you government should do, but simply what it cannot do. Specifically, the second amendment suggests that you cannot take firearms from the people.

"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."

These words are clear. "The right of the people" and "Shall not be infringed" does not limit who nor the type of arms but rather suggests no manner of restriction can be legislated.

I know people in Newtown. I lived not far from this community a few years back and I believe we do their memory an injustice if we allow our government officials to use this event to drive an agenda to subvert checks against them under a cloak of goodwill by

exploiting the public's desperate fear and loathing of such horrific acts of violence.

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