

Perspective: Gun Ownership is Vital for Survival

Guest post by Kristian Solem. Abridged and read by Robert Yoho.

Historical background

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed. It stated that people are born with certain unalienable rights, including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These were proclaimed "God-given" or "natural" rights that a government cannot grant or deny. The Bill of Rights and the Constitution were ratified thirteen years later and still stand guard on these ideas.

Before the Constitution was ratified, heated arguments and at least one fistfight broke out between the two groups. The majority Federalists were eager to confirm the document as it was. The Anti-Federalists feared that the states would gradually lose their independence to a powerful central government and demanded more protection for citizens.

The Federalists gave ground. In the "Massachusetts Compromise," anti-federalists Samuel Adams and John Hancock agreed to ratification if the convention also voted to institute amendments limiting federal powers. The Bill of Rights resulted that defined actions forbidden to the federal Government.

The Second Amendment says, *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.* Many have attempted to weaken it, but the framers chose the words "*The right of the people*" carefully. The original wording has trumped all disagreements about this and several other Amendments.

For example, the First Amendment says, *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Here is the Fourth Amendment: *The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."*

Delegates from the 13 states painstakingly wrestled over the meaning and intent of each phrase and chose every word with great care. *The right of the people* provides clarity. *The right of the people to keep and bear arms* is of equal importance as *the right of the people peaceably to assemble* and *the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects...*

Many have argued that the phrase *A well regulated militia* has a limiting effect on *The right of the people to keep and bear arms*. In this interpretation, a militia is a force controlled by the Government, such as the National Guard. But the militia, as described in the Second Amendment, is a people's militia, for *the people* have the right to be armed. The possibility is left open that the people could rise against tyranny.

"Well-regulated" meant something different in the 18th and early 19th centuries:

A remissness for which I am sure every well-regulated person will blame the mayor.

The equation of time ... is the adjustment of the difference of time as shown by a well-regulated clock and a true sun dial.

It appeared, to her well-regulated mind, like a clandestine proceeding.

—The Oxford English Dictionary

In contrast, today's Merriam Webster's dictionary says well-regulated means to bring under the control of law or constituted authority.

The Founders understood that if a militia was raised, the fighters would have to be skilled—well-regulated—at using their weapons. A hunter in those days might be a marksman but might need 45 seconds or more to reload a musket. A trained soldier could reload, aim, and take a shot in 20 seconds. Skilled ones could fire three a minute, and an expert, four. These men owned guns, were intimately familiar with them and practiced. Today, related issues apply to modern firearms.

And so, the two seemingly conflicting clauses of the Second Amendment are both critical. "*A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State,*" says why a state and its citizens must be able to raise a militia. The second clause, "*The right of the people,*" is unconditional. For a militia to be raised, the people must be armed and experts in gun use.

In the late 1700s, city dwellers were a minority. The first census in 1790 found about 4 million Americans, and only 252,000 lived in "urban" areas with 2,500 or more people. The rest were in areas where a firearm put food on the table and might be needed to defend the family. When the Constitution was ratified, taking away people's guns was unimaginable.

The Second Amendment, along with the other founding documents, was written with an eye to the future. These are as important today as they were in 1790.

History of Gun Control

Gun control laws were ideas that originated from genocide, racism, and fear. These began at the state level in the mid 1850s. Governor Peter H. Burnett wanted to rid California of Indians and raised a militia. Burnett advocated a bill denying the state's natives access to guns, which left them defenseless against his soldiers.

Twelve years later, in the aftermath of the Civil War, the populace feared vengeance from the newly freed slaves. Several states instituted "Black Codes" that made it illegal for blacks to own weapons.

Recent histories of gun control ignore these roots. They instead relate stories about gangsters like Al Capone and Lucky Luciano using guns for crime. This was used as an excuse for The National Firearms Act of 1934, which was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal on Crime." It taxed gun buyers an exorbitant \$200 (\$4447 in today's dollars.), which put gun ownership out of reach for most people.

Over the next few years, the unconstitutional NFA was weakened by the federal courts. Despite this, future gun control followed the NFA lead. The consequence was that the black market soon provided most guns used for crime. It also burdened millions of American gun owners with regulation.

Are politicians bumbling along, passing stupid and ineffective laws that do little to deter crime because they don't get it, or is their long game to disarm the public? Recent events throw light on this. On June 23, 2022, the United States Supreme Court ruled that New York State's excessively restrictive concealed carry laws were unconstitutional. Kathy Hochul, the un-elected replacement for New York governor Andrew Cuomo, responded:

A week ago, the Supreme Court issued a reckless decision removing century-old limitations on who is allowed to carry concealed weapons in our state — senselessly sending us backward and putting the safety of our residents in jeopardy.

Days later, she added:

Reporter: "Do you have numbers to show that it's the concealed carry permit holders that are committing crimes?"

Hochul: "I don't need to have numbers. I don't need to have a data point to say this."

Hochul and her Government then passed a package of new concealed carry laws, each intended to be narrow enough in scope to pass muster under the Supreme Court's ruling but collectively intended to circumvent it.

The Supreme Court said lawmakers could restrict guns from "sensitive places" such as courthouses, schools, and government buildings but warned lawmakers against applying this label too broadly. New York's new list of "sensitive places" has more than 20 categories, which makes concealed carry nearly impossible because passing through a gun-free zone is inevitable.

New York is trying to nullify the Constitution. If this is allowed, it will effectively ban guns, and the stability they ensure will vanish.

Gun control today

I saw a movie once where only the police and the soldiers had guns. It was called Schindler's List. —Anonymous

The US has done more to put down tyranny than any other country. We were willing to die for our rights during our revolution and defeated an immense British military. Later, we liberated Europe from the Nazis and crushed Imperial Japan. After we won those wars, we fought to keep the southern half of Korea from falling into communism. Today, South Korea is among the most productive societies on Earth, and we still keep an army there to ensure their safety. After WWII, the Soviets turned against Europe and took control of Germany and much of eastern Europe. It was initially a standoff, but we dominated them without firing a shot in the end.

We constantly hear about the "gun problem" and are told we are an outlier among civilized nations. The message is that if we just give up our guns, we will be as good as the others.

The rest of the world is moving toward fascism, a union of corporations and states. In the US, healthcare, journalism, media, education, and the entertainment industries are colluding with the Government to misinform and censor. Speaking freely can get you into trouble, and your ability to participate in social media may be arbitrarily denied. Many people are "canceled," jobs lost, opportunities withheld, and careers ruined. Intellectual freedom at our colleges and universities is gone.

The groundwork for a new control grid is being laid. The following is from a Dept. of Homeland Security National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin:

The United States remains in a heightened threat environment fueled by several factors, including an online environment filled with false or misleading narratives and conspiracy theories, and other forms of [mis- dis- and mal-information](#) (MDM) introduced and/or amplified by foreign and domestic threat actors. These threat actors seek to exacerbate societal friction to sow discord and undermine public trust in government institutions to encourage unrest, which could potentially inspire acts of [violence](#).

Disney, a massive enterprise, now showcases confused and bizarre sexual practices on children's TV. Likewise, public schools now believe their role is to introduce our kindergartners to perversions.

When Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his state stood up against this, the media saturated the country with the "don't say gay" phrase. It equated transgender ideas with gays and lesbians. Most members of these two groups sensibly refused to be identified with this depravity.

Hopefully, the following considerations will remain theoretical

Can a public armed with pistols, rifles, and shotguns stand up against the military power of the Federal Government? Won't the military show up with tanks, aircraft, artillery, and fully automatic assault weapons? Yes, they can. But will they? Can a central government and its media toadies prevail in the United States?

We cannot be sure what will happen, but all but one of the possible scenarios spell hard times for an oppressor. That is an unarmed nation under the jackboot of tyranny.

The Army has 500,000 people. About half are overseas, and only one in ten have seen combat. There are also 35,000 Marines. These total fewer than 550,000 troops. In the US, there are 400,000,000 guns, and civilians own 98% of them. The average gun owner has five guns, which is 80,000,000 of us. If one in ten stands up, there are 8,000,000 fighters. Such a military would outnumber the Army by over 7 million—and that is if every soldier came home.

Would the Army, Marines, and Air Force use the big guns to massacre the citizens they are sworn to protect? Would they bring their tanks, jets, and artillery?

The Nazis found out at the Nuremberg trials what happened when they "just obeyed orders." Would a command to attack American citizens be obeyed? Could an Air Force Captain get in an A-10 airplane and kill American citizens? Would a Major crew up a B-52? Would he be able to muster a crew? All this seems unlikely.

How many in the military would join the citizens and defend their homes? What about the local police forces? The National Guard? With whom would they stand?

A weak, unarmed populace could never force these questions upon a government ignoring the Bill of Rights.

Ronald Reagan said:

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.