

The Elephant in the Living Room

There is a fundamental debate brewing in the wake of the tragic Newtown, Connecticut shooting spree. It is a debate that goes to the very core of our country's heritage, and to our future. But there is a political hot potato in the center of all this that no one wants to handle... not the media, the liberal left, the conservative right, the Democrats, the Republicans, the President or the Congress. To do so in this emotional firestorm would be political suicide, so it is ignored. Even staunch Second Amendment supporters avoid the issue, fearing a backlash from a citizenry rightfully appalled by the actions of a heavily armed madman.

Luckily, some of us are not so constrained. Members of the United States military are required to take an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, both foreign and domestic. Our political leaders are required to do the same. So should we all.

The citizens of the United States have a responsibility to understand their own Constitution and the backdrop of its adoption. Written a little more than a decade after the Declaration of Independence was penned, and after a bitter struggle to free our nation from the yoke of British tyranny, the Constitution was our forefather's attempt to ensure that such a damnable situation never happen again... from outside our borders or from within. The framers knew full well that true liberty comes with a heavy price. Our current citizens need to understand why the framers of the Constitution of the United States, just three years after ratifying the document, started amending it, and included that ambiguously worded Second Amendment.

“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.”

This Second Amendment to the Constitution, fundamental to our so-called Bill of Rights, was not included so that the citizens of our newly formed nation would be able to protect themselves from bears, outlaws, or bloodthirsty savages. Those might have been ancillary benefits, but the intent, the primary reason for the inclusion of the people's right to bear arms, was to allow them a means to protect themselves from a future

tyranny... and if need be, to overthrow it.

We have not reached that point... yet. But the President, the Congress, and the political parties behind them have lost their way; with the game becoming more important to them than the people they were elected to represent. The political system in the United States is broken and George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is becoming a reality. Ultimately, our current leaders need to understand that our heritage allows, and our Constitution demands, that we the people will not be mere spectators in their convoluted game.

Armed revolt is a remote possibility and last resort, but the means to carry out such an action is fundamental to our Constitution, and must be protected at any cost. The events at Sandy Hook Elementary were an absolute abomination, but should not be used to strip the people of the United States of one of their most basic rights.

Captain Steve