

Sample Exploratory Paper

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Writing—Argument

13 March 18

Exploratory Paper: Gun Control in The U.S.

Gun control, as we know it, consists of the government restricting the ability of individual citizens to purchase weapons. The different types of gun control vary from waiting periods between when one purchases a firearm and when one actually receives it, background checks so people with criminal records or high-risk psychoses can't purchase guns through legal channels, and complete bans for certain grades of firearms. There are countless ways for criminals to avoid these government regulations, so these "controls" hinder the law-abiding, innocent citizen from protecting his/her home and family.

The "waiting period" or "cooling off" method of gun control is basically a two-step process. The first step in the procedure is the person wanting a gun goes to a weapons retailer (or calls a reputable mail order outlet) to place the initial order. Then, he/she must wait one to two weeks while the government performs a background check for past criminal activities, disorderly conduct, or lack of mental/emotional stability. Hopefully, if the purchaser of the gun wanted the weapon for impulse reasons (out of rage), it is hoped he/she will "cool-off" and not want to cause bodily harm to others any longer.

The problem with this method of gun control is that it stops the ordinary, stable citizen from purchasing a gun for immediate safety purposes or home protection assurance. On the contrary, it actually protects the common criminal. It is possible for criminals to obtain weapons through "dummy buyers" who have clean backgrounds. So if a burglar enters a house with full intention to maim or kill, the innocent victim is simply a victim of a law that in an indirect way supports black market trade. There are over 200 million registered guns in circulation (Larson), but the unregistered or illegally obtained weapons are used by murderers or thieves.

Another practiced technique of preventing dangerous firearms from killing honest people is to ban an entire type of weapon. The AK-47 is a commonly-used example of this. Again, the criminals still have access to the weapon through underground channels. However, even to the law-abiding citizen, these banned weapons are so powerful that there is really no practical purpose for them in the home (or in hunting).

Banning a weapon like this seems to facilitate the black market trade more than it protects a common citizen. If the AK-47 was simply regulated, at least a paper trail could be followed to the owner of the weapon. Even so, this can easily be averted by the common criminal who understands gun assembly. A semi-automatic machine gun can be converted into a fully automatic gun with a little alteration. Also, a shotgun can become a bloody, powerful weapon by sawing-off the tip of it.

Obviously, new methods of gun control are needed to produce desired results. Every year there are hundreds of victims of gun violence by way of illegally obtained firearms. If we continue to monitor the sale of firearms, there must be new techniques that can watch where the guns end up. And if we decide that we can/will not go down that track, we must make that judgment earnestly, and without haste, because it will decide the future of The United States of America as we know it. We

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