

USA Gun Laws

29 March 2018

As many recall and know, there were a recent mass shooting massacre at a high school in Florida and more recent protest march in the USA's capital city. The march's message was about prohibition or confiscation of some or many firearms, maybe both. I didn't see or read much about the protests in the news, I could be mistaken somewhat.

A reader has some interesting questions for The Committee, which I've numbered then repeated below.

Background & summary for readers unfamiliar (**skip over this part if you are generally aware**): The Constitution of the USA organizes the nation and protects citizen rights deemed to pre-exist the Constitution. **This key, essential aspect** is fundamental to USA citizens' right to keep and bear arms, including guns. The many freedoms enjoyed by citizens of the USA are considered natural, pre-existing rights protected by the Constitution and laws, **NOT** permissions created then conferred by elected executive, judicial, legislative authority or royal power.

The freedom of individual and also collective defense is deemed a natural human right, just as are freedoms of speech, peaceful protest, redress of grievances, religion and of the press, all deemed permanent and impossible to take away. There are about 20,000 gun laws in the USA overall, at local, state and federal levels, regulating the manufacture, importation, sale, ownership and use of guns.

There are broad differences in a few states. In the vast majority of USA territory, there is little restriction on the public possession of long guns or the wearing of sidearms (handguns). In practice, seeing rifles and shotguns in public means hunting. Handguns are rarely seen. In my state, it has become rare to see firearms in public. It used to be common to see a rifle in a vehicle's rear window rack, but not anymore. Millions of Americans carry pistols, usually worn concealed or in vehicles.

Most USA gun deaths are suicide, about 60%. Almost all gun crime in the USA is committed by an already convicted criminal, prohibited by the previous crime from possessing a gun or ammunition. Individual risk of becoming a gun crime target, involves several things:

- Nº 1. Gun free zones. Virtually all mass shootings occur in these usually tiny, tiny places.
2. Black, unmarried males between teenager and 35-40 years of age.
3. Criminal activity in general, such as gangs, conspiracies, illegal drugs and tragically, illegal aliens, specifically a small, dangerous segment among the group. Legal immigrants and naturalized citizens are less given to crime than citizens born in the USA.

Gun and general crime rates in the USA are at historical low points almost everywhere, about equivalent to the middle to late 1940s. Gun sales increased sharply when President Obama took office and remained high for most of his administration, whilst gun crime levels continued to decrease.

In my state alone, there are easily 4 to 5 functional firearms per adult. Gun ownership is common almost everywhere in the USA. The only similar country of which I know is Switzerland.

The debate over gun rights and crime has become vigorous, and should be.

Reader questions:

1. What will the laws look like in 5-10 years and 50-100 years?
2. Will human violence increase, decrease or remain the same over these periods?
3. Would stricter gun laws curb human violence, or would humans simply choose a new weapon?

4. What's the key driver behind human violence today - mental illness, soul contracts, social or economic status etc.? - and how will these drivers be affected in the future?
5. Is there way legislation could increase or decrease human violence?

The Committee: "Greetings and salutations to all, and we address the five questions quickly. In more detail we shall plunge, to explain what you wish to know.

1. The laws will look as you choose to make them. There is a no current trend to change rights and laws in the USA, however this can be modified over the decade and decades about which you ask.
2. Decrease
3. No and that is what is and already has been done, since the existence of guns.
4. The same now as the forces, causes and drivers have always been.
5. No. Legislation confirms public sentiment and practice already occurring. The few who would violate new laws involving violence do not care about existing laws and will disregard new ones.

Asking about guns and crime in the USA is a brief, artificially excised portion of the bigger and important question; why are humans violent?

We shall simply say, because it is taught.

We also say, across the history of mankind, how many humans have perished in war? Italy is deemed a developed and sophisticated country, yet its leader interfered in a neighboring nation's civil war in the 1930s and killed many humans. Germany is considered among the most developed of all nations yet its role in war is something few nations would have pursued, and none today. The United States is considered a world leader in many ways, yet slaughtered millions in Japan to end a terrible war.

Have Kazakhstan, Uruguay or Sierra Leone done this?

The day humans encounter guns pulling their own triggers, the focus on these tools might produce positive progress. This day is not coming.

Humans have studied criminal behavior well; there are no mysteries to be revealed.

Human violence against one another has decreased as the ability to spread news of this violence has grown. It is common to give a child a toy gun which shoots water. A toy which detonates caps and resembles the appearance of one shooting bullets, is likewise common. Humans often make movies and television shows where shooting one another becomes part of, and key to, the story. Games won by ability to slaughter many things, often other humans, are common.

These many things plant seeds. The use of human violence works and is also perceived to work by many others who only observe, often in horror.

When these aspects of human society are closely considered, and changes made voluntarily, will there come to be true, lasting and permanent reductions in violence. We cannot emphasize too much the voluntary aspect. No compulsion can be involved.

When the call to disarm is no longer sounded, it can then be considered.

A safe day we bid you. One and all. Do return.