

Shootings of Today

Gun laws, a topic very discussed among citizens all over the world and according to many, the root to most massacres. As technology advances and guns evolve, public massacres in the 20th century became an iconic movement of the time, transcending to the 2000's. It is claimed that the acquisition of firearms have been loosed around the world, specially in the United States. However, a discussion to tighten the gun laws in several regions of the world for aggression towards the public, ironically, from the public has a rather special light in 2015. Moreover, the center of the controversy has grown in some states within the U.S., proclaiming that the prohibition of guns or creation of such laws, are a violation to the Constitution. Gun laws even as an infraction to the Supreme law, should be banned or be difficult to acquire to the very least. Why? Time has changed and the first amendment written in the 18th Century was written to fit that specific or similar era. It is only natural to re-write and enforce what is best for the now and not the yesterday. As a citizen one has to recognize that there is a problem, and people are dying for it.

Let's get down and naked to the incidents. There is no time to beat around the bushes less so to sugar coat the situation. On October 1st, 2015 at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, a 26-year-old man made his way into the campus and killed ten people. This tragedy; however, it is just one of the many. As stated by the New York Times authors, "[it is] a list that runs from Columbine High School in 1999 to Virginia Tech in 2007 to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., where 20 children were killed in 2012" (Vanderhart). These incidents are too close in time, not to mention that they do not even run over thirty-years. Gunpoint encounters grow by the year to a relatively astonishing pace in the U.S.. The most obvious solution is to ban firearms that instead of offering "protection", are being used to harm fellow citizens. However, the idea has been and keeps being eliminated.

It is claimed that banning guns are an offense to the Supreme Law which clearly states the right of the citizens to bear arms. Now, it is a reasonable allegation but one must keep in mind that the document was written long ago in an era quite different from today. It is highly improbable that the founding fathers had an accurate idea of the world in 2015. Not even the people born in the 1950's could foretell the new era which it is lived today. The population has grown, movements, and new ideas have drastically shaped history long after the death of the fathers. Technology has enormously developed from the 18th century, and the threat in public grounds along with prejudices have been sky high the last century. As the author of the article shootings, Adam Gopnik described the insanity during these incidents, "[the phone of the] dead students were still ringing when we were told that it was wrong to ask why. As the police cleared the bodies from the Virginia Tech engineering department" (McQuade 674). The matter has gotten so out of hand and unable to deal with the situation that these incidents bring total chaos, and to

what extend? To protect guns used to kill a few animals here and there, and the remaining bullets to shoot one another? It is unacceptable and far from logical.

Guns which have been originally used only for protection have been a poison of the today. At Umpqua Community College, the formed president of the college, Joe Olson explained that the college spoke about having an armed security guard which was dismissed because of the lack of need for it since it was considered a rather “safe” area. Meanwhile, one men living near had three handguns which were absolutely “legal” for him to own for hunting or “protection.” By the end of october 1st, 2015, there were ten people dead (Vanderhart).

Understandable enough, it would be wrong to believe that every single person that posses a firearm will use them to harm the public but by the same token, it is too risky to allow it. Guns are a treat to modern society, to public places, and to the safety of others if it is in incorrect hands. The massacres keep growing in numbers consistently. The law has been written, but it is time for a change; it demands it. The gun incidents are growing for the lack of action and it is a problem globally. However, it is up to the people of the homeland to put a stop to it because if nothing is done, there will be another news about another tragedy by another a “legal gun.”

-Samantha Smith

Works Cited

McQuade, Donald, and Robert Atwan. "Adam Gopnik Shootings." *The Writer's Presence: A Pool of Readings*. Seventh ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012. 673-677 pag. Print.

Vanderhart, Dirk, Kirk Johnson, and Julie Turkewitz. "Oregon Shooting at Umpqua College Kills 10, Sheriff Says." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 01 Oct. 2015. Web. 3 Oct. 2015.