

NOTE: My username is brainyblonde

Is Gun Control Really the Option? : Due to recent events, as I'm sure you all may know, gun control has been a hot topic. I personally think that gun control is NOT the solution. Guns do not kill people...people kill people. ...

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03-06-2013, 02:12 PM #1

brainyblonde Registered User Join Date: Mar 2013
Posts: 4

Is Gun Control Really the Option??

Due to recent events, as I'm sure you all may know, gun control has been a hot topic. I personally think that gun control is NOT the solution. Guns do not kill people...people kill people. It is as simple as that. Similarly, do you really think that a LAW is going to stop an individual that is about to commit a crime anyway? I'm not opposed to criticism at all. I'd like to hear the other side of the debate. I just can't seem to wrap my head around the idea that stricter gun control laws will solve all of our problems. Any thoughts?

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03-06-2013, 02:35 PM #2

 **Xenamnes** Logical and calculating Join Date: Jul 2011
Posts: 1,197

You are greeted and welcomed to the discussion.

Your desire to hear from multiple sides regarding the discussion shows a willingness to consider various points of view. However you are likely to be met with heated rhetoric from others regarding their beliefs about what is right and what is not. You will undoubtedly encounter those who argue that the point of firearm prohibition laws is not to reduce the overall

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03-06-2013, 02:35 PM #2

 **Xenamnes** Logical and calculating Join Date: Jul 2011
Posts: 1,197

You are greeted and welcomed to the discussion.

Your desire to hear from multiple sides regarding the discussion shows a willingness to consider various points of view. However you are likely to be met with heated rhetoric from others regarding their beliefs about what is right and what is not. You will undoubtedly encounter those who argue that the point of firearm prohibition laws is not to reduce the overall homicide rates but only incidents in which firearms are directly used.

You will likely also be met with the rhetoric that firearms should be prohibited from general ownership because their use makes it easier to facilitate a murder than any other implement available. However such does not sufficiently explain how this alone is justification for why firearm ownership should be outright prohibited or greatly restricted.

There is also the possibility of being met with phrases such as "assault weapons" as well as "high capacity ammunition magazines", "dangerous and unusual weapons" and statements about such not being suitable for hunting even though arguments concerning what is and isn't suitable for hunting are unrelated to the second amendment as dictated by the supreme court in the case *District of Columbia v Heller*.

For all the rhetoric and soundbyte statements you are likely to encounter those who will readily cite them will be either unwilling or unable to justify the statements when asked for elaboration. They will have nothing but meaningless phrases to offer and most will fail to respond once the shortcomings of their citations cannot be proven when they are pressed on the matter.

Like

If one cannot have an argument without resorting to hyperbole, name calling and emotional rhetoric, then they have lost the argument from their first post.

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03-06-2013, 04:15 PM #3

Dani
Registered User
Join Date: Jun 2012
Location: Valencia, Spain.
Posts: 1,065

Originally Posted by brainyblonde
I just can't seem to wrap my head around the idea that stricter gun control laws will solve all of our problems.

Well it won't solve all your problems. What it will do is reduce the number of problems that you have with guns, as it has done in all other countries that have strict gun laws.

Like

How to make yourself look a fool in one sentence....

"If Peter Higgs says that many scientists in his field are religious then many scientists in his field are religious....."
-- Gansao.

or.....

"If the great man says it , then its true."
-- Gansao

or

"P Higgs would know that many scientists in his field were religious and that we have no reason to believe him when he says that they do."
--Gansao

Reply With Quote

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03-06-2013, 04:20 PM #4

Dani
Registered User
Join Date: Jun 2012
Location: Valencia, Spain.
Posts: 1,065

You are also likely to encounter those who think they are in a position to decide what is or isn't to be included in any discussions and who will reject any and all verifiable evidence put forward unless it agrees with their own opinion.

You will likely also be met with people that think that a gun ban should also be expected to reduce the number of stabbings, stranglings, clubbing, rape and no doubt bicycle theft too.

Like

How to make yourself look a fool in one sentence....

"If Peter Higgs says that many scientists in his field are religious then many scientists in his field are religious....."
-- Gansao.

or.....

"If the great man says it , then its true."
-- Gansao

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"P Higgs would know that many scientists in his field were religious and that we have no reason to believe him when he says that they do."
--Gansao

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03-06-2013, 04:34 PM #5

 Xenamnes
 Logical and calculating
 Join Date: Jul 2011
 Posts: 1,197

Originally Posted by Dani

Well it won't solve all your problems. What it will do is reduce the number of problems that you have with guns, as it has done in all other countries that have strict gun laws.

However as has been pointed out fewer people being murdered in firearm-related encounters does not mean that fewer people will be murdered overall but only one categorization of homicide may be reduced. What this means is a shift rather than a genuine reduction.

Like

If one cannot have an argument without resorting to hyperbole, name calling and emotional rhetoric, then they have lost the argument from their first post.

Yesterday, 10:39 AM #6

brainyblonde
 Registered User
 Join Date: Mar 2013
 Posts: 4

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Yesterday, 10:39 AM #6


brainyblonde
 Registered User
 Join Date: Mar 2013
 Posts: 4

Black Market

I understand that yes, in some way it may reduce the amount of gun-related deaths, but by how much? Like I stated before, if someone is going to obtain a gun to commit a crime, they are already planning upon breaking the law, so why would gun control laws stop them? I haven't seen any facts and statistics to support the fact that strict gun control laws in other countries have resulted in a drastic decrease in gun-related deaths. Similarly, there is such thing as a black market. I feel as though stricter gun control laws will result in a drastic increase in the use of said market just as was seen when Prohibition laws banning alcohol were put in place in the 1920's. Many organized crime organizations took advantage of this opportunities in the resulting black market in banned alcohol production and sale. Most people did not think drinking alcohol was particularly harmful or that its buyers and sellers should be treated like common criminals. So illegal speakeasies prospered, and organizations such as the Mafia grew tremendously more powerful through their black market activities. Is it possible that such a black market could result from strict gun laws? It would surely make it a lot easier to obtain a gun and, as can be seen on many Facebook pages and websites, citizens are angry about the threat of these gun control laws and I feel as though some would resort to this black market to obtain them. Should we place laws to prevent one form of crime only to encourage another?

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Yesterday, 12:28 PM #7

 Xenamnes
 Logical and calculating
 Join Date: Jul 2011
 Posts: 1,197

The black market you refer to already exists and would be considered as thriving by some. The trade of weapons with obliterated serial numbers is considerable despite the lack of publicly released statistics. Added to the matter is that prior to the Gun Control Act of 1968 it was not mandatory for firearms to possess serial numbers that would allow them to be traced and there are untold number of these firearms in existence.


http://www.4forums.com/political/gun-control-debates/22511-gun-control-really-option.html

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Yesterday, 12:28 PM #7

 **Xenamnes**
 Registered User
 Join Date: Jul 2011
 Posts: 1,197

Logical and calculating

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Additionally by federal law records pertaining to who has purchased what firearm need be retained only for a period of twenty years. After this period the records may legally be shredded, burned or otherwise disposed of. What this means is that records to any and all firearm sales made prior to the year 1993 are no longer in existence. Any firearm made prior to 1993 and recovered by the police can no longer be traced from seller to buyer as the records no longer exist.

Like

If one cannot have an argument without resorting to hyperbole, name calling and emotional rhetoric, then they have lost the argument from their first post.

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Yesterday, 03:25 PM #8

Dani
 Registered User
 Join Date: Jun 2012
 Location: Valencia, Spain.
 Posts: 1,065

Originally Posted by **brainyblonde**
 I understand that yes, in some way it may reduce the amount of gun-related deaths, but by how much?

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Yesterday, 03:25 PM #8

Dani
 Registered User
 Join Date: Jun 2012
 Location: Valencia, Spain.
 Posts: 1,065

Originally Posted by **brainyblonde**
 I understand that yes, in some way it may reduce the amount of gun-related deaths, but by how much?

If it only reduced the gun deaths by a few hundred, wouldn't that be worth it? After all, one of those might be your son, your daughter or your spouse.

Like I stated before, if someone is going to obtain a gun to commit a crime, they are already planning upon breaking the law, so why would gun control laws stop them?

The idea is too reduce the number of guns that are available to commit crime with. Nobody is saying that gun crime is going to be wiped out completely but if it can be reduced then you have a win.

I haven't seen any facts and statistics to support the fact that strict gun control laws in other countries have resulted in a drastic decrease in gun-related deaths.

Have you not? Look up the countries that have strict gun control and then look at the rates of death from guns then compare those rates with countries that do not have strict regulations....such as USA. Compare Europe with the USA for example.

Similarly, there is such thing as a black market. I feel as though stricter gun control laws will result in a drastic increase in the use of said market just as was seen when Prohibition laws banning alcohol were put in place in the 1920's.

Well you can also buy heroin on the black market. Are you suggesting that there should be no regulations to controls drugs because those that want to purchase them can get them on the black market anyway?

Many organized crime organizations took advantage of this opportunities in the resulting black market in banned alcohol production and sale. Most people did not think drinking alcohol was

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Many organized crime organizations took advantage of this opportunities in the resulting black market in banned alcohol production and sale. Most people did not think drinking alcohol was particularly harmful or that its buyers and sellers should be treated like common criminals. So illegal speakeasies prospered, and organizations such as the Mafia grew tremendously more powerful through their black market activities.

People will get whatever they want on the black market, drugs, weapons, alcohol, forged papers, identities, people trafficking etc...but just because they are available if you are prepared to make the effort to get them, that is no reason to not have restrictions and controls on them.

Is it possible that such a black market could result from strict gun laws?

It's possible I suppose but again...is that reason enough not to try? I can only point to Europe because that is where I live but we don't have this thriving black market in guns that you fear will develop if guns are restricted. At the end of the day, Americans must decide whether they want to place some value on the lives of their countrymen or whether they consider that an average of 33,000 people a year killed by guns is an acceptable price to pay to keep their 'right' to be armed.

Should we place laws to prevent one form of crime only to encourage another?

We have specific laws to try to prevent specific problems. It's like having laws regulating the speed that we can drive our cars in an attempt to reduce the number of people that are killed by excessive speed. That the laws regulating driving too fast may not reduce the number of people killed from not wearing a seat-belt or driving through red traffic lights, is not a reason to not have laws regulating excessive speed.

Last edited by Dani; Yesterday at 03:48 PM.

Like

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Reply With Quote

Yesterday, 05:52 PM #9

Xenammes  Logical and calculating
Join Date: Jul 2011
Posts: 1,197

Originally Posted by Dani

If it only reduced the gun deaths by a few hundred, wouldn't that be worth it? After all, one of those might be your son, your daughter or your spouse.

Such a statement is nothing more than simple emotional rhetoric and not able to withstand the scrutiny of logic.

The idea is too reduce the number of guns that are available to commit crime with. Nobody is saying that gun crime is going to be wiped out completely but if it can be reduced then you have a win.

That is assuming that the number of firearms reduced will be the ones that criminals already have unfettered access to. However the only firearms that will be affected by any such law will be only the ones that are already known about due to their legal ownership status. Those that are currently held by criminals are without legal records and cannot be affected by whatever prohibition is proposed.

Have you not? Look up the countries that have strict gun control and then look at the rates of death from guns then compare those rates with countries that do not have strict regulations....such as USA. Compare Europe with the USA for example.

This discussion has already been had. As was pointed out you cannot commit a simple compare and contrast of vastly differing nations and claim that a particular implementation of law is responsible for those differences. You are practicing a matter of intellectual dishonesty.

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Well you can also buy heroin on the black market. Are you suggesting that there should be no regulations to controls drugs because those that want to purchase them can get them on the black market anyway?

Has the prohibition on marijuana resulted in a violent drug war fueled by the desire and demand for this illegal substance and the ability to supply those demands for considerable prices? Was the same not true with regard to alcoholic beverages in the early twentieth century?

Should the same approach be implemented with firearms the results would be no different.

People will get whatever they want on the black market, drugs, weapons, alcohol, forged papers, identities, people trafficking etc...but just because they are available if you are prepared to make the effort to get them, that is no reason to not have restrictions and controls on them.

It would appear you have just admitted that whatever prohibition you are prepared to propose will be easily subverted and defeated by those whose intent is to use firearms to commit heinous deeds. If such is the case then you have conceded defeat.

It's possible I suppose but again...is that reason enough not to try? I can only point to Europe because that is where I live but we don't have this thriving black market in guns that you fear will develop if guns are restricted. At the end of the day, Americans must decide whether they want to place some value on the lives of their countrymen or whether they consider that an average of 33,000 people a year killed by guns is an acceptable price to pay to keep their 'right' to be armed.

History would suggest that the black market for firearms would grow considerably if legal avenues are greatly restricted and thus defeat the desired goal of the legislation.

We have specific laws to try to prevent specific problems. It's like having laws regulating the speed that we can drive our cars in an attempt to reduce the number of people that are killed by excessive speed. That the laws regulating driving too fast may not reduce the number of people killed from not wearing a seat-belt or driving through red traffic lights, is not a reason to not have laws regulating excessive speed.

3:09 PM 3/8/2013

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excessive speed. That the laws regulating driving too fast may not reduce the number of people killed from not wearing a seat-belt or driving through red traffic lights, is not a reason to not have laws regulating excessive speed.


Laws regulating the speed at which motorists travel are in no way comparable to laws regarding the possession of firearms. Laws related to traveling speed are actually enforceable in a public area whereas firearm prohibition laws are not. No warrant is needed for implementing the use of speed-measuring devices in a public area whereas matters pertaining to firearms require the use of a warrant in order to carry out a search to find them.

Like

If one cannot have an argument without resorting to hyperbole, name calling and emotional rhetoric, then they have lost the argument from their first post.

Reply With Quote

Yesterday, 10:14 PM #10

zsu2357  **Anti-gun...Registration**

Join Date: Jun 2009
Location: Oregon
Posts: 1,663

=Dani:471075]You are also likely to encounter those who think they are in a position to decide what is or isn't to be included in any discussions and who will reject any and all verifiable evidence put forward unless it agrees with their own opinion. 🙄

Dani you should have just worked up to it instead of giving yourself away. 🙄

You will likely also be met with people that think that a gun ban should also be expected to reduce the number of stabbings, stranglings, clubbing, rape and no doubt bicycle theft too. 🙄

A gun ban or the type Frankenstein wants would up the number of crimes all round since only the criminals would have the guns and they would lose their fear of midnight visits since they wouldn't be as worried about being shot.

3:09 PM 3/8/2013

This screenshot shows a forum thread on 4forums.com. The browser address bar displays the URL: <http://www.4forums.com/political/gun-control-debates/22511-gun-control-really-option.html>. The forum post is titled "Anti-gun...Registration" and is by user "zsu2357", who has a join date of Jun 2009, location of Oregon, and 1,663 posts. The post content includes a quote from "Dani": *"=Dani:471075]You are also likely to encounter those who think they are in a position to decide what is or isn't to be included in any discussions and who will reject any and all verifiable evidence put forward unless it agrees with their own opinion."* Below the quote, the user writes: "Dani you should have just worked up to it instead of giving yourself away." Another quote follows: *"You will likely also be met with people that think that a gun ban should also be expected to reduce the number of stabbings, stranglings, clubbing, rape and no doubt bicycle theft too."* The post concludes with: "A gun ban or the type Frankenstein wants would up the number of crimes all round since only the criminals would have the guns and they would lose their fear of midnight visits since they wouldn't be as worried about being shot." The post has a "Like" button and a "Reply With Quote" link.

This screenshot shows the next post in the forum thread, post #11, also by user "zsu2357". The post content includes a quote: *"Originally Posted by Dani
Well it won't solve all your problems. What it will do is reduce the number of problems that you have with guns, as it has done in all other countries that have strict gun laws."* Below the quote, the user references a link: "Joyce Lee Malcolm: Two Cautionary Tales of Gun Control - WSJ.com" and adds "And I guess it has a downside." The post has a "Like" button and a "Reply With Quote" link.

This screenshot shows the next post in the forum thread, post #12, also by user "zsu2357". The post content includes a quote: *"Originally Posted by brainyblonde
Due to recent events, as I'm sure you all may know, gun control has been a hot topic. I personally think that gun control is NOT the solution. Guns do not kill people...people kill people. It is as simple as that. Similarly, do you really think that a LAIW is going to stop an individual that is about to commit a crime anyway? I'm not opposed to criticism at all. I'd like to hear the other side of the debate. I just can't seem to wrap my head around the idea that stricter gun control laws will solve all of our problems. Any thoughts?"* The post has a "Reply With Quote" link.


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Yesterday, 11:46 PM #12

 **zsu2357**
 Anti-gun...Registration
 Join Date: Jun 2009
 Location: Oregon
 Posts: 1,663

Originally Posted by **brainyblonde**
 Due to recent events, as I'm sure you all may know, gun control has been a hot topic. I personally think that gun control is NOT the solution. Guns do not kill people...people kill people. It is as simple as that. Similarly, do you really think that a LAW is going to stop an individual that is about to commit a crime anyway? I'm not opposed to criticism at all. I'd like to hear the other side of the debate. I just can't seem to wrap my head around the idea that stricter gun control laws will solve all of our problems. Any thoughts?

Welcome brainyblonde one.And you are so very right it won't solve it not even close. It's unfortunate though that there are those that think take the guns away from the responsible law abiding people and all will be pixie dust and unicorn farts.Somewhat I just don't see criminal element lining up to turn them in.

Like

Reply With Quote

Today, 12:39 AM #13

Dani
 Registered User
 Join Date: Jun 2012
 Location: Valencia, Spain
 Posts: 1,065

Originally Posted by **zsu2357**
 *Joyce Lee Malcolm: Two Cautionary Tales of Gun Control - WSJ.com
 And I guess it has a downside.*

Don't confuse gun 'crime' with gun 'deaths'. As the article mentioned, there are areas that have experience a decrease in gun crime. Inner London does seem to be having a problem

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Today, 12:39 AM #13

Dani
 Registered User
 Join Date: Jun 2012
 Location: Valencia, Spain
 Posts: 1,065

Originally Posted by **zsu2357**
 *Joyce Lee Malcolm: Two Cautionary Tales of Gun Control - WSJ.com
 And I guess it has a downside.*

Don't confuse gun 'crime' with gun 'deaths'. As the article mentioned, there are areas that have experience a decrease in gun crime. Inner London does seem to be having a problem with US style 'gang culture' of late but I don't think it's a reflection of the country as a whole.

...and what exactly is the author classing as "gun crime"? A 'gun crime' does not necessarily mean that a robbery/assault has been committed using a gun. If some idiot job is stopped by police whilst he is carrying a weapon because he wants to impress his mates, that goes down as a 'gun crime'. Also, headlines screaming that 'the gun crime rate has doubled' can give the wrong impression. If the 'crime rate' is 500 and you double it to 1000, you have a problem. If the 'crime rate' is 1 and you double it to 2 you do not have such a problem. You are going to have a crime rate no matter what you do; the question is, can you keep it under control.

It's interesting that we are discussing this now as I was watching a programme on TV last night about a police officer that had been in an 'armed response' team for over 20 years and had never had to draw a gun and as this Wiki article says...

"One particular British police force has only had to use a firearm against a suspect once in its entire history..."
 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firearms_unit
 Last edited by Dani; Today at 03:06 AM.

Like

How to make yourself look a fool in one sentence....

"If Peter Higgs says that many scientists in his field are religious then many scientists in his field are religious....."
 -- Gansao.

This screenshot shows a forum post on the website 4forums.com. The browser's address bar displays the URL: http://www.4forums.com/political/gun-control-debates/22511-gun-control-really-option.html. The forum post is titled "Is Gun Control Really the O..." and is posted by a user named Dani, who is a registered user. The post's metadata indicates it was posted today at 12:49 AM, and it has 14 replies. The user's profile information shows a join date of June 2012, a location of Valencia, Spain, and 1,065 posts. The main content of the post is a quote from user zsu2357: "A gun ban or the type Frankenstein wants would up the number of crimes all round since only the criminals would have the guns and they would lose their fear of midnight visits since they wouldn't be as worried about being shot." Below the quote, the user writes: "On the other hand, you could get a situation where criminals don't carry guns because they know that they don't need guns to defend themselves against guns. What you have in the USA is a 'vicious circle' whereby people have guns to protect themselves against people that have guns, then they get bigger guns to protect themselves...and so do those that they are protecting themselves from." The post concludes with a challenge: "How to make yourself look a fool in one sentence...." followed by a series of statements: "If Peter Higgs says that many scientists in his field are religious then many scientists in his field are religious....." (attributed to Gansao), "or.....", "If the great man says it, then its true." (attributed to Gansao), "or", and "P Higgs would know that many scientists in his field were religious and that we have no reason to believe him when he says that they do." (attributed to Gansao). The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 3:09 PM on 3/8/2013.

This screenshot shows a forum post on the website 4forums.com, identical to the one above. The browser's address bar displays the URL: http://www.4forums.com/political/gun-control-debates/22511-gun-control-really-option.html. The forum post is titled "Is Gun Control Really the O..." and is posted by a user named Dani, who is a registered user. The post's metadata indicates it was posted today at 02:11 AM, and it has 15 replies. The user's profile information shows a join date of June 2012, a location of Valencia, Spain, and 1,065 posts. The main content of the post is a quote from user zsu2357: "It's unfortunate though that there are those that think take the guns away from the responsible law abiding people and all will be pixie dust and unicorn farts." Below the quote, the user writes: "It's also unfortunate that there are those that would rather have an average of 33,000 of their citizens slaughtered each year; would rather have more of their citizens killed every two years than were killed in the whole 20 years of the Vietnam war; would rather have more of their citizens killed in an average seven week period than they have had killed in the Iraq war....than give up their guns. The solution is in your hands folks." The post concludes with a challenge: "How to make yourself look a fool in one sentence...." followed by a series of statements: "If Peter Higgs says that many scientists in his field are religious then many scientists in his field are religious....." (attributed to Gansao), "or.....", "If the great man says it, then its true." (attributed to Gansao), "or", and "P Higgs would know that many scientists in his field were religious and that we have no reason to believe him when he says that they do." (attributed to Gansao). The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 3:09 PM on 3/8/2013.

Today, 02:30 AM #16

Dani
Registered User

Join Date: Jun 2012
Location: Valencia, Spain.
Posts: 1,065

Originally Posted by zsu2357
*Joyce Lee Malcolm: Two Cautionary Tales of Gun Control - WSJ.com
And I guess it has a downside.*

Oh come on fella! Now this is not strictly true is it....

"Since the public was unarmed—as were the police—Ryan wandered the streets for eight hours with two semiautomatic rifles and a handgun before anyone with a firearm was able to come to the rescue."

How to make yourself look a fool in one sentence....

"If Peter Higgs says that many scientists in his field are religious then many scientists in his field are religious....."
-- Gansao.

or.....

"If the great man says it , then its true."
-- Gansao

or

3:10 PM 3/8/2013

Today, 02:52 AM #17

Dani
Registered User

Join Date: Jun 2012
Location: Valencia, Spain.
Posts: 1,065

Originally Posted by brainyblonde
I haven't seen any facts and statistics to support the fact that strict gun control laws in other countries have resulted in a drastic decrease in gun-related deaths.

"Experts from the Harvard School of Public Health, using data from 26 developed countries, have shown that wherever there are more firearms, there are more homicides. In the case of the United States, exponentially more: the American murder rate is roughly 15 times that of other wealthy countries, which have much tougher laws controlling private ownership of guns."

"We are the only industrialized country that has this problem. In the whole world, the only one."
--Mayor Michael Bloomberg

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/18/op...work.html?_r=0
These Laws Are The Reason Canada, Australia, Japan And The UK Have Such Low Gun Homicide Rates - Business Insider

How to make yourself look a fool in one sentence....

"If Peter Higgs says that many scientists in his field are religious then many scientists in his field are religious....."
-- Gansao.

or.....

"If the great man says it , then its true."
-- Gansao

3:10 PM 3/8/2013


http://www.4forums.com/political/gun-control-debates/22511-gun-control-really-option-2.html

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Today, 08:28 AM #18

 Xenamnes ◊
Logical and calculating

Join Date: Jul 2011
Posts: 1,197

Originally Posted by Dani

"Experts from the Harvard School of Public Health, using data from 26 developed countries, have shown that wherever there are more firearms, there are more homicides. In the case of the United States, exponentially more: the American murder rate is roughly 15 times that of other wealthy countries, which have much tougher laws controlling private ownership of guns."

*"We are the only industrialized country that has this problem. In the whole world, the **only** one."*
--Mayor Michael Bloomberg

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/18/op...work.html?_r=0
These Laws Are The Reason Canada, Australia, Japan And The UK Have Such Low Gun Homicide Rates - Business Insider

It has already been pointed out that the presented "study" is not a credible source. The Harvard School of Public Health that released it has received funding from the Joyce Foundation that maintains an anti-firearms stance and does not provide any funding to any organization that produces studies that run contrary to this position. The Harvard School of Public Health had a monetary incentive to reach the results that they did.

Furthermore New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg is not a credible source to cite as he has made his political position quite clear. He has proven that he is against firearms in any way, shape or form and does not believe in their legitimate use. He has employed tactics of questionable legality to target firearms manufacturers and federally licensed dealers in states that are far beyond his limited territory of authority and did so without cooperating with the local law enforcement first. What Michael Bloomberg amounts to matches the legal definition of a vigilante. If you are citing him then it can be construed as an embrace of vigilante-style justice.

Your sources cited are no more credible than the reverend Jesse Jackson when he made the claim that semi-automatic firearms possess the power to XXXX up entire railroads.

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Last edited by Xenamnes; Today at 01:21 PM.

Like

If one cannot have an argument without resorting to hyperbole, name calling and emotional rhetoric, then they have lost the argument from their first post.

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Today, 10:32 AM #19

Bryan
Registered User

Join Date: Jul 2004
Location: Virginia
Posts: 630

Originally Posted by Dani

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Dani, have you ever looked at the corresponding murder rates involving weapons other than firearms? They are as high in America as well. The Harvard study does not bother to

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Dani, have you ever looked at the corresponding murder rates involving weapons other than firearms? They are as high in America as well. The Harvard study does not bother to mention this, because it cuts against the preferred argument that guns are the problem. We have a violence problem, period. Our murder rate is driven by social factors that cause us to be a very violent society when compared to other nations.

If you wish to still believe guns are the problem, Dani, then please address what follows...

First, let's take your chosen example of Australia:

The gun ban/buyback you so highly praise happened in 1996-1997. Much earlier, in 1989, the Australian government created the National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) to track homicide statistics. Here is an easily available study:

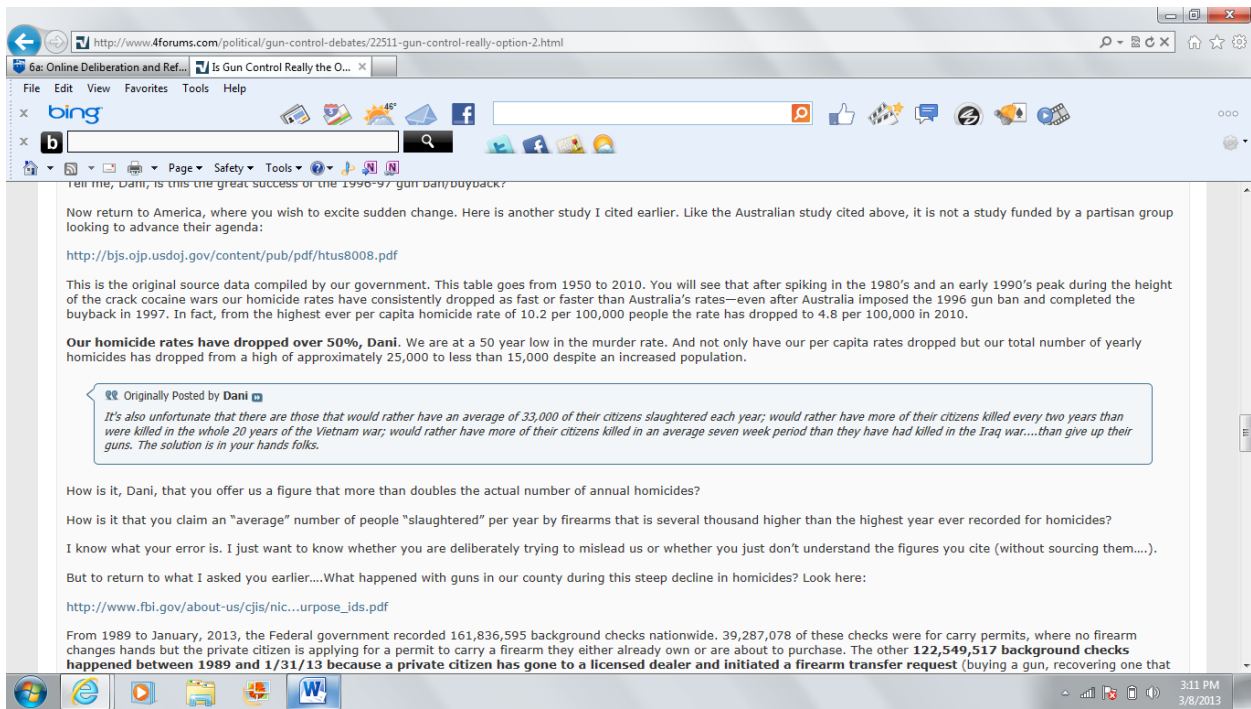
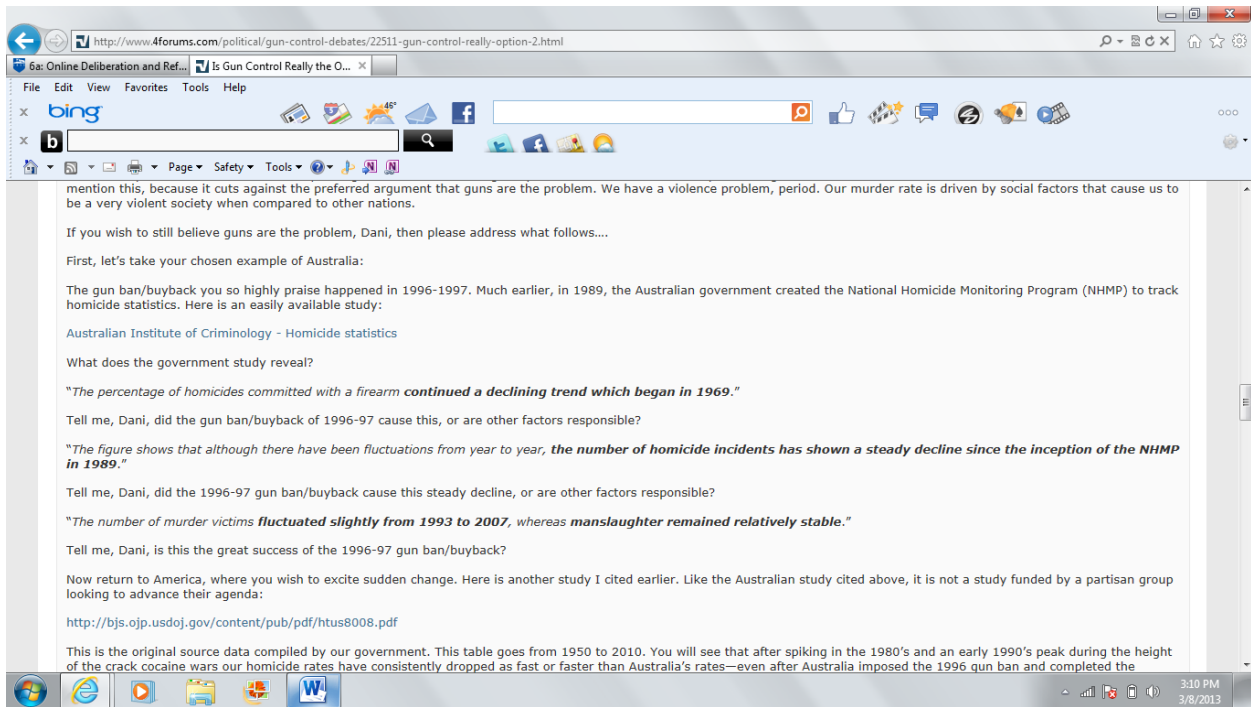
Australian Institute of Criminology - Homicide statistics

What does the government study reveal?

"The percentage of homicides committed with a firearm continued a declining trend which began in 1969."

Tell me, Dani, did the gun ban/buyback of 1996-97 cause this, or are other factors responsible?

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From 1989 to January, 2013, the Federal government recorded 161,836,595 background checks nationwide. 39,287,078 of these checks were for carry permits, where no firearm changes hands but the private citizen is applying for a permit to carry a firearm they either already own or are about to purchase. The other **122,549,517 background checks happened between 1989 and 1/31/13 because a private citizen has gone to a licensed dealer and initiated a firearm transfer request** (buying a gun, recovering one that has been pawned, trading one gun in to purchase another one, etc.)

We had untold millions of firearms in private hands before 1989, Dani. **The vast, vast majority of these 122 and one half million more transfer requests from '89 until now resulted in a private citizen walking out of the store with a gun.** Only a very small percentage involve transfer denials because the transferee is denied by the background check.

Millions upon millions of firearms entering private hands—on top of the untold millions already in private hands—and the homicide rate goes down over 50%—a far faster decline than Australia even after the ban/buyback.

How is this possible, Dani? You argue that gun homicide rates go down when guns are taken away. How can the homicide rate drop more than 50% at a time when more than 122 million more firearm transfers happen? How can such a society have a lower total number of homicides by guns than before? How can a society that adds millions more guns into private hands have a murder rate that drops far, far faster than another nation that bans and confiscates guns?

Is it because guns are the problem, or are you ignoring the real societal issues that drive all crime, including crime with guns?

I showed you this earlier in another thread, Dani. I don't believe you have addressed any of the questions I asked then, but I have been away for a while and may have missed it if you did. Why not take a moment to address it now?

Like

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Today, 02:52 PM #20

brainyblonde Registered User Join Date: Mar 2013 Posts: 4

Well Said..

All of the above points are well made. My argument seems to be that I think that the government is trying to target the wrong problem. These proposed gun control laws could possibly

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brainyblonde Registered User Join Date: Mar 2013 Posts: 4

Well Said..

All of the above points are well made. My argument seems to be that I think that the government is trying to target the wrong problem. These proposed gun control laws could possibly take away from innocent citizens, while having no effect upon those criminals that seek to harm others. How are these gun control laws really going to stop criminals? That's the thing that I have a problem with. I don't understand how a law could stand in a criminal's way. Do you see what I mean? The law means nothing to them. I thought that the government wanted to stop criminals from obtaining guns. How could they possibly do this?? Is it even possible??

Edit Post Reply With Quote

Today, 02:59 PM #21

brainyblonde Registered User Join Date: Mar 2013 Posts: 4

And to build upon the facts and statistics that are being presented above, read the following article:
(I can't post links, so you'll have to read the article that is pasted here.)

Harvard Study: Gun Control Is Counterproductive

I've just learned that Washington, D.C.'s petition for a rehearing of the Parker case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit was denied today. This is good news. Readers will recall in this case that the D.C. Circuit overturned the decades-long ban on gun ownership in the nation's capitol on Second Amendment grounds.

However, as my colleague Peter Ferrer explained in his National Review Online article following the initial decision in March, it looks very likely that the United States Supreme Court

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However, as my colleague Peter Ferrara explained in his National Review Online article following the initial decision in March, it looks very likely that the United States Supreme Court will take the case on appeal. When it does so - beyond seriously considering the clear original intent of the Second Amendment to protect an individual's right to armed self-defense - the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court would be wise to take into account the findings of a recent study out of Harvard.

The study, which just appeared in Volume 30, Number 2 of the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy (pp. 649-694), set out to answer the question in its title: "Would Banning Firearms Reduce Murder and Suicide? A Review of International and Some Domestic Evidence." Contrary to conventional wisdom, and the sniffs of our more sophisticated and generally anti-gun counterparts across the pond, the answer is "no." And not just no, as in there is no correlation between gun ownership and violent crime, but an emphatic no, showing a negative correlation: as gun ownership increases, murder and suicide decreases.

The findings of two criminologists - Prof. Don Kates and Prof. Gary Mauser - in their exhaustive study of American and European gun laws and violence rates, are telling:

Nations with stringent anti-gun laws generally have substantially higher murder rates than those that do not. The study found that the nine European nations with the lowest rates of gun ownership (5,000 or fewer guns per 100,000 population) have a combined murder rate three times higher than that of the nine nations with the highest rates of gun ownership (at least 15,000 guns per 100,000 population).

For example, Norway has the highest rate of gun ownership in Western Europe, yet possesses the lowest murder rate. In contrast, Holland's murder rate is nearly the worst, despite having the lowest gun ownership rate in Western Europe. Sweden and Denmark are two more examples of nations with high murder rates but few guns. As the study's authors write in

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If the mantra "more guns equal more death and fewer guns equal less death" were true, broad cross-national comparisons should show that nations with higher gun ownership per capita consistently have more death. Nations with higher gun ownership rates, however, do not have higher murder or suicide rates than those with lower gun ownership. Indeed many high gun ownership nations have much lower murder rates. (p. 661)

Finally, and as if to prove the bumper sticker correct - that "gun don't kill people, people do" - the study also shows that Russia's murder rate is four times higher than the U.S. and more than 20 times higher than Norway. This, in a country that practically eradicated private gun ownership over the course of decades of totalitarian rule and police state methods of suppression. Needless to say, very few Russian murders involve guns.

The important thing to keep in mind is not the rate of deaths by gun - a statistic that anti-gun advocates are quick to recite - but the overall murder rate, regardless of means. The criminologists explain:

[P]er capita murder overall is only half as frequent in the United States as in several other nations where gun murder is rarer, but murder by strangling, stabbing, or beating is much more frequent. (p. 663 - emphases in original)

It is important to note here that Profs. Kates and Mauser are not pro-gun zealots. In fact, they go out of their way to stress that their study neither proves that gun control causes higher murder rates nor that increased gun ownership necessarily leads to lower murder rates. (Though, in my view, Prof. John Lott's More Guns, Less Crime does indeed prove the latter.) But what is clear, and what they do say, is that gun control is ineffectual at preventing murder, and apparently counterproductive.

Not only is the D.C. gun ban ill-conceived on constitutional grounds, it fails to live up to its purpose. If the astronomical murder rate in the nation's capitol, in comparison to cities where gun ownership is permitted, didn't already make that fact clear, this study out of Harvard should.

It states that the results of a Harvard study show the following: "Nations with stringent anti-gun laws generally have substantially higher murder rates than those that do not." How do you explain this??

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Today, 03:02 PM #22

zsu2357  Anti-gun...Registration

Join Date: Jun 2009
Location: Oregon
Posts: 1,663

Originally Posted by Dani

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Bloomberg? Isn't he the one banning baby formula? Mayor Bloomberg Declares War On Baby Formula < CBS New York
Bloomberg? Isn't he the one banning ear-buds and head-phones (would like) or just loud music in general? Bloomberg's Newest Public Health Initiative: Earbud Headphones? | Video | TheBlaze.com
Yeah he would be a great one to listen to. 🙄🙄🙄

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Yeah he would be a great one to listen to. 🙄🙄🙄

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Arimani M. Caprio

English 138T

Kyle King

3/8/13

Faceless

Any type of communication will be accompanied by both positive and negative effects. Specifically, online communication provides for an open environment which in turn results in the ability of many to freely express their opinions. This same anonymity, however, also allows individuals to cruelly offer comments with no sense of remorse, and such comments then tend to turn productive deliberative exchange into a lagging debate. Online communication is a wonderful tool that can be used for initiating and maintaining excellent conversations, but the facelessness provided by internet interactions also paves the way for accusatory and unproductive discussions.

Wanting to test the effect of anonymity upon deliberative exchange, I chose to participate in a forum provided by www.4forums.com. Not only did this website include forums that were constantly filled with many interactions, but all of the participants were identified only by a username chosen by said participant. In fact, my own username was “brainyblonde”, which clearly gives no indication of who I really am. To begin my participation on this site, I decided to post my own thread discussing the issue of gun control. I felt that the key to initiating productive participation with the members of this site was to pose my question while at the same time, making sure that it was clear to all those viewing my thread that I was willing to accept other opinions and that I was determined to keep an open mind. For deliberation to occur, it is

important that contributors feel as though their opinion matters and will be taken into consideration. As can be seen in the screenshots above, I was commended for keeping such an open mind immediately, but also warned of the possible responses that I should expect. With this being said, it is also important to stand your ground and support your claim, which is what I attempted to do in my very first question. I wanted my audience to know that I was willing to accept their opinions and beliefs, but at the same time, I had my own. The quality of deliberation is greatly increased by those that keep an open mind, but at the same time, have their own valid and provoking information to bring into the discussion.

The first few comments on my thread seemed to be going in the right direction. Those who responded seemed to be offering valid information, while at the same time respecting my opinions. As the discussion continued, however, things began to change. As more individuals became involved, I feel as though the deliberation that had begun started to slowly evolve into a finger-pointing debate. Instead of questions being answered and helpful comments being offered, it seemed as though the only reason for some of the above comments was to prove another wrong and make certain individuals seem undeniably correct. There is no room for cocky behavior in a deliberation. I do commend those who chose to comment on my thread for bringing in various outside sources that did make valid arguments, but too many other comments seemed to target specific individuals. An explicit feature of this website and many others that I looked at made it possible for commenters to tag a certain comment that they would like to respond to. While it does make it much easier for commenters to follow the track of the conversation, it also makes it simpler for some to target specific individuals, which greatly hurts deliberation. I tried to keep the conversation on track with my own comments, and it did work a few times, but ultimately my comments were ignored after a few posts and the finger pointing continued. The

comment that I made about the black market was followed by great deliberative activity from both Dani and Xenamnes, both of whom used the commenting feature of this site to their advantage. However, zsu2357 decided to take the conversation in a different direction. Zsu attempted to assert that Dani had ideological motivations that he had attempted to, but apparently failed at masking through the use of data and statistics. Zsu commented the following in response to a post that Dani had made: “Dani you should have just worked up to it instead of giving yourself away.” How is that accomplishing anything? As can be seen, it almost seemed as though the conversation that resulted from my own thread turned into a never-ending debate that was characterized by calling out others. It is important to validate your argument, but targeting others is no way to produce productive deliberative exchange.

Deliberative exchange proved to be greatly hindered by the anonymity provided by an online forum. I can say from personal experience that it is so much easier to tell someone something over the internet than it is in a face-to-face encounter. The facelessness provided by online deliberation, accompanied with the anonymity provided by this specific online forum did create an open-minded environment, but also created a realm that fostered disrespect and arrogance. On 4forums, you are actually able to construct an entire profile that can be used to portray any thought or philosophy imaginable through the use of a profile picture, a personal title, and quotes located at the end every post that you submit. In particular, Xenamnes uses his/her profile to portray a logical character that relies simply upon the facts when arguing. The quote that follows his every post reads: “If one cannot have an argument without resorting to hyperbole, name calling and emotional rhetoric, then they have lost the argument from their first post.” Xenamnes’s profile was constructed with very specific rhetorical aims in mind. Because he is not required to list any truly identifiable information on his profile, Xenamnes and any

other participant on this site can hide behind these profiles and furthermore, not only use their comments to impose their thoughts and views upon others, but use their profiles as well. From my experience, this seemed to have a negative effect upon deliberative exchange for some of the participants on my thread. There was not a true name or face to put to any of the profiles that were used to identify commenters on my thread, and this made it an open arena for anger and retaliation.

One must realize he/she generally does not know who he/she is talking to on these online forums and probably never will. It is for this reason that it is so easy to lash out at someone on a forum such as this one. The issue being discussed in this case is very personal to many and is currently having a major impact upon our nation, which causes some to become very passionate about a topic. Passion leads to anger at some times, which leads some to say things that they normally wouldn't say in a face-to-face conversation with someone that they know. This exact concept is reinforced and shown in the comments listed upon my thread. There is no filter imposed on the comments, and at times, they became rude and offensive. When compared to our own debate in class, differences can be seen. In the classroom, disrespect was almost nonexistent except for in a few situations. I attribute this to the fact that it makes it much more real whenever you are directly faced with a problem. In the Civic Issues Forum, our comments specifically affected an individual in front of our eyes, while online, our comments affected a digital screen that showed no emotion. It makes a huge difference. Based upon my own experiences, personal identification seems to be conducive to successful deliberation.

After a first-hand glance into the online realm of discussion, I feel as though online communication is not favorable to deliberation. While many resources are readily available through the internet, communication is fast, and comments are filled with emotion, it appears to

me that the facelessness provided by this technology quickly turns a deliberation into a heated debate. Increasing the awareness of individuals and their identities online seems to be the only solution that I can offer at this point in time. In my opinion, deliberation is most effective when in person. Anonymity does not mix well with deliberative exchange. You can't hide behind a username in real life.