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FOREWORD

On June 22, 2016, the Obama administration, for the 17th time, pushed relentlessly to tighten gun control measures after a terrorist attack at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

“The shooter was apparently armed with a handgun and a powerful assault rifle. This massacre is therefore a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people in a school, or in a house of worship, or a movie theater, or in a nightclub. And we have to decide if that’s the kind of country we want to be. And to actively do nothing is a decision as well.” - Barack Obama

Now more than ever, the right to bear arms is under attack and in danger of being altered significantly or removed entirely. Proponents of gun control are preying on raw emotions and using misleading statistics to push their agenda. This booklet is a direct response to the agenda pushed by gun control advocates, and a clarification to the general public regarding the facts and statistics available based on empirical evidence.

It is with great pleasure that I present to you Turning Point USA’s publication, “The Case Against Gun Control.”

Charlie Kirk
Founder and Executive Director
Turning Point USA
It is important to study history, particularly the history of tyrannical regimes; it is often said that the best way to predict the future is to study the past. To best understand the controlling nature of gun control, we must first embark on a journey back to the 20th century.

One of the best examples of gun control gone wrong is Communist Russia. The year is 1918. The environment is apprehensive, originality is discouraged, and free-speech is suppressed. Anti-communists fear criticizing the Kremlin as a viscous reward system compels the closest of friends and family members to report “suspicious behavior” to the government.

Among the exploitation of the working class and the suppression of the truth is a desire to disarm citizens. On April 1, 1918 a nation-wide firearm registration is introduced. As is the case with almost every nation where firearm registration is implemented, it becomes a prelude to confiscation.

Only six months later the government orders the surrender of all firearms, ammunition, and sabres. Citizens reluctantly comply with the orders — this proves to be a fatal mistake.
It isn’t long before an arm-less society faces mass-genocide. Ten years later, from 1929 to 1953 over 20 million people who do not pledge allegiance to Communism/Stalinism are murdered, worked to death in slave labor camps, or deliberately starved to death by Stalin’s government.

Perhaps, if this defenseless pool of people were capable of resistance, a much different fate would have been in store for them.

Another striking example is Nazi Germany. World War I is over and Germany is recovering from a scathing defeat to the Allied powers. As the years pass and the economy starts to recover, politicians call for stricter gun control measure.

It is now 1928. Fearing the efforts by Communists to overthrow the government, a law is passed requiring a permit to acquire, carry, or own a gun. Firearm and ammunition dealers are now required to obtain permits to sell and are instructed to keep a register of their sales. Those who own guns that do not have a serial number have been ordered to have the dealer or manufacturer stamp a serial number on them.

Some speak out about the law, claiming it’s a slippery slope; those who object say it will lead to government overreach and shrink individual liberty.

Amidst rising gang violence among Nazi and Communist youth in 1931, the acquisition of firearm permits is now made subject to “proof of need.” Anybody that wants to buy a gun or ammunition must have a good enough reason to do so at the discretion of the government.

Shortly after the Nazis take power, they begin to go house-by-house and seize weapons from the hands of “subversives.”
On November 11, Hitler issues a decree forbidding Jews to possess firearms, knives, or truncheons under any circumstances, and to surrender them immediately.

Germans are frustrated and hopeless of the prevailing system; there is a passive, non-challenging attitude towards change among the masses and the people want somebody who is going to fix their problems. A charismatic leader; somebody who is bold and loves his country. That man is Adolf Hitler.

In 1933, after being appointed chancellor of Germany, Hitler plays to the emotions of his followers and blames the Jewish people for the fall of Germany. From 1933 to 1945, 6 million Jews and 7 million others are unable to defend themselves as an oppressive regime ruthlessly commits mass genocide.

The most recent example is Maoist China. The industrial revolution is in full swing and many Western countries are thriving. China, however, lacks the resources to participate in the economic springboard. Therefore, Mao and other communists leaders set to reshape Chinese society. Industry is now under state ownership and China’s farmers are being organised into communals.

Mao, like Hitler, inherited gun control from his predecessor’s regime. In 1912, a Chinese law makes it illegal to import or possess rifles, cannons, or explosives without a permit. But communist gun control is not enacted until 1957, when the National People’s Congress outlawed the manufacture, repair, purchase, or possession of any firearm or ammunition.

However, this law is not directed at the Chinese peasants — who are far too poor to afford guns. Instead, the law is aimed at the warlords who are fighting against the oppressive government.

From 1958 to 1962, roughly 45 million people are worked, starved, or beaten to death in China under the Communist dictatorship of Mao Zedong. This attempt to catch up to the Western world is a part of a plan ironically titled, “The Great Leap Forward.”
If you turn on the news after a mass shooting, you will most likely see a politician offering his condolences to the victim’s families. At some point in their remarks, they will call upon the community to come together in solidarity and urge others not to politicize the tragedy. However, in their closing remarks they often, ironically, push for stricter gun control – including gun-free zones.

However, between 1950 and 2016, 98.8% of mass public shootings occurred in gun-free zones.

“With two exceptions, all the multiple-victim public shootings in the US in which more than three people have been killed have taken place where guns are banned,” says Yale economist John Lott, whose study More Guns, Less Crime is the largest ever conducted on the effects of gun control.
Imagine you are a criminal who wants to commit a heinous act. You are choosing a location that is an easy target. It comes down to a place where nobody is armed and a place where individuals may or may not be carrying a weapon. Which do you pick?

The answer is obvious. In fact, Studies suggest that criminals are more likely to be deterred when they don’t know who is armed and who is not. Guns prevent an estimated **2.5 million crimes** a year or 6,849 every day. 60% of convicted felons admitted that they avoided committing crimes when they **knew** the victim was armed. 40% of convicted felons admitted that they avoided committing crimes when they **thought** the victim might be armed.

If you take this controversial issue and think about it objectively – that is in a non-partisan manner – even the most anti-gun advocates would admit that people killed in gun-free zones don’t have a way to protect themselves.

There is no deterrent for criminals to commit crimes when they are certain their targets can’t defend themselves.
Let’s take a look at the deadliest mass shootings in US history.

1. **Orlando nightclub shooting (gun-free zone)** On June 12, 2016 a terrorist killed 49 people and injured more than 50 others at a gay nightclub.

2. **San Bernardino shooting (gun-free zone)** On December 2, 2015 14 people were killed and 22 were seriously injured in a terrorist attack at a work event by a fellow employee and his wife.

3. **Aurora movie theater shooting (gun-free zone)** On July 20, 2012 12 people were killed and 58 people were wounded in a shooting during a midnight screening of the film, *Batman: The Dark Knight Rises* in Aurora, Colorado.

4. **Sandy Hook Elementary shooting (gun-free zone)** On December 14, 2012 a shooter gunned down 20 children (ages six and seven) and six adults (school staff and faculty).

5. **Virginia Tech shooting (gun-free zone)** On April 16, 2007 a gunman murdered 32 students on a college campus.

6. **Columbine High School shooting (gun-free zone)** On April 20, 1999 two students killed 12 peers and one teacher at their school library before committing suicide.

7. **Luby’s Cafeteria shooting (gun-free zone)** On October 16, 1991 a man crashed his pickup truck through the window of the cafeteria. He proceeded to exit his vehicle and gunned down 23 people.
The Tenth Amendment in the Bill of Rights reserves powers not delegated to the federal government to individual states. Thereby states act as “laboratories of democracy.” But what does that mean?

Laws and policies are created at the state level and tested similar to the scientific method. This means a state can enact social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country. If the policy proves to be successful, they can be expanded to the national level through Congress.

So, in order to find out whether strict gun control actually reduces gun crime, we will compare similar states. One has the strictest gun laws in the nation and the other has the least-strict gun laws. Consider it: a tale of two cities.

Chicago and Houston are similar in population, demographics, and drug crime. However, one of these cities has a much higher murder rate.

Let’s start with Chicago, Illinois. The Windy City has the strictest gun laws in the country, yet one of the highest murder rates. In fact, the Huffington Post reported in an article that more people died in Chicago from gun crime than U.S. troops died in Afghanistan in 2012.
Houston, Texas on the other hand, is similar to Chicago in population and crime rate. However, gun laws in Texas are some of the least-restrictive in the country and are only becoming more relaxed. The murder rate in Houston happens to be \( \frac{2}{3} \) that of Chicago.

Also, the year after Texas passed their concealed carry law, murder rates fell 50\% faster than the national average. The rate of murder wasn’t the only the only crime affected. Rape rates fell 93\% faster in the first year after enactment and 500\% faster in the second! Additionally, assaults fell 250\% faster in the second year.

**WHAT DOES THE DATA SUGGEST? IT’S SIMPLE, **GUNS SAVE LIVES.**

Using the scientific method to experiment with public policy isn’t limited to the individual states of a single country. It may also be beneficial to compare countries around the world. It just so happens that countries with the strictest gun control laws also have the highest homicide rates.
Take the United Kingdom* for example. The UK has some of the strictest gun laws in the world. All handguns, semi-automatic and pump-action rifles are prohibited.

Using the logic of anti-gun advocates, crime should be among the lowest in the world.

However, that is not the case. Ironically, firearm use in crimes in the UK has doubled in the decade since handguns were banned.

The UK had 933 violent crimes per 100,000 people in 2012. Meanwhile, the United States had a violent crime rate of 299 per 100,000 people. London is known as the “knife crime capital of Europe.” This means that people who want to break the law will find a way to do so.

In 1996, Australia enacted a sweeping ban on private gun ownership. However, gun crimes have been rising throughout Australia since the ban. In 2001, Sydney’s robbery rates with guns rose 160% more than in the previous year.
Australia, which has a much smaller population than the U.S., seized anywhere from 650,000 to 1 million guns; that is approximately ⅕ to ⅓ of Australian firearms. Most surrendered their weapons voluntarily.

It’s highly unlikely that Americans would respond the same way. There are about as many guns in the U.S. as there are people (about 300 million)! Confiscating ⅕ - ⅓ of America’s firearms would be between 60 million and 105 million guns. An American gun-confiscation program — in addition to being unconstitutional — would be unimaginably violent.

Let’s take a look at Mexico. Gun availability in Mexico is among the lowest in the world, however crime is among the highest. Why might this be?

After a bloody revolution, the 1917 Constitution said the right to carry arms excludes those weapons forbidden by law or reserved for use by the military, and it also states that “they may not carry arms within inhabited places without complying with police regulations.”
Under current law, Mexicans must wait months for approval and have to keep their guns at home at all times. This means that business owners are not allowed to protect their storefronts.

To put it in perspective, a 2014 survey revealed that 73.3% of the country felt insecure about their safety.

The final case study is Canada.

In 1920, before there was any form of gun control, Canadian homicide rate was 7% of the U.S rate. By 1986, and after significant gun control legislation, Canada’s homicide rate was 35% of the U.S. rate – a significant increase. In 2003, Canada had a violent crime rate more than double that of the U.S. (963 vs. 475 per 100,000).

One study of Canadian firearm law and homicide rates spanning 34 years “failed to demonstrate a beneficial association between legislation and firearm homicide rates” for three major gun control bills. The crime rate is 66% higher in four Canadian Prairie Provinces than in the northern US states across the border.

The United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada are often used as exemplary models of nations with strict gun control that works. As you can see, that isn’t necessarily true. With that being said, it is not possible to prove that strict gun control causes more crime but it is most certainly possible to prove that strict gun control correlates with more crime.

*Comparing crime rates between America and Britain is fundamentally flawed. In America, a gun crime is recorded as a gun crime. In Britain, a crime is only recorded when there is a final disposition (a conviction). All unsolved gun crimes in Britain are not reported as gun crimes, grossly undercounting the amount of gun crime there. To make matters worse, British law enforcement has been exposed for falsifying criminal reports to create falsely lower crime figures, in part to preserve tourism.*
Gun control affects everybody, but it affects some more than others. In reality, women are disproportionately affected when politicians pass strict gun control laws. Firearms reduce the power differential between the weak and the strong, making it harder for the strong to prey upon the weak.

Given the choice between someone you know is unarmed, and someone you think may be, criminals will always choose the easier target. Data shows that you are far more likely to survive violent assault if you defend yourself with a gun. When a woman was armed with a gun or knife, only 3% of rape attacks were completed, compared to 32% when the woman was unarmed.

The economist John Lott put it best: “A woman may be severely beaten, even killed, if she resists by using her fists — where the man likely has outmatched — by far the safest course of action is to have a gun.”
In order to put the correlation of handgun ownership and rapes into perspective let’s take a look at the United Kingdom and the United States.

The United Kingdom virtually banned handgun ownership in 1997. During the same period handgun ownership in the United States steadily rose.

Yet, the rate of rape decreased in the United States and skyrocketed in the other countries, as shown in the table.

Women are starting to shift their perspective on gun control and gun ownership. The *NY Times* reported that according to a 2012 Pew Research Center report, there was a 9 point increase in the number of women declaring their support for gun rights between 2008 and 2012. Gone are the days when women look to men for protection.
Even the NRA has seen a spike of interest by the previously-reluctant demographic. An instructional NRA shooting course called Women on Target has seen a 70% increase in annual participation since 2008.

"A woman may be severely beaten, even killed, if she resists by using her fists — where the man likely has outmatched — by far the safest course of action is to have a gun." — John Lott
“IN 2010, THE FBI REPORTED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF FAILED ATTEMPTS BY FELONS AND FUGITIVES TO BUY GUNS. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ONLY PROSECUTED 44. THE PROFESSIONAL POLITICAL CLASS ISN’T ENFORCING THE LAWS WE ALREADY HAVE —IN FACT, THEY’RE VILIFYING THE ISSUE TO SCORE POINTS WITH YOU.”

CARLY FIORINA

MYTH: COUNTRIES WITH STRICT GUN CONTROL HAVE LESS CRIME.
According to the U.N., as of 2005, Scotland was the most violent country in the developed world. Violent crime has doubled over the last 20 years with people three times more likely to be assaulted than in America.

Brazil has mandatory licensing, registration, and maximum personal ownership quotas. It now bans any new sales to private citizens, however their homicide rate is nearly three times higher than the U.S.

Australia and England have banned gun ownership. They have the highest rates of robbery, sexual assault, and assault with force of the top 17 industrialized countries.

MYTH: U.S. GUN CRIME IS INCREASING.
In 2011, the Pew Research Center concluded that only 12 % of Americans believe the gun crime rate is lower today than it was in 1993 while 56 % believe it’s higher.

The Pew Survey also found that the US has seen a 75% reduction in firearm related crime since 1993 despite gun ownership being at an all-time high.
Why is public perception of gun crime so off the mark? Perhaps the answer lies in the realm of liberal media and agenda-driven politicians.

**MYTH: GUN CONTROL IN THE U.S. RESULTS IN LOWER GUN CRIME.**
Since implementing a handgun ban in 1977, Washington D.C. has only seen one year where the murder rate fell below what it was during the years before the ban.

Before the ban, the Capitol’s murder rate ranked in the top 15 among the 50 largest cities in the U.S. only one time. After the ban, DC ranked among the top four worst murder rates for 19 years to this date.

After Massachusetts passed the assault weapons gun ban, crime went up 125% in comparison to neighboring states.

**MYTH: THE GUN SHOW LOOPOHLE ALLOWS ANYBODY TO BUY A GUN.**
Fewer than 1% of “crime guns” were obtained at gun shows. This is a reduction from a 1997 study that found 2% of guns used in criminal offenses were purchased at gun shows.

Moreover, 93% of guns used in crimes are obtained illegally (i.e., not at gun stores or gun shows).

It’s important to remember that dealers are federally licensed. They are bound to stringent rules whether they are selling firearms from a storefront or a gun show.

If you purchase a firearm from a federal firearms licensee (FFL) regardless of the location of the transaction, they must either run a background check on you or confirm that you have passed a background check.
**MYTH: THE U.S. HAS THE HIGHEST RATE OF FIREARM DEATHS AMONG 25 HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.**

60% of American “gun deaths” are actually suicides.

The U.S. has a violent crime rate lower than 12 of the 17 industrialized countries due in large part to the 2.5 million annual defense gun uses.

**MYTH: NO ONE WANTS TO TAKE YOUR GUNS AWAY.**

In an interview with 60 Minutes, the leading legislator on several assault bans, Senator Diane Feinstein said, “If I could’ve gotten 51 votes in the Senate of the United States for an outright ban, picking up every one of them -- Mr. and Mrs. America, turn ‘em all in -- I would have done it.”

Moreover, as cited previously, the prerequisite for every mass extinction or genocide in the 20th century was registration followed by confiscation of firearms by the government.

**60% OF AMERICAN “GUN DEATHS” ARE ACTUALLY SUICIDES.**
CONCLUSION

Gun Control is a very controversial issue ... but it shouldn’t be. There is an overwhelming amount of evidence that suggests gun control correlates with negative consequences.

Gun-control advocates want to convince you and your fellow Americans to give up your arms. They’ll exploit tragedies and are willing to go to extreme measures to get what they want; but they also happen to be persistent and refuse to settle for anything short of total disarmament.

They rely on a passive, affirmative, and non-challenging climate toward change. They understand that a political revolution does not happen overnight and that a series of small, overlooked laws over a long period of time is the recipe for despotism.

By the time the general public has realized what has happened, it is too late. That is why it is imperative we become proactive in defending our 2nd Amendment rights while we have the ability to do so.

Remember that the 2nd Amendment is arguably the most important, because it protects the sanctity of all other amendments.

Turning Point USA wants to help empower you! We recognize the slippery slope of government overreach and we want to
arm you with the knowledge to combat the myths about gun control on your campus.

Above all, you must be courageous and stand up for what you believe. There may come a time when you have nothing left but your convictions; never let go of them.
NOTES

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