

THE NATIONAL MEMO

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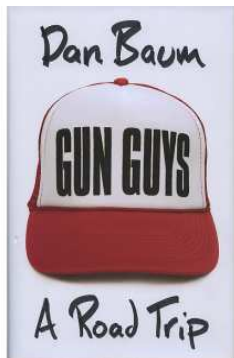
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Weekend Reader: *Gun Guys: A Road Trip*

March 23rd, 2013 12:00 am
National Memo Staff

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This week, Weekend Reader brings you Gun Guys, by Dan Baum. Gun Guys offers an insightful and humorous look at the battle of guns and gun laws in the United States. Baum, a self-described "liberal gun owner," provides readers with a varying look at the gun debate through a series of interviews and interactions with avid gun owners. Post-Newtown, gun-related violence has been under a microscope and determining effective laws has become a prevalent issue. The Senate is expected to vote on a gun bill in early April, which as of this week will unfortunately not include an assault weapons ban—something a majority of Americans are in favor of. Gun Guys provides the reader with a slightly different, more personal account of gun owners across the country.

The following is excerpted from Dan Baum's Gun Guys. You can purchase it [here](#).

I stepped up to position number 4 and, like a boy in the junior high gym shower, furtively looked over the other guys' equipment. Out of six men shooting—two old guys like me and four in their thirties or younger—I was the only one with a traditional wooden rifle. Everybody else was shooting a black AR-15—the civilian version of the military's M16. I might as well have been on the range at Fort Benning.

I'd seen these guns creeping into stores and ranges and had never understood the attraction. With their plastic stocks and high-tech man-killer look, they lacked the elegance of traditional firearms. The most common reason that people bought guns was for protection against crime, but shotguns and handguns were best for close-order shooting. The second most common reason was target shooting, like here at Cherry Creek. Hunting came third, but rarely with the AR-15. Most states didn't allow the taking of deer with the tiny .223 bullet fired by the basic AR.

The AR was excellent at what it was designed for: killing people at medium range on the battlefield, which was not something the average retail gun buyer needed to do. Yet more and more rack space in gun stores seemed to be given over to AR-15s, and at this range on this day, they had taken over completely.

At the bench next to mine, a cherubic young man with a round, close-cropped head and plump fingers held an all-black rifle that looked ready for SEAL Team Six. Everything that was wood on my rifle was plastic on his. Instead of a horizontal stock, the gun had a vertical foregrip, as on a tommy gun. A rubber-encased telescopic scope the size of a salami lay along the top. Wired-up cylinders of some kind encrusted the barrel. The young man slapped in a banana-shaped magazine and, peering through the scope, fired four slow shots at a bull's-eye a hundred yards off. Then he touched a button on the side of the gun, and the foregrip split into a bipod, which he rested on the bench to continue his deliberate firing. The man's sweet, plump-cheeked baby face contrasted so thoroughly with the rifle's flamboyant lethality that I almost laughed aloud. Instead, when he paused to reload, I broke gun-range protocol and invaded his space. "Will you forgive an ignorant question?" I asked. "I mean, look at the old iron I shoot. What do you use that gun for?"

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"This!" he said with a laugh. "Shooting!"

"You're, uh, not thinking you're going to need it or anything . . ."

He laughed. "Oh, no. I know what you mean. No. None of that. I just like it. And it's a little piece of history, what our boys are using in the Gee Wot."

"In the what?"

He laughed again. "The GWOT. The Global War on Terror. It's what they call the whole thing—Iraq, Afghanistan, all the shit we don't hear about everywhere else. You ever shot one of these?"

"No."

"Then come on!" He laid the rifle on the bench and gestured me over. I hesitated. Shooting another man's gun was like dancing with his wife. Some guys got offended if you asked, yet here he was offering it up unbidden.

"Here's the deal," he said excitedly, licking his lips like a five-year-old showing off his favorite toy truck. "The bullet's only sixty-four grains, but it goes superfast." He held up a cartridge much smaller and pointier than mine—a beer bottle, say, to my wine bottles. The sixty-four-grain—four-gram—bullet looked like the tip of a ballpoint pen. The kid ran his finger along the black plastic buttstock of the rifle. "In here's a big-ass spring. It takes up most of the recoil. And feel how light." I picked it up. It felt like a BB gun, especially after the Krag. "You starting to get the attraction? Now look through that." I put my eye to the scope, and the target trembled on the tip of my nose. "That's an ACOG," he said. "It costs more than the rifle, to tell you the truth. It's what every guy in Iraq and Afghanistan who can afford one is using."

I lifted my face from the scope. "They have to buy it?"

"Not the rifle. The Army gives them a stripped-down rifle with iron sights. But everybody uses optics. Some get them issued to them, but most bring them with them, or have their parents send them over."

It hadn't occurred to me that the military allowed soldiers to modify their rifles. Talk about a captive market: What mother wouldn't sell a kidney to send her son a twelve-hundred-dollar rifle scope that might keep him alive?

"Not like I've been over there or anything," the young man was saying. "I see them on TV. Look at the guns next time you're watching the news. Everybody uses optics. Go ahead. Fire a few."

My trigger hand gripped what felt like a pistol, while my left hand clutched the vertical foregrip. I suppose it was more ergonomic than the Krag. To grip the Krag, I had to tilt both hands. On this genetically modified organism of a gun, both fists stood straight up, as though I were boxing. It fit nicely into my shoulder, too, and my eye fell naturally into position behind the scope. I put the crosshairs on the chest of the silhouette target and squeezed.

There was a light bump against my shoulder and an odd sensation of the rifle's insides sliding around as the floating parts compressed the big spring and soaked up the recoil. My own rifle punched me like a prizefighter, and to fire a second shot, I had to throw a heavy bolt lever up and back, forward and down. With this gun, I barely brushed the trigger, as gently as flicking crumbs off a tablecloth. Bam! And a third flick—Bam!

I shot four times more, as fast as I could move my finger—Bambambambam—feeling little more kick than I would from a garden hose. An AR-15 is semi-automatic, meaning it fires one shot for every touch of the trigger, while the M16—and other true "assault rifles"—can fire continuously, like a machine gun. The distinction seemed pretty meaningless, though—this AR could rock and roll faster than I could properly aim.

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NM The National Memo It's time to start wondering whether even common sense gun reforms are a lost cause with this Congress.

National Gun Fever Shows No Sign Of Breaking
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Apparently, there will be no ban on assault weapons. Never mind that Adam Lanza used a Bushmaster AR-15 assault-type rifle to rip apart the bodies of children

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John Henry · Top Commenter · None

You want to shoot at targets? Get a 22 rifle. It shoots fast, it shoots straight, and it's a lot cheaper to use. Target shoot all you want, why burn up more expensive ammo?

Reply · 4 · Like · 6 hours ago



Mike S Mitchell · Assistant Business Manager at Operating Engineers Local 370

I love guns, I own a dozen guns. I hunt, target shoot and do some reloading. The assault weapon designation makes no sense to me as there are a lot of gun platforms that are semi automatic. It does makes sense to me to limit clips-magazines to 10 rounds, as this interrupts the shooter for a brief time and you should not need to have ten rounds to hunt, in fact most of the game that I have harvested were taken by a muzzleloader with one shot. The background check system is a joke in this country. The only time a background check is done is if you buy a new gun a a store, it only makes sense if you want to limit bad guys getting guns that all sales should be required to do a background check. One exception might be gifts within a immediate family

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Emad Ismail · Top Commenter

I am not crazy about guns, I know how to use all types of guns, but I never owned one, even when I was offered them as a gift. I did not own guns, because guns they are dangerous in any form, especially when you have young children in your home who think of them as toys. Simply you can not guard your guns 24/7.

Reply · 3 · Like · 4 hours ago



Patrick Condray

I'm an old guy and improved my shooting in a high school rifle club using bolt action class A 22's. They had clips, but normally we single loaded with 22 long rifle rounds which (showing my age) we got for a penny each.

I found the article informative. He mentions a "Krag," which I assume refers to the 20-30 Norwegian rifle issued to the U.S. Army on the eve of the Spanish American War. It replaced the 45/70 single shot Springfield which equipped our army from right after the War Between The States until the 1890s. It often replaced the Winchester.44 in civilian use, both in bolt and lever action models. The.44 was a pistol round.

If the author found the 30/30 hard on his shoulder he would find the 30/06 more so, especially the 1928 boat tail round. The famed Springfield 03 was of course a licensed version of the Mauser K98 which Teddy Roosevelt deemed superior to the Krag based on field trials held in 1898.

If nothing else the author tells us that he found the pistol grip superior to the familiar (to us old guys) rifle stock.

Of course, the bipod probably helped.

Reply · 2 · Like · 6 hours ago



Terrance Norris · Retired!!! at Bellsouth Telephone Company

I collect old rifles and pistols. To me these weapons, just as new weapons, are works of genius and a bit of art. I don't shoot them, but, they are operative for shooting. I enjoy guns, just to own them and this is one of America's aces over many other countries. (Although, in the old Soviet Union, folks there can own guns too). I must admit , though, I shoot my friends guns on my shooting ange. :)

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Rick2101 · 7 hours ago

An interesting article that gave me a different perspective on gun owners, just those who want to have fun. However, vicious crimes committed by those who should not have guns is not funny.

I believe too many gun owners scream about their rights, but very little on responsibilities. Everyone seems to agree, at some point, that a gun in the wrong hands is the problem.

The second amendment:

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Some argue that “well regulated” does not mean the same today as it did at the time of the founding fathers. For example according to Brian T. Halonen, “well regulated” meant something was in “proper working order”. If that is the case then today’s gun owners must be, according the 2nd Amendment, in “proper working order” to be protected by the constitution. Does anyone believe that gun owners who allow either by direct action or through negligence are “functioning as expected”, when their guns are used to commit crimes? Gun owners are not “well regulated”, “in proper working order”, or “functioning as expected” when their guns are used to commit crimes, unless we “expect” gun owners to

[see more](#)

9 ^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ▾

whodatbob → Rick2101 · 7 hours ago

You could be on to something!

3 ^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ▾

middleclasstaxpayer → Rick2101 · 6 hours ago

Everyone ALSO agrees that an automobile in the wrong hands is a problem too. We have rights granted by our constitution & amendments, and we can't be focusing on everything that can go wrong in life, or we wouldn't be able to own as much as a barbeque without someone hurting themselves or others. ANY item can become a lethal weapon in the hands of a madman....let's focus on mental health issues, and get rid of all the "political correctness" we have come to assimilate here.

0 ^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ▾

Rick2101 → middleclasstaxpayer · 5 hours ago

You are correct; anything can be a lethal weapon. However, I believe guns are in a different category than automobiles and barbecues. The primary function of a gun is to kill something, whether it is legitimate hunting or homicide.

Mental health issues is a very big problem throughout our society, but is time consuming and costly. If someone is prone to gun violence or any kind violence, I do not believe they are interested in getting help, they probably view themselves as “normal” in some way. Mental healthcare would then have to be imposed on them and more likely than not the State, via taxpayers, will have foot the bill. Yes, mental healthcare is the eventual solution, but while healthcare is being debated, I believe the private insurance industry should step up, supported through gun insurance premiums via gun owners, and should foot the bill for the wreckage that careless gun owners leave behind. Taxpayers should not pay for those screaming about their rights to own a gun but are unable or perhaps even unwilling to

about their rights to own a gun but are unable or perhaps even unwilling to safeguard those guns so they do not fall into the wrong hands.

3 ^ | | v · Reply · Share ·

anonymous coward · 8 hours ago

Yeah, this article is entirely misleading. How many times does he have to describe something which is essentially the same as the gun he brought as a baby killing machine before he feels satisfied? I agree that guns should be restricted, but the fact that he was intimidated by the AR-15 and NOT the one he was holding only shows that the man himself is an idiot who shouldn't be holding a gun. All guns are weapons, from the smallest, least intimidating looking rifles to the massive handguns. The author's gun is no less deadly than the AR-15s that the others brought to the range. Also, to say that the AR-15 is chambered ONLY in .223 is dishonest. It can be chambered in literally any size round the shooter prefers because they are modular.

The fact of the matter is, the guy who wrote this doesn't even have a solid argument. The entire purpose of this article is to breed fear instead of rational arguments because that's one thing our side can't seem to do when it comes to guns. We scream about how conservatives are wrong and if they'd only see logic, but we deny them the same right when it comes to these guns. I agree that we should regulate guns more. I agree that we should have background checks on all sales including private, and in a tiered license system that gives people with more experience and heavier background checks access to more lethal weapons, while leaving those who cannot pass those checks to ones which have less deadly potential. I do not, however, agree that all guns should be banned for what is essentially no reason as that is a law which cannot be enforced. There are so many AR-15s on the market that it would hardly even drive the price up at this point, and there would be many more before the ban was fully enacted. The fact of the matter is, instead of banning these guns which is an exercise in futility, we should be focusing on things that keep people from using them in destructive manners like education, mental health, and better controlling access.

4 ^ | | v · Reply · Share ·

Dick · 3 hours ago

I love guns, I use to own a many guns. I hunted and target shot too. The assault weapon designation makes no sense to me as there are a lot of gun platforms that are semi automatic. It does makes sense to me to limit clips-magazines to 10 rounds, as this interrupts the shooter for a brief time and you should not need to have ten rounds to hunt, in fact I even had a couple muzzleloaders. The background check system is a joke. in this country. The only time a background check is done is if you buy a new gun a a store, it only makes sense if you want to limit bad guy

1 ^ | | v · Reply · Share ·

Ed · 8 hours ago

The world is full of "wannabees".

1 ^ | | v · Reply · Share ·

johninPCFL · 9 hours ago

The original "assault rifle" was introduced by the German military in the 1930s, the Russians invented a better one (AK47), the Brits a worse one (Sten), and overlooking the .30M1 carbine, we got into the act during Vietnam (M16). All have fully-automatic modes of fire, and all are designed to kill or disable oncoming infantry at relatively close range with withering rates of fire.

None of the banned weapons in the Congressional bills would be useful to a soldier for any role but target shooting, exactly as described in this article, so calling them "assault rifles" belies either ignorance (probable) or a conspiracy to eviscerate A2 (as the wingnuts claim.)

None of those weapons are more lethal than the unbanned rifles routinely used for hunting, they are used in a minority of crimes (far less than 1%), and the effects of a ban (to wit, lower supply) would take decades to manifest. There are better places to expend the time and energy.

2 ^ | 4 v · Reply · Share ›

Independent1 → johninPCFL · 8 hours ago

Sorry, I don't buy your reasoning. The fact that one can shoot in a semi-automatic mode (as fast as you can pull the trigger) for thirty shots without reloading is reason enough to ban them. Why is it that Sandy Hook, where a kid no bigger than my 13 year old grandson managed to kill 26 people in a matter of just a few minutes with one of these, hasn't made that clear to you?? And when that 1% of crimes (which I'm not sure I buy either), has generally been mass killings, that's also reason enough to ban them. People use them when they're intent on killing a lot of people at one time. Just having them available to the general public, in and of itself, is nothing more than one unfathomable disaster after another just waiting to happen.

12 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

johninPCFL → Independent1 · 6 hours ago

As a further query, when the AR15 (and it's kin) are banned, how long will it take for the millions of them in closets across the USA to become rare enough that they will no longer be affordable to criminals? That's where the "decades" estimate I made comes into play. There was no appreciable decline in gun-related deaths in the decade the "assault weapons" ban was in place before, according to gunpolicyDOTorg.

The previous ban was on commercial sale. Private sales still took place, guns were still given to family members and friends, guns were still stolen. In short, the banned weapons still moved around uncontrolled. With a few hundred thousand to start with (and that's just the AR15, not the whole list), how long will it take for them all to trickle out of availability?

The only effective gun ban that's implemented in the US is the ban on automatic weapons. Can you own one? Sure. You need a permit, which requires a background check, safety training, safe storage, and a license. You can't sell it or give it away except to another licensed person. How many Thompsons or BARs were used in shootings in the last 50 years? None.

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johninPCFL → Independent1 · 6 hours ago

The same result obtains if using an 1870 Krag bolt-action rifle when a crowd of victims is present (take a read on the Amritsar massacre, 1000 dead in about ten minutes with no machine guns.) The lethality of a long gun is indisputable; a .300 Savage is more lethal than the M16.

Six-sigma processes say that to correct a problem, apply your efforts to the issues using the most resources. There are tens of thousands of gun-related deaths per year, a few hundred (at most) of them committed with the proposed banned weapons in total, almost none committed with 30-round magazines. If you want to affect the death rate, you're starting at the sharp end of a very long triangle with a much larger base. Emotion may drive the action, but logic should drive the path.

The best use of resources (time, effort, money) is implementing aggressive background checks, eliminating straw-man buyers, and mandatory safety training. Will that eliminate the mass killings? No. But neither will banning the listed weapons. It's a feel-good action that will have no practical benefit, and in the

longer run, will stymie effective action. After all, if bans don't work, what can POSSIBLY work? (That'll be the NRA position.)

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Independent1 → johninPCFL · 6 hours ago

I'm not arguing that banning weapons that can shoot 30 bullets without reloading will solve the problem, but I'm pretty sure that had the punk who killed 26 at Sandy Hook not had one that did that, at least half of those dead would still be alive because the teachers or students there would have had the opportunity to rush him while he tried to reload the ar-15. And I doubt seriously that in your example of the 1870 Krag massacre that it was committed by one person, especially someone as undersized and frail as the kid that killed 26 at Sandy Hook. Even the explanation in the article, that an AR-15 is so easy to use, means that even in the hands of a six year-old, it would probably be equally as lethal. And I understand that gun enthusiasts enjoy the ability to target practice with a gun that's obviously very easy to shoot and has virtually no recoil, but I see no reason why people using these for target shooting need to have something that will shoot 30 bullets without reloading. And what I really can't understand is why gun enthusiasts are so emphatic about refusing to except a ban on clips that hold more than 10 bullets; even knowing the scope of a disaster that even a 7 year-old could perpetrate (and I believe has) by killing a fairly large group of people, simply because those being killed, did were not able to rush the killer while he/she was trying to reload.

1 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›

johninPCFL → Independent1 · 6 hours ago

Yes, getting the 30-round murder boxes out of circulation would be a great achievement, but a practical method to do it doesn't exist. I've long argued that the only time a mass killer can be approached is when he's reloading, just as you say. But the ban, unless coupled with confiscation, will have no impact for decades.

The Amritsar massacre was accomplished by 50 British soldiers with bolt-action rifles using five-round clips (no magazines in those days) in ten minutes. They achieved nearly one kill per shot (they wounded thousands more) and had to quit when the ammo ran low. They also didn't want to be caught out of ammo.

That's 20 people killed per soldier in ten minutes, just about what happened at Sandy Hook.

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Independent1 → johninPCFL · 6 hours ago

But talking about criminals. I suppose you think you're more expert on this than the hundreds of big city mayors across the country who have been pushing hard to get AR-15s banned just to cut down on the number of wackos that their police forces may have to confront when they go out on a call that there's a domestic shooting, or a bank being robbed. Well, I get 2-3 emails every day from Mayors Against Guns who plead with me to send calls and emails to my congressional representatives and the President asking them to back not only background checks, but also large capacity magazines and assault weapons. I trust their opinions far more than I would ever trust yours - you should write for the NRA, or do you already?? You should just like them.

1 ^ | | v · Reply · Share ›

[johninPCFL](#) → [Independent1](#) · 5 hours ago

Emails are free. I get three per day from the President asking for \$3 to overthrow the GOP.

The NRA is against everything that has any impact on gun ownership, including mandated training, etc. I think if you re-read what I've written to you, you'll find that I believe training is essential, that background checks will save lives, and that the high-capacity magazines have no place. Those are not NRA positions.

Your emotions have gotten the better of you. Think again about what you want to accomplish. If it's the elimination of massacres, then you are taking a position that will limit their scope (there are recorded gun massacres dating back into the 1700s) but not eliminate them. If you want to limit the number of gun-related deaths per year, there are better places to spend your time and efforts.

In your next communication with Mayors Against Guns, ask them if they'd rather ban assault rifles or handguns.

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[Independent1](#) → [johninPCFL](#) · 6 hours ago

If there are 100 million AR-15s out there already, that means there are around 200 million Americans that don't have one. So putting a ban on now may keep one out to the hands of people similar to those who have already committed mass murders who are now in the population that doesn't have one. Suggesting that by not having a ban doesn't solve anything, is in my mind delusional. And are you aware, that just having a gun in the house, raises the chances that a woman will be killed by a gun by over 50%?? And a similar percent goes for kids being killed? So if banning AR-15s which are obviously a big attraction for people who don't own guns now, and may never own one if they can't purchase something as easy to shoot (and kill people with) as an AR-15, who knows how many future lives may be saved? And I don't even want to hear about them getting into the hands of a criminal, because that's totally outside the issues being discussed here. Not one of the mass murders over the past 10 years has been committed by a criminal.

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[johninPCFL](#) → [Independent1](#) · 5 hours ago

I didn't say it doesn't solve anything, I said it's not going to have any measurable effect for decades. Only if the ban extends to personal traffic as well as commercial sales does it have a chance of affecting things soon. As I said earlier, there was no appreciable decline in gun-related deaths during the last gun ban, but it only applied to commercial sales.

Yes, I'm aware of the statistics of gun-related injury by having one in the house. Thus, my insistence on TRAINING. Most gun-related deaths today involve handguns and they are the weapon of choice for suicide. They account for tens of thousands of gun-related deaths per year.

Banning the "assault weapons" may well save a classroom full of kids 30 years from now when they're finally out of circulation. Doing background checks and mandating safety training to even own a firearm will start saving thousands of lives per year today.

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[Hillbilly](#) → [johninPCFL](#) · 3 hours ago

You say that you are not working for the NRA with your postings. Most of what you have said could have come straight out of the the NRA handbook and there has be a place to start to get these military type killing guns out of circulation for good. If members of Congress like Harry Reid had a back bone they would stand up to the NRA and other gun associations like the NRA and start banning the guns that are for killing people only not game for the table and that includes guns like the AR-15. If you want to target shoot, shot a pistol, a rifle or a shotgun, the ammo is less expensive and they are weapons that can be used for other purposes than just killing a person.

2 ^ | | v · Reply · Share ›

[johninPCFL](#) → [Hillbilly](#) · an hour ago

Really? Where does the NRA advocate mandatory training? Where do they advocate eliminating 30 round magazines? Must be some documentation somewhere I've not seen.

The only weapons ever banned were fully automatic weapons in 1934. I advocate that also. BUT, you can still own them with a proper license. BTW, the bullet doesn't care what it enters. Popular hunting rifles like the Savage .300 or Winchester 30/30 are just as lethal as the M16. All guns are designed to kill.

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[Independent1](#) → [Hillbilly](#) · 2 hours ago

Thanks!! I agree completely! When are gun nuts going to wake up to the fact that what they think is a sport is nothing more than an enticement for some to end up killings lots of people???

0 ^ | | v · Reply · Share ›

[Independent1](#) → [johninPCFL](#) · 3 hours ago

Decades my foot! You really need to go write for the NRA, you really like to exaggerate. If an assault ban was enforced tomorrow so Wal-Mart and other gun dealers couldn't keep selling AR-15s, it's possible that just doing that would keep some potential mass murderer from getting his or her hands on one. A number of the mass murders committed over the past 5 years have been done by killers that got their guns from someone in the family. Like the punk that killed 26 in Sandy Hook. He wasn't old enough to by a gun in CT, and most likely only came up with the idea to kill people at Sandy Hook because his mother was dumb enough not only to buy an AR-15 but also to show him how to use it. Have you read stories of juveniles who have never done anything really bad in their lives but then one day see the family car sitting in the drive with the keys in it, and decide on the spur of the moment to jump in and take it for a joy ride - only to have the joy ride go terribly wrong and someone gets killed. Well, being depressed and a bit autistic, and suddenly having your mother buy a gun that kills people quickly and shows you how to use it, is a recipe for exactly the same kind of thing happening, except with a gun instead of a car. And it isn't going to take decades to prevent that from happening. A mass killing could be prevented days after an assaul weapon or reduced bullet clip ban went into affect. A number of mass killers did what they did only because IT WAS EASY FOR THEM TO DO!!!!

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[johninPCFL](#) → Independent1 · 37 minutes ago

And what did I write? "Private sales still took place, guns were still given to family members and friends, guns were still stolen. In short, the banned weapons still moved around uncontrolled." A fully equipped Bushmaster is over \$1000 new (Cabela's), requires a waiting period and background check. Those sales would be stopped by a ban. On the used person-to-person market, they're around \$800 with no wait and no background check (there's about 300 on sale now at gunbrokerDOTcom.) Those sales don't stop during a ban on commercial sales. And, of course, mom or uncle Walt will show you how to use theirs, with no wait and no background check. If you don't ban AND CONFISCATE the weapons, how long will it take for them to be unobtainable by the next Jared Loughner or Adam Lanza? Neither could LEGALLY get the weapons they used, but got them from family. Adam's mother didn't "suddenly buy" the weapon he used, they'd had it for a decade. She kept it in a gunsafe. From a Huffington Post article: "Overall gun ownership rates have fallen sharply in recent decades, according to some researchers. In 1980, just over half of all American households reported owning a firearm. In 2010, just one

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[sherrick](#) → johninPCFL · 8 hours ago

bullsh*t

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[CPAinNewYork](#) → sherrick · 7 hours ago

Sherrick:

That's the sum total of your answer? Bullshit? You can't do better than that? I've noticed on websites like these that people who cannot respond to an argument frequently resort to insults and profanity.

1 ^ | | v · Reply · Share ›

[johninPCFL](#) → sherrick · 6 hours ago

Your spell checker apparently failed you.

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[garryowenault](#) → johninPCFL · an hour ago

Biggest problem is why the Second Amendment was part of the Deal. Virginia had a Militia for the purpose of keeping the Slaves in check. Patrick Henry supported that NEED cause there were more Slaves than the Landed Gentry. Since Slavery has supposedly been resolved both by the Second Battle of Mannasses and a genuine Amendment to the Constitution - there is no real purpose for the 2nd Amendment and all the prattle about a Tyrannical Government and these AR15 knockoffs and the millions of NRA type that will save us from said Government is at best blabbering misinformation.

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[johninPCFL](#) → garryowenault · 17 minutes ago

And that's a well-reasoned synopsis. If we want to limit the carnage, eliminating the weapons is the best approach. A2 is the main

impediment.

But, before we approach the issue obliquely as GWB did with A1 ("free speech zones?) or A4 ("patriot act"?), maybe the country has grown up enough to have the head-on discussion.

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