

Gun Culture

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Opening Words and Chalice Lighting:

BANG BANG YOU'RE DEAD

Said the five-year-old on the playground
To his friend
Two fingers pointing with feigned anger and intent

BANG BANG YOU'RE DEAD

You can blame the ill
The ghettos
The NRA

Look around.
It's bigger than that.

You can blame the video games
The toys
The drugs

Look around.
It's bigger than that.

You can blame the war
The Government
Even The Guns

Look around.
It's bigger than that.

Let's look at the equation
To solve the problem
Or try

Culture + Guns = GUN CULTURE.
This is the culture WE have created
This is the culture WE choose to live in
This is hate culture
This is rage culture
This is shoot-your-neighbor-in-the-face culture

Let's rewrite this equation
Get it right this time

Culture - Guns = ?

Kelly Trumbull - Feb 22, 2013- Pittsburg Gazette-Journal

Check in: How is it with your spirit today?

Topic/Activity

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. **Preamble to the Constitution of the United States**

Amendment 2 - Bearing Arms

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

The term **gun culture** in the United States encompasses the behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs about firearms and their usage by civilians. Gun ownership in the United States is constitutionally protected by the United States Bill of Rights. Firearms are widely used in the United States of America for self-defense, hunting, and recreational uses, such as target shooting. Gun politics in the United States tends to be polarized between advocates of gun rights, often conservative, and those who support stricter gun control, often liberal. The gun culture of the United States can be considered unique among developed countries in terms of the large number of firearms owned by civilians, generally permissive regulations, and high levels of gun violence.

Wikipedia

Historically:

When the Pilgrims came in 1620 they brought with them guns, known as blunderbusses, to hunt for food.

Springfield rifles were among the very first [breech-loading rifles](#), starting production in 1865 during the Civil War. After the Civil War the Colt won the West. Development continued through the M1 Garand of WW-II and Korea, to the battle rifle of NATO such as the American [M16](#) and the rugged AK-47 used by the Viet Cong. Today we are in a stage of Automatic Military weapons such as the AR-15.

Proclivity / Availability of Guns in Society

- Gun shows
- Dealers
- Online
- Retail stores

Where do we learn about guns

- Cap pistols, squirt guns and other toys
- BB guns
- Movies and TV – Westerns and war
- Books and comic books
- Hunting
- Military
- Newspapers
- Gun Clubs and shooting ranges (20 within 5 miles of the Strip)

- Gangs
- Blacks in the South during the Civil Rights Movement
- Police shootings

Firearms Advocacy Groups (6 out of many)

1. The Second Amendment Foundation
2. Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership
3. Gun Owners of America
4. National Association for Gun Rights
5. Constitutional Rights PAC
- 6 The NRA (National Rifle Association)

For further consideration:

Take time to reflect and share about these situations:

1. How have we been affected by this culture?
2. Can we change it? How?
3. Should we call them “Gun Nuts”?
4. What about the firearms Manufacturers?

Closing Words*

Generation Columbine

We grow up in the age of anxiety
 locked door hide-and-seek
 picture day portraits like milk-carton kids
 who aren't coming back

the news keeps breaking
 men with magazines in movie theaters
 we don't call them what they are
 but they're what scare us most

we never saw the New York City skyline
 but we remember Newtown
 we remember Batman
 we remember Parkland

children become numbers
 every few months we just play addition

— **Carrie Mannino**

<http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/2018/03/03/Saturday-Poem-Generation-Columbine/stories/201803030011>