

Quotes from the Enemies of Freedom

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"I do not believe in people owning guns. Guns should be owned only by [the] police and military. I am going to do everything I can to disarm this state."

Michael Dukakis

"If someone is so fearful that they are going to start using their weapons to protect their rights, it makes me very nervous that these people have weapons at all."

U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman

"I do think the Second Amendment does provide for the right to bear arms. I'm one of the few civil libertarians I know who believes that. I hate guns. If I could press a button and make every gun disappear, I would do it. I hate guns with a passion. I would never have a gun in my home. I just hate guns."

M. Alan Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard University

"I'm a moderate on gun control. From a political point of view I'm a radical. I'd like to abolish guns, but from a balancing of constitutional perspective, I would favor the Brady Bill. I'm in favor of registration. I'm in favor of broad controls on guns."

M. Alan Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard University

"In fact, the assault weapons ban will have no significant effect either on the crime rate or on personal security. Nonetheless, it is a good idea ... Passing a law like the assault weapons ban is a symbolic - purely symbolic - move in that direction. Its only real justification is not to reduce crime but to desensitize the public to the regulation of weapons in preparation for their ultimate confiscation."

Charles Krauthammer, columnist, 4/5/96 Washington Post

"I know it's in the Constitution. But you know what? Enough! I would like to say, I think there should be a law--and I know this is extreme--that no one can have a gun in the U.S. If you have a gun, you go to jail. Only the police should have guns. It's ridiculous."

Rosie O'Donnell during interview with Carolyn McCarthy as quoted in the Ottawa Sun, April 29, 1999, at 55

"Every good communist should know that political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

Mao Tse Tung

"After the enemies with guns have been wiped out, it will be time to wipe out our other enemies who do not have guns."

Mao Tse Tung

"Make mass searches and hold executions for found arms."

Vladimir Lenin

"One death is a tragedy. A million deaths is a statistic."

Josef Stalin

"The broad masses of a population are more amenable to the appeal of rhetoric than to any other force."

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* 1925

"Germans who wish to use firearms should join the SS or the SA: ordinary citizens don't need guns, as their having guns doesn't serve the state."

Heinrich Himmler

"Ban the damn things. Ban them all. You want protection? Get a dog."

Molly Ivins, columnist, 7/19/94

"I don't believe anybody has a right to own any kind of a firearm. I believe in order to obtain a permit to own a firearm, that person should undergo an exhaustive criminal background check. In addition, an applicant should give up his right to privacy and submit his medical records for review to see if the person has ever had a problem with alcohol, drugs or mental illness . . . The Constitution doesn't count!"

John Silber, former chancellor of Boston University and candidate for Governor of Massachusetts. Speech before the Quequechan Club of Fall River, MA. August 16, 1990

"I think you have to do it a step at a time and I think that is what the NRA is most concerned about. Is that it will happen one very small step at a time so that by the time, um, people have woken up, quote, to what's happened, it's gone farther than what they feel the consensus of American citizens would be. But it does have to go one step at a time and the banning of semi-assault military weapons that are military weapons, not household weapons, is the first step."

Mayor Barbara Fass, Stockton, CA

"Handguns should be outlawed. Our organization will probably take this stand in time but we are not anxious to rouse the opposition before we get the other legislation passed."

Elliot Corbett, Secretary, National Council For A Responsible Firearms Policy
(interview appeared in the Washington Evening Star on September 19, 1969)

"My own view on gun control is simple: I hate guns and I cannot imagine why anybody would want to own one. If I had my way, guns for sport would be registered, and all other guns would be banned."

Deborah Prothrow-Stith of the Office of Government and Community Programs and
the Community Violence Prevention Project at the Harvard School of Public Health

"The real point of audits is to instill fear, not to extract revenue; the IRS aims at winning through intimidation and (thereby) getting maximum voluntary compliance."

Paul Strassel, former IRS Agent, Wall St. Journal 1980

The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism, but under the name of liberalism they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program until one day America will be a socialist nation without ever knowing how it happened."

Norman Thomas, perennial Socialist Party presidential candidate and one of the
founders of the ACLU.

"Banning guns addresses a fundamental right of all Americans to feel safe."

Senator Diane Feinstein, 1993

"If I could have 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. I could not do that. The votes weren't here."

U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) CBS-TV's "60 Minutes," 2/5/95

"Banning guns is an idea whose time has come."

U.S. Senator Joseph Biden, 11/18/93, Associated Press interview

"Assault weapons... are a new topic. The weapons' menacing looks, coupled with the public's confusion over fully-automatic machine guns versus semi-automatic assault weapons -- anything that looks like a machine gun is assumed to be a machine gun -- can only increase the chance of public support for restrictions on these weapons."

"Assault Weapons: Analysis, New Research and Legislation" Josh Sugarmann,
March 1989

"The thought that average citizens will somehow be better able to successfully defend themselves more effectively than our nation's trained professionals is absurd."

Official Statement of Handgun Control Incorporated (HCI)

"Yes, I'm for an outright ban (on handguns)."

Pete Shields, Chairman emeritus, Handgun Control, Inc., during a 60 Minutes interview.

"[NRA] claimed that they vigorously fought [the Brady bill] at every turn and every step...because it was the nose of the camel [under the tent]...Today we would like to tell you what the rest of the camel looks like."

HCI President Richard Aborn, Dec. 8, 1993

"We must be able to arrest people before they commit crimes. By registering guns and knowing who has them we can do that. If they have guns they are pretty likely to commit a crime."

Vermont State Senator Mary Ann Carlson

"I am one who believes that as a first step, the United States should move expeditiously to disarm the civilian population, other than police and security officers, of all handguns, pistols, and revolvers... No one should have the right to anonymous ownership or use of a gun."

Professor Dean Morris, Director of Law Enforcement Assistance Administration,
stated to the U.S. Congress

"...When we got organized as a country and we wrote a fairly radical Constitution with a radical Bill of Rights, giving a radical amount of individual freedom to Americans, it was assumed that the Americans who had that freedom would use it responsibly....[However, now] there's a lot of irresponsibility. And so a lot of people say there's too much freedom. When personal freedom's being abused, you have to move to limit it."

President Bill Clinton on MTV "Enough is Enough" 3/22/94

"If a president of the United States ever lied to the American people, he should resign."

William J. Clinton, 1974

"The road to tyranny, we must never forget, begins with the destruction of the truth."

William J. Clinton, October 15, 1995. From his speech "Fifty Years After Nuremberg: Human Rights and the Rule of Law"

"If the personal freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution inhibit the government's ability to govern the people, we should look to limit those guarantees."

William J. Clinton, 8/12/93

"I feel very strongly about it [the Brady Bill]. I think - I also associate myself with the other remarks of the Attorney General. I think it's the beginning. It's not the end of the process by any means."

William J. Clinton, 8/11/93

"You know the one thing that's wrong with this country? Everyone gets a chance to have their fair say."

William J. Clinton, speech in Philadelphia PA City Hall courtyard 5/28/93

"We can't be so fixated on our desire to preserve the rights of ordinary Americans"

William J. Clinton at press conference in Piscataway NJ 3/1/93, Boston Globe 3/2/93 & USA Today 3/11/93

"The purpose of government is to rein in the rights of the people."

William J. Clinton on "MTV" 1993

"The Brady Bill is the minimum step Congress should take...we need much stricter gun control, and eventually should bar the ownership of handguns, except in a few cases."

U.S. Representative William Clay, quoted in the St. Louis Post Dispatch on May 6, 1991.

"We have a long way to go before we see a truly effective gun-control law in this country (the U.S.A.). But more and more, the lawmakers are understanding that the American people want

change. The only people who still don't get it are the people over at the Evil Empire... the gun lobby."

Jim Brady of Handgun Control, Inc., in The Ottawa Citizen, April 23, 1994

"I don't believe gun owners have rights."

Sarah Brady, Hearst Newspapers Special Report "Handguns in America", October 1997

"We must get rid of all the guns."

Sarah Brady, speaking on behalf of HCI with Sheriff Jay Printz & others on "The Phil Donahue Show" September 1994

"The House passage of our bill is a victory for this country! Common sense wins out. I'm just so thrilled and excited. The sale of guns must stop. Halfway measures are not enough."

Sarah Brady 7/1/88

"I don't care about crime, I just want to get the guns."

Senator Howard Metzenbaum, 1994

"No, we are not looking at how to control criminals, we are talking about banning the AK47 and semi-automatic guns!"

Senator Metzenbaum (D-OH) during Constitution Subcommittee 2/10/89

"We're here to tell the NRA their nightmare is true..."

U.S. Representative Charles Schumer, quoted on NBC, 11/30/93

"We're going to hammer guns on the anvil of relentless legislative strategy! We're going to beat guns into submission!"

U.S. Representative Charles Schumer (D-NY) on NBC, 12/8/93

"My bill ... establishes a 6-month grace period for the turning in of all handguns."

U.S. Representative Major Owens, Congressional Record, 11/10/93

"We're going to have to take one step at a time, and the first step is necessarily, given political realities, going to be very modest. Our ultimate goal, total control of handguns in the United States, is going to take time. The first problem is to slow down the increasing number of handguns in this country. The second problem is to get handguns registered, and the final problem is to make the possession of all handguns, and all handgun ammunition illegal."

Nelson T. Shields of Hangun Control, Inc. as quoted in 'New Yorker' magazine July 26, 1976. Page 53f

"Our goal is to not allow anybody to buy a handgun. In the meantime, we think there ought to be strict licensing and regulation. Ultimately, that may mean it would require court approval to buy a handgun."

President of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence Michael K. Beard, Washington Times 12/6/93 p.A1

"Waiting periods are only a step. Registration is only a step. The prohibition of private firearms is the goal."

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, December 1993

"Gun registration is not enough."

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno on "Good Morning America" 12/10/93

"There is no individual right to bear arms in the Bill of Rights."

USA Today - Richard Benedetto, "Gun Rights Are A Myth", December 28, 1994.

"Law-abiding Americans have no unconditional right to firearms access."

New York Post - "Time For Gun Control" - August 12, 1999

"The debate over gun control offers a revealing case study of the misuse of the Constitution...The idea that the Bill of Rights guarantees each individual a right to own a gun...is a constitutional illusion."

The San Francisco Barrister - Dennis Henigan, "The Right To Be Armed: A Constitutional Illusion" - December, 1989

"The sale, manufacture, and possession of handguns ought to be banned...We do not believe the 2nd Amendment guarantees an individual the right to keep them."

The Washington Post - "Legal Guns Kill Too" - November 5, 1999

"There is no Constitutional guarantee for private ownership of firearms."

Austin American Statesman - "A History of the Second Amendment" - April 3, 2000

"There is no reason for anyone in the country, for anyone except a police officer or a military person, to buy, to own, to have, to use, a handgun. The only way to control handgun use in this country is to prohibit the guns. And the only way to do that is to CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION." (emphasis added)

USA Today - Michael Gartner - Former president of NBC News - "Glut of Guns: What Can We Do About Them?" - January 16, 1992

"The Second Amendment...protects only the right to "bear arms" for the purpose of service in the "militia," and..not..firearm ownership unrelated to militia service."

United States v. Timothy Joe Emerson (5th Cir.1999)(No.99-10331) - Brief for an Ad Hoc Group of 52 Law Professors and Historians as Amici Curiae at 3

"The individual's right to bear arms applies only to the preservation or efficiency of a 'well regulated militia.' Except for lawful police and military purposes, the possession of weapons by individuals is not constitutionally protected."

ACLU - Policy statement #47, 1996