Gun Control Is Not About Public Safety

by Nicholas T. Loux, Ph.D. (retired)

[Editor’s note: Dr. Loux provided extensive footnotes, references and charts to back up his claims, omitted here for space. If you want this data, contact JPFO.]

Scarcely a day goes by when you don’t see national news detailing an ugly incident involving firearms. These stories lead uninformed citizens to think we are experiencing a national pandemic of homicides and mass murders. Worse yet, this “news” is then used by demagogues whose ultimate goal is to nullify the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Examining mortality data in the U.S. provides an accurate perspective on the risks we actually face. Little of it, if any, is associated with our rights under the Second Amendment.

There were a total of 2,813,503 deaths in the U.S. in 2017. The vast majority of these were due to disease and not preventable with current medical science. More relevant to our discussion is preventable deaths. Rational U.S. policies should focus on minimizing preventable deaths.

The data shows the third leading cause of mortality that year due to accidents. Strikingly, the U.S. Center for Disease Control does not tabulate mortality due to medical mistakes. Observations from three related studies estimate U.S. deaths due to medical mistakes as a minimum of 250,000 per year and these being the third leading cause of U.S. mortality. This statistic reinforces the admonition that you should be accompanied by a “Champion” if you are seeking treatment for a serious medical condition. You are less likely to be the victim of a medical mistake if you have someone else monitoring your treatment schedule. From the table, it can be deduced that minimizing preventable deaths from medical mistakes, accidents, overdoses and suicides could reduce U.S. mortality by up to (or more than) 500,000 deaths per year. If the media was concerned about public safety, this, and not crime, would be on the front page constantly.

Further examination of data shows the misleading but fairly common practice of adding together deaths by murder and suicide. When you add these two figures together, you can arrive at an estimate of more than 50,000 firearm-related deaths per year. It is absolutely clear that an unfortunate situation where someone decides to end their own life is a far different situation than from someone who dies in an attempted rape, mugging, robbery or home invasion. A cynic might conclude that these figures are added together primarily for political purposes.

However, further analysis for 2017 shows roughly 1/3 of these murders were committed with knives, blunt objects, fists, feet, fire, poison, etc. Based on the Total Firearms Murder data, you are approximately 23 times more likely to die from a medical mistake than from a firearm in a given year. Similarly, you are approximately 15 times more likely to die from an accident, approximately 6.5 times more likely to die from an overdose, and approximately 4.3 times more likely to die from suicide.

Accidents, overdoses and suicides are to some extent currently being addressed in our country. Preventable deaths due to medical mistakes constitute the elephant in the room and are not currently either widely known or addressed. It would be wise to insist that our legislators require statistics of this nature be compiled by government agencies involved with mortality data. The CDC, banned from doing so:

“Moral Agency” and Mechanical Objects

By Neland D. Nobel, JPFO Member

Moral agency is the ability to make judgments based on right and wrong.

Years ago, when our daughters were in a Jewish day school, they would on occasion have friends over to visit our home. A common question we would get from parents was, “Do you have guns in the house?” We would answer truthfully and usually, parents who asked the question, would first display bulging eyes and then inform us that their child could not stay and play in our house. They seemed gripped by a visceral fear that even the presence of a gun in the household could evoke irrational behavior from either the parents, the children or both. Or, perhaps they believed the guns would take action on their own. It is hard to sort out which fear it was.

Parents who knew us well never seemed to ask that question. They knew we provided a safe environment for our children and would do so for theirs.

This mysterious belief that a mechanical object in the house can cause irrational behavior in humans, or that the gun itself is capable of action, is seen in other formats. For example, the use of the term “gun violence” but of violent people who use guns—and hammers, knives, picks, hatchets, trucks and other mechanical objects to harm others.

Motor vehicles have frequently been used in terrorist attacks, yet you don’t hear the term truck violence. Even though hammers kill more people annually than AR-15s, you never hear the term hammer violence either. Why?

Do hammers force killers to use them, or are the hammers acting on their own?

Guns are passive pieces of machinery. They have no will; they do not act on their own. The laws of physics and biology prohibit them from acting on their own. People may use guns in violent, evil and illegal ways, but they also use guns legally, for self-protection and recreation. How guns are used is entirely up to the human operator, who has moral agency, that is, people can think, act and weigh consequences. Even in cases of accidental, negligent or unintentional use, it requires a human being to use machinery in either responsible or irresponsible ways.

This assignment of moral agency to inanimate objects is ludicrous, indicative of mental problems in people who do so. This derangement has now gone so far that some grade schools have disciplined children for leaving the remains of a sandwich, and in one case a Pop Tart, that may appear to resemble a gun to an “educator.” It is not just the gun now, it is the shape of a gun, even in carbohydrate form, that can be perceived as a cause of violent behavior.

The simple presence of a gun, or the shape of a gun, is believed dangerous. A finger gesture is felt to be threatening to these misguided individuals. This is beyond a zero-tolerance policy. It is a zero-common-sense policy. It is idiocy on parade. The presence of guns, or pastries that vaguely resemble guns, do not overwhelm the moral sense of

Continued on Page 5
by Neland D. Nobel, JPFO Member

“Why do you own a gun?” A relatively new hiking partner asked me this on the trail. It is a question you should be prepared to answer. Here are some of my thoughts.

1. I recognize the need.

The world is a nasty place and getting nastier. Stories of leaving your front door unlocked back in the 1950s are a distant memory. It is a different world out there. According to nationally known trainer Tom Givens, the average criminal gunfire incident takes about 3.5 seconds. The average police response time in major urban areas is about 11 minutes. In rural areas where I often hike, it could be hours. Do the math. You are on your own. Most likely, authorities will get there in time—could be hours. Do the math. You are on your own.

2. It seems logical given the history of the Jews.

The Bible has stories and history of constant strife, as does all civilization. It is the human condition to this day. The Romans conquered Israel and dispersed her people. How often does that happen? How many other peoples got expelled from England, Spain, Portugal, you name it—and suffered from state-sponsored pogroms? Then there was the Holocaust and the history of Israel since its founding. Fast forward to today where Jews are openly assaulted in New York, and shot in synagogues from Poway and Pittsburgh. If ever there were a people justified in being armed, it is the Jews.

3. I feel the obligation.

As a man, I have responsibility to protect my wife and family. Since I have this duty, I want to be as competent as possible. That has nothing to do with any particular faith or ethnic group, and in no way affects a woman’s similar options.

4. I have the right to protect my life.

This has long been established in Biblical Law, English Common Law, and current law. I have the right—not the “privilege”—to protect myself and my family. If my life is threatened, I have the right to use deadly force if necessary. Of course, take every precaution to avoid situations which put you or your loved ones in danger. Every effort should be made to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation. But if it cannot be avoided, it must be handled. In Jewish law, G-d expects us to protect His precious gift of life.

5. Guns are wonderfully efficient.

Anyone who has studied martial arts knows that it takes years of arduous training to become competent. In contrast, attending a good firearms school can develop decent competence in about a week’s time. With occasional practice, those skills can be maintained at a level equal or superior to most law-enforcement officers.

6. Firearms do not discriminate by age or gender.

We all begin with different physical abilities and lose physical prowess as we age. This is especially true in training in the martial arts. Woman are typically smaller and lighter than males, leading us to a variation of the adage of the Old West, “God created people and Sam Colt made them equal.” This holds generally true across the gender and age divides.

7. Almost a third of the country lives alone.

Of people living alone, 70% are female. Women are the fastest growing segment of gun owners in the nation. They are as entitled to safety as anyone else.

8. Guns are fun to shoot.

Not long ago, I took a group of young Frenchmen to the range. These poor souls never even had a cork gun as children. The looks on their faces was that of pure glee. Shooting is fun! It’s a fact hidden my so-called mainstream “news.” Sometimes the best way to convince an anti-gun friend is to take the person to the range.

In short, there are many logical, social, recreational, and constitutional reasons to own a gun. Get a gun, get training, and get competent. Enjoy the exercise of your human and civil rights in this great country—the second most popular participant sport in America. If the subject comes up, offer a spirited and coherent defense of your rights, duties, responsibilities and the uncommon utility a firearm provides.

Bill of Rights Sentinel

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JPFO’s Mission Statement: 1. Destroy “gun control”/code words for disarming innocent people”. 2. Expose the misguided notions that lead people to seek out “gun control”. 3. Encourage Americans to understand and defend all of the Bill of Rights for all citizens. The Second Amendment is the “Guardian” of the Bill of Rights.

“So-called gun control is not a credible policy position: it does not control guns nor does it control criminal behavior. What it does is disarm the innocent, leaving them defenseless in the face of petty criminals, tyrannical governments and genocide.”

Contributors:
Advisory Board Member: David Marhofer
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Bill of Rights Sentinel
The Million Shekel Quiz
There are no right answers, except of course there are

☐ T ☐ F Every threat to your right to keep and bear arms comes solely from American sources.
☐ T ☐ F Totalitarian regimes abroad pose no threat to your right to keep and bear arms.
☐ T ☐ F The communist Chinese don’t care if their subjects keep and bear arms.
☐ T ☐ F In North Korea it’s OK for the people to keep and bear arms.
☐ T ☐ F The communist government of Cuba that Bernie Sanders thinks so highly of encourages its citizens to keep and bear arms.

In communist North Korea:
☐ T ☐ F Black lives matter
☐ T ☐ F No lives matter
☐ T ☐ F There are no black lives
☐ T ☐ F You can’t arm slaves and expect them to remain slaves.
☐ T ☐ F America has banned the communist Chinese electronics giant WahWay (spelled Huawei by mainstream sources) from supplying components for next generation 5G telecommunications networks because they could be used for espionage.
☐ T ☐ F According to The NY Times, “The U.S. maintains that Huawei poses an espionage threat, as it can be compelled by Chinese law to hand over data or spy on behalf of the Chinese government.” You agree the communist Chinese can do that.
☐ T ☐ F According to The NY Times, “The company vehemently rejects the accusations and has repeatedly said it would never engage in espionage.” You agree the communist Chinese government has never engaged in espionage, and would never force Huawei to obey.
☐ T ☐ F You believe the U.S. government would never engage in espionage.
☐ T ☐ T The communist Chinese government has an entire Army division, with buildings filled with hackers who do nothing but work at hacking U.S. industry, military and private enterprise, and have been successful on many occasions.
☐ T ☐ T The communist Chinese government summarily executes people who speak out publicly against the government, promote religion like the Falun Gong, or are caught with firearms.
☐ T ☐ T Bibles, like guns, are banned in communist China, so you cannot, as former president Obama advised, cling to your guns and Bibles there.
☐ T ☐ T Referring to the brutal communist dictatorship of communist China simply as “China,” as mainstream “news” sources do, is deceptive and a brainwashing technique.
☐ T ☐ F BATFE gun files are hackable.

☐ T ☐ F Police forces in communist and socialist dictatorships are heavily armed, even though their citizens cannot possess firearms.
☐ T ☐ F A society comprised of heavily armed police and disarmed citizens is likely to be more fair and just.
☐ T ☐ F If you lived in a communist or socialist nation, you might be willing to endure great personal hardships to get to America, like hundreds of thousands of other people constantly do, even though you might die en route, or be stopped at the border and end up living in Nuevo Laredo indefinitely with tens of thousands of others.*
☐ T ☐ F You have a burning desire in fleeing America to get to a communist or socialist nation, where your chances of being shot, at least by a fellow citizen, are remote because none of them would have guns to shoot you.
☐ T ☐ F Your interest in fleeing America for a communist or socialist nation would increase if American politicians succeeded in banning firearms for citizens. For extra credit, explain why. 

*Border Patrol has for years claimed it stops about half of all border-crossing attempts (meaning half get through). Those stopped typically end up in Mexican border towns, where murder, rape, robbery, and abuse are commonplace. In 2013, BP, ICE, DHS and other border protectors stopped 356,000, 94% male, 59% low skilled, more than half in their 20s. (Wash. Post). In May of 2019, 144,000 were caught (NBC News). After Mexico, point of origin is Central America, South America, Caribbean, Asia, Europe, Canada, Middle East and Africa. DHS indicates 820,000 illegal immigrants here qualify as “removable criminal aliens.” Much of this is officially educated guesswork. The Week reports Border Patrol caught (in 2018) 9,000 Indians, 1,000 Chinese, 250 Romanians, 153 Pakistanis, 159 Vietnamese, 15 Albanians, and “dozens of citizens of more than 100 other countries.” Remember, half get through, with their luggage.

“I don’t need no stinking permits!”
Criminals are laughing at the so-called “gun-control” measures the leftists and hoplophobes keep dreaming up and promoting. That’s because these schemes don’t affect them—they’re only for the law abiding, who stand in line... to obey. Bad guys who plan on robbing your house, mugging you in a dark alley, car-jacking you, raping and pillaging, do you really think they will register their guns, or wait for background checks? Does a sign on a wall really create a gun-free zone?
You have to be truly deranged to believe paper documents banning your rights will keep you safe, deter “the element,” turn bad guys good, or stop murder and mayhem. While government is more heavily armed by the day, your right to own decent firearms is evaporating. The misguided individuals proposing these population controls are avoiding the harsh realities of psychotic children who want to mass murder their classmates, deadly inner cities with heavily armed gangsters, and politicians preying on your fears. Lock and load folks, the bad guys will...
Extremist anti-gun-rights advocates and cable “news” casters Don Lemon, Rachel Maddow and Anderson Cooper appear unaware of the true nature of terrorist mastermind General Soleimani, who was removed from office in Iran with extreme prejudice (by a U.S. missile). They had expressed sympathy for him as a “revered” figure (their term), after his reign of terror ended, leaving our arch enemy Iran’s torturers literally headless. If he had those broadcasters in his grasp, he would have had them hung (and probably mutilated first), because they are gay—sufficient grounds for execution there. This went unmentioned in their reports, for reasons unexplained at press time.

We don’t need what the left calls common sense. We need what the right calls intelligence. Common sense clearly shows us the world is flat. Intelligence finds the world is roundish (an oblate spheroid, to be precise).

If anyone who was ever a slave deserves reparations, where do the Jews line up?

Most citizens can’t get beyond the receptionist.

We find we’re generally not in favor of programs pushed by democrats for some reason. They’re typically violations or limitations on freedoms we currently enjoy, so they’re suspect. They are consistently infringements on the right to arms, and infringement is banned. In the larger picture, this is all part of the general divide the nation is experiencing, to a point where people can’t speak with each other, even within families. We’ve never experienced anything like it before. Each side stands firmly for things the other side is adamantly against, on fundamental issues literally of life and death—self-defense and tyranny deterrence with arms among them.

We all have a right to our beliefs—even if you’re wrong
—Phyllis Kaminski

Does redistributing wealth include redistributing guns? What’s your collection worth? Socialists running for office talk about spreading the wealth around, would they consider doing that with your armory? Have they forgotten what the front end of your guns are capable of doing?

They seem to only consider what “their” guns would do—the ones in the hands of “their” authorities, making the hopelessly delusional assumption that those people (armed government agents) would obey anyone’s wishes, once the minions are powerless and the agents are all powerful. It’s badge-licker syndrome.

The Devil In the Details: While democrat candidates and activists say they only want to ban—and confiscate by armed might—the “bad” guns, and the “fast” ones, and the so-called “assault” weapons (forgetting assault is a kind of behavior, and already a serious crime, not a kind of hardware), and the AR-15, America’s most popular single-shot rifle, owned by tens of millions, the one police prefer for obvious reasons, and the AK-47 (a commie gun), you only need to look at the bill they propose for the truth. The so-called “news” media has failed to so. That bill, HR 8, bans virtually anything that can take a magazine and has a grip. Handguns, shotguns, long guns, it bans them all. They lie.

Giant Tech Firms Cheat: Dennis Prager, an author, talk show host, columnist, pundit and Rabbi (did you know that?) testified before Congress about search-engine bias. His Prager University gets a billion views annually. Hundreds of his postings and videos have been restricted or banned by online tech giants. Among many otherwise seemingly innocuous and reasonable ones censored, (Israel’s Legal Founding by Dershowitz, Why Don’t Feminists Fight for Muslim Women by Ayaan Hirsh Ali, more), Google banned Prager’s own, “The Ten Commandments, What You Should Know.” Refusing to say why they do this, Google’s rep responded to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz on that one, saying it’s because the video referred to “murder.” Hawaii Sen. Hirono added, in Google’s defense, it also had Nazi imagery, it had against in the struggle for our rights. Richardson passed away on Jan. 13, 2020.

Speaking about radical liberals: “If lying advances their political goals, they conclude it’s immoral not to lie.”

Humanism and radical liberalism, it: “unfetters man from the principles and foundation of Western civilization... there are no absolute standards, no immutable laws of conduct, no constant principles governing man’s behavior.”

“Socialism is the antithesis of liberty.”

“A small number, properly placed, could lead the masses.”

“In the hyperbole of freedom for all, they’ve immersed us into a cesspool of regulation and bureaucracy.”

“In the name of racial equality they have so divided Americans that hatred is the norm in many of our cities and schools.”

If you want to know what we face in the gun-rights battle, the battle for America and the struggle for liberty, get and read this book. Available at gunlaws.com
called “gun-control” research, has been negligent in this respect, where your chance of death is 23 times greater than their preferred focal point.

And while virtually all media stories concerning firearms are ugly and concern crime, few if any describe the benefits associated with citizen firearm ownership. Depending on the source, estimates of the annual rate of firearms being used for positive, defensive purposes range from 76,000 (federal National Crime Victimization Survey) 250,000 per year (1OM/CDC), to 2,000,000 per year (NRA) to 2,500,000 per year (Kleck/Kates). For every firearm-related murder, between 25 to 250 potential victims of crime are spared from victimhood. Where is that in unbiased “news” media.

Given that you are 49 times more likely to die from alternative preventable causes rather than from being murdered, why are so many people in our country primarily focused on eliminating our Second Amendment rights? Allen West in 2014 led me to understand the manipulative practices of modern “progressives” and their efforts to subject citizens to government control in general and to disarm Americans in particular.

According to Colonel West, two major political philosophies existed when the Constitution was written. One, adopted by the Founders, held that citizens were preeminent and government ruled with their consent. An alternative concept held that citizens cannot be trusted to govern themselves and must be kept in line by a strong, controlling government. The modern progressive movement is a recent incarnation of the state-control philosophy.

This accounts for progressive efforts to put government in control of medicine, industry, and gun power. It also explains current efforts to weaken the Constitution and to increase the political activists in the judiciary. The Second Amendment assists citizens in maintaining self-reliance, family safety and in resisting an overreaching government. One recent poll found the average citizen’s greatest fear was becoming a target of a corrupt government official. My decades at a government facility lead me to agree with this position.

Dr. Loux earned his Ph.D. in Water Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and spent 24 years as a Research Chemist in the Office of Research and Development of the Environmental Protection Agency. He is passionate about the Second Amendment and seeks to preserve its longevity.

Moral Agency • Continued from Page 1

humans unless they are seriously mentally ill. The fault lies solely with the person, not the objects.

Many of the people that blame inanimate objects ironically may not believe human beings possess moral agency. They believe humans lack the capacity to know what is right or wrong, or to control themselves. These people project their fears, and their own internal disturbances, onto those around them. They substitute the idea of human moral agency with an alternative explanation of reality. They rationalize the violent offender’s behavior on bad environment. They’ll blame poor parenting, a lack of parents, poverty, racism, television, mass media’s influence, even computer games—anything but the human who decided to act and harm another. A human is apparently a being without moral sense or a very weak one, who is overwhelmed by random environmental factors, including pastry. Ironically, many of the same people will tell you that people are basically good and don’t need character training in school or religion in society.

In a nutshell, the notion that mechanical objects possess moral agency and people do not, is wrong. If you really believe otherwise, I don’t want my kid anywhere near your kid.

Neland Nobel is a retired financial consultant living in Phoenix, Ariz.
This is a true statement:
“Standards of eligibility exist for holding public office, including the U.S. Presidency.”

Some standards are set out precisely in Art. 2, Sec. 2, cl. 5, in the U.S. Constitution. These include citizenship, length of residency in the country and minimum age. Look it up.

People not meeting the standards are ineligible. Not “may not gain office if elected” — are not eligible to try to solicit votes. This is a position right-thinking American citizens used to take for granted. Running for office in lieu of the standards constitutes fraud, especially if knowingly endorsed by a political party. It is an attempt to usurp power and tyrannical abuse. In olden times you could be shot for such things.

Foreigners can’t run. Not legally. Period. Running for a third term is also forbidden. Obtaining votes that can’t be validly counted, or from people not entitled to vote, depriving legitimate citizen voters of an honest voice is illegal. Convicted felons were barred from electing officials (else they could vote to have themselves released regardless of their offenses) but though that makes sense, that is currently being toyed around with (by democrats primarily) in some jurisdictions, a controversial maneuver.

Plus—and here’s the critical part from the perspective of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership—a person must be able to faithfully take the oath of office.

A person who preemptively threatens to overturn the government or its parts by force cannot be allowed to run by the system itself and faces a 20-year federal felony sentence under 18 USC §2385. A platform or policy of, “I will forcibly take your guns away if elected,” might be such a threat, and certainly is not compatible with “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” That’s the oath, verbatim from the Constitution, the duly elected person must make to take the office of President.

JPFO’s position is that anyone who cannot honestly take that oath is ineligible, no matter how loudly useful idiots cheer for the person. Promising to confiscate legally owned arms is infringement, constitutionally banned, and disqualifies a person from the presidency, for failure to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Signed,
Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership
Shooting ranges report crowds, ammo sales are way up, anti-gun-rights protests draw miniscule crowds when they are held at all, and rallies like the Virginia gun rally (actually “Lobby Day,” a peaceful affair held every year by the Virginia Citizens Defense League) drew an overflow crowd and prompted the usual hyperventilation from the media, including the lies and distortion (see inset) and beyond the usual lies and distortion.

The JPFO’s Sentinel staff suspects the clock hands may remain stationary until the 2020 election, when the sitting president’s fate and Congressional make up may trigger activity in one direction or another. A leading presidential candidate has named a blatant disarmament advocate, who goes by an alias, as his gun-program leader. So far, only leftists have fomented civil unrest, though “news” media have encouraged or at least promised danger incessantly. ☡

** They’re not anti-Semitic, because that would include 1.5 billion Arabs who are ethnic Semites. And though you can rightly call such folks Jew haters, which is true, that term is rejected outright, it’s just too true and stark. Jew denigraters might be an alternate. They denigrate everything Jews do, and have no place in their hearts or souls for anything Jewish, including their right to live in peace or have a place to live. Death to denigraters?

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Wag The Dog—CNN invents a gun fight where there is none. Falsely adds caption, and deaths in Kansas to mislead viewers about peaceful event.

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March 2020
This edition, instead of reprinting Aaron’s writings (so many of which are on our re-vamped JPFO website—take a look!), we’re featuring a discussion from his writing partners and contemporaries on a point about being armed.

“Is there any evidence that Aaron ever said what L. Neil Smith attributed to him?”

— Charles Heller, former Executive Director, JPFO.

“Tonight’s JPFO eBlast article entitled ‘Never Again Again,’ by L. Neil Smith, was a sensational read. However, it included these two sentences: ‘That organization was, and remains today, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership. It was the conviction of their illustrious founder and leader, the late, great Aaron Zelman, that if Jews had possessed personal weapons in Germany in the 1930s, and refused to give them up, there would never have been a Nazi Holocaust.’

(Smith then elaborated, “Many a hand-wringing ‘liberal’ idiot—for example, the thick-headed, myopic leadership of the Anti-Defamation League, which might be more accurately labeled, “We Who Refuse To Learn From History”—argued with Aaron about that, but I agreed with him wholeheartedly, having written the first novel that I know of—1980’s The Probability Broach—advocating that everybody in society should be armed.)

http://jpfo.org/smith/smith-never-again-again.htm

“I was under the impression that ‘we’ (JPFO) believe that if all Jews had possessed personal weapons in Germany in the 1930s, the Holocaust might well have been delayed or slowed in some way, but it probably would not have prevented what happened, perhaps the all-time worst moment in human history. Anyone care to clarify or express an opinion? What say you? I know Charles Heller agrees with me! To be clear, I love the article by Smith, a fellow JPFO Life Member. I love the quote by Jefferson, which I will use! (paraphrasing, “Take your gun with you on all your walks.’) But I disagree with the above two sentences.”

—Richard Busch, JPFO Ambassador

Richard Stevens, Co-Author with Zelman on several books and papers, writes:

I would say Neil accurately captured Aaron Zelman’s viewpoint. Neil and Aaron worked very close together to write one of the fiction books, so Neil would have known Aaron’s views. I worked with Aaron, and I would agree with Neil’s expression also. With two caveats.

First, Aaron initially believed that once Jews saw the “gun control”-Holocaust link, then Jews would shift their views immediately. His enthusiasm on this point was part of the reason I got involved in 1993. Over a period of years he finally realized his high hopes were for naught. He bitterly came to accept, in his words, that American Jews were morally weak and worthless (with obvious exceptions, usually for the Orthodox). It was the disappointment of his life, frankly. He found that Christians were his biggest constituency, and he happily embraced Christians into the fold.

Second, he also initially believed that the Jews in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, if armed, would have fought long and hard. One of JPFO’s earliest products was a beautiful belt buckle commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Aaron publicized the underground resistance in Vilnius also. There was a movie called, The Partisans of Vilna. We tried to get a copy, but it eluded us at the time (1996 or so). There were other instances of resistance that were relatively successful in how they affected the Nazi plans. He believed that it was the lack of weapons, and the lack of a culture that knew how to use weapons, that doomed the Jews in large measure.

Over time, Aaron started to believe more that it was the lack of gun intelligent/pro-armed-defense culture that presented the worst problem for Jews, then and now. About that time, he initiated the Bill of Rights Day efforts, pressing to instill a Bill of Rights Culture—which was a move that thrilled many American Christians and non-religious people who favored our fundamental political cultural heritage. He didn’t expect many Jews to care about the BOR by that time.

With those two caveats, I nevertheless agree with Neil about Aaron’s initial and heartfelt viewpoint. To the end, I’m rather certain Aaron would have said, “If the Jews had been armed, the Nazis could not have gotten away with the Holocaust so easily, or maybe at all.” —Richard S. ☡