

GUN CONTROL

FACTS AND EVENTS

Takes part of the American culture

The right to bear arms is a right enshrined in the constitution (2nd Amendment) and yet, this right was written in the Constitution for other purposes: after the American Revolution, the new country wanted to protect itself – the second amendment was supposed to be a safeguard against an oppressive government. Besides, weapons were not as deadly then as they are now.

Pb of availability: 85 weapons for 100 inhabitants.

NRA : the National Rifle Association

The NRA is a Lobbying group which advocates gun rights. Ex: it spends about \$250m per year of which \$3m to influence gun policy. The modern NRA continues to teach firearm safety and competency. Trump was strongly supported by the NRA during his campaign

Mass shootings in the United States (some examples): a recurring problem causing many deaths

92% of public schools have a written plan describing procedure to be performed in the event of an active shooter. In 2020 there were 615 mass shootings => 181 more incidents than the previous year.

- **The Parkland shooting** : February 14 , 2018 : a mass shooting in a Parkland's high school . Some pupils died and this fact rekindled the debate on gun control in the US.
- August, 3rd, 2019: in El Paso, Texas, near the Mexican border => the white man killer had targeted Mexicans.
- August 4th, 2019: in Dayton => the killer had a racial and political motive. The attack occurred just 13 hours after the mass shooting in El Paso.

Problem of Trump Policy in Gun Control

- Racism => Trump's language is responsible for promoting racism + tensions because of Trump's wall between Mexico and the United States
- White supremacy
- Bigotry, hatred (sectarism, intolerance)
- Mental illness

However, Trump promises to end this "American carnage" but no results now.

Trump wants teachers to have a weapon to protect themselves against shooters.

Joe Biden and Gun Control

He wants to end the American gun control epidemic by :

- banning the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.
- regulating possession of existing assault weapons under the National Firearms Act which requires individuals possessing machine-guns to undergo a **background check**.
- supporting legislation restricting the number of firearms
- ending the online sale of firearms and ammunitions

Almost 40,000 people die as a result of firearm injuries every year in the USA.

New Zealand and legislation

6 days after the Christchurch mosque attack on March 2019, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a ban on "military-style" semi-automatic rifles, prompting questions in the US.

PROBLEMATIQUES

Should there be gun regulation in the United States ? Who is responsible ?

In the US, is the government efficient to control firearms use ?

Should teachers be allowed to have a gun?

Why is gun control a hot topic?

Will the situation change with Joe Biden as president?

VOCABULARY

Un massacre = a bloodshed, a massacre, a slaughter

Les gens en deuil = mourners

To carry out the attack

Appuyer sur la gachette = to pull on the trigger

Blesser : injure, hurt

Attentat: terrorist attack

Respectueux de la loi : law-abiding

Porter une arme: to carry a weapon, to bear an arm

Légitime défense : self-defence

Défendeurs du port de l'arme à feu: Gun rights activists

Réglementation du port d'armes: Gun control

Une fusillade : a shooting, a shoot-out, gunfire, gunfight

Tuer quelqu'un sauvagement : to slaughter

Magazines : chargeurs armes

Background check : vérification des antécédents