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 dueil = mourners

To carry out the attack

Appuyer sur la gachette = to pull on the trigger

Blesser : injure, hurt

Attentat: terrorist attack

Respecteux 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 quelq’un sauvagement : to slaughter

Magazines : chargeurs armes

Background check : vérification des antécédents