

## **In Guns, Americans Still Trust**

As America keeps facing the horrors of mass shooting, such deeds lead to repetitive calls for gun control. However, three recent American opinion pieces, two dated 2018 in *National Review* (document 1) and *The Colby Echo* (document 2) and one from 2019 in *The Federalist* (document 3) vehemently argue against it while a 1988 satirical cartoon from *the Baltimore Sun* (document 4) and two recent statistical graphs from the *BBC* (document 5) provide another insight on the issue. How does the U.S. justify the absence of strict gun control despite gun deaths? The gun control debate focuses on criticising the narrative, highlighting law enforcement failures, and rejecting gun bans as a solution.

Although all articles, written in the wake of mass shootings, agree such killings are an issue, they disparage gun control, a stance which the cartoon mocks openly. First, documents 1 and 2 debunk the anti-gun lobbyists' vilifying of specific guns such as "assault weapons". They consider it based on spurious arguments and argue it fails to include more commonly used weapons such as handguns. Moreover, both articles argue that gun-control proponents clump together statistics on violence and gun deaths so as to make them appear more striking than they genuinely are, a vision not corroborated by the chart comparing US gun-killing homicides to other countries. However, Document 1 goes even further in its condemnation of gun control, claiming that some arguments put forward are simply politically opportunistic.

For all authors, the issue is not guns, whatever the sort, but existing laws and procedures which are not properly followed or enforced. The FBI is particularly singled out for its failings. Although documents 1 and 2 also throw in school, law-enforcement and mental-health authorities as responsible for not stopping would- be mass shooters, they do not blame society itself for gun deaths, unlike document 3. Documents 1 and 3 also claim gun control laws are potentially unmanageable to implement, unconstitutional, and cumbersome for dutiful gun owners. Additionally, Document 2 sees them as ineffectual against mass murderers, a viewpoint the chart illustrating the proportion of death from mass shootings to overall death does not disclaim.

To conclude, despite wondering how to address mass shootings, no new solution is suggested since all articles unequivocally reject the idea of laying down arms, as the cartoon illustrates. Document 3 especially clearly sees the second amendment as the best solution to protect citizens owing to the government's inability to ensure dutiful citizens' safety. Ultimately, documents 1 and 2 proposed remedies consist only in better enforcement of existing laws, the former being particularly keen on putting the onus on government agencies to do so.

**(436 words)**