

## Gun Control

Gun control, always a hot topic, goes back almost as far as the appearance of guns, themselves. In the late 1500's, for example, Henry IV of France, outlawed firearms in trying to deal with the on-going violence between France's Catholics and Huguenots (French Protestants). In researching the controversy as it stands today, the arguments one comes across invariably are either from the "Keep the Guns" camp (basically inhabited by conservatives) or the "Get Rid of Guns" camp (basically the home of liberals), so you have to be aware of where your information is coming from, but no matter which side you're on, it's an interesting lesson in history to consider the following facts:

-In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

-In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

-China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

-Germany established gun control in 1938 and from 1939 to 1945, a total of 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.

-Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, one million 'educated' people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

-Guatemala established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

-Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

-In 2006(?), gun owners in Australia were forced by a new gun control law to surrender 640,381 personal firearms to be destroyed by their own government. Twelve months later, homicides were up 3.2 percent,, assaults were up 8.6 percent, and armed robberies were up 44 percent! [<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1823003/posts>]

Now, I could have run arguments *for* gun control, instead, but almost everything I found was either based on emotion, rather than fact, or isolated instances (i.e, "This beautiful 4 year-old girl was killed while playing with her father's handgun..."). I thought the above was much more telling.

[and yes, I am a gun owner]

