

# RANGE

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RANGE is an award-winning quarterly devoted to the issues that threaten the West, its people, lifestyles, lands and wildlife. No stranger to controversy, RANGE is a leading forum for opposing viewpoints in the search for solutions that will halt the depletion of a national resource—the American cowboy.

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## Up Front

*It's all about liberty.*  
By C.J. Hadley



The Second Amendment states, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

I paid little attention to that amendment until recently, when this administration used a tragedy in Connecticut to encourage anti-gun statist to beg their leaders to annihilate the right for citizens to bear arms and destroy liberty in order to "save the children."

A friend in New York asked recently: "Why do you need a gun? Nobody should have a gun." I guess she doesn't know that 170 million people were killed in the 20th century because they had no way to defend themselves.

That awful figure comes from "Death by Gun Control: The Human Cost of Victim Disarmament" by Aaron Zelman and Richard W. Stevens. The introduction by James Bovard states: "Not every firearms regulation leads inexorably to genocide.

But, as this sweeping historical study shows, supposedly 'reasonable measures' such as licensing and registration of gun owners have been followed too many times in recent history by government atrocities. The issue is not the supposed good intention of reformers who seek to reduce private gun ownership. The issue is the nature of political power."

Perhaps my friend didn't hear a New Mexico police chief say, "No criminals will give up their guns." Or understand Joe Biden's real intent to destroy liberty when he said, "If gun control can save one life, it's worth it." She might have missed Hitler's comments on April 11, 1942: "The most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to allow the subject races to possess arms. History shows that all conquerors who have allowed their subject races to carry arms have prepared

their own downfall by so doing."

Stephen P. Halbrook in his book, "The Founders' Second Amendment," writes: "The experiences of the American Revolution proved the right to keep and bear arms serves as the ultimate check that the founders hoped would dissuade persons at the helm of state from seeking to establish tyranny."

After guns were taken away from law-abiding citizens in England and Australia crime increased, liberty diminished, and bad guys got more guns. "Death by Gun Control" shows that control of weapons is victim disarmament and leaves millions of innocent people vulnerable to abuse, rape, robbery, murder, and government-sponsored genocide. A chart in the book counts civilians killed by governments (most of which had bans on personal gun ownership or gun registration laws), including:

"Ottoman Turkey, 1915-1917, Armenians (mostly Christian), 1-1.5 million; Soviet Union, 1929-1945, political opponents, farming communities, 20 million; Nazi Germany and Occupied Europe, 1933-1945, political opponents, Jews, gypsies, critics and 'examples,' 20 million; Nationalist China, 1927-1949, political opponents, army conscripts, others, 10 million; Red China, 1949-1976, political opponents, rural populations, enemies of the state, 20-35 mil-

lion; Guatemala, 1960-1981, Mayans and other Indians, political enemies, 100,000-200,000; Uganda, 1971-1979, Christians, political enemies, 300,000; Cambodia (Khmer Rouge), 1975-1979, educated persons, political enemies, 2 million; Rwanda, 1994, Tutsis, 800,000."

As we go to press, President Obama and his weird buddy Joe are pleading with Americans to help them take away our rights to self-defense. Remember the 170 million. And remember that when Clinton got Congress to ban assault weapons, nothing improved.

I presume most anti-gunners haven't had a gun held to their heads. I have (in N.Y.C.) and I refuse to give up my right to self-defense from mixed sadists or sick government agents. Americans should remember King George III, take heed, then clutch their guns and fight like hell to hold on to their liberties. ■



CLOCKWISE: CJ, who became an American citizen in 1972, believes in the Second Amendment, and sports a bandolier of empty casings she shot from a big gun on Dec. 30, 2012. ▶ Little Caroline Joy with father Bert in Birmingham, England, during WWII. ▶ Hitler's government killers with guns. Zelman and Stevens write that men, women and children were "crumpled, stacked, sliced, strangled, gassed, stabbed, tortured, hacked, burned, starved, mutilated and shot." The victims had no defense.

AUDREY MAY HADLEY

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