

Why Do We Have Gun Nuts?

The world knows that the US failure to control firearms despite the tragic toll in human lives that result is irrational, evidence of a collective insanity nearly as severe and dangerous as the minds of some of our long list of mass shooters.

Most people don't understand how we got that way. We don't exactly get used to mass shootings, but we have come to expect that when one occurs, the victims have barely stopped bleeding when the NRA loudly proclaims that not even the slightest additional restriction on gun sales is acceptable.

And of course most of the rest of us renew our pleas to our Congress for stricter gun laws, but too many of their ears are deafened by NRA donations.

Has it always been this way? No.

To understand how this political insanity came about, a bit of history must be known, as well as the way the gun culture fits into the devious strategy of the right wing, the Republican party, and their economic agenda.

The Second Amendment has not always carried the misinterpretation that is claimed today.

[Tracing the Hick Fascism of the NRA](#)

The NRA was not always the extreme right-wing organization that it is now. Thanks to Harlon Carter, who took it over in 1977, it went from a reasonable advocate of gun safety, training, and sane regulations, to a tool of the 1%.

It wasn't just Harlon. There was [Merwin K. Hart](#) who was instrumental in creating the gun culture. As the article also relates, he understood the value of gun obsession is not only that it is a politically divisive issue, but that it isolates individuals both politically and socially.

Gun ownership, for the believers, provides a sense of empowerment. That feeling is an illusion. There is nothing that one can legally do with a gun that will improve the quality of life for one's self and family. It makes one less likely to form associations based on common social, economic, or political interests, except perhaps on the gun issue itself.

It turns them from a part of a society to a collection of individuals, distrusting other individuals, unable and unwilling to cooperate and organize with others to defend their common interests.

Individualism sounds like a positive concept. We are all individuals, with the right to be ourselves, say what we like, and do things in our own, perhaps nonconformist, way.

But there is another side to individualism, and that is the side the conservatives use against us. Human beings are at their most effective when they work together to achieve common goals. That is the very basis of human civilization. Sharing our knowledge, discoveries, and effort is what

built our fantastic advances in technology, science, and art. It has also enabled us to free ourselves from tyrannies.

True power is in numbers; in cooperation-- to share ideas, organize, unionize. Guns, no matter how many or how deadly, provide only the power to create tragedies.

--cosmicrat July 19, 2016