

Why We're Still Arguing About Gun Control

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. For the analysis section, refer to the article as needed.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

- 1. In the recent Las Vegas mass shooting, Stephen Paddock used a device called a bump stock, which is designed to**
 - a muffle the sound of gunfire from an automatic weapon.
 - b let a shooter zero in on a target from thousands of yards away.
 - c allow a semiautomatic rifle to fire rounds faster.
 - d make a rifle lightweight and easier to carry.
- 2. The Las Vegas shooting has put which constitutional amendment in the spotlight?**
 - a First Amendment
 - b Second Amendment
 - c Fourth Amendment
 - d Fifth Amendment
- 3. According to the article, federal law specifies all of the following EXCEPT**
 - a undocumented immigrants can't own firearms.
 - b licensed gun dealers must do background checks on buyers.
 - c firearms may not be sold at gun shows.
 - d people diagnosed with certain types of mental illness can't own firearms.
- 4. Which of these statements is true?**
 - a Most states require a license for gun ownership.
 - b Ohio has the most restrictive gun laws in the country.
 - c Most current gun control laws exist at the state level.
 - d all of the above

ANALYZE THE TEXT

- 5. In the section "What are the arguments in favor?" which two words have nearly the same meaning?**
 - a *arming* and *banning*
 - b *loopholes* and *limits*
 - c *cite* and *allow*
 - d *advocates* and *supporters*
- 6. You can reasonably infer from the section "What are the arguments against control?" that the Supreme Court rulings on guns in 2008 and 2010**
 - a did not reference the Second Amendment.
 - b looked at militia rights but not individual rights.
 - c largely pleased gun rights advocates.
 - d put tight new restrictions on gun ownership.
- 7. Which excerpt from the article best supports the answer to question 6?**
 - a "The debates often come down to the Second Amendment . . ."
 - b "Americans have long argued over its wording . . ."
 - c "For generations, the U.S. Supreme Court avoided answering the question of whether the Second Amendment guaranteed an *individual's* right to bear arms."
 - d ". . . the Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to keep a firearm."
- 8. Based on the article, which type of regulation is most likely to get passed by the U.S. Congress?**
 - a a restriction on bump stocks
 - b a restriction on hunting rifles
 - c a ban on large gun shows
 - d a ban on semiautomatic weapons

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

- 9. How did the U.S. Supreme Court rulings on gun rights in 2008 and 2010 affect the debate over gun control?**
- 10. Why do you think the gun control debate keeps growing more and more partisan?**

Showdown in Spain

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. For the analysis section, refer to the article as needed.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

1. What was the subject of Catalonia's recent referendum?
 - a whether to withdraw from the European Union
 - b whether to go to war with Spain
 - c whether to secede from Spain
 - d whether to move its regional capital
2. Which is true of Barcelona, according to the article?
 - a It's a major tourist destination.
 - b Its infrastructure is failing.
 - c People there do not pay taxes to Spain.
 - d People there see themselves as French, rather than Spanish.
3. Which of these is a responsibility of the Catalan regional government?
 - a levying and collecting taxes
 - b managing foreign affairs
 - c overseeing schools
 - d all of the above
4. According to the article, why have some companies announced plans to move their headquarters out of Catalonia?
 - a They want to flee the violence that has gripped the region.
 - b They want to escape the oppression of Francisco Franco.
 - c They want to be based in an industrial center, and Catalonia is increasingly agricultural.
 - d They want to make sure they remain in the European Union if Catalonia becomes independent.

ANALYZE THE TEXT

5. The article notes that Francisco Franco "suppressed the region's culture." The word *suppressed* most nearly means
 - a intensified.
 - b stifled.
 - c defied.
 - d criticized.
6. Which of the following phrases from the article provides the best example of suppressing a culture?
 - a "granted the region limited self-governing powers"
 - b "sought more autonomy"
 - c "considered their region to be separate"
 - d "outlawed the Catalan language"
7. Which of the following arguments would you expect an opponent of the Catalan independence movement to make?
 - a Secession would bring dire economic consequences to Catalonia and Spain as a whole.
 - b Catalonia pays too much money to the Spanish government.
 - c Catalonia has its own language and long history.
 - d all of the above
8. It is reasonable to infer that the section heading "A Domino Effect?" refers to
 - a the chances for a peaceful resolution.
 - b the delay in issuing a formal declaration of independence.
 - c the possibility of other independence movements.
 - d the likelihood of government leaders stepping down.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

9. How might the United States be affected if Catalonia secedes?
10. Why do you think Spain's government sees the recent referendum as illegal and unconstitutional?

The Manhattan Project

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. For the analysis section, refer to the article as needed.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

- What prompted the U.S. government to start trying to develop an atomic bomb?
 - the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
 - a letter from Albert Einstein warning that the Germans might be trying to develop one
 - the discovery of uranium deposits in New Mexico
 - the Soviet Union's success in creating one
- The Manhattan Project is named for
 - the scientist who headed the project.
 - the U.S. military's nickname for Japan.
 - the site where the atomic bomb was first tested.
 - the location of the project's first office.
- Who made the decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan?
 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - President Harry S. Truman
 - President John F. Kennedy
 - none of the above
- Based on the article and its sidebar, "The Nuclear Club," which country is not known to have nuclear weapons yet but was working to develop them in the past?
 - North Korea
 - India
 - Iran
 - Japan

ANALYZE THE TEXT

- In paragraph 3 of the section headed "The Nazi Threat," you can infer that the phrase "tapped for" most nearly means
 - accused of.
 - in support of.
 - selected for.
 - criticized for.
- Which excerpt best conveys the central idea of the section "'Mutually Assured Destruction?'"
 - "By 1949, the Soviet Union had its own bomb . . ."
 - "That principle was put to the test in 1962 . . ."
 - "North Korea became a nuclear power a decade ago . . ."
 - ". . . it heralded a new world in which nations would have the power to annihilate one another . . ."
- Which statement about North Korea is most accurate?
 - It may soon develop its first nuclear weapon.
 - There are questions about its nuclear capabilities.
 - It has more nuclear weapons than the U.S. does.
 - It has agreed to end its nuclear program.
- Which excerpt from the article best supports the answer to question 7?
 - ". . . it's unclear whether North Korea has the capability to successfully mount a warhead on them."
 - "North Korea is next door to U.S. ally South Korea . . ."
 - "Nine countries today possess nearly 15,000 nuclear warheads."
 - "North Korea's dictator, Kim Jong Un, vows to annihilate the U.S. . . ."

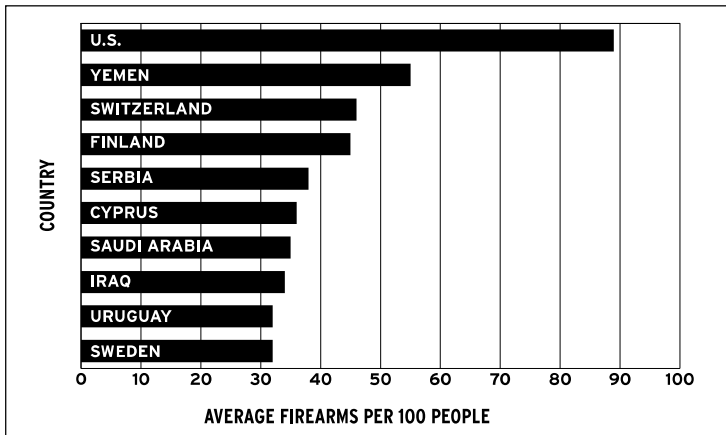
IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

- Based on the article, was the Manhattan Project team successful at keeping its work secret? Explain.
- Summarize the 2015 deal that Iran made with the U.S. and five other countries concerning its nuclear program. Do you think the U.S. should have signed the agreement? Why or why not?

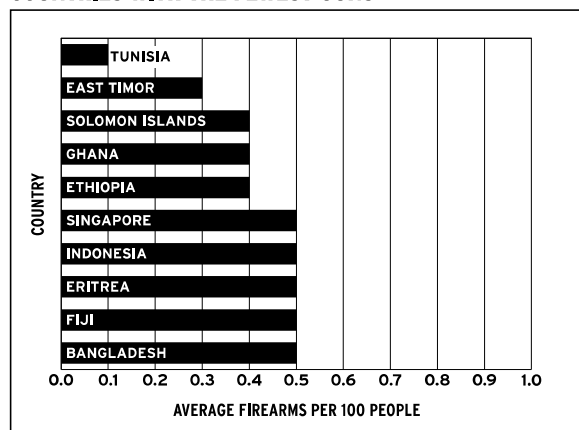
Where the Guns Are

Because some gun sales do not require background checks and because many guns are obtained illegally, it's impossible to pinpoint the exact number of privately owned firearms in the U.S. But most estimates put the number at about 300 million. As the graphs at right show, the U.S. has a higher rate of gun ownership than any other nation in the world. Study the graphs and ask yourself why certain countries might be on the top graph or the bottom graph. Think about the political situation, culture, government, and history of each country. If you don't know much about the country, refer to *Upfront's* World Affairs issue (Oct. 30, 2017).

COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST GUNS



COUNTRIES WITH THE FEWEST GUNS



The graph above shows the countries with the most guns per 100 people. The one at right shows the countries with the fewest. Note the different scales used for the two graphs.

SOURCE: SMALL ARMS SURVEY 2007

ANALYZE THE GRAPH

- Which country on the graphs has about 55 guns per 100 people?
 a Indonesia
 b Switzerland
 c Iraq
 d Yemen
- Ethiopia has an average of _____ firearms per 100 people.
 a 0.4
 b 4
 c 40
 d none of the above
- Which country has about 50 fewer firearms per 100 people than the U.S. does?
 a Iraq
 b Serbia
 c Tunisia
 d Eritrea
- Sweden has a population of nearly 10 million. You can conclude that it has about _____ firearms.
 a 1 million
 b 2 million
 c 3 million
 d 5 million
- Which statement is true, based on the graphs?
 a Bangladesh has more guns per 100 people than Sweden does.
 b Uruguay and Sweden have about the same number of guns per 100 people.
 c Ghana has about 4 guns per 100 people.
 d all of the above

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why are the two graphs drawn to such different scales? Why do you think the editors made a point of calling your attention to this difference?
- What do you find most interesting or surprising about these graphs? Why?

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Find the Evidence

After reading "Showdown in Spain," consider each question below. Use the organizer to record evidence from the text and to note where you found the evidence.

QUESTION:	EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT:	LOCATION (PAGE, COLUMN):
<p>1. What are the main arguments for and against the secession of Catalonia from Spain?</p>		
<p>2. How do experts explain low voter turnout for the referendum on secession?</p>		
<p>3. Why did the push for Catalan independence grow in strength after 1975?</p>		
<p>4. Would Catalonia be viable as an independent country?</p>		

SYNTHESIZE: Based on your notes for question 1, write a two-paragraph response to that question. Use both paraphrasing and direct quotations from the text.

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Analyzing Authors' Claims

Read the debate on pages 22-23 about whether peace in the Middle East region is possible, then follow the directions below to analyze each author's claims and decide who makes a stronger case.

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<p>AUTHOR: Dennis Ross Washington Institute for Near East Policy</p>	<p>AUTHOR: Aaron David Miller Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars</p>
<p>Author's main claim or argument in the debate:</p>	<p>Author's main claim or argument in the debate:</p>
<p>REASON 1: Name one reason the author gives for his claim.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 1.</p>	<p>REASON 1: Name one reason the author gives for his claim.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 1.</p>
<p>REASON 2: Name another reason the author presents.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 2.</p>	<p>REASON 2: Name another reason the author presents.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 2.</p>
<p>REASON 3: Name a third reason the author presents.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 3.</p>	<p>REASON 3: Name a third reason the author presents.</p> <p>List evidence the author gives to support Reason 3.</p>
<p>What persuasive devices does the author use?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appeals to emotions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Uses data or scholarly research</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tells why the other side's argument is weak</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	<p>What persuasive devices does the author use?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appeals to emotions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Uses data or scholarly research</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tells why the other side's argument is weak</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>

EVALUATE: Which author do you think makes a more effective case? Do you spot any weaknesses—like a bias or missing information—in either argument? Explain on a separate sheet of paper.

'New Means of Destruction'

Beginning in 1942, thousands of scientists collaborated to build the world's first atomic bombs as part of the United States government's top-secret Manhattan Project. By 1945, they had succeeded—and realized that use of the bombs against Japan could be imminent. Below is an excerpt from a petition drafted by 70 Manhattan Project scientists and sent to President Harry S. Truman in July 1945. Read it along with the *Upfront* article about the Manhattan Project. Then answer the questions below.

Petition to President Harry S. Truman, July 17, 1945

We, the undersigned scientists, have been working in the field of atomic power. Until recently, we have had to fear that the United States might be attacked by atomic bombs during this war and that her only defense might lie in a counterattack by the same means. Today, with the defeat of Germany, this danger is averted and we feel impelled to say what follows:

The war has to be brought speedily to a successful conclusion, and attacks by atomic bombs may very well be an effective method of warfare. We feel, however, that such attacks on Japan could not be justified, at least not unless the terms which will be imposed after the war on Japan were made public in detail and Japan were given an opportunity to surrender.

If such public announcement gave assurance to the Japanese that they could look forward to a life devoted to peaceful pursuits in their homeland and if Japan still refused to surrender our nation might then, in certain circumstances, find itself forced to resort to the use of atomic bombs. Such a step, however, ought not to be made at any time without seriously considering the moral responsibilities which are involved.

The development of atomic power will provide the nations with new means of destruction. The atomic bombs at our disposal represent only the first step in this direction, and there is almost no limit to the destructive power

which will become available in the course of their future development. Thus a nation which sets the precedent of using these newly liberated forces of nature for purposes of destruction may have to bear the responsibility of opening the door to an era of devastation on an unimaginable scale.

If after this war a situation is allowed to develop in the world which permits rival powers to be in uncontrolled possession of these new means of destruction, the cities of the United States as well as the cities of other nations will be in continuous danger of sudden annihilation. All the resources of the United States, moral and material, may have to be mobilized to prevent the advent of such a world situation. Its prevention is at present the solemn responsibility of the United States—singled out by virtue of her lead in the field of atomic power. . . .

In view of the foregoing, we, the undersigned, respectfully petition: first, that you exercise your power as Commander-in-Chief, to rule that the United States shall not resort to the use of atomic bombs in this war unless the terms which will be imposed upon Japan have been made public in detail and Japan knowing these terms has refused to surrender; second, that in such an event the question whether or not to use atomic bombs be decided by you in light of the considerations presented in this petition as well as all the other moral responsibilities which are involved.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you sum up the scientists' purpose in petitioning the president?
2. How would you describe the tone of the petition?
3. Under what circumstances do the writers say that use of the atomic bomb against Japan might be justified?
4. What "solemn responsibility" does the U.S. bear, according to the scientists? Why?
5. What does the petition add to your understanding of the Atomic Age and the present nuclear threat, as outlined in the *Upfront* article?