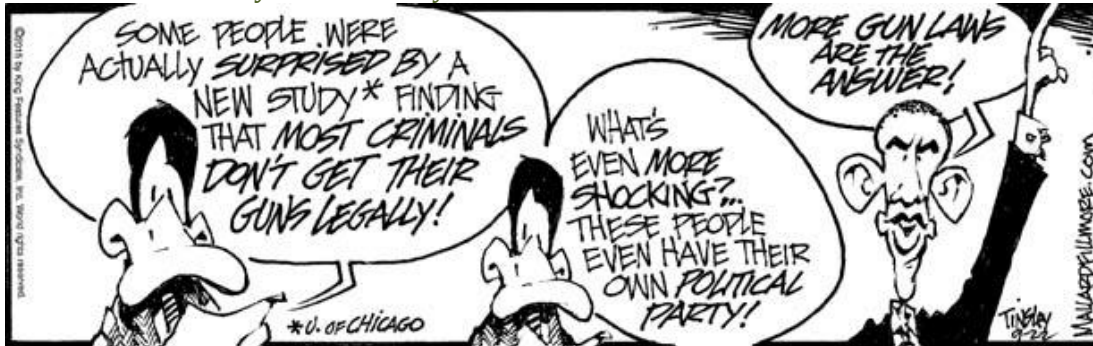# 🇺🇸 GUN CONTROL: A VERY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

By Stephen L. Bakke 🇺🇸 September 27, 2015

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley

As I struggle through gun violence events and the maze of perplexing and conflicting statistics and arguments about gun violence in the U.S., I constantly back away feeling we are somehow "missing the boat." In the face of decreasing violent crime and gun violence, we nevertheless do have a continuing gun violence problem. We have had marginal improvement from what many people assert to be the result of widespread increase in "concealed carry permits" by responsible elements in our communities. But what about those (too many) cases of gun violence that we hear about?

Stipulate the obvious

First let me stipulate what **to me** is obvious:
- Effective enforcement is important but existing laws are not uniformly or consistently enforced. Doing so would make a difference and relieve pressure for new legislation.
- The percentage of gun crimes that are committed by legally obtained weapons is truly minimal.
- Gun homicide is dwarfed by gun suicide.
- Numerous studies of the use of guns for self-defense show that it is used often and effectively.
- Obviously, for reasons other than just gun crime control, the attention given to mental health issues must increase in a **meaningful** way.
- Firearm security/storage regulations would be a helpful thing. I would support such legislation.
- Education and information about proper use and safety for firearms would help the public understand "guns." People are more objective when they are familiar with something.
- Dismiss, as a waste of time, the discussion of using "straw men" like confederate battle flags or portraits of Robert E. Lee as causes of violence.

Those "obvious" observations seem almost **trite** compared to what's on my mind right now. There's so much more about the evolution (or "devolution") of our society which I believe is more important than those statements, more harsh gun laws, or even attempts to eliminate guns. I fear we don't examine these other things because it might foster accusations of being politically incorrect – or perhaps would be found to contradict some "model" for crime prevention developed by a professor of criminal psychology somewhere.

It's not about too many guns, or mostly mental illness, or even more effective enforcement

To politicize this by calling for gun control – we already know that gun control is not going to stop the violence. Only a change of heart is going to do that. – Alveda King, NAACP member, Christian civil rights activist and niece of Martin Luther King, Jr.

First, let's not confuse anger, hatred and racism with mental illness. Often, a horrible event is followed by anti-gun activists bemoaning guns and suggesting ways to eliminate firearms from our future. As I think it through, we conservatives are too quick to say it's not the gun, but that it's really because of inadequate policies dealing with mental illness – or some other argument to get the focus off penalizing responsible gun owners. However, anger, hatred and racism can come out of a perfectly sane but evil brain. How did we get here, and what has contributed to this?

I will present some things that I believe could contribute to the high (albeit reducing) level of gun crime in our country. These are questions that at least deserve examination as to their impact on hatred, racism and similar emotions directly, and of the impact on gun violence indirectly:

- Have government programs institutionalized "urban poverty plantations" as a breeding ground for hatred, racism, class warfare and ultimately, violence?
- Has de-emphasis on a traditional family structure led to changes in attitudes affecting violence?
- Are dysfunctional lifestyles more acceptable than in the past, and if so, does this lead to fewer moral absolutes?
- Has any change or reduction in moral absolutes led to an expansion of acceptable activities, and ultimately is more violent behavior more easily forgiven, or rationalized, by society?
- How valid is the claim by that morality has been lost, or at least redefined in our society, and if valid, could this impact an inclination for more violent behavior.
- Has there been a change in the definition of life and the sanctity thereof, and if so has this had a tendency to cheapen how that life is valued by some – hence more violence.
- Is there any indication that humans are exhibiting less "self-control" than in the past?
- Would teaching gun safety and proper use of all firearms in the school systems, as was once common, help the public understand the issue? People are more objective and have less fear of something when they are familiar with it.
- Do gun free zones encourage or discourage violence?

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley

He SB! Thanks for the advance copy. I'm not sure some of your speculation will prove valid, or at least I don't think it will go very far. Having said that, I do remember a "flush of warmth and comfort" about 50 years ago when I entered higher education. Some of the "black and white" ideas, or "absolutes" I had been brought up believing, seemed to weaken. I thought "maybe I don't really have to ... (whatever)." The pangs of conscience I faced my entire youth seemed no longer to be "staring me down." But ya' know SB ... ultimately I didn't find much comfort in that! – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go-to guy."