

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**REDUCING FIREARM
DEATHS: DO WE NEED
TO LOOK IN A
DIFFERENT DIRECTION?**



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 8, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

We must identify shortcomings of current gun control policies, shine a light on misguided suggestions for improvement, and focus on solutions that can make a difference. This might require that we search deeply in our national soul to come up with some uncomfortable conclusions.

Here's my response:

Reducing Firearm Deaths – Do We Need to Look in a Different Direction?

The following have been established to my satisfaction:

- Gun regulations don't address the rapidly increasing mass shootings in the U.S.
- Gun laws must have "holes" filled, made uniform, and enforced.
- Somewhat surprisingly, violent crimes, as well as death from firearms, have been falling dramatically in the last two decades. This coincides with a dramatic INCREASE in gun ownership.
- If the gun violence of inner cities is subtracted from the total statistics, the U.S. would be among the best of the nations.
- Confiscation won't happen, and wouldn't work.
- Radical Islamic terrorism and gang warfare can't be addressed by the same measures as other types of violence.
- Understanding and specifically dealing with the impact of mental illness is imperative.
- Most gun regulations now being debated aren't likely to materially affect "mass shootings".
- Gun-free zones are counter-productive.

To further reduce violence, we need to ask some questions which often foster accusations of political incorrectness. Nevertheless, let's examine the following as to impact on hatred, racism, and violence:

- Have government programs institutionalized "urban poverty plantations" as breeding grounds for violence?
- Has a de-emphasis on family structure led to changes in attitudes affecting violence?
- Are dysfunctional lifestyles more acceptable than in the past?
- Has a reduction in moral absolutes led to an expansion of acceptable activities?
- Has morality been redefined?
- Have there been changes in the definition and sanctity of life?
- Should we re-introduce "Marksmanship and Firearm Safety" in schools. Students would learn to respect firearms and safely handle them.

Maybe these should be considered!