

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**WAR ON TERROR,
MENTAL ILLNESS
INDUCED VIOLENCE,
AND GUN CONTROL –
ALL SEPARATE ISSUES!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 12, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

Hey SB! I'm blown away with all the problems we face and the obvious confusion displayed by our leaders as to how to deal with them. I know these are tough issues, but let's at least refrain from thinking they have common solutions. Will gun regulations or confiscation solve the radical Islamist terrorism problem? Will standard background checks keep guns out of the hands of violent mentally ill individuals? No! and No! What say you? – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go-to guy."

Here's my response:

War on Terror, Mental Illness Induced Violence, and Gun Control – ALL SEPARATE ISSUES!

Radical Islamist terrorist violence brings the inevitable call for stricter gun laws, as if that's a solution for all causes of gun violence: radical Islamist terrorism, mental illness, and criminal activities. Suggestions range from stricter enforcement of current laws, through new legislation to "plug holes," all the way to confiscation. Unless we deal with these problems separately, nothing will get done.

First, consider only violence by professional criminals and sane domestic extremists. Without terrorism and mental illness clouding the issue, we are dealing with groups who generally are rational (within their moral parameters), about the "where and when" of their premeditated violence. Consider:

- Confiscation wouldn't work because these groups will find guns.
- Violence from these elements has dramatically declined over the last two decades, corresponding to a dramatic increase in gun ownership by the "good guy" population.
- Gun laws must be jurisdictionally consistent, obvious "holes" plugged, and strictly enforced. This will have a satisfying effect on these crimes.



Next, we must understand the relationship between mental illness and violence. Only then can we superimpose appropriate parameters on existing gun control screening procedures.

Finally, traditional gun control is irrelevant in dealing with radical Islamic terrorism. Regardless of laws, they will obtain weapons. While we must eliminate this movement at its source (another discussion), domestically we must focus on improved vetting of immigrants and vigilance by our communities and those closest to the radical elements. "See something/say something" is important, but political correctness and accusations of islamophobia must be given a holiday.