

FRANK MINITER, THE FUTURE OF THE GUN (2014).

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What Is Gun Control and Technology Doing to The Gun Industry in America.

“Among the many misdeeds of British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest.”¹

-Mohandas Gandhi

In *The Future of The Gun*, the reader will learn the following:

- I. Why anti-gun groups often oppose gun safety features.
- II. How guns and gun education for young people cut crime.
- III. How federalism could save your gun rights.
- IV. New trends in gun technology that will make guns safer and more effective.
- V. Why most talk about “assault rifles” is bogus?
- VI. How military and civilian gun technology have always advanced in tandem-for the benefit of soldiers and private citizens.
- VII. What guns will look like in just a few years.

The main purpose of the book review is to explore what gun technology can do for the ongoing problem of gun violence in America. As well, the reader will learn the impact

¹ See FRANK MINITER, THE FUTURE OF THE GUN, 1 (Regnery Publishing 2014)

technology in guns has in the American society, and an industry that is being depicted as evil by the main stream media.

Frank Minitier is an author and investigative journalist that has a particular interest in outdoor activities and nature.² Mr. Minitier graduated from a private military college, Norwich University.³ “He was a Senior Editor at *Outdoor Life* magazine and also he was the Executive Editor of *American Hunter* magazine.”⁴ “Minitier is also the author of The New York Times’ Bestseller, *The Ultimate Man’s Survival Guide—Recovering the Lost Art of Manhood*.”⁵ “Minitier is a contributor to *Forbes*, is a Field Editor for the NRA’s *American Hunter*, writes for *Outdoor Life*, and for *National Review*, *Boys’ Life*, *FOX News*, *The Washington Times*, *American Rifleman*, *Washington Examiner*, and many other publications.”⁶ Among the works of Frank Minitier you can find, *Saving the Bill of Rights*. “This book exposes how each of the individual rights Americans cherish are being undermined by an activist judiciary and politicians.”⁷ “If you care about the environment you need to read *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Hunting*.”⁸ “This book tells the truth about hunting and our real relationship with nature—not understanding this connection may be causing you to do real harm to the environment right now.”⁹ *The Ultimate Man’s Survival Guide—Recovering the Lost Art of Manhood*, another of Minitier’s works, “teaches guys the skills, attitudes, and philosophies they need to be the ultimate man.”¹⁰ To understand how to learn the skills and apply them, the author

² See Biography, Frankminiter.com, <http://frankminiter.com/bio//> (last visited October 31, 2017)

³ See *id.* (discussing the author’s college education)

⁴ See *id.* (explaining the author’s professional experience)

⁵ See *id.* (giving some accomplishments the author had as a writer)

⁶ See Books by Frank Minitier, Frankminiter.com, <http://frankminiter.com/books//> (last visited October 31, 2017) (listing the author’s publications)

⁷ See *id.* (explaining the topics of the books the author has published)

⁸ See *id.* (explaining the topics of the books the author has published)

⁹ See *id.* (explaining the topics of the books the author has published)

¹⁰ See *id.* (describing the contents of the book written by the author)

went to the best professional athletes, fighters and master of running with the bulls.¹⁰ Talking to these athletes allowed the author to create a compilation of the best skills the athletes have, in order to group them and be able to teach these skills to people allowing them to be the best version of themselves.¹¹

“*The Future of the Gun* is a work of investigative journalism that exposes America’s often misunderstood relationship with the gun. It exposes what’s to come with gun technology and with our rights.”¹² The book goes in further detail about gun control in America, and how such gun control is killing the gun industry in certain states. The author discusses most of the landmark cases regarding the use of guns for self-defense, such as *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *Jackson v. City and County of San Francisco*. In the author’s discussion, the topic of assault weapons comes up frequently. He does an analysis using statistics on how gun control has not stopped the murder rate. In his analysis, he explains that gun control does not stop criminals from using weapons, only law-abiding citizens from obtaining them. The author goes on to explain that states that are passing heavily restricted bans on weapons are causing entire towns to relocate their factories to more gun friendly states. New York and Maryland are examples of states that are causing industries to leave their states due to their ban on weapons, which in turn affects local economies and American households. Finally, the author discusses how new technology is shaping the gun industry and how legislators do not know how to keep up with the technology. The author discusses the New Jersey statute that mandates the adoption of smart guns once the New Jersey Attorney General validates the technology and considers it safe. In his discussion of the new technologies, the author mentions that technology for user identification, despite being readily available, is not yet being adopted due to the lack of confidence on its’

¹⁰ See *id.* (describing how the author was able to obtain the skills he mentions in the book)

¹¹ See *id.* (pointing out the main topic of one of the author’s book)

¹² See *id.* (describing the main topics of the book *The Future of the Gun*)

efficacy. The author discusses how gun advocates are still skeptical about the technology, especially if it takes a split second more to use their guns, they believe that second could cost them their lives since every second counts when your life is in danger.

The structure of the book is divided as follows: Part I: Future Glock which encompasses Chapter One, Two and Three. Chapter One goes on to discuss how guns gave this country the freedom it enjoys today by giving a significant advantage to the American settlers over the British. Chapter Two discusses the technologies that are available today for guns and how capable these technologies make these weapons and what the implications are of having this technology commercialized to civilians. Chapter Three explores how the pistol became the weapon it is today and how the pistol itself is technology that revolutionized the gun industry. Chapter Three also discusses that despite people nowadays thinking about technology only being electronics, the mechanism for which gun functions are technological advances. Part II, which encompasses Chapter Four, Five, Six and Seven, analyzes the legal and political view of guns. Chapter Four explains what the gun lobby is and how anti-gun movements are affecting the lives of millions of Americans living in small towns across the nation dependent on the gun industry. Chapter Five explores how the mainstream media treats the gun industry, and how the overzealous gun control advocacy affects more people than they think. Chapter Six discusses the landmark cases of *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *Jackson v. City and County of San Francisco* to illustrate that the right of self-defense is embedded into the Constitution and has been interpreted as such by the Supreme Court. Chapter Seven illustrates examples of what happens when governments disarm people, giving examples such as the British in World War II being aided by the Americans to defend themselves from the Germans due to the lack of guns. Finally, Part III, which encompasses Chapter Eight, Nine and Ten explains how the gun industry

is challenging anti-gun advocates and how the gun of the future will be. Chapter Eight describes how the gun market place of the future will be and how it developed along the years. In Chapter Nine, the author proposes solutions to gun violence that are based on the statistics he gathered and the studies he mentioned in the book. Lastly, in Chapter Ten the author goes on to explain how the armed citizen of the future will look and how some technologies will get more adoption than others, changing the shape of the gun industry of the future.

Banning guns does not help solve the gun problem of America, the same as banning drugs did not help solve the drug addiction problems in America. The author explores in his book the several arguments posed by the media about guns and the necessity of banning guns to achieve the objective of lesser crime. Mr. Minitzer, in his book, explores statistics about gun violence and restriction on guns and talks with gang members, gun enthusiasts and anti-gun advocates to paint to the reader every angle of the discussion. The author explains that despite every party having a different point of view about the gun problem in the U.S., there is no correlation between banning guns and having safer cities. He explains that it is even the opposite, cities such as Chicago, which has the most restrictive gun control laws in the nation, is one of the most violent when it comes to gun crime. The main point of the book discusses the fact that there is a misconception about something being illegal and something being readily accessible to the public. While interviewing gang members in New York City, the gun member admitted being able to get his hand on any deadly weapon of his choice within fifteen minutes of doing the interview. Despite being fairly difficult to obtain a gun license in the city and purchase a legal gun, that does not translate into people not being able to get their hands on the weapon. What is even more worrisome is criminals having access to guns while law abiding citizens are faced with bureaucracy to defend themselves. This bureaucracy puts law abiding citizens at a

significant disadvantage because regardless of the law, people that want to get their hands on weapons ultimately do so. The book is written for the general public, and citizens that are worried about losing their rights to defend themselves. The author takes the approach of exploring every advocate in the debate and laying their views on the table and assessing their opinions with a neutral perspective. He does so clearly and in an organized way, leaving the reader with the ultimate opinion on how things should be done. The piece is very straightforward but it is palpable the fact that he supports gun advocates and has a preference for not banning guns. However, despite having a strong opinion about guns, the author is clear as to what he is trying to convey and gives every angle in the discussion and tries not to opaque the other views in favor of his. Every argument the author makes is well supported by studies and by people he interviews who are well known in the field of the discussion. The author heavily relies on studies regarding gun violence and gun control as well as testimony by gun manufacturers, employees in the gun industry, anti-gun advocates and news media founders.

Overall the author does a good job at conveying his idea that prohibition is not an adequate solution to the problem of gun violence in America. I happen to agree with his position, given the fact that history has shown us that prohibition has never been a good solution to a problem because people keep doing the practices forbidden by the government. Not even the Constitution could stop the consumption of alcohol by the American population in the early 20th century. Why keep banning products to reduce their consumption? The answer lies on education and information, not prohibition. The more the media and the government educate people as to the dangers of products such as drugs, alcohol and guns, the better society will be and the safer our communities will be. I strongly believe that the book is a valuable contribution to the field; there is a lack of communication between both parties. Anti-gun advocates refuse to

talk about the problem with gun advocates and vice versa, the fact that you support one group automatically makes you an extremist. The lack of information about the other side is contributing to the gap between the people and the breakdown of society. More discussion and dialogue is needed to achieve consensus and a common ground. Without communication, there is no possibility of solving the problem affecting more than three hundred million people in this nation. It is my impression that the author did achieve what he sought, since he laid down all the arguments and analyzed them side by side to try to get to a common ground. I believe that it is important for people to sit down and discuss with people that have an opposite view of what they think to try to understand the other side's perspective better. Maybe they end up understanding their own position much better since now they will have a different perspective of the field. However, one of the criticisms that I have of the book is that the author blames a lot of people in power for the effects their political views have on regular Americans in the gun industry. I believe that despite not being wrong, the political arm is a complicated body that takes time to achieve change to a local level. Blaming politicians would not solve the problems your community has. If the community has low paying jobs in the manufacturing business, and there is a lack of specialized knowledge in the community, you cannot complain to politicians that changes in the market conditions and restrictions are to be attributable to them. Nevertheless, one of the major strengths of the book is that the author goes and gets his opinions from manufacturers, museum curators and other experts, that depict the argument in a very vivid and reasonable way, making it very understandable to the lay person.

I enjoyed the book, I believe it was very informative giving several experts opinions from every advocacy group. The statistics helped me understand the author's position better and what is more important, to have physical proof that prohibition is never a good solution. History has

shown us that prohibiting activities or products has never brought any good solutions to society. I would definitely recommend the book to people that are interested in the gun debate and people that want to know more about guns in general. There are a lot of misconceptions about guns in this country and around the world. Sadly, the only semi-information that people receive is from TV shows, movies or the media which tend to be somewhat tainted to their political agendas. I believe that people in the legal profession would greatly benefit by reading this book, since it gives the reader a wide-angle perspective of what guns represent in America. The different and opposite points of view presented in the book will help the reader adopt or reject them in favor of a sane discussion.