

EDITORIAL

Repeal the Second Amendment by Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



I am not a constitutional expert. However, I have been reading the Second Amendment and trying to make sense of it for the last two weeks. The following is what I have understood, so far.

Parts of the Second Amendment are archaic, impractical, and utterly nonsensical. Many in the Founding generation believed that federal governments are prone to use soldiers to oppress the people and take away their rights. Therefore, the states were allowed

to form a militia, now known as the National Guard to protect the state against the tyranny of the federal government. However, there were two schools of interpretation: one that it was about the right of individuals and the other that it was about the right of a state to have a militia. Later, the courts interpreted this as an individual right as the operative phrase in the Amendment is "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

We hear political rhetoric about federal tyranny, but most Americans do not fear the nation's armed forces and virtually no one thinks that an armed populace could defeat those forces in battle. It's time to repeal the Second Amendment now. This may have been practical in the 1700s when the militia and federal government were matched in firepower. Now, the nation's military establishment has become enormously more powerful than eighteenth-century armies. No individual and state can defend themselves against the federal military because an individual and states don't have an air force, nuclear bombs or satellite technology to fight the national military. An individual doesn't need armors of mass destruction to defend oneself against an intruder or a thief.

We are not safe because of that. There is a meaningless mass shooting every day in this country. It happens in churches, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls and concerts. It's not safe to live in America. Whenever someone asks me

what has been my greatest achievement in life, I reply, "I have lived in this country for around 50 years and I am still alive."

The NRA and the lobbyists are either selfish or stupid. Recently, the former Justice of the Supreme Court John Paul Stevens, a conservative, wrote in an op-ed that Americans should "demand the repeal of the Second Amendment." He continued, "a constitutional amendment to get rid of the Second Amendment would be simple and would do more to weaken the NRA's ability to stymie legislative debate and block constructive gun control legislation than any other available option."

In 1991, Former Chief Justice Warren Burger, famously conservative, said that the Second Amendment "has been the subject of one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word fraud, on the American public by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime."

The U.S.A. is the only country whose citizens routinely slaughter large groups of other citizens at random. We got to get out of this wild west mentality immediately and make this country a safe place to live.