

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview.
Second Amendment Study – Podcast & Short Film (30–35 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

Students learn about the right to bear arms and see politicians discussing/debating the passing of laws that violate the Second Amendment.

Instructions

1. Play the 10-minute podcast “The Right to Own a Gun Isn’t Just for Americans” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROOz_CuWSPQ) and tell students to take notes; discuss students’ thoughts after the podcast finishes (notes below).
2. Play the short film (5:31) of several U.S. politicians discussing restricting the Second Amendment here (<https://youtu.be/ahiFkb2b1EM>) and tell students to take notes; discuss as a class afterwards.
3. Have students in pairs/groups go back to the book’s Second Amendment chapter—the section with American “founding father” quotes—and pick one or two quotes to REFUTE something that either Dianne Feinstein or Barack Obama said in their film clips.

Podcast Notes

- Long British/American tradition of the people being armed
- Switzerland also has long tradition of armed individuals, but EU attempting to restrict their gun rights
- Czech Republic fighting EU’s attempts to restrict gun rights (CR used to be Czechoslovakia, a nation oppressed by communist Russia)
- 2018: Italian and Brazilian governments expanded gun rights for citizens
- Crime, terrorist attacks, experience living under oppressive communist dictators, global elites’ attempts to attack private property rights → more support for armed citizens

Short Film Notes

- Cruz to Feinstein: “Would you interpret other Bill of Rights amendments as you would the Second Amendment (i.e., if she would support limiting the wording of the First Amendment to say that certain types of speech/books were not allowed, or certain individuals were not allowed to speak freely)?”
- Feinstein: “There’s violence out there; we have to do something!”
- Cruz: “You never answered my question. You’re supporting violating the Second Amendment by trying to ban certain types of weapons/ammo.”
- Audience member to President Obama: “Why do you and Hillary Clinton keep trying to restrict gun rights of good guys instead of punishing bad guys who use guns? And your own city, Chicago, has terrible murder numbers, even though they’re very strict against gun rights.”
- Obama: “Any time government wants to restrict gun rights, they accuse us of wanting to try to take away guns. You can’t drive a car without taking a driving test, so we should be able to restrict those who are able to buy guns, too, if they don’t pass ‘background checks.’”

Debrief/Wrap-Up Questions

1. Which “founding father” quote did you pick that refuted Dianne Feinstein or Barack Obama’s claims in the film clips? *AWV, but be sure that students realize that the reason for the Second Amendment—which DOES NOT GRANT the right to bear arms, but PROHIBITS the U.S. government from infringing upon that right—was for Americans to be armed so they could resist government tyranny if it arose.*

2. (From the podcast) Why do you think those who live in former communist nations are so pro-gun/self-defense? *AWV, but certainly because they remember that the communist governments were heavily armed, while the people were not, so they could not resist the tyranny.*
3. How many restrictions does the Constitution say that the U.S. government can add to the right to bear arms? *Zero. "Not" means "not."*
4. If a government is in control of "background checks" to determine who should or should not have the right to bear arms, how could that government "rig" things in their favor? *AWV, but they could flag someone as a "threat" simply to deny him the right to bear arms because they didn't like him, or another reason.*

NOTE: Some states ban felons from owning firearms, which is terribly dangerous in some situations. For example, there have been women convicted of a felony for writing a bad check who now may not legally have a weapon to protect themselves or their children from dangerous predators.