GUN VIOLENCE: FROM PARKLAND TO EL PASO
Introduction

I. The gun culture, inscribed in the American DNA
II. Massacres staining the American crime history:
III. Gun right, a hot button issue

Conclusion
People standing in line outside the Martin B. Retting, Inc. guns store in Culver City, California.
I. The gun culture, inscribed in the American DNA

The 2nd Amendment

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.
Some landmarks in the history of gun legislation:

- National Firearms Act ("NFA") enforced in 1934
- Federal Firearms Act ("FFA") enforced in 1938
- Gun Control Act of 1968 ("GCA")
- District of Columbia v. Heller decision in 2008
III. Massacres staining American crime history:

American Presidents assassinated by guns:

A Lincoln (1865)  J. A. Garfield (1881)  W McKinley (1901)  J.F Kennedy (1963)
III. Massacres staining American crime history:

Mass shootings in the United States:

![Chart showing total deaths in US mass shootings (1982-2012)](image)

Data From Mother Jones’ Investigation
**Bowling for Columbine**: a documentary film released in 2002, inspired by the Columbine shooting from 1999.

min 30 to 32:
Camera surveillance footage from the day of the shooting.

Stoneman Douglas shooting where Nikolas Cruz a 19-year-old former student at the school opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killing 17 people and injuring 17 others on February 14, 2018.

El Paso shooting on August 3, 2019 at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, United States. A gunman shot and killed 22 people and injured 24 others. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating the shooting as an act of domestic terrorism and a possible hate crime.

Surveillance camera screenshots showing the gunman at the Walmart entrance.
During the past 6 years the number of deaths because of gun violence did not stop to grow. In 2019 there were 2,790 deaths more than in 2014 from gun violence, according to a Gun Violence Archive’s study.

This study shows that gun violence does not only mean mass shooting. Indeed, having a gun at home increase the chances of accidents. In 2020, according to the GVA, 403 people died from unintentional shootings.

2017 was the deadliest year for shooting killings. For USA Today it was the year with more mass shootings.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths - Willful, Malicious, Accidental</td>
<td>12,418</td>
<td>13,537</td>
<td>15,112</td>
<td>15,679</td>
<td>14,789</td>
<td>15,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suicides by Gun</td>
<td>21,386</td>
<td>22,018</td>
<td>22,938</td>
<td>23,854</td>
<td>24,432</td>
<td>PENDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>Injuries - Willful, Malicious, Accidental</td>
<td>22,779</td>
<td>27,033</td>
<td>30,666</td>
<td>31,265</td>
<td>28,233</td>
<td>29,501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children [age 0-11] Killed or Injured</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens [aged 12-17] Killed or Injured</td>
<td>2,318</td>
<td>2,695</td>
<td>3,140</td>
<td>3,256</td>
<td>2,869</td>
<td>3,068</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass Shooting</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder-Suicides</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defensive Use [DGU]</td>
<td>1,531</td>
<td>1,393</td>
<td>2,001</td>
<td>2,107</td>
<td>1,888</td>
<td>1,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unintentional Shootings</td>
<td>1,605</td>
<td>1,969</td>
<td>2,202</td>
<td>2,039</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>1,837</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unintentional shootings are more common than mass shootings. In the beginning of 2020 there were 403 unintentional shootings for only 62 mass shootings in The United States.
WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF GUN HOMICIDES?

In the United States of America the people who are more affected by gun homicides are people of colour. *The Center for America Progress* says that while Black Americans represent 15% of Michigan and New Jersey inhabitants, they represent more than 74% of the victims from gun homicides in these states. In New Mexico, Hispanics represent 47% of the population but are victims of 60% of gun homicides. Native Americans and Native Alaskans are also victims of gun violence. While 16% of Alaska’s inhabitants are Native Americans, they are 27% of gun homicides victims. In North Dakota, Native Americans represent 5% of the inhabitants but they account for 20% of gun violence victims.

However people of colour are not the only communities to be affected. Women represent a great part of gun violence victims in The United States of America. Between 2007 and 2016 they were 5,250 women killed by their partners.
GEOGRAPHICALLY

The states on the top of death rates from gun violence are:

1. Alaska
   No permit is required to carry a gun. A violent crime rate of 804.2 per 100,000 (the highest). In 2016, 177 firearm deaths (113 suicides and 45 homicides). A poverty rate of 9.9%

2. Alabama
   There is a permit required to carry a gun. The violent crime rate represents 532.3 per 100,000 (7th highest). The total of firearm deaths in 2016 was 1046 (550 of suicides and 454 of homicides)

3. Louisiana
   There is a permit required to carry a gun. The violent crime is 566.1 per 100,000 (5th highest). The total of firearm deaths in 2016 was 987 deaths (suicides: 440, homicides: 526). The poverty rate is equal to 20.2% (2nd highest)

4. Mississippi
   It is not required to carry a handgun so there is no permit. It is the 15th lowest state in terms of violent crimes. The total of firearm deaths in 2016 was 587 deaths (suicides: 268, homicides: 282). The poverty rate is equal to 20.8% (the highest)

5. Oklahoma
   There is a permit required to carry a handgun. In terms of violent crimes rate it is the 14 highest. The total of firearm deaths in 2016 was 766 deaths (suicides: 517, homicides: 238). The poverty rate is equal to 16.3% (9th highest)
THE DEBATE OVER GUN-RIGHT

PROS

People will lose their safety. Restricting a right to carry a gun would leave the people without the ability to protect themselves in their common life or to protect themselves from a government that would be against the people. The second amendment of the Constitution is sacral. Having a gun makes part of the American DNA because britons did not want them to have weapons to not start a rebellion.

Having a gun would stop the violence. Charles L. Cotton (member of the administration council of the NRA) said to a CNN journalist after Charleston mass shooting that the Pastor Clementa Pinckney that could have saved eight of his people if he had accepted them to carry an arm. In addition to it, « Gun is good for business ». It makes 8,5 billion dollars of incomes per year and creates 10,000 of jobs.
Cons:

STOP
THE VIOLENCE
In 2013, Obamas wanted to ban the sail of loaders of more than 10 ammunitions and the sail of heavy weapons including the ones that are already in the stores. He also wanted to punish the people who buy guns for people who are not allowed to have an arm. He asked to the Congress to finance the creation of 15,000 police stations and the preparation of 14,000 policemen and school administrators to an urgent situation against a shooter.