

GUN CULTURE IN THE USA



- There are **more guns than people** in the United States
- **Gun ownership** in the United States is the highest in the world (with Yemen second), and constitutionally protected by the **SECOND AMENDMENT** to the US Constitution.
- States with **more guns** have **higher firearm fatalities** (= *dead people*).
- Firearms became the leading cause of death among children and teenagers for the first time in 2020. More than 1,600 children and teenagers under 18 died in 2023 after being shot.
- There have been at least 50 school shootings in the United States so far this year (2024). The incidents left 24 people dead and at least 66 other victims injured.
- **25** States allow people to carry guns without a permit.
- Eleven states **allow** students to carry concealed guns on campus.
- 48% of Americans see **gun violence** as a very big problem in the country today.

V, O, C, A, B, U, L, A, R, Y



Gun control in the USA - 3°

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mass shooting	tuerie de masse
school shooting	fusillade dans une école
gunman	tireur
casualties	victimes (morts ou blessés)
injured, wounded, hurt	blessé
killed	tué
weapon	arme
rifle	fusil
the right to bear an arm	le droit de porter une arme
to buy, purchase	acheter, acquérir
NRA	National Rifle Association (association de défense du droit au port d'armes)
ban	interdire
safety	sécurité
raise awareness	sensibiliser
against	contre
realize	se rendre compte
change their minds	changer d'avis
warn	prévenir
background check	vérification des antécédents
prevent from	empêcher de
be aware of	avoir conscience de
support	soutenir
occur, happen, take place	avoir lieu, se produire, arriver
gun control	contrôle des ventes d'armes
teenager	adolescent-e
slaughter	massacre
gun law	législation sur les armes
burning issue	un sujet brûlant
protest movement	un mouvement de protestation
demonstration	une manifestation



INTRODUCTION

This document is a cartoon. **It deals with** Gun Culture in the USA.

DESCRIPTION

The picture is dominated by a representation of the American flag. But the flag is not the official one.

Instead of (*au lieu de*) stars, there are bullet impacts. Instead of the regular stripes, we can see guns as if there were hands holding firearms.

Moreover, the colour blue is faded (*délavé*), and **we can notice** some water stains (*tâches*) on the flag.

In the foreground, there are some people. From left to right, we can see a woman with long black wavy hair, and a blue T-shirt. There is also a brown-haired woman with a brown dress, a man with a blue sweater who seems (*semble*) to be with his daughter, a black man wearing a grey T shirt, a blonde woman with a black cap and glasses, and another man with short brown hair.

In the background, there are other people but they're shadows (*ombres*).

They **are walking** in different directions. **Maybe**, they are going to work, maybe they are going back home.

There **are not looking** at each other. Most of them are faceless (*sans visage*) : no eyes, no mouth.

ANALYSIS / INTENTION /MESSAGE

The artist wants to show that the USA has a huge problem with gun control.

Normally, the *U.S. flag*, consists of thirteen horizontal stripes of red and a blue rectangle with fifty small, white, five-pointed stars. The 50 stars on the flag represent the 50 U.S. states, and the 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence from Great Britain. Nicknames for the flag include the *Stars and Stripes*, and the *Star-Spangled Banner*. On this picture, stars are bullet impacts and stripes are firearms. As a fact, There are more guns than people in the United States and the mass shootings are very frequent.

The cartoon implies (*sous entend*) **that** people keep going on with their lives despite (*malgré*) the mass shootings which regularly take place in the USA. Nobody is talking. Nobody is looking at the fact of Gun Violence as if it was just normal for them. **The artist creates an atmosphere** of silence and resignation.

Perhaps his intention is to show that American people got used to gun violence.

CONCLUSION

Gun violence is a real problem. There are more guns than people in the United States. Gun ownership in the United States is the highest in the world (with Yemen second), and constitutionally protected by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

In my opinion, the picture is effective and convincing. The cartoonist wants to make people realize that they must react, they must stand up. **He might also want** (*il veut peut être aussi*) politicians to vote for new restrictions laws.

INTRODUCTION

This document is a cartoon published in May 2022, in a newspaper.

The cartoonist is Phil Hands

It deals with Gun Violence and mass shootings in schools in the USA.



DESCRIPTION

The scene takes place in a house. On the left, the door is open. On the right, there is a coat rack with a green sweater, a yellow and black cap. There are some boxes.

In the middle of the picture, there is a father hugging his daughter. The little girl has long straight brown hair, brown eyes. She is wearing pink shoes, yellow and purple socks, shorts. She is carrying her school bag. She is holding her lunch box. There is a speech bubble saying « Dad, I'm just going to school ».

Her father is kneeling (*s'agenouille*) behind her. He's a brown-haired man who is wearing brown shoes, jeans and a yellow and orange shirt. He is crying. Tears are falling down.

In the bottom right-hand corner, there is a newspaper on the floor. The headtitle is « Massacre in Texas ».

ANALYSIS / INTENTION /MESSAGE

The artist wants to show that the USA has a huge problem with gun violence.

The headtitle of the newspaper refers to the mass shooting which occurred in an Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, where a 18-year-old man fatally shot nineteen students and two teachers, and wounded seventeen others. He had bought rifles on his 18th birthday.

The picture creates a contrast : on the one hand, there is the little girl who is young and innocent, who wants to go to school to learn, to hang out with her friends, play and have fun and on the other hand, there is the father who is aware that a tragedy could happen at school because this is very frequent in the USA. Since the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut (where 26 people were killed), almost 2,000 mass shootings have taken place across the country. There have been, as of late October 2022, 660 this year alone.

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the picture is effective because we can see that the father is extremely worried for his daughter. He is scared that she might be killed when she is at school.

Around half of Americans (48%) see gun violence as a very big problem in the country today.