



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on March 22, 2021

Published in the April 5, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 07

Correction, Please!

Using Violence as a Smokescreen, Biden Targets Law-abiding Gun Owners



Biden's bombast and planned bans: Joe Biden and the Democrats want to make buying guns and ammunition expensive and difficult, but studies show that despite restrictions, criminals still get guns. So the moves are not about gun safety, but removing rights. (Photo credit: flicker/Gage Skidmore)

Item: A release dated March 4 by "Everytown for Gun Safety," dealing with "Requiring Background Checks for All Gun Sales," declares: "With the inauguration of President Joseph Biden and Democratic majorities in both chambers of Congress, gun violence prevention legislation has a real opportunity to become law for the first time in nearly a decade." The group calls itself "the largest team of litigators in the country dedicated to advancing gun safety in the courts and through the civil and criminal justice systems."

Item: Gail Collins, writing in the New York Times print edition for February 25, ("Ready to Nag About Gun Control?") puts pressure on President Biden because he "promised to tackle it on 'my first day in office,'" but didn't do so. The opinion columnist offers what she clearly considers to be a clever stipulation as a "starting point" — namely, "Demand that nobody be able to purchase a gun without passing a test demonstrating she knows how to aim it."

Item: Politico for February 23 reported: "The White House is weighing a number of gun safety proposals as it looks to deliver on President Joe Biden's campaign promises.... Among the executive actions under consideration by the administration is one that would require buyers of so-called ghost guns — homemade or makeshift firearms that lack serial numbers — to undergo background checks."

Item: The Biden-Harris campaign website, in a section entitled "The Biden Plan to End Our Gun Violence Epidemic," maintains: "As president, Biden will pursue constitutional, common-sense gun safety policies." Numerous goals are listed, including "Hold gun manufacturers accountable." Under "Get weapons of war off our streets" is this objective: "Ban the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines."

Also: "Regulate possession of existing assault weapons under the National Firearms Act" — which is a



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on March 22, 2021

Published in the April 5, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 07

1934 law restricting (fully automatic) machine guns, among others. Other goals: “Buy back the assault weapons and high-capacity magazines already in our communities”; “Reduce stockpiling of weapons”; and “Keep guns out of dangerous hands.” Toward that latter end, says the document, Biden will “require background checks for all gun sales.”

There’s much more. For instance: “Put America on the path to ensuring that 100% of firearms sold in America are smart guns” — with technology that “requires a fingerprint match before use.”

Correction: If you really believe that *guns* are responsible for violence, and that a fictional crisis can be ended by passing ever more laws, you may need a background check for intelligence — or lack thereof.

Yet, the new occupant of the White House is stepping up the push for additional restrictions on guns. We’re old enough to remember when there was a modicum of common sense exhibited in Washington, even among Democrats in the U.S. Senate. For instance, during an earlier gun-control debate, one such lawmaker observed:

During my 12 years as a Member of this body, I have never believed that additional gun control or Federal registration of guns would reduce crime. I am convinced that a criminal who wants a firearm can get one through illegal, nontraceable, unregistered sources, with or without gun control. In my opinion a national register or ban of handguns would be impossible to carry out and may not result in reductions in crime.

That was a certain U.S. senator named Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-Del.) on July 9, 1985 (*Congressional Record*, page 18229).

The president’s “four-prong attack against firearms ownership in the country” was recently criticized by Alan Gottlieb, the founder of the Second Amendment Foundation.

“One [attack] is [that a] universal background check is really a universal registration system,” said Gottlieb, as noted in the Daily Wire. “Second is banning of assault weapons and then defining assault weapons as almost any semi-automatic firearm. Third is banning magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, you know, again, hurts people twice for self-defense in our country, and then attacking the firearms industry so that any criminal that goes out and misuses a gun, the gun manufacturer can be sued for it. It’s going to put the industry out of business and nobody can buy a gun.”

Is there really a “gun violence” epidemic? Not really, even taking into consideration that last year was an unusual one. There have been several “mass shootings” in recent years, such the one used as a prop by the Biden administration’s recent call for more controls on the third anniversary of the killings in Parkland, Florida.

But overall numbers are down. Robert Levy, chairman of the board at the Cato Institute, in a Cato policy report dated September/October 2020, observed:

Since peaking in the early 1990s, gun homicide has declined by 44 percent nationwide. Overall gun crime victimization is down roughly 70 percent. During that same period, the number of guns in circulation nearly doubled. U.S. residents own more than one gun per person. Guns are way up, and gun killings are way down.



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on March 22, 2021

Published in the April 5, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 07

You wouldn't think so from the mass-media coverage. Nonetheless, as Levy stated: "Multivictim spree killings are a fraction of 1 percent of all murders in the United States."

Much as occurred during the Obama administration when the threat of gun controls sent many buyers to gun stores, Biden's anti-gun campaign is also boosting sales. According to the FBI, the 3.4 million background checks was the highest count ever in a February; that came after the 4.3 million record set in January.

There was an increase when the pandemic started. And there was an even larger surge during the summer, as pointed out by columnist David Harsanyi, "as left-wing riots erupted around the country, and national Democrats began to entertain the idea of defunding the police."

About the Parkland tragedy, AWR Hawkins, a Second Amendment columnist for Breitbart News, adds the context generally ignored by the mainstream media, pointing out that Democrats

often point to the Parkland, Sandy Hook, and Las Vegas mass shootings when promoting universal background checks. Some will also point to the January 8, 2011, Tucson, Arizona, attack in which Gabby Giffords was injured. But they never explain that universal background checks would not have hindered, much less stopped, any of these attacks. That is because those who attacked Parkland, Las Vegas, and Giffords all acquired their guns via background checks.

The Sandy Hook attacker stole his guns, so no amount of background checks would have stopped him.

Anti-gun propaganda, echoed by the Biden White House, tries to convince us that "weapons of war" are being used against the American public. What is true is that nearly 20 million semi-automatic AR-type rifles are legally owned by Americans. These are not fully automatic "weapons of war."



The president, however, wants to ban the future sale or possession of these "assault weapons" — which are the most popular semi-auto rifles in the nation. Amy Swearer, a legal fellow in the Heritage Foundation's Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, has offered some background: "As the Supreme Court explained in *D.C. v. Heller*, *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, and *Caetano v. Massachusetts*, the Second Amendment protects all arms that are commonly used by law-abiding citizens for lawful



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on March 22, 2021

Published in the April 5, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 07

purposes.”

She also poked holes in other contentions by the White House and anti-gunners. For instance, Swearer observed that semiautomatic rifles are “by far, the type of firearm least likely to be used to perpetuate criminal violence, and account for only about 3% of gun-related homicides every year.”

Well, aren't we all doomed because of the capacity of firearms magazines? Nope. Wrote Swearer:

Any ban on so-called “high-capacity” magazines would fail constitutional muster and policy considerations for largely the same reasons as a ban on “assault weapons.”

There's nothing “unusually dangerous” about factory-standard magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds, which are regularly employed by police departments around the nation. Moreover, there are likely hundreds of millions of these magazines in circulation already — meaning, they are incredibly common for lawful uses.

Then there are the “ghost guns” that seemingly haunt the nightmares of anti-gunners, including the president and even (see above) Gail Collins of the *New York Times*. Collins, in a snide comment directed at those who believe in the Constitution and the Second Amendment, remarked: “You do wonder how the founding fathers would have felt about the right to bear arms if they knew their nastiest neighbor had just installed a printer that manufactures guns in his basement.”

Ivan al-Nohandi, a gunsmith with a Ph.D. who designs and makes 3D printed firearms, took umbrage at Collins' commentary. He noted on Twitter that the Founders “relied on underground, decentralized manufacture of small arms during and after” the American Revolution. They smuggled in, he recalled, “barrels and lockplates from France when they could, melted down tools when they couldn't, and armed a serious fighting force with guns they made (without any governmental permission slips from the Crown).”

Authorities eventually should require, or so Biden has said, that all guns sold be “smart” — foreseeing the use of DNA matching with pre-programmed information before a trigger can be pulled. Yet guns should be simple and reliable, especially in self-defense situations. An unreliable smart gun is likely to put its owner at risk.

Times columnist Collins, as cited above, promotes the notion that only those who can pass a government shooting test should be allowed to own a gun. Sort of like a mandatory literacy test for voters, eh? Of course, properly enlightened folks consider literacy tests to be “racist.” It's sure tough to be a consistent leftist these days.

One aspect of gun control definitely smacks of discrimination — class discrimination. Surprisingly, the left-wing *Washington Post* allowed the publication of a piece last summer that cogently argued that case. The title was on target: “Biden's gun control plan is terrible for working class firearm owners.” When discussing universal registration and buybacks of often expensive weapons, Kim Kelly pointed out that under the potentially revised National Firearms Act, violators could face up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$10,000 fine. Indeed, as Kelly put it, “It is obvious that this proposal will disproportionately impact poor and working-class communities.”

“If cutting down on gun violence is the end goal here,” she asks, “what good could it possibly do to disarm the working class and ensure that only the well-heeled (and the agents of the state who defend



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on March 22, 2021

Published in the April 5, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 07

them) will be able to hoard stockpiles of highly efficient weaponry?" It would be interesting to see Biden's response to that.

The Biden White House has a larger agenda than most understand. Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.), who is close to Biden, recently indicated that he was moving legislation that would extend the time it takes to undergo an instant background check for a gun purchase. The National Rifle Association points out that "would allow unelected government bureaucrats the discretion to cause indefinite firearm purchase delays." That may seem like a relatively small thing, but as Clyburn has admitted, that is just "a good first step."



Buying guns, not gun-control hype: In response to BLM riots in cities and threats of increased gun control, Americans have been buying guns and ammunition at a heady pace, indicating they are unlikely to turn the guns in if the government demands that of them. *(Photo credit: AP Images)*

If you believe such infringements on your Second Amendment protections are worth it if they really put a major dent in crime, think again.

Indeed, as the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) has explained, what is being called a "universal" background check is ineffective against most criminals:

According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), 75 percent of criminals in state and federal prison who had possessed a firearm during their offense acquired the firearm through theft, "Off the street/underground market," or "from a family member or friend, or as a gift." Less than one percent got firearms from dealers or non-dealers at gun shows.

And, continued NRA-ILA, the DOJ's National Institute of Justice in 2013 researched "universal" background checks and "determined that they would not be effective without additional draconian firearm restrictions and efforts to combat straw purchasing."

Unfortunately, power-hungry governments don't shrink at being draconian, even to the law-abiding. The ultimate goal of gun control is not crime reduction: it is to compel the broad disarmament of and compliance by the populace.



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on March 22, 2021

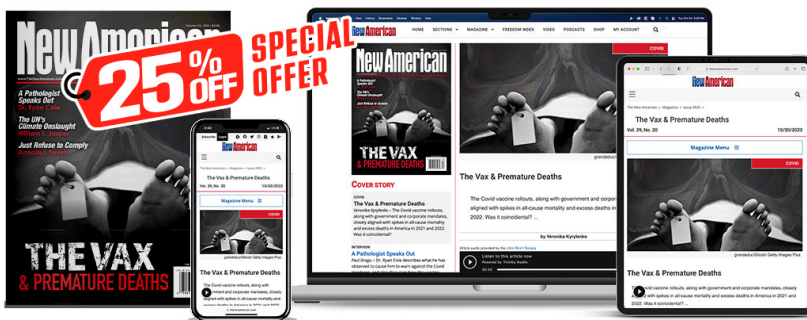
Published in the April 5, 2021 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 37, No. 07

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.