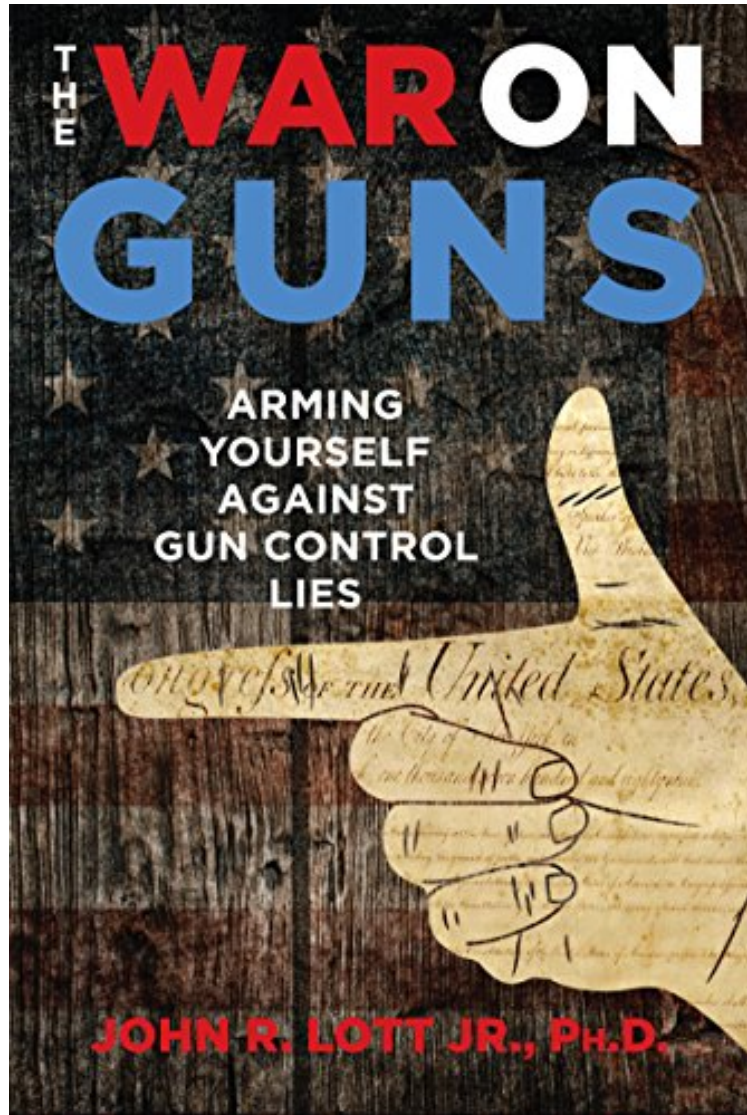


# The War on Guns: Arming Yourself Against Gun Control Lies

*John R. Lott Jr.*

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**John R. Lott Jr. : The War on Guns: Arming Yourself Against Gun Control Lies** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War on Guns: Arming Yourself Against Gun Control Lies:

147 of 154 people found the following review helpful. Lott Uncovers the TruthBy Frank MiniterThe War on Guns is a noteworthy, fast-paced must-read for anyone who wants to understand the issues related to guns in America—and I don't know how someone can understand America without understanding this constitutional issue. Given how Lott has spent his career, I'm not surprised this is such an important book. I first met John R. Lott, Jr. in 2006 at a cocktail party

in Arlington, VA. I was speaking with a liberal journalist about his soon-to-be-released book on Iraq when John Lott joined us. John listened for a moment and then said to the author, "I'm curious. You say you just finished a book on the Iraq war. I always find it so hard to finish a book. I get so deep into the research I have a hard time stopping to write. I'm guessing you had a hard time leaving Iraq. There is so much to investigate and understand." The author said, "I didn't go to Iraq." John paused with this quizzical look on his face before asking, "Oh, how did you do your research?" The author said, "I didn't have to do much. I mean, I already know what I think." An awkward silence ensued before the liberal author shrugged and moved away. Yeah, I liked John from that moment—well, and before. I had, of course, already read and learned much from his groundbreaking book *More Guns, Less Crime*. That book detailed his research that found that, despite what people are often told, violent crime rates actually tend to go down when states pass "shall-issue" concealed-carry laws. (Shall-issue laws force a licensing agent to give anyone a concealed-carry permit to carry a handgun as long as the individual passing certain criteria as stipulated by law.) As soon as *More Guns, Less Crime* was published a lot of academics made it their mission to prove Lott to be the fraud they were sure he must be. The thing is, the researchers have kept finding that Lott is right. For example, a study by Carlisle E. Moody and Thomas B. Marvell that was published in *Econ Journal Watch* in January 2009 looked into Lott's findings and determined: "Many articles have been published finding that shall-issue laws reduce crime. Only one article, by Ayres and Donohue who employ a model that combines a dummy variable with a post-law trend, claims to find that shall-issue laws increase crime. However, the only way that they can produce the result that shall-issue laws increase crime is to confine the span of analysis to five years. We show, using their own estimates, that if they had extended their analysis by one more year, they would have concluded that these laws reduce crime." More recently, to continue his detailed search for the truth about guns in America Lott founded the Crime Prevention Research Center. Lott says that a few foundations and some individuals donated "a few hundred thousand dollars" to get his foundation started. His nonprofit "has 501(C)(3) status and does not accept donations from gun or ammunition makers or organizations such as the NRA." He also said, "The NRA and other gun-rights groups are doing a lot of important things, but we decided to fill an influential niche by not taking money from either side." "Still," Lott told me, "honest research leads to real answers—not political spin." He says these real answers tend to bother the anti-gun groups, such as those funded by Michael Bloomberg. I've found the same thing. While doing the investigative reporting for my book *The Future of the Gun* I spent a lot of time with police officers, gun-rights lobbyists, inner-city gang members, public-health experts, engineers at firearms manufacturers, victims of criminals with guns, heroes who'd stopped a bad guy with a gun ... but though I tried and tried the anti-gun groups wouldn't even answer emails. So now Lott has given us *The War on Guns*. It is worth reading and gifting to those who don't know the facts on this important issue. 59 of 66 people found the following review helpful. and consider this to be his best book yet. By Prof. James Purtle. An accomplished economist, Dr. Lott is one of the most published scholars who studies crime and any connections crime has (or has not, as the case may be) with firearms. I am familiar with the author's previous publications, and consider this to be his best book yet. The topic addressed in this book is chiefly the messaging having to do with firearms policy, so the author's two obvious goals are to first characterize those policies and effects, and then to pierce through the often heated rhetoric about how those policies or effects are characterized to the public. This is not a dry recitation of research facts - it is a forthright description of the 'stuff' of public discourse on guns, crime and safety, made accessible to readers and fully supported in the reference lists, notes and appendices for those who wish to check Lott's work. Because of the author's dual goals, both the research and illustrative examples from media (the "messaging" part) are included in the copious notes and citations. This work is timely as well, and I appreciate having a comprehensive inventory of topics which percolate to the top of public debate during this political season. As the saying goes, one should be entitled to his own opinions but not his own facts. Unfortunately when it comes to firearms there are too many assertions floating around in public forums disguised as facts, and as such these serve no useful purpose if the goal is sensible and effective consensus on ways forward as a community. Thoughtful voters who prefer a fair and balanced perspective of the science underlying assertions they hear made in the media or by one or another candidate should arm themselves with this work so they may judge the speaker accordingly. Lott's work slices through the emotional haze and helps readers to make informed decisions for themselves. 62 of 66 people found the following review helpful. Very impressive. By Clayton E. Cramer. Very impressed so far as I read through it. He has a chapter about how academics who have published papers on gun-related issues generally believe gun ownership reduces crime; about the "NRA shut off research on gun control" myth; how gun control groups try to shut off debate by refusing to appear on programs if Dr. Lott will be there; how the gun control groups fund efforts to influence how reporters cover the subject; how the Superbowl refused ads from our side while running gun control ads; how gun self-defense incidents are largely ignored by national news media;. Subsequent chapters detail the failures of "commonsense gun control laws" to do anything useful. Let me emphasize: while very detailed and full of useful data, it is a lively read unlike many scholarly works that others have published.

When it comes to the gun control debate, there are two kinds of data: data that's accurate, and data that left-wing billionaires, politicians, and media want you to believe is accurate. In *The War on Guns*, economist and gun rights

advocate John Lott turns a skeptical eye to well-funded anti-gun studies and stories that perpetuate false statistics to frighten Americans into giving up their guns.

"The Second Amendment has no better defender than John Lott. What makes him so invaluable is his ability to go beyond philosophical arguments and to engage opponents of gun ownership on the facts. Through rigorous research and analysis of data, he has been able to show in previous books that increased gun possession can actually make people safer and reduce crime. In *The War on Guns*, his latest contribution to the gun debate, he takes aim at a wide range of anti-gun shibboleths and exposes the fraudulence of each one. For that, he has done his country and the cause of gun rights a great service. For anyone looking to be armed with the truth about guns, I highly recommend that you add this book to your arsenal."—TED CRUZ, U.S. senator, Texas "Amidst threats of terrorism, the need for John Lott's *The War on Guns* and a rational debate on guns has never been greater. Paris and San Bernardino show us that gun-free zones won't stop terrorists. As this book documents, these killers consciously pick targets where they know victims will be sitting ducks. Lott carefully proves that the push for more gun control only makes the types of attacks that we fear more likely to occur. Next time you drop your child off at school, try and find the sign saying, 'Gun Free Zone.' Stop for a moment and ask yourself, 'Does this really keep my child safe?' If you still have questions, read *The War on Guns*."—NEWT GINGRICH, former Speaker of the House "John Lott is the nation's preeminent expert on guns, and in *The War on Guns* he has done it again. Do mass shootings occur more in the U.S. than other developed countries? No. Did Australia's gun laws make them safer? Hardly. Will background checks on private transfers of guns make us safer? No. He destroys one myth after another. John Lott is a national treasure."—MARK LEVIN, constitutional lawyer, New York Times bestselling author, and host of the nationally syndicated radio show, *The Mark Levin Show* "The war on guns will never end because the anti-gun zealots will never raise the white flag even though the research and data in this book has soundly defeated them. The key is to continue to beat back their propaganda, misinformation, manipulation of data, and even outright lies, in order to protect our God-given right to keep and bear arms."—SHERIFF DAVID A. CLARKE JR., sheriff of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin