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Robert K. Logan

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A Media Ecology/Logical Analysis of Mass Shootings and How to Prevent More of These Inevitable Events: A Probe and a Mathematical Proof

Robert K. Logan

Dept. of Physics, U. of Toronto

The 2023 mass shootings at the church school in Nashville Tennessee on March 27, in Cleveland Texas on April 28 and at a shopping mall in Allen Texas on May 6 has reignited the debate on the banning of assault weapons like the AR-15 used in these latest tragic events and hundreds of others like that in the USA. In fact, according to a story filed on ABC News (<https://abcnews.go.com/US/mass-shootings-days-2023-database-shows/story?id=96609874>), on July 5 there were 351 mass shooting to that date in the United States in 2023 which represents 1.9 mass shootings per day where a mass shooting is defined as 4 or more people being wounded or killed by gun fire. This is not an unusual number of mass shootings for the USA. "The Gun Violence Archive tracked more than 647 mass shootings in 2022 and 690 in 2021 (ibid.)".

The current gun control laws are not effective in stopping these mass shootings. In the case of the March 27 Nashville shooting the assassin legally bought 7 guns some of which he used in his tragic attack. Yet there is great hesitancy among gun advocates who cite America's 2nd Amendment's right to bear arms, which states "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." This amendment adopted in 1791 is a legacy of America's Revolutionary War against the British. What individual private citizens owning assault rifles has to do with "a well-regulated Militia" or how it insures "the security of a free State" is difficult to understand or to justify.

Those that oppose stricter gun control regulations for assault weapons, mostly Republicans, argue it is mental illness not the weapons that are responsible for these tragedies. In a HuffPost article entitled "Greg Abbott Says Focus Is 'Mental Health Problems,' Not Gun Reform, After Texas Shooting" it was reported:

People want a quick solution," the Texas governor said. "The long-term solution here is to address the mental health issue... Texas Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) (R) said the state would focus on addressing "mental health problems" behind gun violence, but didn't address calls for gun reform after another devastating mass shooting at a shopping center this weekend... , "What Texas is doing in a big-time way, we are working to address that anger and violence by going to its root cause which is addressing the mental health problems behind it," the governor said on "Fox News Sunday," adding there have been shootings "in states with easy gun laws as well as states with very strict gun laws" (https://www.huffpost.com/entry/greg-abbott-texas-gun-reform-mass-shooting_n_645897d9e4b00eb7e63cbc4a, accessed May 8, 2023).

The arguments of apologists like the Texas governor are only half right but totally wrong in that it is both mental illness and assault rifles that are responsible for these senseless mass shooting tragedies. So, the solution to prevent more of these inevitable events is to either prevent mental illness or prevent the

access of the general population to the assault weapons designed for war. Since one cannot legislate away mental illness the logical solution is to legislate away access to assault weapons like the deadly AR-15 to the general population. Weapons of war should only be in possession of those who are exclusively authorized to engage in war or policing, namely the military and the police and only when they are on official duty. QED!