

Defining Documents in American History: The Gun Debate

Full
Text
Reviews

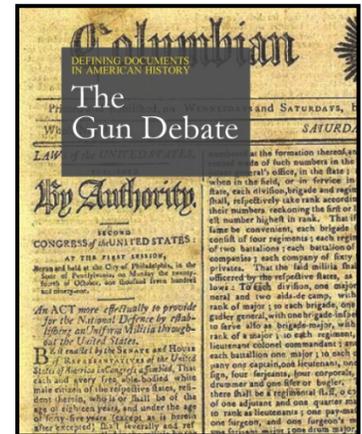
“As long as the United States has been a nation, gun ownership has been debated and analyzed. This two-volume resource part of the “Defining Documents in American History” series, uses **more than 30 historical documents, including court rulings, speeches, legal texts, and legislation, to impartially review this complicated topic.** Content is organized into four different sections. Volume 1 examines the Constitution, its aftermath, and how the Second Amendment was scrutinized by various courts as the nation grew in the 19th century. The second volume includes a section on modern court interpretations and addresses contemporary gun issues such as 3-D-printed weapons, “stand your ground laws,” and concealed-carry rights. **Each document contains a summary with major themes and a defining moment feature.** Although the Second Amendment is only 27 words, the various legal and personal interpretations discussed in this resource are remarkable. Includes images, political cartoons, facsimiles, and a bibliography. **Summing Up: ★★ Recommended. Lower division undergraduates through faculty.**”

-CHOICE

“This evenhanded treatment of the debate around gun control in America provides historical context and a range of modern interpretations of the Second Amendment. Beginning with the Federalist Papers and ending with documents from 2018, **the two volumes cover the essential elements of the legal debate**, from frontier justice to Prohibition-era violence and current open-carry laws. As in other titles in Salem’s Defining Documents series, **each of the 35 entries gives historical context and an author biography before presenting the text of the document**, and then ends with a discussion of themes the document addresses and a short bibliography. Editor O’Neal divides the content into four sections: strictly constitutional concerns, gun control during America’s expansion in the 1800s, twentieth- and twenty-first-century court decisions, and, finally, responses to the issue from academic journals and law reviews. **Public and high-school libraries will find this resource valuable in supporting history and civics curricula.**”

-Booklist

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