

1968

- Assassinations of Reverend Martin Luther King and Robert F Kennedy.
- Results in Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968
- Gun Control Act of 1968 (which leads to formation of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) under Dept. of Treasury.

1970s

- Zebra Killings (suspects black, victims white)
14 people murdered, seven wounded
- Handgun murder of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.
S.F. approves handgun ban, which is later overturned by court.

1972

- NRA executive committee member argues that NRA is too lenient on gun control. Believes that every gun has a legitimate purpose and every law-abiding citizen has the right to choose a weapon
- Stance of NRA begins to sway in that direction

1974

- Modern gun control movement begins when Mark Borinsky forms National Council to Control Handguns in Washington, D.C. (later named Handgun Control, Inc and then Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.)

1978

- ATF wants to record serial numbers of all new weapons and transactions of federally licensed firearms dealers.
- Congress will not approve \$5 million funding so ATF says it can accomplish with own budget. Congress cuts ATF funding by \$5 million.

1980

- John Lennon is gunned down in front of his NYC apartment building with a .38 caliber Charter Arms revolver held by Mark David Chapman.
- Murder stokes national interest in gun control
- Handgun Control Inc (later Brady Campaign) membership goes from 5,000 to 80,000 members in a matter of weeks

1981

- John Hinckley shoots President Ronald Reagan, wounding him, and seriously wounding press secretary James Brady.
- A Secret Service agent and a local police officer are also wounded.
- Brady's wife Sarah Brady dedicates herself to the gun control movement and joins Handgun Control Inc. She later becomes its president.

1982

- Village of Morton Grove, Illinois bans the possession of handguns by ordinary citizens
- Exemption for previous gun owners (if stored at a local gun club), gun collectors
- Gun rights advocates sue city, federal court upholds ban.
- Federal appeals court agrees with lower court

Cont'd

- Gun advocates used Morton Grove ban and 1983 Chicago gun ban) to encourage state legislatures to pass “pre-exemption laws”
- Statute forbids local governments from enacting gun control laws
- Kennesaw, Georgia (1982) passes ordinance requiring all heads of households to own a gun and ammunition. Entirely symbolic

1984

- July 18, James Huberty tells his wife he is leaving to “hunt humans” and proceeds to kill 20 patrons and employees of a San Ysidro McDonald’s restaurant.
- 19 more are wounded and Huberty is killed by police sniper.
- Weapons are three high-powered semi-automatic weapons, including Uzi

1986

Firearms Owners' Protection Act (FOPA) makes changes to law

1. allows federally licensed dealers to sell at gun shows
2. limits ATF inspections of gun dealers to once a year
3. prevents ATF from creating national gun registry.
4. Allows interstate long gun and ammunition sales.

1986 cont'd

- Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act bans “cop killer” handgun bullets (armor piercing)
- Considered mostly symbolic since rifles are more effective in defeating police body armor.

1989

- Patrick Purdy goes to schoolyard in Stockton, CA, and fires 105 rounds from semi-automatic assault rifle, killing five children and wounding 29 others.
- CA quickly responds with Assault Weapons Control Act of 1989.
- President Bush places temporary ban on importation of assault rifles and some similar weapons.

1990

- Crime Control Act of 1990 bans import of certain semiautomatic weapons designated as “assault weapons.”
- Creates gun-free school zones; federal crime to carry gun within 1000 feet of a school.

1991

- Killeen, Texas: George Hennard, Jr. plows his truck into Luby's Cafeteria.
- Kills 23 people and wounds 21 others after repeatedly re-loading two handguns.
- Daughter of two victims testifies at hearing that she had a clear shot at suspect if she had been allowed to carry her gun into restaurant
- State gun laws began to change

1993

- July 1, 1993: Gian Ferri enters law firm in San Francisco armed with three handguns, two of them TEC-9 assault pistols. Kills eight and wounds six more.
- Although assault weapons are banned, Ferri purchased his in Nevada at a gun show.
- Survivors and relatives sued maker of TEC-9, Navegar (Intratec Firearms) for negligence.
- Case eventually goes to CA Supreme Court who found that a CA statute bars imposing liability on Navegar.

1993

- President Clinton signed Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.
- Five day waiting period for purchase of handgun
- Background checks only apply to licensed retail dealers

1993

- Dec 7, 1993: Colin Ferguson shoots 25 people, killing six, on Long Island commuter train in Garden City, NY
- Wife and mother of two victims Carolyn McCarthy runs for Congress in 1996 after current representative votes to repeal federal Assault Weapons Ban
- Gun control is her primary focus. She wins.

1994

- Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 requires that any state receiving federal education funds must require local school districts to have laws that designate expulsion for “not less than one year a student who is determined to have brought a weapon to school.”

Assault Weapons Ban

- Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994: prohibits for 10 years the future manufacture and transfer of 19 different assault weapons and 200 other assault-type weapons
- Definition of “assault weapon” is unclear and often debated.

1996

- Domestic Violence Offender Gun Ban: anyone convicted of domestic violence misdemeanor offense may not purchase, own, or possess gun.
- Also applies to someone under court protective or restraining order.
- Police officers are NOT exempt.

1997

Massachusetts enacts handgun safety controls.
Unfair or deceptive to sell handguns without:

1. tamper-resistant serial numbers
2. resistant to accidental discharge if dropped
3. trigger locks
4. strong trigger pulls

1998

- Columbine High School, Littleton, CO
- Two high school students kill 12 students, one teacher and then themselves.
- Three of weapons used were purchased from private vendors at gun show
- “Straw” purchases (female friend bought them not for herself, but for the two boys)

Other shooting sprees involving teen boys

- Red Lake, MN
- Santee, CA
- Springfield, OR
- Pearl, MS
- West Paducah, KY
- Jonesboro, AR
- Edinboro, PA
- Richmond, VA
- Conyers, GA

2000

- President Clinton announces settlement with Smith & Wesson. In return for dismissal of lawsuits filed by local and state governments, S&W agrees to implement user safety features.
- Agrees to distribute guns only to dealers who do not sell at gun shows w/o background checks, sell only to people passing certified safety course, implement security procedures to prevent gun thefts

Settlement Agreement

- Never goes into effect.
- Smith and Wesson sales plummeted
- Company is sold to Saf-T-Hammer, which renamed it Smith & Wesson Holding Corporation.
- S&W introduces .50 caliber revolver in 2003

2000 Election

- Many political observers credit power of NRA for Gore's loss to Pres Bush
- Gore lost in TN, AR, WV, states which were heavily targeted by NRA
- Many politicians favoring gun control quieted their cries for more regulation
- No real national movement for stronger regulations

2001

- New Orleans Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals is first federal court to rule that Second Amendment guarantees individuals the right to own guns.
- Federal government still has right to regulate guns.

9/11

- Attack enhances public attitude toward self-defense and gun rights
- Airline pilots may carry guns on passenger flights.
- Current and retired law enforcement officers may carry concealed firearms throughout country without permit.

Assault Rifles v. Automatic Rifles

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JldabRc1Nk&feature=player_detailpage

2002

- John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo murder 10 people in Washington DC are with a Bushmaster assault rifle. Gun control advocates say this shows need for strengthening federal ban on assault weapons

2004

- Initial 10 year federal ban (1994) on assault weapons is allowed to expire
- DOJ reported that use of assault weapons in crime decline significantly during ten year ban, although they made up on 5% of all gun crime.

2005

- Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act of 2005. Prohibits civil liability actions against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and importers of firearms for harm caused by criminal or unlawful misuse of firearms or ammunition.
- Although these types of cases were rarely won in court, out of court settlements were possible, such as \$2.5 million settlement by Bulls Eye and Bushmaster for D.C. shootings

Hurricane Katrina

- 2005: Looting and assaults after Hurricane Katrina led many fearful citizens to arm themselves.
- Officials declared a ban on possession of firearms and instruct law enforcement and National Guard to confiscate.
- 2006: federal law banned the disaster-related confiscation of guns

2007

- Virginia Tech: Student with history of mental illness uses two semiautomatic pistols to kill a total of 32 students and faculty.
- Suspect Cho had obtained handguns legally
- States to keep databases on those who have court ordered mental illness treatment/commitment

Virginia Tech

- Began the push to permit college students and employees with government permits to carry license concealed handguns on campus
- Most survivors of Virginia Tech shooting oppose.

Handgun Bans

- 2008: U.S. Supreme Court strikes down Washington D.C.'s gun ban
- 2010: Rights are extended to all 50 states and cities, including Chicago (which previously had a gun ban). Vote was 5-4.

2011

- U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords is severely wounded by mentally ill gunman. Six others are killed, including a federal judge and a nine year-old girl.
- Gunman purchased the semi-automatic Glock 19 and passed a computerized background check and had a 31-round magazine (now illegal in a few states)

Fast and Furious

- ATF operation went terribly wrong when a U.S. Border Patrol officer was killed in a shootout using guns that were purchased as part of the operation
- The plan was for selected “straw” buyers to purchase assault-style weapons and sell them to Mexican drug cartel members. Many of the guns are lost or smuggled into Mexico

ATF

- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is making clear that it doesn't matter where you conduct your business—from a store, at gun shows, or over the Internet: If you're in the business of selling firearms, you must get a license and conduct background checks.
- ATF is finalizing a rule to require background checks for people trying to buy some of the most dangerous weapons and other items through a trust, corporation, or other legal entity.

FBI

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is overhauling the background check system to make it more effective and efficient.
- The envisioned improvements include processing background checks 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,
- Notification of local authorities when certain prohibited persons unlawfully attempt to buy a gun.

Executive Actions

- The Social Security Administration has indicated that it will begin the rulemaking process to include information in the background check system about beneficiaries who are prohibited from possessing a firearm for mental health reasons.
- The Department of Health and Human Services is finalizing a rule to remove unnecessary legal barriers preventing States from reporting relevant information about people prohibited from possessing a gun for specific mental health reasons.

Laws That May Affect You

- **Stand Your Ground**: No duty to retreat from the situation before resorting to deadly force; not limited to your property (home, office, etc.).

- **Castle Doctrine**: Limited to real property, such as your home, yard, or private office; no duty to retreat (use of deadly force against intruders is legal in most situations); some states, like Missouri and Ohio, even include personal vehicles.

- **Duty to Retreat**: Must retreat from the situation if you feel threatened (use of deadly force is considered a last resort); may not use deadly force if you are safely inside your home.

Stand Your Ground States

Alabama Alaska Arizona Florida Georgia
Indiana Kansas Kentucky Louisiana
Michigan Mississippi Montana Nevada
New Hampshire North Carolina Oklahoma
Pennsylvania South Carolina South Dakota
Tennessee Texas Utah West Virginia

Definition of Stand Your Ground

Stand your ground laws are essentially a revocation of the duty to retreat.

Under certain circumstances, individuals can use force to defend themselves without first attempting to retreat from the danger.

The purpose behind these laws is to remove any confusion about when individuals can defend themselves and to eliminate prosecutions of people who legitimately used self-defense even though they had not attempted to retreat from the threat.