

03005

ERA 3: REVOLUTION AND THE NEW NATION (1754 – 1820S)

ERA 10: CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES (1968 – TO THE PRESENT)

THEMES: CULTURE, POLITICS & CITIZENSHIP, REFORM

AMERICA AS A GUN CULTURE



Johnny Crawford and Chuck Connors, with his trademark rifle, from the popular 1960s television show *The Rifleman*.

Guiding Questions

What was the Framers' intent with regard to gun ownership as written in the Second Amendment?

How has the American view of gun ownership changed over time?

How does federalism impact gun laws?

Question Focus Examples for Task 24

The United States has a gun control policy that is ineffective in preventing gun violence.

Teacher-to-Teacher

The issue of the application of the Second Amendment takes center-stage once again as the country continues to deal with tragedies that have been precipitated by those using firearms to bring about death and destruction within the USA. As the country continues to deal with the tragedy of the Sandy Hook school shooting, we are reminded of the host of other school shootings along with statistics dealing with death by firearms. Herein begins the cultural and political debate about guns, guns ownership and the Second Amendment. Hofstadter begins this very discussion with an overview of the history of America and her relationship with firearms and provides students with the opportunity to compare his words alongside the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. In addition, Hofstadter challenges the readers (students) to deliberate about the manner in which the federalist structure of the USA impacts the ability of national and state governments to develop and implement any meaningful legislation addressing the issue of reasonable gun control. Consider further research into the phrase 'gun culture' as one of both generic description for the notion of legal firearms and as a derisive statement about those who own guns.

Literature Connection: *Guns* by Stephen King (essay),
The Gun Control Debate: You Decide by Lee Nisbet (Editor)

Contents

- ❖ **America as a Gun Culture** by Richard Hofstadter ARTICLE
- ❖ **The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **Federalist No. 46** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **Syllabus for the decision District of Columbia et al v. Heller (2008)** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **Gun Violence** CHART
- ❖ **Did the federal ban on assault weapons matter?** CHART
- ❖ **No increase in mass shootings** CHART
- ❖ **Guns in Public Places** MAP

fourscore
make history

Recommended Instructional Tasks

Task 1: Wrestle with an Argument: Close Reading of an Argumentative Text

Task 2: One Sentence Summaries

Task 3: Unpack the Points

Task 8: Analyze and Compare Author Purpose

Task 19: Comparative Analysis

Task 23: Identifying Claim and Evidence

Task 24: QFT (Question Focus Technique)

Task 25: Document Sourcing