A Polite Society is a Less Armed Society

How several democracies changed after scrapping many of their guns

‘Human Target’ International Congress on Social and Health Effects of the Global Arms Trade

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Physicians for Social Responsibility
Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany
30 May – 2 June 2013

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Mass Shootings, Australia and New Zealand, 1987-1996

- 14 mass shootings in 10 years
- 127 dead, 55 injured
- 64% of victims shot with a semi-automatic rifle
- 67% of the killers were licensed gun owners
- 87% had no previous history of violent crime
- 67% had no previous history of mental illness
Farmers’ Rally Sale, Victoria
15 June 1996
Firearms Collected and Destroyed, 1988-2012

- 38 state and federal amnesties run over 3,062 weeks
- Federal long gun and handgun buybacks 728,667
- Additional guns given up for destruction 219,721
- Total private guns collected & destroyed 948,388
Australia

Total Gun Deaths

![Graph showing the trend of gun deaths in Australia](https://gunpolicy.org)
Australia

Gun Homicides

![Graph showing the trend of gun homicides in Australia from 1998 to 2016.](image)
GunPolicy.org Facts

Australia

Gun Suicides
“The buyback led to a drop in the firearm suicide rates of almost 80%, with no significant effect on non-firearm death rates. The effect on firearm homicides is of similar magnitude but is less precise.”

-- Leigh and Neill, 2010
“The largest falls in firearm deaths occurred in states where more firearms were bought back.”

-- Leigh and Neill, 2010
- Australia halved its number of gun-owning households
- Australia saved itself 200 gun deaths and US$500 million in costs each year

-- Leigh and Neill, 2010
“The rates per 100,000 of total firearm deaths, firearm homicides and firearm suicides all at least doubled their existing rates of decline after the revised gun laws”

-- Chapman, Alpers, Agho and Jones, 2006
“The gun buy-back and restrictive legislative changes had no influence on firearm homicide in Australia.”

-- Baker and McPhedran, 2007
Targets

- Reduce the risk of mass shootings
- Reduce the risk of gun death and injury

Results

- No mass shootings in Australia since 1996
- Overall risk of dying by gunshot halved since 1996
- No evidence of displacement to other methods
United Kingdom

Gun Homicides
GunPolicy.org Facts

Compare the United Kingdom

Rate of All Gun Deaths per 100,000 People
South Africa

Gun Homicides

![Graph showing trend in gun homicides in South Africa]
Brazil
460,000 guns destroyed
24,000 lives saved
-- Health Ministry
Brazil

Rate of Gun Homicide per 100,000 People
GunPolicy.org Facts

Germany

Gun Homicides

![Graph showing the decline in gun homicides in Germany from 1995 to 2010.](image-url)
"Guns are where tobacco was in the 1950s…
There's a little bit of science and a great deal of reluctance to do anything with the results."

Garen Wintemute
_Denver Post_
Nov 2012
Firearm Death and Injury: 
The Creep of Public Health Language

Centers for Disease Control: “A public health emergency”


AMA, ICRC: “A disease”

UN Secy General, Vatican: “A scourge”
Ando & Raho
Villages are now...
WEAPONS FREE!

Please Respect Our Wishes.
AN ARMED SOCIETY IS A POLITE SOCIETY

Robert A. Heinlein
1942
Asked if the 110,000 missing AK-47 rifles and 80,000 pistols might have ended up in the hands of insurgents, a Pentagon spokesman said there was no hard data, but "anything is possible."
"We will be disarming everybody in Dili. The only people in Dili carrying weapons when we are finished will be [proper security forces]." - Brigadier Mick Slater, Commander, Australian Troops