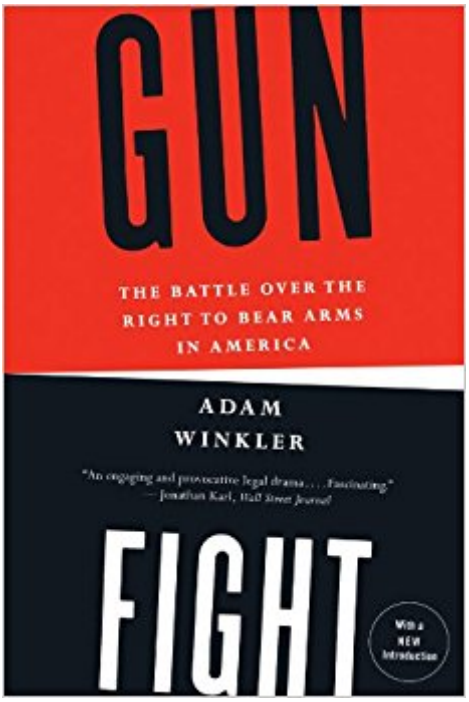
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Gunfight: The Battle Over The Right To Bear Arms In America



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Synopsis

A provocative history that reveals how gunsÃ¢â ¬â ¢not abortion, race, or religionÃ¢â ¬â ¢are at the heart of America's cultural divide.Gunfight is a timely work examining AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s four-centuries-long political battle over gun control and the right to bear arms. In this definitive and provocative history, Adam Winkler reveals how gunsÃ¢â ¬â ¢not abortion, race, or religionÃ¢â ¬â ¢are at the heart of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s cultural divide. Using the landmark 2008 case District of Columbia v. HellerÃ¢â ¬â ¢which invalidated a law banning handguns in the nationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s capitalÃ¢â ¬â ¢as a springboard, Winkler brilliantly weaves together the dramatic stories of gun-rights advocates and gun-control lobbyists, providing often unexpected insights into the venomous debate that now cleaves our nation. 20 illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America, Adam Winkler tells the remarkable story of the rag-tag group of libertarian lawyers who challenged nearly a century of lower-court precedent to bring a clear-cut Second Amendment case to the Supreme Court.This is an engaging and provocative legal drama about the six-year courtroom journey of District of Columbia v Heller and a fascinating survey of the misunderstood history of guns and gun control in America.Adam Winkler's Gunfight is a potboiler of constitutional interpretation and is both a vital history and an intellectually satisfying, emotionally rewarding tale of a great case. --Jim NewtonAdam Winkler tells the remarkable story of the rag-tag group of libertarian lawyers who challenged nearly a century of lower-court precedent to bring a clear-cut Second Amendment case to the Supreme Court. . . . . An

engaging and provocative legal drama about the six-year courtroom journey of District of Columbia v Heller and a fascinating survey of the misunderstood history of guns and gun control in America. "A succinct and fascinating introduction to the legal and historical issues at the heart of the gun debate. --Eric Arnesen, professor of history at George Washington University and fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars"A potboiler of constitutional interpretation and is both a vital history and an intellectually satisfying, emotionally rewarding tale of a great case. --Jim Newton"

Adam Winkler is the author of Gunfight: The Battle over the Right to Bear Arms in America and a professor of law at UCLA. He is a professor of constitutional law at the University of California, Los Angeles, has been featured on CNN and in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the New Republic. A columnist for the Daily Beast, he lives in Los Angeles.

I am a life member of the NRA and a gun rights supporter. But I have found that this book took a reasoned approach and I learned a lot. I still believe pretty much as I have, but I understand why I have changed over the years. The author says it early on. Gun rights supporters now reject ANY new gun control laws, because so many laws have been proposed and/or passed that do little or nothing to curb crime or violence and have the intent of just making it harder for gun owners, and "some" gun control advocates really want to be rid of guns altogether.I comes down to to point that most gun rights people don’t trust the government to not continually chip away at gun ownership, even when there is no basis that legal gun ownership is the problem.I’m 63 years old. What this book has made me want to do is sit down with people (not lawmakers) that have opposing views and discuss our differences.

An excellent treatment of a complex issue couched within the telling of a crucial Supreme Court case - "District of Columbia v. Heller." As Winkler explains, the decision in this case helped enlarge the understanding and interpretation of the Second Amendment.Winkler does good work presenting both sides of the "gun control v. gun rights" argument. If you’re looking for a book that shies away from the hyper-partisanship so prevalent on the treatment of this topic (and there are ample hyper-partisan attempts that truly add nothing to the debate), this is the book to read. Winkler advocates for both sides of the argument, searching a common ground large enough for partisans on both sides of the debate. (Hyper-partisans - distinct from partisans - will of course never be satisfied with seeking out common ground.)

Excellent introduction to the history of guns in america and a very good account of the Supreme Court case. Entertaining, objective, and enjoyable read.

In this time of hyper polarized issues, I wanted some background on the issue of guns in the hands of law abiding people. Gun Fight does well, in my mind, to explain how we arrived at such a controversial place. I enjoyed reading it because it focused on the issue in a way that didn't take sides. It instead explained the history of guns in America, the history of the NRA, the Heller decision, and the background of the anti-gun movement. The book reads like an interesting work of non-fiction and one comes away with insight and the opportunity to make up your own mind.

Well worth the money, especially if you are a gun freak like I am, and want a better understanding of the 2d Amendment than provided by the NRA. Their propaganda is designed to get their supporters frothing at the mouth and looking for the Black Helicopters, and therefore send them money.The discussion of the Militia Act of 1791(?) gives a thorough explanation of why the 2d Amendment is worded as it is. Very unbiased and historically grounded in facts. Well written and easy to read. The founding fathers knew that we couldn't afford a big standing army, so the Militia Act was designed to have a 'ready' militia available to respond to an adversary.

Great beginning for a reasoned conversation about gun ownership rights and gun safety for the public, gun owners and non owners. Very readable and factual. As an almost life long gun owner, hunter and sport shooter (trap), I am very concerned that we have not been able to have a careful, non emotional debate about how to ensure gun ownership rights and to deal with the public health issue of 30 plus thousand gun deaths a year. This book allows for a discussion based on facts to begin.

I expected more of a legal treatise but instead was treated to a very readable tapestry of the history of guns and gun controls interwoven with the Heller vs. Washington, D.C. case, which was the central theme of this book. Professor Winkler takes a fairly balanced tone in describing the history of guns in the U.S. as well as the history of regulation and individual rights, going back to the English Restoration. If you want a balanced look at a subject that often is written about in ways that throw more heat than light, start with this book.

This puts the current conflict over "Second Amendment Rights" into a historical perspective by tracing changes in the balance between the "right to bear arms" and the need to insure public safety.

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