



Regulating Guns in U.S. History

WHO can't own guns	WHERE & HOW guns can be used	WHAT guns can be used?
1777-1781 Many colonies require adult white men to swear loyalty oaths and renounce allegiance to Great Britain; those who refused lost many rights, including the right to keep arms and vote. 1680s-1850s Laws make it illegal for slaves to own guns, unless they have been given guns by their masters intended solely for use on the master's plantation. 1865-1866 Black Codes in former Confederate states ban African Americans from serving in militias and owning weapons other than shotguns or hunting rifles. <i>[In 1866-1868, 14th amendment to the Constitution and Civil Rights Act of 1866 guarantee civil rights for African Americans, including the right to equal protection under the laws and the right to personal property (such as guns).]</i>	Colonial era laws prevent firing guns at night, or in heavily populated areas such as cities. Boston forbids the storage of loaded guns inside a house. 1813-1859 Kentucky, Louisiana, Indiana, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Ohio make it illegal to carry concealed weapons. 1831 Ohio bans shooting at targets within a town or near roads. 1911 Sullivan Law (New York state) makes it a felony to carry a concealed weapon without a license. 1990 Gun Free School Zones Act makes it a federal crime to bring or fire a gun within 1000 feet of a school. <i>[In 1995, the Supreme Court rules that the federal government cannot pass such a law but states can.]</i>	1837 Georgia and Tennessee prohibit the sale of pistols 1934 National Firearms Act taxes "gangster" guns such as automatic weapons, sawed-off rifles, and silencers. and requires people who want to buy them to get a background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). 1968 Gun Control Act requires all guns produced in the U.S. to have a serial number and bans the import of small caliber, short-barreled guns known as "Saturday Night Specials." 1982 Chicago bans the ownership of handguns for all city residents <i>[In 2010, the Supreme Court rules that this law is unconstitutional.]</i> 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law



1938 Federal Firearms Act bans convicted felons from buying guns or ammunition. 1968 Gun Control Act prevents convicted felons, mentally ill people, illegal drug users from buying guns. People younger than 18 cannot buy shotguns; people younger than 21 cannot buy handguns. 1996 Congress passes a law that bans people convicted of a domestic violence offence from owning a gun.	2012 Most states allow “concealed carry,” or carrying a weapon in public that is not visible to others; in many states, you must apply for a permit to do so. 2012 Eleven states allow “open carry,” or carrying a visible weapon in public and do not require a license to do so; thirteen states allow open carry but require a license.	Enforcement Act bans nineteen types of semiautomatic weapons, and ammunition clips holding more than 10 rounds (except for military or police use).
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Focus Questions:

1. Which groups of people have had limits placed on their right to own a gun?
2. List two regulations that have limited where and how guns can be used:
3. List two examples of what kinds of guns have been regulated or banned:
4. Choose one regulation and write a sentence explaining why it is necessary for public safety: