US

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# Gun Control – stricter? ---

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| ***Shall gun control laws be stricter?*** | |
| ***Pro*** | ***Contra*** |
| * The less easily guns are available, the less death would be caused by them (homicides and suicides) * Conflicts between people can easily get out of control if weapons are at close range as well as suicides can be committed more easily * The 2nd Amendment does not say that gun ownership can’t be regulated * American citizens don’t need semiautomatic rifles and high-capacity magazines to defend themselves * In contrast, those firearms can cause enormous carnage * There should be stricter background checks to make sure that criminals and mentally ill people can’t possess firearms * Mass murderers can use automatic firearms to kill as many people as possible * The government could introduce a boy-back program to reduce the number of guns in the US | * Many American citizens own guns for protection * Criminals will always be able to get their hands on guns * “The only thing that stops a bad guy, is a good guy with a gun”   ~Wayne LaPierre (CEO of the NRA)   * The 2nd Amendment protects every American citizen’s right to own a gun * Militia[[1]](#footnote-1) * Background checks invade a citizen’s privacy and their freedom to obtain a gun * The government * You cannot practically ban (types of) firearms in the US since there are just too many (also unregistered) firearms * Gun regulation itself won’t significantly reduce the number of suicides * Japan has strict gun regulations but still suffers from high suicide rates |

# Restriction of abortion rights ---

1. History
   1. Roe v. Wade decision
      1. Supreme Court decision which stated that the constitution grants privacy rights and bodily autonomy to potential mothers
      2. It introduced the trimester framework
         1. First trimester (0-12 weeks): states cannot make restrictions
         2. Second trimester (12-24 weeks): restrictions only permissible regarding maternal health
         3. Third trimester (after 24 weeks): restrictions or even a complete ban legitimate
   2. Planned Parenthood vs. Casey decision
      1. The decision gets rid of the rigid trimester framework and
      2. allowes (minor) hurdles, e.g. in the interest of health of requiring parental consent for minors
   3. State restrictions that had been overruled prior to the 2022 Supreme Court decision
      1. Foetal Pain Laws
         1. These laws ban abortion after 20 weeks because then the foetus presumably can feel pain (which is highly controversial)
      2. Ultrasound laws
         1. Law which requires potential mothers who want to have an abortion to be shown ultrasound images by a doctors
      3. “Foetal Heartbeat” law
         1. Laws which ban abortion at 6 weeks after gestation since electrical impulses can the be detected which some people interpret as heartbeats
   4. Rescinding / Overturning of Roe v. Wade
      1. The Supreme Court decided that the constitution doesn’t grant a right to abortion and that
      2. it’s up to the states to decide if to restrict or protect abortion rights
   5. Trigger Laws
      1. The Supreme Court was leaked
      2. Many conservative states introduced laws restricting or even prohibiting abortions once Roe v. Wade was overturned
   6. Roe v. Wade protection laws
      1. Many liberal states introduced laws which protect abortion or have even enshrined this protection in their state constitution
2. Evaluating

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| ***Pro*** | ***Con*** |
| * When thinking of the foetus as a living being whose life began at conception, abortion would be seen as murder * In a society that allowes abortion, life is treated disposable and replaceable * The interests of the foetus are not taken into consideration * Humans shouldn’t play God and decide which life is worth living and which not * Certain measures would make abortion unnecessary. These are * Increased access to birth control * Better health insurance * Sexual education | * Abortion is a safe medical procedure that can save lives * Illegal abortion procedures would increase the risk of maternal death astronomically / Brobdingnagian * Limiting abortion rights will create severe repercussions since tis mostly ethnic-minority teenagers who have an abortion and if they are forced to deliver the baby, they will come under strong financial burdens and could also lead to mental health issues (especially in cases of rape and incest) * Banning abortion will also affect other medical procedures, e.g. terminating non-viable pregnancies, since they use the same tools and medicaments |

1. Militia ~ civilian army [↑](#footnote-ref-1)