

“people who own guns are stiupid”

adam okulicz-kozaryn

`adam.okulicz.kozaryn@gmail.com`

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outline

NECESSARY reads

- ◇ Thomas Friedman "The world is flat"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/03/magazine/03DOMINANCE.html?pagewanted=1&ei=5070&en=79e0265c7c85c86f&ex=1157169600> and

- ◇ Florida, Richard "The world is spiky;"

<http://www.creativeclass.org/rfcgdb/articles/TheWorldIsSpiky.pdf>, or find a copy of the article in The Atlantic, October 2005

proud urban elite



Figure



(a)



(b)



what is it?

- ◇ “people who own guns are stupid”
- ◇ so say some progressive liberals
- ◇ the statement appears to be partially or even mostly moral
 - ie there seems to be some righteousness/superiority implied
 - people are more emotional and belief-based in such statements
- ◇ i'll try to argue that there is a problem here
- ◇ [for record: i'm actually against guns, too]
- ◇ and why this in this class?
- ◇ well, one of the key problems also for development is that we are divided
- ◇ if we can compromise, understand, trust, development would be better!

being right and superior

- ◇ feeling virtuous, righteous, pure, moral, and superior can be dangerous
- some of the greatest evils committed by such people both on left and right
- eg the attitude is used to motivate genocides

- ◇ argument building follows passion and intuition
- ◇ we're all biased!
- ◇ one guy thinks guns are bad, the other thinks they're good
 - say one from rural Jersey, one from urban Jersey
- ◇ and then they both set out to find arguments to support it

a serious problem with academics!

- ◇ we think we know better, even things we don't know much about!
- ◇ like if you're an expert in one area, you think you are one in all areas!
- ◇ how many of you study guns? and yet you sound like experts on the issue
- ◇ why? because you have some expertise in some other area
- ◇ it's one thing to have an opinion
- ◇ another thing to be absolutely sure you are right
- ◇ and yet doubt is necessary for science and progress
- ◇ do you even allow a possibility that you may be wrong on guns?
- ◇ if not then is your position really due to evidence or

anecdotal evidence, stereotyping

- ◇ an undocumented immigrant killed someone: a significant number of undocumented immigrants are criminals
- ◇ a gun was used to commit a crime: a significant number of guns are used to commit a crime
- ◇ what about this: residential swimming pools kill more babies than guns (Freakonomics)

smart educated without guns, stupid uneducated

with guns

- ◇ measurement? is education a good measure of intelligence/being smart?
- ◇ can educated people make fun of uneducated people?
 - does it lead anywhere?
- ◇ is it even desirable that all people get university degrees?
- ◇ should people with less education always listen to people with more education?
- ◇ doesn't it just confirm complain of rural simple folks:
 - urban educated elites feel superior and right to tell rural uneducated how they should live their lives:
- ◇ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/02/us/>