

УДК 811.111: 6243.4

Oshukovskaya O., Vanik I.

Gun Control Should Be Stricter

Belarusian National Technical University
Minsk, Belarus

The United States of America is one of the most well-armed countries in the world, and weapons, in some way, have become an integral part of the American DNA. In fact, the country consolidated the right to bear arms in its constitution. The inhabitants of America own about 300 million pieces of firearms. Almost every month world news teems with headlines about murders and often mass in the US. All over the country, rallies and protests are regularly held with demands for restrictions of weapons or a complete ban. Many questions arise. For example, if there is such a situation in the country, why have not the relevant measures been taken?

It is necessary to look back at the American history. The first mention of weapons begins with hunting, which is still considered an occupation for real men. Then it plunges us into a time when America was a British colony, oppressed by the British taxation system. Dissatisfied citizens raised an uprising, to which the London government responded by banning the importation of all sorts of ammunition into the colony. After these events, the government reduced the army of the country and began to rely more and more on the militia, which literally forced people to carry weapons with them constantly, feeling insecure [1]. Since then, the Americans have begun to argue that the ability to carry weapons is one of their fundamental rights. When the United States soon proclaimed independence from Britain, this right was fixed in the constitution as the Second Amendment. Then the problems began to grow. The threats of

the mafia, the killing of such famous people as John Kennedy and Martin Luther King made the government began to demand from the arms dealers to get a license at least. Then the National Rifle Association began to play a role in the country's politics. The ideology was very simple: a protest against any attempts to introduce weapons legislation. With the help of lobbying and support for parties and candidates the Rifle Association managed to block almost all attempts to limit the ability of Americans to buy weapons. At the same time the association successfully supported lawsuits, as a result of which the Supreme Court in recent years has expanded protection of arms owners against state interference. Further, the federal government has lost the right to forbid citizens from carrying charged weapons, despite the fact that every year it causes thousands of accidents, including those involving shooting at children [1]. Take at least one of the incidents, happened just recently. On February 14, 2018, in the Parkland school, Florida, 17 people were killed, including adults and children. The shooter was a former student of the school, 19-year-old Nicholas Cruz. The motives for the attack are unclear [2]. Despite all the disputes, it is difficult to make new restrictions on weapons. Shocking the fact that with so many mass executions occurred in recent years, the number of murders in the US since the mid-1990s has fallen dramatically. In addition, the effectiveness of restrictions on weapons, which the liberals are calling for, is far from obvious. Also the statisticians figured out various circumstances that might have saved the victims of certain crimes, which would happen if one or another of the restrictions were imposed. What seemed right to them turned out to be completely ineffective. In the meantime, the demands to cancel the Second Amendment are growing louder. People hold various rallies and actions in support of victims of crimes with the requirements of restricting or completely banning weapons. But this requires a tectonic shift

in the public mood, which on the horizon is not yet visible. Supporters of the right to arms are also holding rallies today. They suspect that any concession will only cause new demands, since the final aim of restrictors is a complete ban and confiscation. And this directly affects the essence of the American mentality. Confiscation of weapons is not possible until in the United States the Second Amendment is in force and if it is canceled it will be very problematic [3].

As polls of many newspapers and magazines show that 50% of the Americans are worried about the prospects that the authorities will go too far in limiting their right to own weapons, 45%, on the contrary, believe that the authorities should more control the weapons [3]. Thus, it is impossible to reach a final decision on the issue of limiting or banning firearms in the US.

References:

1. The many reasons Americans own firearms [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-many-reasons-americans-own-firearms-1508262134>. – Date of access: 01.03.2018.
2. 17 confirmed dead in “horrific” attack on Florida high school – as it happened [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://www.theguardian.com/usnews/live/2018/feb/14/florida-school-shooting-live-updates-latest-news-majority-stoneman-douglas>. – Date of access: 21.02.2018.
3. I used to think gun control was the answer. My research told me otherwise [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/i-used-to-think-gun-control-was-the-answer-my-research-told-me-otherwise/2017/10/03/d33edca6-a851-11e7-92d1-58c702d2d975_story.html?utm_term=.cd0f38da1784. – Date of access: 10.02.2018.