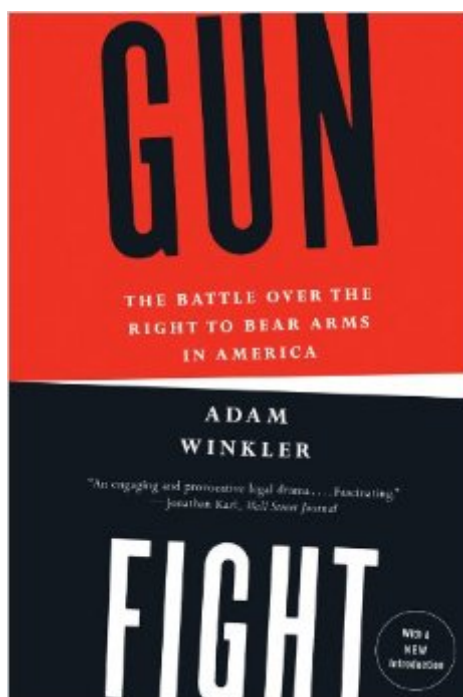


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Gunfight: The Battle Over The Right To Bear Arms In America



Synopsis

A provocative history that reveals how gunsâ•not abortion, race, or religionâ•are at the heart of America's cultural divide. Gunfight is a timely work examining America'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 gunsâ•not abortion, race, or religionâ•are at the heart of America's cultural divide. Using the landmark 2008 case District of Columbia v. Hellerâ•which invalidated a law banning handguns in the nation's capitalâ•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

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (July 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393345831

ISBN-13: 978-0393345834

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ• See all reviewsÂ• (86 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #111,326 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 inÂ• Books > Textbooks >

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Customer Reviews

This is a highly informative account, and expert analysis, of the tension between the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States (the right to keep and bear arms) and gun control. Adam Winkler, the author, is a constitutional law professor who is able to explain important legal principles in a way that makes them easy for the non-expert to understand. More important, however, he knows how to engage the reader and make a book about a policy debate fascinating. Winkler starts with case of District of Columbia v. Heller as it is about to be announced by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008, and he then describes how the case was conceived, litigated, and finally decided. District of Columbia v. Heller is the case in which the Supreme Court held for the first time that the Second Amendment protects individual ownership of firearms and in which the District of Columbia's prohibition on private ownership of handguns was struck down as

unconstitutional. As Winkler goes through the history of the case, he weaves in valuable historical context for the adoption of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and early gun control measures, why they were adopted, and the development of the NRA's policy on the Second Amendment (its vociferousness is recent, dating to the late seventies). The book is devoid of the aspersions on one faction or another that are so common in books on gun control. Winkler so fairly and accurately outlines the point of view of each faction in the debate over gun control that when he describes your point of view (whatever that may be) you can say "Yeah, he got that right!" and when he describes that of those you don't agree with, you can say it again.

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