

# THE Gun Owners

40 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2015

## Gun Owners Force Obama to Back Down on Ammo Ban

by Christopher Stone

***“They’re [trying] to take out the gun by taking out the ammunition. If you have a gun that has no bullets in it, you can use it as a door stop or hit people over the head with it, but it’s basically no longer a gun.”***

— GOA’s Michael Hammond in *The Hill*, March 8, 2015

The Second Amendment community won a tremendous victory in March against the Obama administration.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (commonly referred to as ATF) had proposed a rule to effectively ban AR-15s by outlawing the M855 “green tip” ammunition that is commonly used in that firearm.

The ATF sought to dishonestly reclassify the M855 round as “armor piercing,” and in so doing, was trying to take a popular 5.56 round off the open market and ban it from the general public.

This is not the first time that the Obama administration has targeted AR-15s.

After the Newtown tragedy in December, 2012, the President launched an offensive against AR-15s and other semi-automatic firearms that are commonly referred to (incorrectly) as “assault weapons.”

## Constitutional Carry Bills Advancing from Coast-to-Coast

by Michael Hammond

This year, Gun Owners of America has been active in about a dozen states that are considering constitutional carry legislation.

The concept of “constitutional carry” is simple: An individual’s ability to exercise his or her Second Amendment rights shouldn’t depend on a “permit” from the government.

You don’t need a government license to write a book. So why should you have to get the government’s okay in

order to carry a firearm to protect yourself and your family?

As this newsletter goes to press, GOA-backed bills have been transmitted to Governors’ desks in three states — Kansas, Montana and West Virginia.

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback is likely to sign the bill there. And while the Governor of West Virginia has vetoed the bill before him, he should be overridden if there is a special legislative session, since both chambers passed the bill with veto-proof majorities.

### Fighting the ATF ammo ban



GOA mobilized opposition to the ATF ban on ammunition and rallied the grassroots through Internet, Facebook and various media sources.

Of course, Obama was dealt a crushing blow by Gun Owners of America and its activists in 2013. Even in a Democrat-controlled Senate, he fell twenty votes short of the supermajority necessary to ban semi-automatic firearms.

Having failed to get gun control measures through Congress, the President has opted to use his regulatory agencies to insti-

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GOA has used email and Facebook to mobilize grassroots activists all over the country. And the pressure has been intense.

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## Gun Owners Force Obama to Back Down

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tute backdoor gun control.

So in February of this year, the ATF — under departing Director B. Todd Jones (whose nomination GOA fiercely opposed) — issued a proposal to ban the sale and manufacture of M855 ammo.

According to the ATF, the public had until March 16 to send in comments regarding the newly-proposed rule. GOA issued comments to the ATF prior to the deadline.

In a scathing letter delivered to the agency, GOA's Legislative Counsel Michael Hammond stated:

If anyone needed any more proof that your agency — and your department — has become a politicized repository of liberal anti-gun hacks, your proposed effort to effectively ban AR-15's by illegally banning AR-15 ammunition has cleared up any doubt.

The administration claimed that a ban on this ammunition was needed for officer safety. But the nation's largest organization of sworn law-enforcement officers — the Fraternal Order of Police — said that "this specific [M855] round has historically not posed a law enforcement problem."

### Relentless pressure forces ATF to "cry uncle"

The assault against the "green tip" ammunition roused the pro-gun community to action. Hundreds of thousands of public comments flooded the ATF and Justice Department, with the overwhelming majority opposed to the



Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC)

ATF's new rule. By the latest count, more than 300,000 comments had been submitted.

Acknowledging the obvious, the ATF admitted that the "vast majority of the comments received to date are critical" of the ammo ban. So, faced with relentless pressure, they retreated from their proposed rule.

In the weeks leading up to the ATF's retreat, GOA warned millions of Americans of the dangers of the AR-15 ammo ban through its website and Facebook pages, and encouraged gun owners to contact Congress and submit comments to the ATF.

GOA spokesmen also appeared in media outlets throughout the country — interviews that can be read (or listened to) on the GOA website at [www.gunowners.org](http://www.gunowners.org).

Ultimately, the mounting pressure was too much for the administration to bear. In a published statement on March 10, 2015, the ATF said:

Although ATF endeavored to create a proposal that reflected a good faith interpretation of the law and balanced the interests of law enforcement, industry, and sports-

men, the vast majority of the comments received to date are critical of the framework, and include issues that **deserve further study**.

Of course, gun owners know better than to blindly trust the government when it promises to back down from a blatant power grab — especially when the words "further study" are used.

Not surprisingly, Democrats still plan to wage an offensive against the AR-15 and the ammunition for it.

Just a few days after the ATF backed down, anti-gun Rep. Elliot Engel (D-NY) introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives which would legislatively ban M855 ammo, and further attack our God-given right to keep and bear arms.

### Rep. Patrick McHenry steps forward to protect gun rights

Given the continued assault against 5.56 ammunition, Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) has sponsored legislation which would protect M855 ammunition.

H.R. 1365, known as the Ammunition and Firearms Act, amends federal law by specifically ensuring that M855 ammunition can neither be classified as armor-piercing, nor prohibited from legal use by the general public.

This critical piece of legislation is an opportunity for the gun rights community to rally around a great pro-gun bill.

It is clear that President Obama will take any approach necessary to enact, by fiat, the gun control legislation he so desperately desires.

Whether it's coming after guns, magazines or ammunition, we need every pro-Second Amendment member of Congress to stand up for the U.S. Constitution and our right to self-defense. ■

## How to Place GOA



GOA has received numerous inquiries from members asking how they can place Gun Owners of America in their will or estate plans.

Here are some sample instructions to share with your advisor or attorney:

I give, devise and bequeath to Gun Owners of America (tax ID # 52-1256643), a non-profit, corporation in Springfield, Virginia:

- A. The sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_; or
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate; or
- C. Residue. I give my Residue to Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

# GOA ON THE FRONT LINES

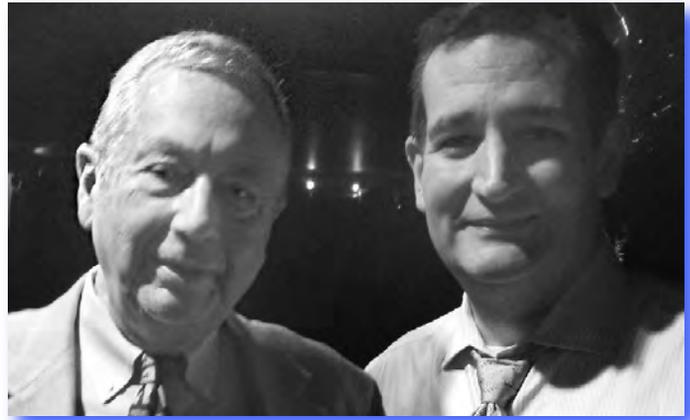


**In the states.** Prior to speaking to a Second Amendment rally, GOA's Erich Pratt spends a few moments with Matt Bevin (right), a pro-gun gubernatorial hopeful in Kentucky.

**Exposing gun control.** GOA's Erich Pratt went on America's Forum with former Rep. J.D. Hayworth (left) and blasted gun control proposals being put forward by anti-gun Democrats around the country.



**On the House side.** Chris Stone, the GOA Director of Federal Affairs, meets with Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL), who challenged John Boehner for Speaker of the House in January.



**On the Senate side.** GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt meets with pro-gun Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, who has introduced legislation to repeal the anti-gun ObamaCare law.



## Fast Fact:

### Columbine survivor supports armed teachers.

A state Representative in Colorado — who was a student at Columbine High School on the day of the 1999 massacre — says that if some of the teachers had been armed, “more of my friends would still be alive today.”

Source: [www.gunowners.me/19DapLC](http://www.gunowners.me/19DapLC)



Rep. Patrick Neville  
(R-Castle Rock)



### Young Concealed Carrier Wins Gunfight at a Sonic

A 23-year-old was assaulted by three armed robbers in early February while he was waiting for his dinner at a Sonic drive-thru in DeKalb County, Georgia.

Joseph Toombs, who is also a National Guardsman, drew his weapon and fired at his attackers, killing one of them.

While the other thugs fled on foot, one was captured a short time later. The other was still at large when press reports covered the incident.

Toombs is not expected to face charges. ■

Source: [www.gunowners.me/1Eygh2U](http://www.gunowners.me/1Eygh2U)



### Daughter Survives Attack Because Dad Sent her to College, Armed

A Florida father sent his daughter to college with a gun. And because of that, she is alive to talk about it today.

Sable Nehme and her boyfriend attend the University of Central Florida. They answered a knock at the door of her off-campus housing in January, when two armed gunmen broke in.

After one of them told the boyfriend "we're going to kill your girl," Nehme ran into her back bedroom and retrieved the loaded firearm her dad had given her.

"I grabbed the gun from up here in my closet," Nehme recalled. "By the time I cocked it back — it already had bullets in it — I pointed it at him because he had busted through my door."

At the sight of her firearm, both intruders fled on foot. And while the suspects had not been found, police did find their discarded weapon.

"I'm so thankful I had that gun in my room," Nehme said. "I don't know what would have happened." ■



Source: [www.gunowners.me/1CxqaP9](http://www.gunowners.me/1CxqaP9)

### Texas Woman Takes Known Sex Offender Out of the Gene Pool

A sex offender with a "lengthy criminal history" broke into a Texas home in February and threatened a woman who was home alone.

The woman, whose name was withheld in media reports, armed herself and shot the perpetrator, who later died in the home.

Van Zandt County Sheriff Michael Ray praised the woman's actions and encouraged other residents to "take appropriate precautions to protect their families," especially in light of budget cutbacks and inadequate staffing at the sheriff's office.

Amazingly, the media was able to find one non-gun owner in Van Zandt County who was disturbed by the Sheriff's warning.

"The fact that he's telling us that we have to protect ourselves is kind of scary," Roxanne Lewis said. "I don't know how to shoot a weapon. I don't own a weapon." ■

Sources: [www.gunowners.me/1H3CCW0](http://www.gunowners.me/1H3CCW0) and [www.gunowners.me/1B5Fxc5](http://www.gunowners.me/1B5Fxc5)



### Concealed Carrier Saves Multiple Lives in West Virginia

A pharmacist in Pinch, West Virginia, drew his concealed handgun and fired three times at a violent predator in February.

The masked gunman tried to fire back during the confrontation, but was prevented by the oncoming fire from the pharmacist.

Two of the rounds hit the intruder in the chest; the third round jammed his gun.

Once the perpetrator was disabled, the employees of the pharmacy began performing life-saving measures on him. Notwithstanding their heroic efforts, the man was later pronounced dead.

Gun author Bob Owens remarks on the amazing turn of events:

Once the robber dropped to the floor and ceased being a threat, the people who had just had their lives threatened over *nothing*, shrugged off their shock and fear and resentment in order to attempt to save a human life, because they felt it was the right thing to do.

Police told reporters that no charges would be filed against the pharmacist. ■

Source: [www.gunowners.me/1H6gMVc](http://www.gunowners.me/1H6gMVc)



# An Unprecedented Constitutional Crisis

by Tim Macy

What if a man ascended to the presidency who was so ruthless in his desire to transform the United States to his bidding that the restraints of the Constitution became irrelevant to him?

What if his sycophantic Attorney General excused his law-breaking, while his regulators sought to destroy his political opposition?

What if his vicar in the Senate obliterated the Senate rules in order to pack the courts with toadies and go-fers who existed to do the President's bidding?

We have rarely witnessed such horrible scenarios in our country's 239-year history — and the resultant crisis threatens to tear our country apart.

If tax-cheating appointees like Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner didn't give us an indication of what was

coming, the ObamaCare "sausage-making" told us what Barack Obama was about. One by one, senators were ushered into a back room to be given their bribes for supporting legislation which, for the first time in American history, forced Americans to spend thousands of dollars on corrupt politically correct "insurance" policies which fundamentally violated their religious beliefs.

Using fraudulent budget math which landed Bernie Madoff in prison with a 150-year sentence, Obama deliberately lied to the American people about the cost of insurance, their ability to keep the policies they liked, and the fact that middle income Americans were being



bled dry in order to fund other people's medical care.

Having slammed through ObamaCare with no transparency using parliamentary gimmickry, it was no surprise that the resulting creation was a creaking Rube Goldberg machine.

**“As Richard Nixon found out, the Constitution is a little more resilient than Obama imagines.”**

No matter. Obama simply ignored the parts of the law which were inconvenient to him, while demanding that the "little people" comply with their obligations, to the letter — or face massive fines.

But if Barack Obama acted like a despot when he controlled Congress, that was nothing compared to his lawlessness after he lost control.

When his politicized Internal Revenue Service was caught trying to destroy his political opposition, Obama stonewalled and used the "dog ate my homework" excuse. Thus, he argued, an Executive Branch which could suck up meta-data on every phone call in the

world somehow couldn't locate e-mails that, not coincidentally, would have incriminated it.

Not surprisingly, Obama was twice repudiated by the American people, who took both Houses of Congress away from him.

Again, no matter. If Congress refused to pass his immigration legislation, he would enact it by executive fiat. If Congress frustrated his efforts to exploit a horrific tragedy in order to pass gun control, he would craft 23 "executive actions" to achieve the

same thing. If the law barred him from demanding sales information from gun dealers or creating a national gun registry, he would do it anyway.

After all, wasn't it Richard Nixon who said to David Frost: "If the President does it, that means it's not illegal." And nothing happened to him, right?

So we have come full-circle. A President who places himself above the law and above the Constitu-

tion. And a groveling court system and Attorney General who exist to allow him to do so.

Fortunately, what goes around, comes around. And there is every evidence that the American people are getting sick and tired of Obama's lawlessness. And, with a new administration will come the ability to summarily repeal all of Obama's unlawful actions — in one fell swoop — at the same time as an independent counsel examines fraud, lies, and illegality in connection with criminal charges.

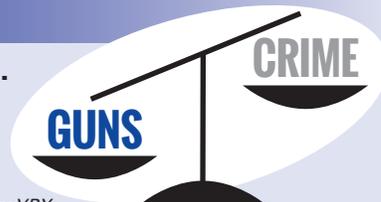
Perhaps, as Richard Nixon found out, the Constitution is a little more resilient than Obama imagines. ■

## Fast Fact:

### More guns, less crime.

The United States is first in the world in gun ownership, yet not even in the top 100 countries for murder rates.

Source: [www.gunowners.me/1LxwYBX](http://www.gunowners.me/1LxwYBX)



# A Gun in the Hand is Worth Two Around the Corner

by C.D. Ashe

As a firefighter, I recently had the opportunity to visit a 911 dispatch center to see what happens on the other side of the “mic.” The idea was for us firefighters to gain an appreciation for what they have to go through.

I had just sat down beside the call-taker and put on a headset when the first call came in. It was a woman who had arrived home from work to find her house had been broken into. Her main concern was that the intruder could still be inside her residence.

She went on to explain that she had already called 911, but it had been a while; so she wanted to make sure an officer was on the way. After pressing a few keys on his computer, the call-

taker assured the woman that police were indeed on their way, and so the call ended.

He then turned to me and explained that one officer was around the corner — out of sight — waiting for a second officer to arrive before entering the scene. You see, it was the policy that for “officer safety,” they are not to enter the scene without backup.

While this was not a critically desperate situation, a person might be upset to know — if they were, say, encountering an intruder in their home — that the officer they are counting on is parked around the corner waiting for backup.

I’m certainly not upset at the officers; they were just following protocol.



Nor would I fault the Police Chief for a policy that helps keep his officers safe.

But for those who argue that firearms in the home are unnecessary and that the police will keep them safe ... well, they should take note. They might not be waiting for just one officer to arrive; they might be waiting for two! ■

*C.D. Ashe is a GOA Life Member and works as a firefighter at a suburban Washington, DC station. His name has been changed for the purposes of this article.*

## Constitutional Carry Bills Advancing

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In one state, during debate on the House floor, Representatives conceded that they had been “getting lots of emails” in favor of constitutional carry. The legislation subsequently passed.

### The constitutionally-protected right to “bear arms”

Currently, there are six states that allow concealed carry without a license or permit in all or most of their jurisdictions: Vermont, Alaska, Wyoming, Arizona, Arkansas and Montana.

Lest anyone fail to notice, these are not exactly high-crime areas as a result of their diligence for the constitutional rights of their citizens. In fact, these are some of the safest places in



America.

Make no mistake about it. Criminals are already carrying firearms. And, in constitutional carry states, when they carry a gun during the commission of a crime, they have broken the law and will go to prison.

But that’s just the point: If law enforcement is allowed to focus on the “bad guys,” rather than the enforcement of silly counter-productive, unconstitu-

tional nitpicking, crime will go down.

Crime will also go down if criminals have to consider the possibility that their victims could be armed and could shoot back.

It’s no surprise that the “dog that didn’t bark” — the mass murders that were planned but never occurred — happened in places like the Appalachian School of Law in Virginia or Pearl High School in Mississippi. In these places, citizens with guns stopped horrific crimes.

Within the next couple of months, we hope to see even more jurisdictions joining the list of states where people can exercise their constitutional rights to protect themselves without asking “May I?” from the government.

Please stay tuned for further updates. ■

*Michael Hammond is the Legislative Counsel for Gun Owners of America.*

## States Moving to Block Federal Gun Control

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saying we cannot defend ourselves and others.

Bottom line: Trehwella says that “God is not a pacifist [and] Jesus is not a pacifist.” As mentioned above, the author gives several proofs from history and the Bible to show the

importance of self-defense, and the need for interposition by lower-level government officials.

The greatest statement on the doctrine of nullification by lesser magistrates was made by the Roman emperor Trajan who, while appointing a subordinate authority, handed him a sword and instructed him, saying: “Use this sword against my enemies if I give righteous commands; but if I give unrighteous commands, use it against me.” ■

# Anti-gunners Misfire Again Trying to Debunk the Benefits of Guns for Self-Defense

by Erich Pratt

In October of last year, a North Carolina man used a handgun to stop three armed invaders who were beating his wife and attempting to rape his granddaughter. The home defender shot all three of the thugs, killing one of them.

In July, a doctor prevented a mass shooting at a hospital in Darby, Pennsylvania, when he used his concealed firearm to stop a gunman. Police said that had it not been for the armed doctor, the perpetrator would have gone “out in the hallway and just walked down the offices until he ran out of ammunition.”

On New Year’s Eve, a pastor prevented a possible mass shooting at his church — and saved the lives of several men, women and children — when he used his firearm to incapacitate a shooter.

All three self-defense shooters were hailed as heroes.

But none of this matters to anti-gun authors who were published in Politico in January. After all, says the lead author Evan DeFilippis, “Gun owners are far more likely to end up ... accidentally shooting an innocent person or seeing their weapons harm a family member, than be heroes warding off criminals.”

DeFilippis spends more than 2,000 words trying to debunk what he refers to as the myth of self-defense. But what he really debunks is the notion that anti-gun liberals should attempt to research a subject when they’ve been so blinded by their hatred of firearms.

## Most cops believe that good guys with guns save lives

DeFilippis claims it’s a fable that “good guys with guns” are actually able to “defend themselves, their families or society.”

But that’s not what the police in Darby, Pennsylvania, said about the hero doctor who saved countless lives. Nor is it what 80 percent of police believe — given that the overwhelming

## Is Self-defense a God-given right?



**GOA’s Director of Communications spoke to students at Liberty University in March, demonstrating from the Bible why the Founding Fathers believed that rights — and self-defense in particular — are liberties endowed by God. Pictured here is Erich Pratt with Jordan Stein, the President of Students at Liberty for Gun Rights.**

majority of cops state that the way to reduce casualties in mass shootings is to allow citizens to carry firearms concealed.

Regardless, says DeFilippis, gun owners are “aiding and abetting criminals by providing them with more guns.”

That is an astounding claim. Forget

about blaming the actual criminals who illegally purchase or steal their weapons to use them in crimes. No, it’s the law-abiding gun owners’ fault!

This is one of the gun controllers’ frequent screeds. Guns don’t stop crime; they simply help to supply criminals with guns that they otherwise wouldn’t be able to get.

Perhaps DeFilippis has not seen the recent National Geographic Channel episode which shows how criminals are skirting California’s draconian gun laws and buying “ghost guns” from Asia which come with fake serial numbers.

We also saw this in France, where Muslim terrorists evaded gun control laws — ignoring the ban on AK-47s and the ban on carrying firearms in public — to massacre defenseless citizens.

Gun haters continuously ignore the fact that criminals will always get their hands on firearms, no matter how many prohibitions are in place. ■

*The rest of this article (along with citations) can be found on the GOA website at: <http://gunowners.me/1FA04wJ>*

## Are you a GOA Life Member yet?

Enroll as a Life Member at the special charter rate of only \$500, which entitles you to full member privileges.

Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of \$50 (*with the remainder to be billed to you*) or as a quarterly debit to your credit card for \$50 until your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.



When you contact us by phone, email or mail, please provide us with your name, address, city, state, zip and member number to begin enjoying your Life Member privileges with Gun Owners of America.

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# States Moving to Block Federal Gun Control

By Larry Pratt

There have been positive developments in the fight to block the enforcement of federal gun control around the country.

More than a dozen states have introduced bills this year to put federal officials on notice that federal agents will get no assistance in carrying out unconstitutional actions.

Montana became the first of these to send a nullification bill to the Governor's desk. Other states could soon follow.

The state of Idaho enacted similar legislation last year, prohibiting state officials from helping federal agents to carry out unconstitutional gun laws. Alaska and Kansas have enacted similar laws.

And in 2010, Wyoming went even further than non-cooperation. The Cowboy State enacted a law threatening a year in jail for any federal officer who interferes with the legally protected manufacture of a Wyoming firearm that has no federally-mandated serial number.

Non-cooperation is not a guarantee that the federal government will comply with the Second Amendment's "shall not be infringed" mandate. But it makes it less likely that the feds would goose-step into those jurisdictions.

The federal government's attack on the Davidians near Waco in 1993 had the cooperation of local law enforcement officials and, in the end, 86 people died — including four agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. However, the siege of Cliven Bundy on his ranch outside Las Vegas last year resulted in no deaths.

The chief difference between Waco and the Bundy Ranch is that armed Americans from all over the country

came to the Nevada ranch with the slogan "no more free Wacos" on their lips. There were no armed defenders that came to the aid of the Davidians.

## What Is the Proper Response to Tyranny?

What the states are doing today in blocking gun control and resisting tyranny has strong historical roots.

Pastor Matt Trehwella has written about the biblical doctrine of resistance to tyranny — and how public officials can defy lawlessness committed by kings, governors or other public officials. Trehwella's treatise is presented in his book *The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates*.

Trehwella shows that unlimited obedience to unjust laws or edicts issued by government officials results in elevating them to the position that is occupied solely by God — i.e., to a place where they're above the law. Any law or command that violates what has been commanded or prohibited by God requires our resistance if we are to be faithful to God. And this mandate applies to lesser magistrates as well.

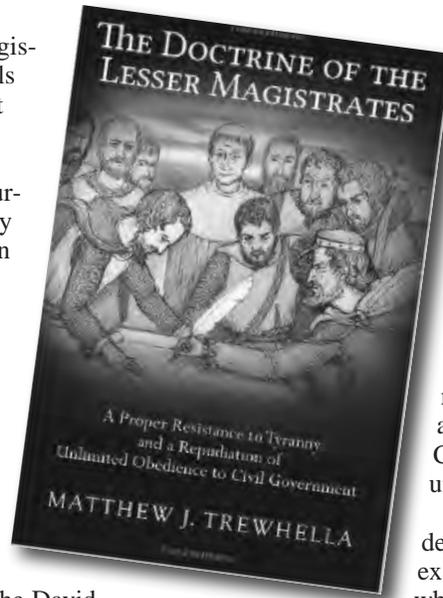
Trehwella argues from Scripture and from history that the so-called "lesser magistrates," if they are faithful to God, are required to only enforce just laws. Conversely, they are to refuse to enforce unjust laws. Interposition is not subjective.

Trehwella also analyzes passages that deal with weapons and the use of force. For example, I Samuel 13:19-22 describes a time when the Philistines had disarmed the Israelites, and weapon control was instituted.

"A disarmed people is the sign of a conquered people," Trehwella states. "A disarmed people is the sign of an enslaved people."

Likewise, he deals with passages like the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus tells listeners to "turn the other cheek." But rather than teaching pacifism, the author says that Jesus is repudiating personal vengeance. He is not

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## THE Gun Owners

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