Jenncy Mejia

Humanities

Harris

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Gun Free Zones

 The political cartoon I chose one by Glenn Mccoy about the Fort Hood massacre and how gun control pertains to it. Fort Hood is an Army base that was shot up early November 2009, “An Army psychiatrist who opened fire at Fort Hood, Texas, killing 12 people and wounding 31 others, was shot but captured alive, military officials said late Thursday” (NBC News). There is a lot going on in the cartoon and a lot of information that can be extracted from it. There is body language from a character in the cartoon. There is a sign that has a great significance to the overall message the cartoon is attempting to spread. There is also dialogue that can be interpreted in a number of ways. The cartoon shows that criminals do not care for gun control laws, this is shown by the criminal using the gun free zone sign to his advantage rather than following the law by saying he will have a good amount of time to shoot up the place, this is important because it reflects how criminals will only be empowered by gun control rather than hindered.

One of the most significant parts of the political cartoon is the gun free zone sign. This is what makes the entire argument of the cartoon. The sign basically represents all gun free zones and the laws restricting guns in general. The main representation however is the weakness. The sign represents that actual weakness of gun control and regulation, it shows how it is basically a sign and anyone can easily just not follow it. This is proved Meg Kelly who states, “about 86 percent of mass public shootings took place in gun-free zones from 2009 to 2016.” (Public Shootings). This shows how gun free zones and gun control are not actually very effective at deterring shootings, especially if a majority are happening in gun free zones where guns are prohibited. This means that gun control and strict regulation does not actually hinder criminals when it comes to shootings as most of the shootings are happening in places where there is strict regulation, where guns are prohibited

In the political cartoon an interesting part of it is that the masked shooter is lazily looking at the gun free zone sign as he moves past it almost as if he is scoffing at the sign. The author is basically trying to say that criminals make a mockery of gun control because as they are criminals they already break the law and will not care about laws prohibiting guns in gun free zones. I personally agree with this because it would make sense that criminals specifically murderers who are already killing innocents would not mind disregarding a one more law that prohibits guns. Criminals in general would not care about how much stricter a law gets because if they want to break the law they will continue to break the law and always find away to do so. According to an article “[of 309 guns used in shootings] 59 were obtained illegally. It’s unclear how 79 weapons were acquired” (Terrible Numbers). This proves that criminals will stop at nothing to commit the crimes of their choosing and how banning guns and having gun free zones do not make citizens safer.

Another piece of information in this political cartoon is the dialogue spoken by the masked shooter, he says while looking at the gun free zone sign, “that should give me at least twenty minutes to shoot up the place”. The author is trying to say that those in gun free zones are defenseless and as a result they are easy to shoot up. I personally believe that this is true and that this could cause a problem because gun free zones could in turn actually attract mass shooters as they will have very little fear of getting overpowered or incapacitated by someone while shooting the place up. According to Staff, “What is known is that killers motivated by a desire for infamy, or with terrorist intent, frequently choose to inflict their mayhem in locations where few people, if any, are armed” (Actually Encourage). This is basically saying that someone who intends to kill many people would have a much easier time with and would prefer attacking unarmed and defenseless targets. This shows how gun control basically gives power to the criminals rather than making the people safer. It actually makes the people less safe because it is giving them easy access to hordes of unarmed innocents to easily murder while in no danger themselves.

 Something I found interesting about this political cartoon is that there is a much deeper meaning to the shooters dialogue when he says he has “at least twenty minutes to shoot up the place”. The author is also saying that the shooter has a lot of time because his only threat would be the police and they take a long time to arrive on the scene. According to Julie Fritz, “The average response time for a 911 call is 10 minutes”. (Response Time). This shows how with gun control mass shooters only have the police as a threat to them and the police take a good amount of time to arrive on average which could benefit shooters by giving them more time to murder more people.

 This political cartoon goes against gun control because it does not stop mass shootings and instead may actually provoke them. It also shows how gun control does not achieve the desired effect of making the public safer. I also agree with the creator of the cartoon Glenn McCoy because his points make sense and there is evidence to prove them.

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