

Gun deaths symptom of larger, cultural problem in America

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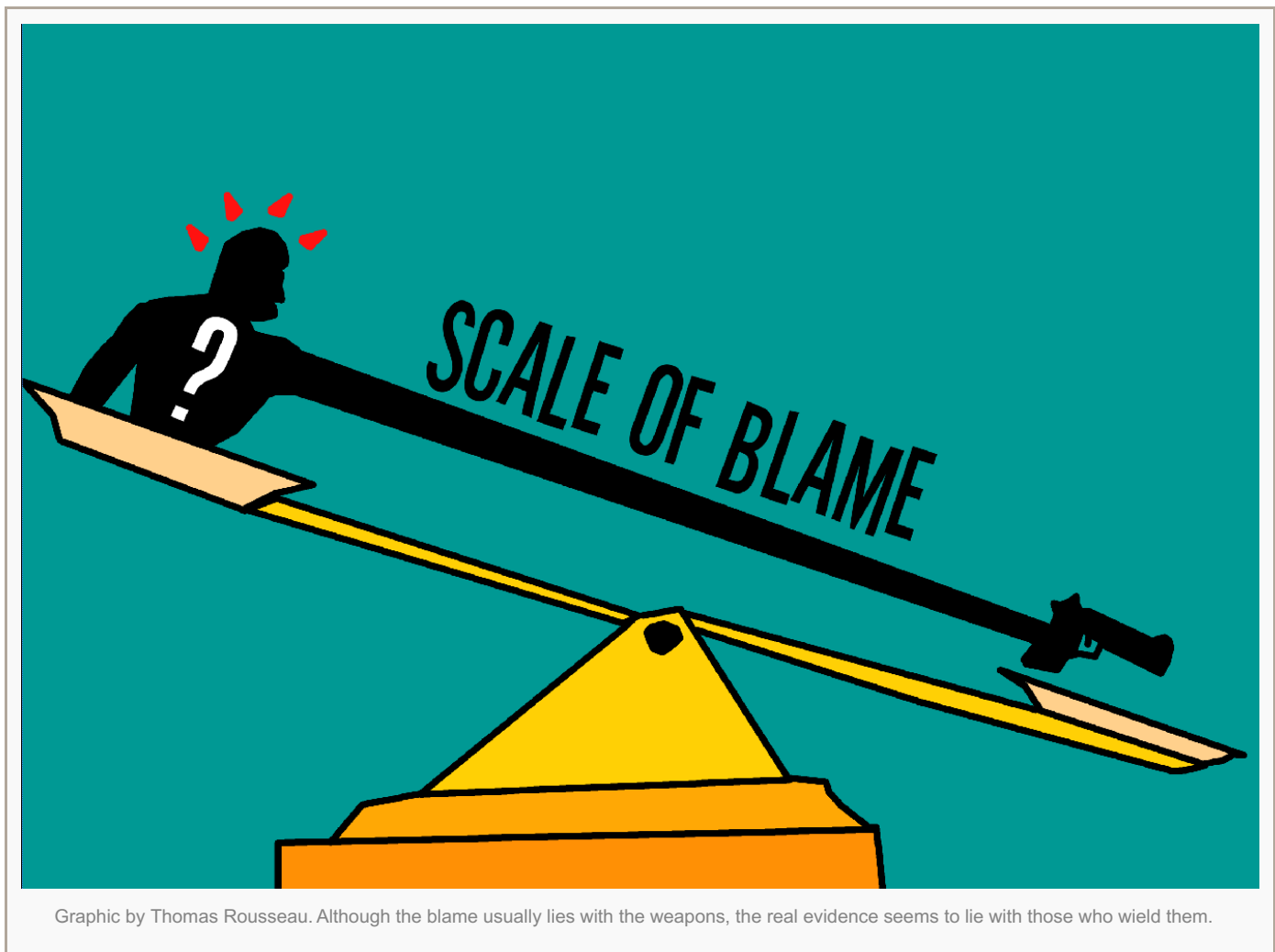
By Thomas Rousseau

Staff Writer

After each group of unfortunate Americans are gunned down by a maniac with a personal vendetta against freedom, or his own sanity, everyone rushes to find a culprit larger than the individual. Whether it's terrorism, or the guns themselves, someone has to be blamed.



Here are some things that you might not have heard them say.



There is a mental health issue in the United States that manages to stay well under the radar. A [most every](#) mass

shooter in the last 20 years has been on some type of prescribed [antidepressant](#). This coincidence seems uncannily condemning for the mental state of those in America, and the actual effectiveness of these drugs.

Two thirds of gun deaths are [suicides](#). Taking away the guns may mean that those who attempt suicide may not succeed with other methods, but it simply will not change that they want to, or have tried to kill themselves.

There is a culture of isolation and disunity in America that leaves every man an island and deprives young men of purpose. This wreaks havoc upon the younger generations.

Those subject to extremist ideals will find a sense of purpose, albeit misguided, within those groups because in their normal lives they are left wanting. Before you consider banning guns, consider that they are not the disease, but merely a symptom of a much larger, cultural epidemic.

As for making stricter gun laws, keeping people from buying guns with certain grips or certain size [magazines](#) is like plugging a cracking dam with your finger, ultimately useless at best.

Prohibiting what types of guns can or cannot be bought only realistically applies to law abiding citizens, as most illegally owned guns are [handguns](#) and are not affected by the legislations against the poorly defined “assault weapons.”

The amount of gun deaths in the United States is far too high, yes. However, mass shootings constitute a very, very minute fraction of the total, and suicides take up a little over two thirds.

Since the overwhelming amount of deaths are the cause of suicide, we can conclude that that were those to be drastically reduced then the rate in the United States would be comparable to other first world nations.

Any restrictions placed on guns will affect both those who might use them improperly and those who will use them correctly. As law abiding gun owners are not the target of any argument here, placing a restrictive umbrella of bureaucracy over all gun owners should be a distant last resort.

Even in the case of the terrorists in San Bernardino who I dislike addressing at all, the beginning cause was extremism, however the end result is the same. No sane person would resort to such a display of barbarism.

A bad craftsman blames his tools, and a bad politician will blame the guns. A firearm is nothing compared to the mind of the man who wields it.

Gunmen threaten Paris, nation in shock after over 120 deaths

Hundreds of people gather on the steps of San Francisco City Hall for a vigil honoring victims of the Paris terrorist attacks on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, in San Francisco. (Karl Mondon/Bay Area News Group/TNS)

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On Friday, a series of attacks shattered a peaceful night in Paris. A series of planned attacks has left 129 confirmed dead.



The night of unprecedented violence started with a two explosions going off outside a soccer stadium. Three or four people were confirmed dead outside the stadium. French President Francois Hollande was present in the stadium but is unharmed.

A popular music venue and restaurant was then subject to a mass shooting where gunmen fired machine guns haphazardly into the crowd. Then reports of another shooting were heard from a theatre just south of the music venue.

It is known that the gunmen took hostages in the Bataclan Theater who they then promptly executed, 89 died in the theater alone. The police were later able to have a successful raid on the theater, killing the gunmen. However, not before the perpetrators emptied their rifles several times into the crowd.

As the sun rose, France examined the carnage from a night of terror. 129 people have been killed, with 352 injured and 99 in critical condition.



Parisians stop by the site of two cafe shootings, one at Cafe Bonne Biere, on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015. (Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Times/TNS)

ISIS, or the Islamic State, a terrorist rebel group occupying parts of the Middle East, has claimed responsibility for the attacks. Supporters of ISIS have relayed a message saying that eight total militants were in Paris wearing explosive vests and machine guns with an order to specifically target populated areas in the French capital.

France was declared in a state of emergency during the night, and the French military patrolled the streets of Paris. Hollande issued a statement effective immediately closing all France's borders to make sure any remaining terrorists could not flee or any others enter the country.

France is under a mandatory curfew, which has not been seen since World War II. The Eiffel Tower has shut off its lights for remembrance of what Hollande has called "an act of war."

In the days following, France has launched a crackdown on suspected Islamic militants within their borders. Salah Abdeslam; suspect for the bombings has been named and has an international warrant for arrest.

Twenty-three people have been apprehended and several dozen weapons have been confiscated in the raids following the attacks. French officials are determining the possibility of their connection with the attacks.

One of the militants has been confirmed to have framed himself as a refugee to enter the country, and of the eight total gunmen, several used chemical explosives in their vests. Such explosives are extremely volatile, and cannot be shipped over long distances.

France, who was using air strikes sparingly before, has dropped a total 20 bombs on Jihadi sites in and around Raqqa, Syria as retaliation for the attacks.

Tags: [Paris](#), [Terrorist attack](#)

Unchecked immigration levels in Europe cause for concern

Syrians sit on a sidewalk where they have been sleeping in Izmir, Turkey, while they wait to attempt reaching Greece by boat on Sept. 3, 2015. This year, some 220,000 war refugees and economic migrants have arrived in Greece from Turkey and other Mediterranean jumping off points, according to U.N. figures. (Alice Martins/McClatchy/TNS)

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The increasing levels of immigration in Europe from the Middle East and Northern Africa have gotten [out of hand](#). With governments around the world struggling to stem the flow or support these hundreds of thousands, something needs to be done. Some borders see crowds of over 10,000 in one day.

In the midst of all this, why are the Arabs the world's richest countries [doing nothing](#) to help the migrants? They share a similar language, culture, religion and lifestyle – unlike Europe.

Sweden has experienced the largest influx of migrants compared to its population, and hosts the highest [immigrant population](#) relative to indigenous in the world. Large gangs of migrants have been [rioting](#) on and off at times, unable to be stopped by police.

There are even cases of Germans being [removed](#) from their homes to make room for migrants, many of whom who are unsatisfied with their accommodations of free food, water and housing.

The migrants are also justifiably responsible for a massive epidemic of [rape](#) and [sexual abuse](#) targeted at European women. Sweden, with the highest number of young male migrants, also has more rapes per [capita](#) than anywhere in Europe.

A country has no responsibility to receive more immigrants once it is abundantly clear that they have become a strain on that nation's economy. To continue after that point is foolish and lowers the standard of living for all, immigrant or not.

However, the German dominated European Union (EU) is [pressing](#) migrant quotas on other EU countries. The fact is that the countries with the highest levels of immigration in Europe are not those closest to the Middle East or Syria, but those with the most generous welfare programs.

Those migrating into countries such as Sweden, Germany, and the United Kingdom have a vastly different culture than those indigenous to those places. The outright fact that there are cultural practices they bring that have difficulty existing alongside those of the native population of Europe is cause for concern.

If a European nation wishes to be or remain at a more homogenous level when it comes to population, there is nothing wrong with that. As there is nothing wrong with any western hemisphere country saying something similar.

What should not happen is for the European countries to turn away these migrants, but for the larger countries to work in conjunction with the EU to redirect the migrants and pressure the countries bordering Syria to take them in.

Immigration laws should always be enforced and the flow of migrants should balance out with the country's policy. If done right, immigrants can be the boon of a prosperous country, but when unchecked can be deleterious.