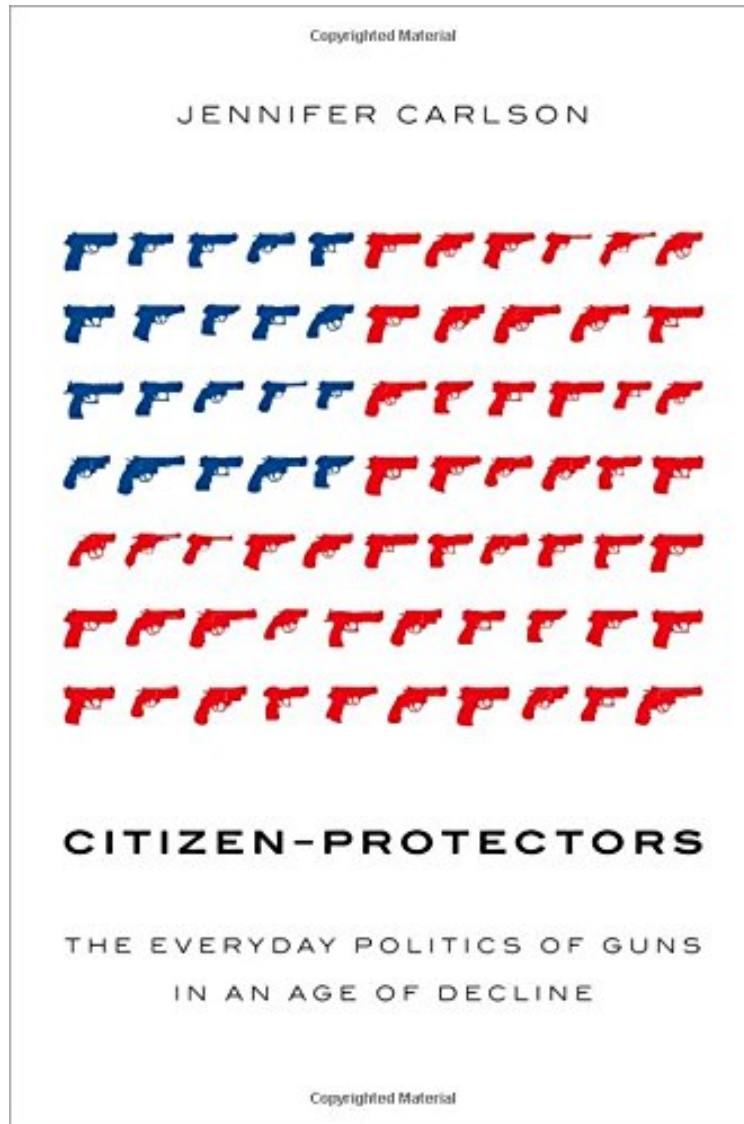


(Pdf free) Citizen-Protectors: The Everyday Politics of Guns in an Age of Decline

Citizen-Protectors: The Everyday Politics of Guns in an Age of Decline

Jennifer Carlson

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Jennifer Carlson : Citizen-Protectors: The Everyday Politics of Guns in an Age of Decline before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Citizen-Protectors: The Everyday Politics of Guns in an Age of Decline:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. And thats a good thing. This book is a refreshing look at ...By RonThis isnt the book for sharpening your gun rights versus gun control debate. And thats a good thing.This book is a

refreshing look at guns in America in a completely different and thought proven way. Her premise is the post industrialized economy has led to males from all races and socioeconomic backgrounds embracing gun ownership to reclaim their masculine role in the family and society. Instead of debating whether we have too many guns in America, the author interviews a cross section of men and women who discuss the role guns play in their lives. To the authors credit, she dives into this gun culture by not only taking a concealed carry class, but getting her permit and open carrying a firearm also. She deserves a lot of credit for participating in the gun culture to this degree. By carrying a firearm, her research moved from just being an observer to an active member of the community she is researching. I found her comments on how it felt to be an open carry female to provide authentic insights that complemented the other gun stories. What is undeniable is that we are in a world where jobs have left the US but the people have remained behind. This has led to higher crime and higher unemployment. The author attempts, successfully, to explain the socioeconomic factors that have led to rise in crime and the attempts by some members of society to reclaim their sense of provider and protector in a post industrial economy that has disenfranchised a great many people. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A timely subject, but no new information presented here...By 1wayticket2WYAs a gun owner myself, I appreciate the author's attempt at contributing to the conversation about guns and gun owners in America. Unfortunately she tries too hard to force a narrative that suggests most gun owners are altruistic do-gooders that carry primarily to protect their fellow citizens from evil. Between the author's personal bias and the corresponding bias in selecting her "sample" of subjects, the information presented does little to add to the national conversation. To the author's credit, she has demonstrated just how difficult it is for one to be objective when writing about a subject one has strong opinions about. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Must-read book on an issue that gets more important every dayBy David YamaneThe liberalization of laws allowing people to get permits to carry concealed weapons in public is one of the most significant changes in American society in the past 30 years. It would surely surprise many to know that 3-4 out of every 100 adult citizens in the United States is potentially legally armed in public by virtue of these concealed carry permits. Much has been written about this phenomenon by advocates on both sides of the gun debates. Here, for the first time, we have a book length treatment of private citizens (i.e., not LEOs, security, military) who choose to legally carry guns and why they do so. Basing her study on interviews with male gun carriers (legally open and concealed) in the Detroit metro area, observations of firearms training, shooting ranges, and activist events, and her own experience of carrying a gun in public, Carlson begins her explanation on the ground, so to speak. She tries (and in my view succeeds) in understanding why the decision to carry a gun in public makes sense to those who do so. As a sociologist, Carlson also puts that individual decision in a broader social context. She explains the decision to carry a gun as a response to a very broad pattern of socio-economic decline, the feelings of economic and physical insecurity it produces, and related concerns about crime and police ineffectiveness. Carlson sees gun carrying as being strongly connected for men to their cultural conceptions of masculinity. The age of decline Carlson identifies in the book's title has affected men in particular and their role as breadwinners, so male gun carriers reassert their relevance as men by identifying themselves as citizen-protectors (her term, not theirs). With the term "citizen-protectors" Carlson highlights the cultural ideal of personal responsibility and connects it to a broader conception of citizenship among gun carriers. Gun carriers as citizen-protectors are morally upstanding citizens exercising their historically masculine duty to protect their families and others. Full disclosure: I read and commented on an early draft of this book and received a pre-publication copy from Oxford University Press. But I just paid for this book myself, not because I think it is perfect, but because the issue is important and getting more so all the time.

From gang- and drug-related shootings to mass shootings in schools, shopping centers, and movie theatres, reports of gun crimes fill the headlines of newspapers and nightly news programs. At the same time, a different kind of headline has captured public attention: a steady surge in pro-gun sentiment among Americans. A Gallup poll conducted just a month after the Newtown school shootings found that 74% of Americans oppose a ban on hand-guns, and at least 11 million people now have licenses to carry concealed weapons as part of their everyday lives. Why do so many Americans not only own guns but also carry them? In *Citizen-Protectors*, Jennifer Carlson offers a compelling portrait of gun carriers, shedding light on Americans' complex relationship with guns. Delving headlong into the world of gun carriers, Carlson spent time participating in firearms training classes, attending pro-gun events, and carrying a firearm herself. Through these experiences she explores the role guns play in the lives of Americans who carry them and shows how, against a backdrop of economic insecurity and social instability, gun carrying becomes a means of being a good citizen, an idea that not only pervades the NRA's public literature and statements, but its training courses as well. A much-needed counterpoint to the rhetorical battles over gun control, *Citizen-Protectors* is a captivating and revealing look at gun culture in America, and is a must-read for anyone with a stake in this heated debate.

"In this insightful, often eye-popping study, Jennifer Carlson describes how millions of Americans have come to view carrying of concealed guns in public as a civic obligation - and to regard killing in self-defense as a moral act. Whether you embrace these views or find them repugnant, the study will force you to grapple with uncomfortable questions

about the role of the state vs. the individual in maintaining public order." --Kristin A. Goss, Duke University, and co-author of *The Gun Debate: What Everyone Needs to Know*"Carlson's study is the first to take gun carriers seriously as social subjects, a breakthrough in our national discussion of guns, law, and society." --Jonathan Simon, University of California, Berkeley"In this riveting and reflexive ethnography, Jennifer Carlson locks, loads, and fires a nuanced argument about how guns are used to address problems of social, economic, and physical insecurities in the United States. The findings compel the reader to reflect on the ubiquitous and embodied American culture of self-reliance, racialized criminalization, and vigilantism." --Victor Rios, University of California, Santa Barbara and author of *Punished*"... a timely, well-written, jargon-free, nuanced book on why millions of Americans carry guns and view themselves as models of good citizenship... Gun supporters and gun opponents will be challenged by this sophisticated work." --CHOICE"I recommend this book. Carlson serves to enhance this body of literature, pursuing the menacing and challenging questions central to the most relevant concerns and social issues today. This book is not just for academics. Anyone with a general interest in gun culture and related debates should find this book to be of value. It's a worthwhile read." --Jim D. Taylor, Ohio University Zanesville, *American Journal of Sociology*About the AuthorJennifer Carlson is an American sociologist at the University of Toronto. She is an authority on the issue of guns, and has written widely on the topic, including in the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Christian Science Monitor*.