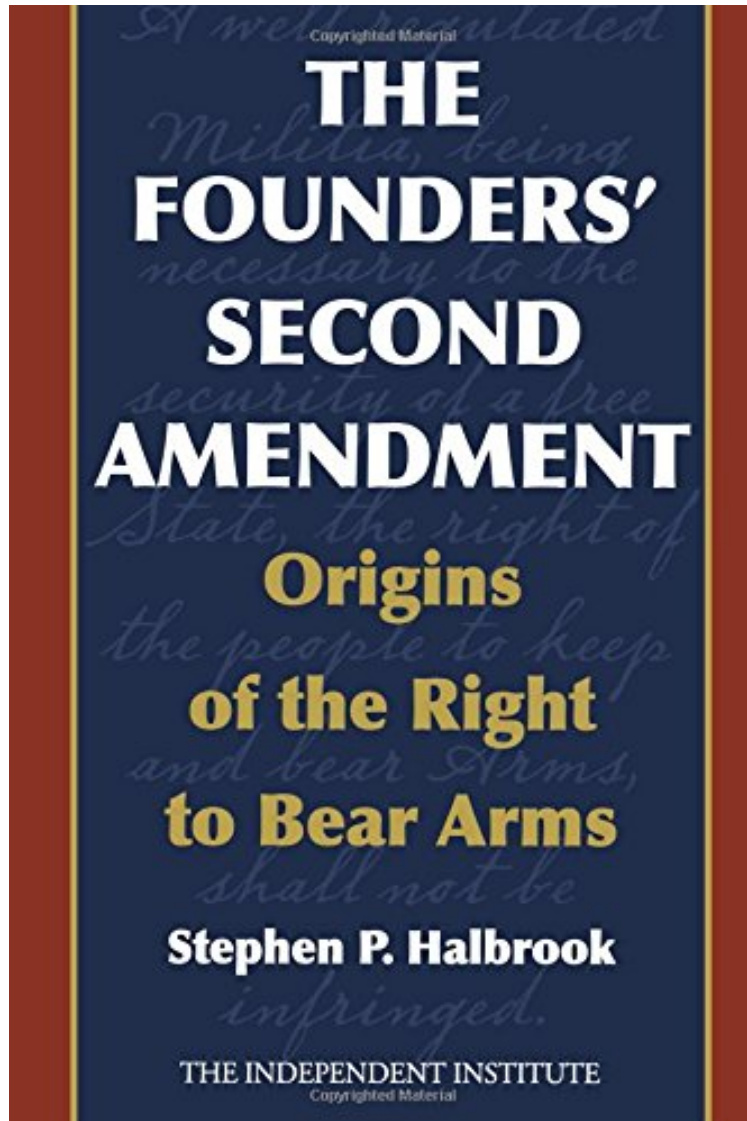


(Download free pdf) The Founders' Second Amendment: Origins of the Right to Bear Arms (Independent Studies in Political Economy)

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Stephen P. Halbrook

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Stephen P. Halbrook : The Founders' Second Amendment: Origins of the Right to Bear Arms (Independent Studies in Political Economy) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Founders' Second Amendment: Origins of the Right to Bear Arms (Independent Studies in Political Economy):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Right to Keep Bear Arms is what made America free and prosperous. By Robert G. Heinritz, Jr. I've been a follower of history, civil-rights, and the U.S. Constitution for many years. Steve Halbrook is among the top 10 scholars of our generation. All his books are worth reading, and keeping around for reference. An independent America was the last thing most Colonists wanted in 1770. The English subjects of the New World during this time were the freest, most prosperous people in the world, more so than most Englishmen in their mother-country, Great Britain. This was based in part on the freedoms they valued as Englishmen, their right to pursue any trade or endeavor they chose, and benefit from their own efforts. They were proud to be Englishmen, and valued their rights as defined in the English Bill of Rights of 1689. Few would have ever wanted to sever their relationship with their Mother Country. The Seven Years War (1754-1763) - Americans commonly call it the French Indian War - opened up the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys to English settlements. There were issues between the British Crown and English Colonies regarding how to fund, govern, and protect the new frontier to the west. Most of the issues could have been negotiated and resolved peacefully. But the intransigence of the Crown, and a series of arrogant and oppressive rulings by the King and Parliament against the New World colonies, exacerbated the dispute. The Founders of the United States - some liberal, some conservative - attempted to reason with George III (1738-1820), King of Great Britain. They learned their Sovereign would not tolerate ideas, concepts, or evidence that differed from their Kings royal decrees and beliefs. King George was offended with his subjects effrontery in the New World, and sent General Thomas Gauge with an army of 3,000 armed troops to Boston to do exactly what the British did in Ireland and other British colonies; disarm all subjects, take control of commerce and trade, expropriate property, censor contrary publications, and enslave the population. Slavery was the word the Founders used. They were serious. These were learned men who were by and large well-schooled in history, politics, philosophy, and economics. They studied carefully which governments seemed to work, and why others failed. They knew throughout history that disarming the population was the first step to slavery. American settlers of the English Colonies saw themselves as liberal, and believed King George and the British Parliament were trampling on their rights as Englishmen. Efforts by the First and Second Continental Congress to peacefully resolve the conflict were summarily rejected by King George. It wasn't until April 18, 1775, when General Gauge, under orders from the King, sent 700 armed British Regulars - with reinforcements ultimately 1,700 British troops - to Trenton and Concord to confiscate arms of the Colonists, that a shooting-war began.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book By James Coyne Excellent book, providing the historical background for the creation of the 2nd Amendment. The book delves into the events thinking of not only the times and people in the Revolutionary War era but also looks at the phenomenology of reason behind early English law and popular thinking. This is all the basis of how our early American ancestors looked at the world, and helps us understand why firearm proficiency ownership was so vital. Both in terms of helping secure the states and the country as a whole but also for personal security. After reading the book it's clear that our Founding Fathers intended the citizens of this country to have the right to bear arms. They couldn't imagine all that implies in the modern world, but that is somewhat beside the point of the book and of their way of thinking. We have the right to bear arms, per their desire. It is up to us, as law-abiding and sane citizens, to live up to that responsibility. It's a heavy ideal, but one that this country's forefathers fought to secure, just as they fought to secure all of our rights.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great account of the intent of the founders regarding the 2nd amendment By kyacker Carefully researched volume with assertions and conclusions validated with facts, references and historical accounts. By quoting out of context, an author can make any assertion he wants; there is none of that in this in depth account of the lives and statements of the founders of our nation. Very broad coverage; many historical characters in the writing of state constitutions and the conventions at a national level who are not commonly covered in the history we traditionally read are credited here.

Stephen P. Halbrook's *The Founders' Second Amendment* is the first book-length account of the origins of the Second Amendment, based on the Founders' own statements as found in newspapers, correspondence, debates, and resolutions. Mr. Halbrook investigates the period from 1768 to 1826, from the last years of British rule and the American Revolution through to the adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and the passing of the Founders' generation. His book offers the most comprehensive analysis of the arguments behind the drafting and adoption of the Second Amendment, and the intentions of the men who created it.

From Publishers Weekly The U.S. Supreme Court's recent hearing of arguments in *District of Columbia v. Heller* which may overturn the capital's ban on handgun signals a general re-evaluation of the Second Amendment. The trend is toward an unlimited individual right rather than a restricted, collective one applying only to government militias. Halbrook, a research fellow at the Independent Institute in California, is firmly of the former school and investigates the nature of the ideas underlying the Second Amendment during the Revolutionary generation (between 1768 and 1826). How did the founders regard the issue of gun control? What prompted them to define the right to bear arms as fundamental, second only to freedom of speech? Basing his research on contemporary newspapers, political resolutions and private correspondence, Halbrook delves deeply into the importance of firearms during the Revolution,

finding that attempts by search-and-seizure to control the flow of guns was regarded as the typical tyrannical behavior of a standing army. Liberty hinged on free ownership. While readers might disagree with some of Halbrook's historical interpretations, his book should be welcomed as a timely introduction to this most contentious of debates. (June Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Stephen Halbrook's *The Founders' Second Amendment* is first-rate work, utterly convincing. This is a solid and important work. (Forrest McDonald, University of Alabama; author of *We the People*) I enthusiastically recommend Stephen Halbrook's book, *The Founder's Second Amendment*. This is an original and valuable approach, focusing on the place of individual ownership of firearms during the time of the American Revolution and the drafting and ratification of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. It will add appreciably to the scholarship on the origins and meaning of the Second Amendment. (Joyce L. Malcolm) *The Founder's Second Amendment* is an impressive achievement. Halbrook shows conclusively to any honest mind, both in respect to historical evidence and analytical jurisprudence, that the Framers intended the Second Amendment not as the reserved right of a State government to organize a militia, but of the people as individuals to keep and to bear arms. In this meticulously researched and exhaustive study, Halbrook has produced what promises to be the standard work for years to come on the original intent of the Second Amendment. It will be an invaluable resource for scholars of the Constitution. (Donald W. Livingston, emeritus professor of philosophy, Emory University) Stephen Halbrook's *The Founders' Second Amendment* is crisply written, rich with history, and sure to be valuable to anyone interested in understanding the original meaning of the Second Amendment's right to bear arms. (Glenn Harlan Reynolds) Like much of Halbrook's other excellent work, *The Founders' Second Amendment* is both well-written and full of fascinating details. It will serve as an important resource for professional scholars and interested laypersons. One especially useful aspect of Halbrook's work is that the author so consistently lets a huge variety of original sources speak for themselves. (Nelson Lund) Historian and philosopher Stephen Halbrook is the single most prolific researcher on the Second Amendment, having contributed literally dozens of scholarly articles on various aspects of the subject. *The Founders' Second Amendment* masterfully both extends and summarizes his (and others') research. It is the last word the single most comprehensive work on the thinking of the Founding Fathers' era about the constitutional right of citizens to be armed. (Don B. Kates) The subject of *The Founders' Second Amendment* is currently 'front-and-center' as a 'hot' and major controversy. Well researched and well presented, Halbrook's book has brought forward a substantial amount of new research, not redundant of what others have provided, and this book will find a solid place among leading works on the subject. (William W. Van Alstyne) A timely introduction to this most contentious of debates. (Publishers Weekly) The book is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to form a knowledgeable opinion on the meaning, application and reason behind the Second Amendment. (New American) The depth and detail added to source material quotes makes this a fine pick for both college and high school collections strong in American history and politics. (Midwest Book) [Halbrook] covers the Second Amendment's historical underpinnings from 1768-1826, and so offers readers a rich interpretive framework from which to grasp the U.S. Supreme Court's (conservative) decision in June 2008 . . . affirming the constitutional right of individuals to keep guns at home. (CHOICE) Stephen P. Halbrook's new book represents the most careful and well-thought-out study yet in support of the politically ascendant claim that the Second Amendment, as originally intended and understood, protects a right to own guns for purposes other than service in the lawful militia. (William G. Merkel *American Historical*)

About the Author Stephen B. Halbrook is Research Fellow at The Independent Institute and received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and a Ph.D. in social philosophy from Florida State University. His other books include *That Every Man Be Armed: The Evolution of a Constitutional Right*; *Freedmen, the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Right to Bear Arms*; *Firearms Law Deskbook*; and *A Right to Bear Arms*.