

Fall 12-5-2018

Thoughts and Prayers

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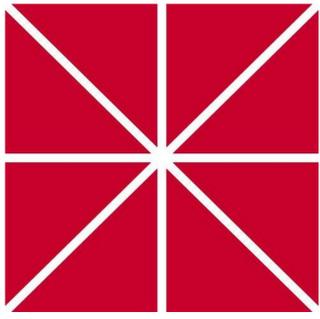
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Recommended Citation

Kardasopoulos, Chloe, "Thoughts and Prayers" (2018). *Student Scholar Symposium Abstracts and Posters*. 293.
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THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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The Gun Motif in American Literature

The American Gun Influencing its Possessor

The Symbolic Gun Influencing Human Decision-Making

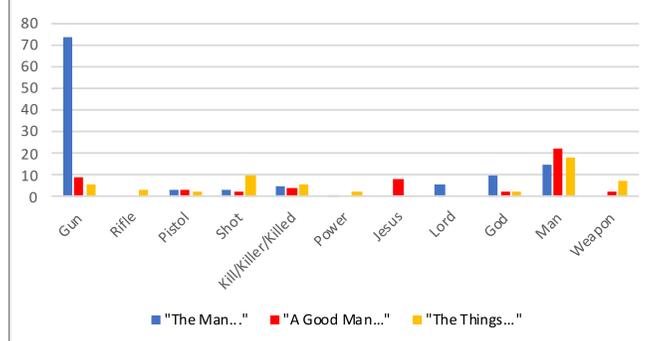
- Afterward, when the firing ended... They would touch their bodies, feeling shame, then quickly hiding it... try to smile, **clear their throats and spit and begin cleaning their weapons**" (O'Brien 379-8).
- "The first movement he made the following morning was to reach under his pillow for the gun. In the gray light of dawn he held it loosely, **feeling a sense of power**" (Wright 5).
- The Misfit kept scratching in the ground with the butt of his gun as if he were thinking about it. "Yes'm, **somebody is always after you,**" he murmured" (O'Connor 8).

American Exceptionalism and American Anxiety

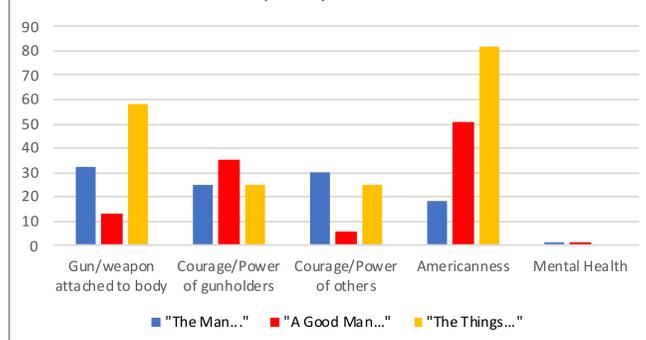
Gun Protects Superiority from Possibility of Inferiority

- Soldiers **"killed and died, because they were embarrassed not to"** and what "brought them to war in the first place" was "no dreams of glory or honor, just to avoid the blush of dishonor" (O'Brien 381).
- "Lawd, ef Ah **had jus one mo bullet** Ah'd taka shot at tha house. Ah'd like t scare of man Hawkins jusa little ... **Jusa enough t let im know Dave Saunders is a man**" (Wright 10).
- "Jesus was the only One that ever raised the dead... and if He didn't, then it's nothing for you to do but **enjoy the few minutes you got left** the best way you can **by killing somebody** or burning down his house or doing some other meanness to him" (O'Connor 10).

Word Frequency in American Literature

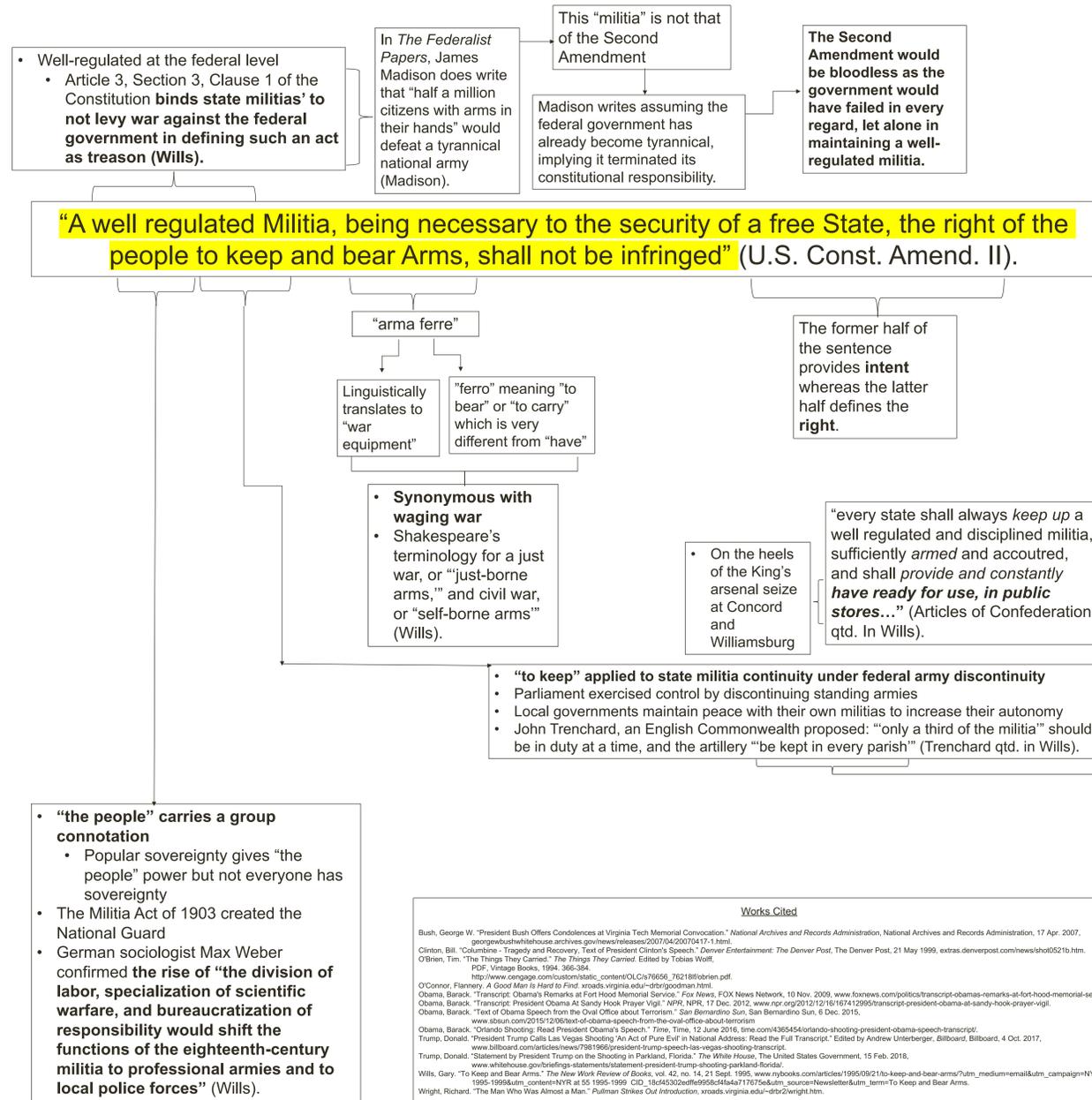


References Frequency in American Literature



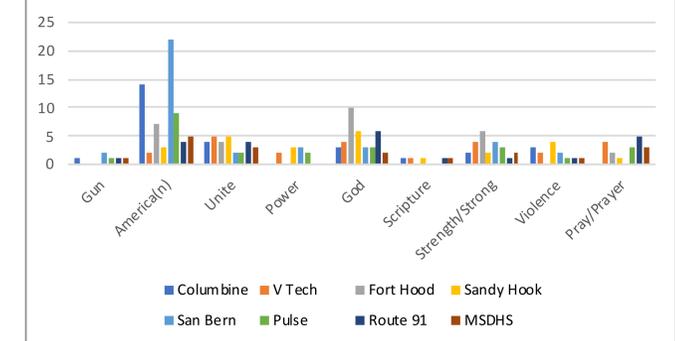
The Second Amendment

If the Second Amendment cannot defend private gun ownership, the American sacredness of the Constitution can. Within the tangible gun lies the intangible Gun. Owning a gun in the United States of America has detached from its primary purpose and latched onto the concept of American power. The tangible object carries the weight of American values; this nation cannot eliminate the abstract attachment from the weapon when national identity is at stake. Contemporary arguments for federal gun control cannot override national lobbies for gun rights. Because the Gun's identity intertwines with the genesis of American heritage, the Gun debate necessitates a debate about American identity.

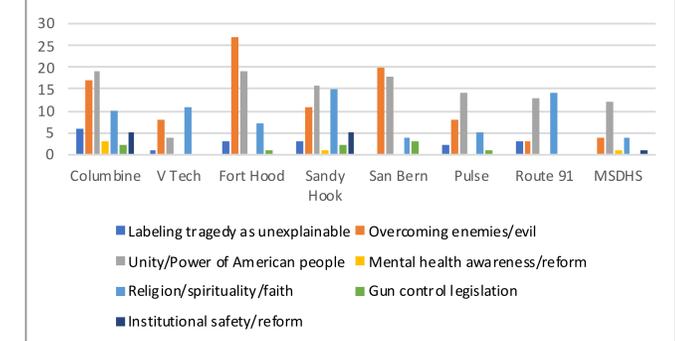


Presidential Eulogies after Mass Shootings

Word Frequency in Eulogy



References Frequency in Eulogy



Labeling Mass Shootings as Unexplainable

- Remedy with Religion to Protect the Gun from Blame
 - "In the **Scriptures**, Saint Paul says that all of us in this life see through a glass darkly. So **we must walk by faith, not by sight**" (Clinton 1999).
 - "There's a **power in these prayers**, real power. In times like this, we can find comfort in the grace and guidance of a loving God" (Bush 2007).
 - "And instead of claiming God for our side, we remember Lincoln's words, and always **pray to be on the side of God**" (Obama 2009).
 - Scripture** tells us: "...do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away...inwardly we are being renewed day by day... **So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen**" (Obama 2012).
 - "So long as we stay **true to that tradition**, I have no doubt that America will prevail. Thank you. God bless you. And **may God bless the United States of America**" (Obama 2015).
 - "Say a prayer for them and say a prayer for their families—that **God give them the strength to bear the unbearable**" (Obama 2016).
 - "We pray for the entire nation to find unity and peace, and **we pray for the day when evil is banished** and the innocent are safe from hatred and from fear" (Trump 2017).
 - "In these moments of heartache and darkness, **we hold on to God's word in Scripture**: "I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you" (Trump 2018).

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