Thoughts and Prayers

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The American Exceptionalism and American Anxiety

The American Gun Influencing its Possessor

• The Symptomatic Gun Influencing Human Decision-Making
  - “…after the firing ended… They would touch their bodies, feeling their shame, then quickly hiding it. They would bruise their faces, clear their throats and spit, then begin cleaning their weapons…” (O’Brien 2017).
  - “…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 2017).

American Exceptionalism and American Anxiety

• Gun Protects Superiority from Possibility of Inferiority
  - “…the gun protects the superior from the possibility of inferiority” (O’Brien 2017).

The Gun Motif in American Literature

• Thinking about it. “…”
  - “…of some one else” (Wright 2017).
  - “…of others” (Wright 2017).

Word Frequency in American Literature

• “The Man…”
  - “…A Good Man…”
  - “…The Things…”

References Frequency in American Literature

• Licence/Arms
  - “…the license of arms” (Wright 2017).

American Exceptionalism and American Anxiety

• The Second Amendment
  - “…the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed” (U.S. Const. Amend. II).

The Second Amendment

• Well-regulated at the federal level
  - “…Article 3, Section 3, Clause 1 of the Constitution binds state militias to levy war against the federal government in defining such an act as treason (Wills).”

• Synonymous with waging war
  - “…Shakespeare’s terminology for a just war, or ‘just-armed’ arms,” and civil war, or ‘self-armed arms’ (Wills).”

• “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed” (U.S. Const. Amend. II).”

The Second Amendment

• Mediation assumes the federal government has already become tyrannical, implying it terminated its constitutional responsibility.
  - “…This ‘militia’ is not that of the Second Amendment” (Wills).

• The Second Amendment would have failed in every regard, let alone in maintaining a well regulated militia.
  - “…the former half of the sentence provides intent whereas the latter half defines the right.”

Presidential Eulogies after Mass Shootings

Word Frequency in Eulogy

• Columbine
  - “…V-Tech…”
  - “…Fort Hood…”

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 2009).

• “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 pray to be on the side of Good” (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).

• “Stay a prayer for them and say a prayer for their families—and God give them the strength to bear the unbearable” (Osama, 2018).

• “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 fear” (Trump, 2017).

• “In these moments of heartache and darkness, we hold up to God’s word in Scripture…” (Trump, 2018).