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**A Comparative Analysis of Gun Reform Policies
and Rhetoric under Four U.S. Presidents:
George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump
and Joe Biden.**

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Requirements for the Master's Degree**

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Dedication

First, we want to dedicate this work to our families, our parents, brothers and sisters
But this dissertation is also dedicated to ourselves! Together we relied on our strengths
and determination. Together we overcame challenges, difficulties, and obstacles. We
dedicate this work to our collective efforts, late nights, and the countless hours that we
spent researching and analyzing. May this dissertation be a testament to our self-belief and
pride that will always motivate us to achieve more in the future insha allah.

Acknowledgement

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Abstract

This dissertation deals with one of the most prominent and widely discussed topics in the United States since the issuance of the Second Amendment to the US Constitution, which guaranteed the freedom to own weapons by the American people by Congress, on September 25, 1789. The significance of this topic lies in its relevance to public safety.

The dissertation seeks to shed light on the two conflicting approaches under the presidency of the four United States presidents: George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden. It evaluates the effectiveness of their different policies, through analyzing speeches and attitudes towards gun control and gun laws. Since the presidents belong to two conflicting parties, the Republican and Democratic parties, this research aims to give a better understanding of the role of partisanship in the policy implementation of gun reforms and analyzing the power of presidential rhetoric that can deeply show how policy initiatives are shaped, received, and implemented in a politically polarized environment.

This study seeks also to provide a comparison between the rhetoric of the presidents, in addition to an analysis of the rhetoric and symbolism employed by them in their speeches. The latter elements are believed to make the impact of their rhetoric on public perception and policy outcomes clear and helps in understanding the strategies used by every president.

Key Words: The Second Amendment, Policies, Rhetoric, Public Safety, Partisanship.

List Of Abbreviations :

CDC : The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NRA : The National Rifle Association

NFA : National Futures Association

FFA : Future Farmers of America

GCA : The Gun Control Act of 1968

NICS : The National Instant Criminal Background Check System

PLCAA : The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

USA : The United States of America

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General Introduction

1. Background and Statement of the Problem:

The most fundamental human right, the right to life, is threatened by gun violence, a problem that affects the entire world today. It substantializes through violent instances like homicide, mass shooting, and suicide. The issue has been commonplace in The United States of America since the drafting of the Second Amendment to the country's constitution, which states: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed upon in any manner because the security of a free state depends upon a well-regulated militia" (The Bill of Rights). The founding fathers believed that carrying arms was necessary for citizens to avoid tyranny and fight crime. Hence, the existence of such amendment have not been questioned until modern days in USA, in which its population began to realize that this law's harm may outweigh its benefits, especially after the increase in incidents of mass shootings.

Rejecting the Amendment in a society that has incorporated the right to holding arms into its culture can especially be problematic. American culture is built upon a love for hunting and decorating walls of houses with expensive rifles. Above all, Americans are convinced that owning arms can contribute to their safety, which the government has proved incapable of maintaining.

Consequently, the country has been facing the dire consequences of such laws. Mass shootings, which were once a rare occurrence, occur in an unprecedented frequency, resulting in extreme levels of panic and anxiety among American citizens. School shooting, in particular, has become among the most notable examples of mass shooting incidents in the US. It is described as a "uniquely American crisis", like many other gun-related episodes of violence in the US. Despite the seriousness of the issue, the

government could not reduce the frequency of these occurrences because of the second amendment and the idol of partisanship.

Mortality rates of children and adolescents in the U.S. have been majorly caused by gun violence (Keating). As for the ethnicities that are mostly affected by the issue, African Americans who only constituted 13% of the general population in 2010, suffered a disproportionate share of firearm homicides. Indeed, 50% of the casualties of gun homicide were African Americans (Impact of Gun Violence on Black Americans | Everytown Research & Policy)

In 2017, African Americans between the age of 15 and 34 were the most common victims of firearm homicide in the US, with 81 deaths per 100,000 individuals. Non-Hispanic white people comprised 65% of the country's population in 2010, but only 25% of the victims, while Hispanics, being 16% of the population in 2010, comprised around 17% of victims.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 45000 deaths were recorded as a result of gun-related violence in the U.S. in 2020 (Gramlich). The 19,384 gun murders that took place in 2020 were more than any record since 1968. According to the data from the Gun Violence Archive, 417 mass shootings took place in the United States by the end of 2019. The FBI noted the increase in active shootings between 2000 and 2020: in 2000, only three incidents occurred; however, by 2020, that figure had significantly increased (Gramlich). The past three years witnessed more than 600 mass shootings, with an average of approximately two shootings per day.

The increase in gun violence made this issue one of the most difficult problems that the United States has faced to this today. Therefore, many Americans are demanding issuing new practical steps to reduce gun crime. The incessant crimes in American streets, which exposes millions of Americans to danger as these shooting and suicide incidents

cannot be predicted. Children, youth and even the elderly are equally subject to harm resulting from these incidents. The cause of the issue is the relatively easy access to high-powered lethal weapons, which the lack of gun-control policies has aggravated. As a result, gun violence has become the most controversial topics in the policy arena.

Stricter gun safety policies that necessitate the safe storage of guns and stringent background checks can help limit the issue. After all, the weapons that offenders use in their shooting are legally authorized. Furthermore, most of the arrested criminals or suicide attempters were citizens with backgrounds that attest for having psychological problems and mental issues. Others with drug and alcohol addiction issues can also be particularly untrustworthy to give such authorization. Authorizing gun-acquisition for such individuals subjects them and other citizens to the direct threat of gun-violence. Comprehensibly, such issues are widely discussed in the public sphere in the U.S, leading to attempts to push for new reforms and gun-acquisition laws that can attenuate the severity of the threat that this issue results in.

In the political sphere, the debate surrounding the issue has been a cause for its prolongation. The opposition from several parties made controlling gun violence extremely difficult (the Xavier Writing Program) . Some liberalists, on the other hand, has tried to push for reforms that would change some gun-related laws, although they continuously failed because of supporters of gun-acquisition. Research has equally addressed the issue of gun violence and required reforms to control it. It has pointed to the stirring debate between the two dominant parties. On the one hand liberalists defend limiting weapon-acquisition and strengthening laws against it. On the other hand, conservatives defend the right to gun-holding relentlessly and loosening the current minor restrictions on gun possession and acquisition, based on the argument that it has been made lawful by the Second Amendment to the country's institution.

In an era marked by deep divisions between the different ideologies of the major parties, Republicans and Democrats, the partisan divisions on whether gun violence is a serious national problem have grown wider over the past years. This division is represented in the different opinions within the parties which are supported in either case by the American people. Among the Democratic advocates, approximately 81 percent support the restriction of gun-holding and possession, which is supported by 53 percent of the American population. In the Republican party only 20 percent of the members support and advocate for stricter laws regarding the issue (Nadeem, 1).

This constant division has made it difficult to eliminate the issue, at a time in which many countries have swiftly dealt with it. For example, New Zealand issued stricter gun laws following the deadly mass shooting of Muslims inside a mosque in Christchurch on March 2019. The government announced the implementation of a ban on semi-automatic and assault rifles, and within less than a month the prime minister and the New Zealand register were able to change gun laws. Conversely, while the U.S. was continuously expected to act similarly after facing dozens of mass shootings, no actual measures were taken against it.

The issue has become recurrent in the public sphere due to this contentious prioritizing of gun ownership by the U.S. government over basic human rights. The reasons behind the obstruction of the implementation of effective gun reforms have also been widely questioned. As the quote states, “the US government is prioritizing gun ownership over basic human rights. There are shockingly few government restrictions that could prevent gun violence despite the enormous number of weapons in use and the vast number of people killed by guns each year” (Amnesty International). Hence, the issue of neglecting the abovementioned basic human right, and the incessant apathy of American politicians towards an issue that threatens the internal security of the U.S. to this day needs

to be examined. This dissertation argues that some of the reasons behind, and implications of, the current state with regards to the absence of a gun control policy can be detected in the presidential discourse since President George Bush and in the partisanship related to it.

2. Research Questions:

Our study aims at addressing the following main question:

- Given the incessant problem of gun laws in the U.S., what reforms have taken place with regards to it since 2000?

To properly address this question, the following secondary questions are also asked:

- What legacy of presidents George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden regarding gun-control laws?
- What role did partisanship played in gun-control policies?
- What does the presidential discourse on gun-control policies imply with regard to the issue?

3. Research Aim and Objectives:

This research aims to investigate the policies of gun law reform under the leadership of four U.S. presidents: George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden. By addressing the abovementioned questions, this dissertation's main objective is to provide a comparative analysis of gun-control policies and rhetoric under the four U.S. presidents since Bush. This objective will be attained through the following steps:

- First by tracing the presidential legacy of the four said U.S. presidents, a clearer perspective on the development that has taken place in relation to these policies will be provided.
- Furthermore, exploring the role of partisanship in shaping gun-control policies will be accomplished through examining the activity of the major parties during the identified period with regard to the issue. It will reveal how partisanship contributed to either

advancing or obstructing gun-control laws amidst the critical danger that uncontrolled gun possession exposes American citizens to.

- Moreover, this research will uncover the implications of the presidential discourse on gun-control policies through analyzing the rhetoric and symbolism that these discourses entail.

4. Significance:

The discourse surrounding gun possession and control is an interesting topic even when discussed from a superficial perspective; violence, especially against groups of people, can easily become sensationalized. The politicians, knowing this, take advantage of such events to push various agendas. The politicization of gun violence and preventative approaches is a relatively modern phenomenon, and the polarization observed today in the U.S. with regard to it has come to a point such that even the concept of “gun control” is rarely approached without ideological bias.

Our data consists of articles, interviews, and campaign speeches that will help to formulate a better understanding of this issue. The result of this study will be valuable to future researchers as it will help them to know more about this issue and develop a better understanding of gun policies especially between 2001 and 2023. In addition, it will benefit those who are interested in identifying what gun reform is and why is it still a problem, and in addressing what factors are involved in the debate on gun control and reform in the U.S.

5. Dissertation Structure:

The present dissertation is divided into a general introduction, and two chapters. The general introduction includes a brief background of the topic and the research question and objectives. Also, it involves a brief explanation of the significance of this research, and an overview of the dissertation structure. The first chapter will provide a

review of the relevant literature on gun reform policies in the U.S., on gun control and partisanship, in addition to a section on the methodology, which will delineate the methods and approaches used in data collection and analysis for this research.

The second chapter provides an analysis of gun reform policies and rhetoric. It will be divided into three sections. First, an overview of the rhetoric used by the presidents George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden, to address the issue of gun control policy will be provided. The second section of this chapter will provide an analysis of gun reform policies, in which light will be shed on the gun policies under the four presidents comparing policies under the four presidents. They will then be compared, and their effectiveness will be evaluated separately. The role of partisanship in gun-policy implementation will also be examined in this section. The final section of the chapter will contain the rhetorical analysis of gun reform through comparing the rhetoric used by the four presidents. An analysis of the language and symbolism used in their speeches and public statements will be performed, and the common themes and differences in rhetoric will be identified. The dissertation will close with the conclusion drawn from the analysis and limitations to it. It will also provide implications for future research and policy-making.

Chapter One: "Tracing the Gun Reform Landscape: Analyzing Previous Studies, Partisanship, and the Policy Approaches of Four U.S. Presidents"

Introduction: For many years, the topic of gun regulation has sparked heated discussion in the United States, as the country grapples with the challenges of balancing individual rights and public safety. This chapter sets out on a trip to track the history of gun reform measures, looking at the impact of past research on gun control as well as the impact of partisanship on the debate. Furthermore, we thoroughly examine the policy initiatives of four US Presidents in order to acquire a better understanding of their efforts to handle this sensitive subject. We hope to provide a complete analysis of the varied terrain of gun control in America by diving into these issues.

1. Literature Review:

1.1 Overview of Gun Reform Policies in the U.S.:

Gun control is policy that is implemented to reduce, or to prevent and restrict, the possession or use of guns and firearms. The term Gun control, or firearms' regulation, also refers to the set of laws, legal measures and policies that regulate the manufacture, sale, transfer, possession, modification, or use of firearms by civilians (Key Federal Regulation Acts | Giffords). Gun violence became a real issue in the American society that led to considering legal ways to reduce it without touching the second amendment.

The majority of industrialized nations have tough and clear firearms laws. But in others like the U.S., it became a political issue that is specially dominating the relationship between parties and associations like the NRA. While some of them see it as a necessity for public safety because the government cannot protect everyone against those who view it as a personal liberty and right, gun control is more controversial issue in the USA than

any other country in the world. Among the developed nations, the United States has by far the greatest rate of homicides committed with a handgun. Increased gun control advocates contend that doing so will save lives and reduce crime, while its opponents contend that it will have the opposite effect by preventing law-abiding residents from defending themselves against armed criminals.

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which states that "The right of the people to keep and carry arms is protected because "[a] well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, shall not be infringed" In the context of the American gun control debate, (the Bill of Rights) must also be properly. Up until the early 21st century, most U.S. courts had interpreted the first clause of the amendment (the preamble) to guarantee either the right of states to maintain militias or the right of individuals to "keep and bear arms" in connection with their service in a state militia. This interpretation was in line with a wide range of existing restrictions on individual gun ownership and use (Congress).

Although many Americans agree that the government has the right to control firearms for the sake of public safety, they still support the freedom to bear arms. In spite of partisan divides, a 2021 Pew Research survey revealed that 53% of Americans thought gun control measures should be stricter and 14% thought they should be less strict (Nadeem). Gun rights organizations like the National Rifle Association (NRA) work to stop new gun control laws from being passed and, if at all possible, roll them back. The NRA started to exert major political influence in the late 20th century, particularly among conservative politicians on both the national and state levels. Brady, Giffords, and Every town for Gun Safety, among other gun control advocacy groups, have worked to pass legislation to better regulate gun ownership, including requirements for waiting periods,

background checks, gun permits, gun safety training, and limitations on the possession of assault weapons.

1.1.1. Court cases and significant legislation from the 20th century:

The US Congress has passed laws governing the possession of firearms, and the Supreme Court has rendered decisions in various cases. The nation's first significant federal gun control law was the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934. The law placed restrictions on the sale and ownership of high-risk weapons, such as machine guns, and mandated the registration of some firearms. It also levied taxes on the manufacture and sale of firearms. Additional laws were created by the Federal Firearms Act (FFA) of 1938, which forbade some people from purchasing firearms and required federal permits for gun makers and dealers. The National Firearms Act was upheld by the Supreme Court in *United States v. Miller* (1939), set a precedent that the right to bear arms applied to citizens in active, controlled state guard or militia units.

The Gun Control Act (GCA) of 1968, which was enacted in the wake of the killings of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Dr Martin Luther King Jr., was the next significant piece of federal gun control legislation. The NFA and the FFA were both expanded by the GCA. The law prohibited the sale of guns to those who use illegal substances, have mental illnesses, are minors, fugitives from justice, are felons, or have been dishonorably discharged from the military. It also ended mail-order sales of all firearms and ammunition. In *Burton v. Sills* (1969) and *Lewis v. United States* (1980), the Supreme Court strengthened regulations by upholding the strong gun control laws of New Jersey and the federal ban on criminals possessing firearms, respectively.

However, many GCA limitations were loosened by the Firearms Owners' Protection Act (FOPA) of 1986. Gun rights activists praised FOPA for extending the types of people and locations that might sell firearms, but they remained against restrictions on

the creation and ownership of machine guns for civilian use. A permanent prohibition on the importation of assault rifles was proclaimed by the George H.W. Bush administration in 1989. Congress prohibited the production and sale of particular assault weapons with the passing of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994 (commonly known as the Federal Assault Weapons Ban). The embargo ended in 2004.

The GCA was amended in 1993 by the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act. The Brady Act mandated a five-day waiting period before any handgun purchases could take place, during which time all potential buyers would have their backgrounds checked. This solution addressed several of the main concerns of gun control advocates. The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), a database used to confirm a buyer's ability to own a handgun, took the place of this provision after it became ineffective in 1998.

Court Cases and Legislation in the First Decade of the 21st Century The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) and the Child Safety Lock Act of 2005 were passed by Congress in response to lawsuits filed by victims, families of gun violence victims, and other parties. These lawsuits were brought against gun manufacturers and dealers whose products were used to commit crimes. When their products were used in crimes, the first act limited the responsibility of gun makers and dealers. The second legislation mandated the provision of gun storage or safety mechanisms by anyone who was authorized to sell or transfer firearms. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden backed the PLCAA's repeal throughout his 2020 campaign.

The NICS Improvement Amendments Act was passed by Congress in 2007. It was designed to fix flaws in the NICS system that permitted a shooter to purchase a gun despite having a disqualifying mental health status that the state of Virginia had neglected

to report to NICS. On the campus of a Virginia college, he killed himself and 32 other people.

Gun rights advocates have challenged gun restrictions through legislation and federal courts. The Second Amendment forbids the federal government from making it illegal for private citizens to retain loaded handguns in their homes, the US Supreme Court declared in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008). It was the first ruling by the Supreme Court to specifically state that the right to keep and bear arms belongs to an individual. The Second Amendment permits restrictions on the kinds of weapons that can be maintained and how they are used, as the Court's ruling made clear. Bans on assault weapons and certain firearms, like the AR-15 rifle, have been enacted in a number of cities, counties, and states as a result of the Heller decision. The licensing, registration, and possession of firearms are governed by a variety of state and local regulations. For instance, in some places, obtaining a permit to carry a concealed weapon in public requires the applicant to both demonstrate a need and be deemed to be capable of handling a firearm in a safe and responsible manner. Any citizen who is legally entitled to own a firearm is guaranteed a concealed carry permit in other states. Twenty-one states had unrestricted concealed carry laws as of January 2022. The Heller ruling has been cited by numerous courts as justification for allowing concealed carry of weapons.

1.2.Previous Studies on Gun Control and Partisanship:

Gun control is a highly debated issue in the United States that has become increasingly politicized in recent years. The term gun control refers to laws and policies that regulate the sale, ownership, and use of firearms. Supporters of gun control argue that it is necessary to reduce gun violence, while opponents argue that it infringes upon the Second Amendment of the US Constitution, which protects the right to bear arms.

Partisanship, or the strong ideological divide between political parties, has played a significant role in the debate over gun control in the U.S. Generally, Democrats tend to support stricter gun control measures, while Republicans usually oppose them. This partisan divide has been fueled by a range of factors, including differing views on the role of government in regulating firearms, the interpretation of the Second Amendment, and the influence of interest groups such as the National Rifle Association (NRA).

The issue of gun control has become more polarized in recent years, with mass shootings and other high-profile incidents bringing the debate to the forefront of national attention. The highly partisan nature of the debate has made it difficult for lawmakers to pass significant gun control legislations, even in the wake of tragic events. While there is some common ground between the two parties on certain aspects of gun control, such as background checks, the issue remains a highly divisive one in American politics.

A remarkable amount of research was dedicated to understanding the impact of gun control and partisanship on public safety and crime rates. Previous studies on gun control have examined a range of different policies, including background checks, waiting periods, bans on assault weapons, and restrictions on the sale of firearms to people with a history of domestic violence or mental illness.

Many studies have found that gun control measures can be effective in reducing gun violence and preventing mass shootings. For example, research has shown that states with stronger gun control laws tend to have lower rates of firearm-related deaths than states with looser laws. Other studies have suggested that universal background checks, which require all gun buyers to undergo a background check before purchasing a firearm, can help prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands. However, the effectiveness of gun control policies remains a contentious issue, with some studies producing conflicting results. Some critics of gun control argue that it violates the Second Amendment to the

United States Constitution, which guarantees the right to bear arms, and that it could infringe upon individual freedoms.

Despite the ongoing debate, previous studies have provided valuable insights into the potential impact of gun control policies and have helped inform public policy decisions aimed at promoting public safety and reducing gun violence. Hence, this study seeks to help in filling the gap left by some previous studies on the relationship to gun control and partisanship.

1.2.1.Gun Control:

Many studies on gun control in the U.S. found that gun violence dates back to issuing of the II amendment of the US Constitution. This amendment provided for the right of citizens to bear arms, after the introduction of the Second Amendment, little has been done to issue strict laws to reduce the risks that may result from allowing individuals to bear arms. In her dissertation entitled *Gun Control in the United States: A Unique Case in the Western World*, Giulia Brieda writes:

The gun debate arises from the fact that, following on the implementation of the II Amendment, no severe regulations on gun control have been brought about, leaving the United States with few gun laws that are not sufficient to stop the rise of gun violence in the country (Breida 15).

The gun debate in the United States is a result of the Second Amendment's restricted limits on gun control, which has resulted in few comprehensive policies to effectively counteract escalating gun violence. Balancing constitutional rights and public safety is a difficult job for lawmakers. The Second Amendment, one of the ten amendments to the U.S. constitution, states that "a well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep arms, shall not be infringed" (The Bill of Rights).

This dissertation showed that this sentence is confusing, explaining what made it a subject of debate and what conflicting interpretations may suggest. The contemporary discussions present two interpretations of the statement. The first of which is an interpretation of the opponent of gun possession. It suggests that the Second Amendment gives everyone a grant to keep and carry weapons as they please.

The Second Amendment contributed to developing and shaping the gun policy in the U.S. which resulted in friction between the Republicans and the Democrats. It also shaped public opinion with regard to the issue, which also sharply divided the public between supporting the two parties (Lee 50). The National Rifle Association(NRA) also played a major role in influencing the issue. The association is a “gun rights advocacy group” (National Rifle Association). The association was founded in the late 19th century to encourage safe marksmanship. Despite its rejection of partisanship, it has been, however, more leaning towards one of the parties.

In comparison with the case of Canada, Julia Lee indicated that the American people feel responsible for protecting themselves because they do not trust the government and the army with their lives (9). Even an organization like NRA has not gained people’s trust despite its continuous claims that it supports the Amendment because for the people’s own safety. In fact, what maintains NRA is the donations that arm factories provide it with to protect their interests in the country (52).

In *The Effectiveness of Gun Control, Legislation: A Comparative Study*, Charles K. Poliseno focuses on the hypothesis that gun violence does not originate in allowing the possession of arms, but in the twisted intentions of those who possess and use them (1). It draws the relationship between the kind of legislation concerning gun control and the extent to which crime has prevailed in certain states (2). He also evaluated the extent to which gun control laws resulted in maintaining the safety of citizens. The results of the

study indicate that the perpetrators who committed mass shootings usually did with the intention of breaking the law. Most of these were individuals with negative backgrounds that did not require a license to get arms and commit their crimes (16).

Poliseno's work also presents a comparison between opponent and proponent arguments about gun control issues in the U.S. The first study from which his analysis was inferred was taken from a 2013 article in the American Journal of Public Health (11). The study relates the increasing gun ownership in households with the growing risk of gun-related crime in the U.S. The second study, on the other hand, is opposed to gun control legislation (12). The data collected for the second study sampled cases from all over the world instead of simply addressing the case of the U.S. The conclusion that it drew was generalizable and stated that increasing gun possession did not directly correlate with increased crime (13).

Another example that presents a clear view on the gun control controversy is *The Science Is Clear: Gun Control Saves Lives*, published in *Scientific American* magazine. The article explains that guns present "a public health crisis" akin in outcomes to the COVID crisis. Thus, it should be treated as quickly and efficiently as possible given the threat that it exposes American citizens, young and old, to.

The article indicates also that the United States of America has a current infrastructure through which it can make the use of weapons safer (*The Science is Clear*). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that maintains the safety of citizens on the road can be an example of which similar federal administrations or private agencies can be created to ensure that everyone uses arms safely, and without subjecting other people to danger.

1.2.2.Partisanship:

Over the years, there have been numerous studies exploring the relationship between partisanship and gun control in the United States. Studies consistently point to a strong relationship between partisanship and attitudes toward gun control in the U.S.

One of these studies was a book entitled *The Gun Debate: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Philip J. Cook and Kristin A. Goss. The book provides a neutral and informative analysis of the gun control debate in the United States. While the book covers various aspects of gun policy, including the history of gun ownership and the Second Amendment, it also addresses how partisanship is related to gun control (180-181). The book acknowledges that the gun control debate in the US is highly polarized, with both sides of the debate holding deeply entrenched beliefs and ideologies. It discusses how partisanship and polarization have affected the gun control debate, including the role of interest groups, political parties, and media in shaping public opinion and policy.

The authors also explore how gun ownership and gun violence are often seen through partisan lenses. For example, the book examines the reasons behind these partisan differences and analyzes how they affect the gun debate. As the authors state in this book, partisanship and polarization have significantly shaped the gun debate, with Democrats more likely to support gun control measures and Republicans are more likely to support gun rights (Cook & Kristin 180). Interest groups and media outlets aligned with one side or the other have helped to reinforce these positions (192; 212-213), and politicians have been reluctant to cross party lines on gun issues for fear of alienating their base. This indicates that political affiliation plays a significant role in determining where one stands on the issue, with Democrats generally supporting measures to regulate firearms and Republicans supporting the right to bear arms (180-181).

The Second Amendment: A Biography, by Michael Waldman is also a book that discussed partisanship about the interpretation and politics of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Waldman examines how the issue of gun rights has become increasingly politicized and polarized in recent decades, with the Republican Party generally advocating for broader gun rights and the Democratic Party supporting stricter gun control measures. He also notes how interest groups, such as the National Rifle Association (NRA), have become major players in the political debate over gun rights, using their considerable resources to influence elections and public opinion. Furthermore, the book explores the role of the courts in interpreting the Second Amendment, particularly in landmark cases such as *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *McDonald v. Chicago*. Waldman argues that these cases reflect a growing partisanship in the judiciary, with conservative judges generally favoring a broad interpretation of the Second Amendment and liberal judges supporting greater regulation of firearms.

Crime and Partisanship: How Party ID Muddles Reality, Perception, and Policy Attitudes on Crime and Guns, by Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz and Joshua J. Dyck was published in the *Social Science Quarterly* journal in June 2017. This article explores the relationship between crime and partisanship in the U.S, by focusing on how perceptions of crime and support for policies to address crime vary among adherents to different political parties (443-444). Using data from a national survey, the authors examine how individuals' partisan identification influences their perceptions of crime and their support for various policies to address crime, including gun control measures (452). The article finds that partisanship plays a significant role in shaping perceptions of crime and support for crime policies, with Democrats generally more likely to support gun control measures and Republicans generally more likely to oppose them. The authors also examined how perceptions of crime and support for crime policies are influenced by a range of

demographic and ideological factors, including race, gender, education, and ideology (451-452).

2. Methodology:

2.1. Approaches to the Study:

Since the present research is purely historical and political, the nature of the study imposed the use of a descriptive-analytical approach concurrently with a historical approach. The two approaches are appropriate for the study as they help with retrieving data that will provide the basis for the analysis of previous data regarding the development of the policy-making in relation to the studied issue, and with describing, but also seeking interpretation for, this data.

2.1.1. Analytical Approach:

To interpret the data related to our investigation, this research will conduct an analysis of how the U.S. government has dealt with gun violence, and why the issue is alarming for the country. The analytical approach is a method used for answering how and why a given phenomenon takes place. It is useful for this study which aims to uncover how the American government managed this internal issue. Therefore, we believe that using the analytical approach for this paper is necessary to present credible arguments and more detailed interpretations of the data.

2.1.2. Historical Approach:

The second approach that will be adopted in this research is the historical approach. This is due to its suitability and validity in the process of collecting and evaluating data from the past. The historical approach allows us to examine the background and the development of specific past phenomena, and it enables us to encompass select specific relevant events to the study. Since our research aims to investigate the policy with regard to gun violence, in addition to showing the importance of the historical events that

increased the awareness of the government towards this issue, this approach is particularly significant.

2.1.3 Textual Analysis Approach:

The second approach that will be adopted in this research is the textual analysis approach. It enables an objective comparison of the gun reform policies and rhetoric employed by these presidents. Through analyzing their speeches, statements, and policy documents, researchers gain insights into common themes, variations, and shifts in gun reform approaches throughout their respective presidencies. This method offers a comprehensive understanding of the implementation and emphasis placed on gun reform issues by each leader, shedding light on the broader context of gun control in the United States.

3. On the Policy of the Four Presidents:

The data that was collected for this study consists majorly of excerpts from selected presidential speeches, whose discourse and latent rhetoric will be analyzed. The selected speeches are especially ones that former presidents George Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump, in addition to current President Joe Biden, have made upon gun violence crimes or about these crimes. These were mostly available on the White House's official website. In addition, relevant data about these presidents' general stance on gun control and rights will be presented here, as it will help with their proper analysis. The policies regarding gun violence under the administrations of Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden differ significantly. In what follows each president's stance will be briefly introduced.

3.1. George W. Bush:

During his presidency, George W. Bush's stance on gun control was generally in favor of protecting the Second Amendment, which rights American citizens to bear arms. In

2004, he signed into law the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which prohibited lawsuits against gun manufacturers for the criminal use of their products. This

law provided legal protection for gun manufacturers, making it difficult for victims of gun violence to sue them. In 2007, Bush also signed a bill that made it easier for people with mental illnesses to buy guns by limiting the ability of states to share information with the federal government about those who are not allowed to own firearms. The bill was controversial as it raised concerns about public safety and the potential for guns to fall into the wrong hands. Clearly, Bush's gun policies favored gun rights over gun control measures, making it easier for Americans to buy and use firearms(Garret).

3.2. Barack Obama:

During his presidency, Barack Obama advocated for gun control policies in response to several mass shootings that occurred in the U.S. However, he was faced with significant opposition from Congress, which was particularly led by Republicans. This made it difficult to pass legislation on the issue.

Regardless of that, during Obama's presidency, several gun control legislations were implemented. First, Obama made gun control a top priority(J. Spitzer) after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 (Obama, School Shooting in Newtown). He called for universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and increased funding for mental health services. Additionally, background checks were expanded in 2013(Carlson) , following this mass shooting. President Obama called on Congress to pass legislation that would expand the background checks for gun purchases. While Congress ultimately failed to pass the proposed legislation, Obama took some executive actions to strengthen the background check system. Executive actions were also made to reduce gun violence in 2016(Keneally).

President Obama announced numerous executive steps targeted at curbing gun violence. These actions included expanding background checks, increasing funding for mental health treatment, and improving the enforcement of existing gun laws (Obama, Executive Action on Gun Control).

Obama has also pushed for issuing a ban on certain types of firearms. He supported a ban on assault weapons, which are semi-automatic firearms that have certain military-style features. However, he was unable to get Congress to pass such a ban during his presidency (Scher). Moreover, Obama proposed limits on the amount of ammunition that could be purchased at one time and required dealers to report bulk sales of certain types of ammunition to ATF stands for Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. However, this proposal was also met with significant opposition and did not become law (Lerner).

3.3. Donald Trump:

Notably, Trump was supported by the National Rifle Association (NRA) and generally opposed gun control measures. During Donald Trump's presidency, he generally supported the rights of gun owners and opposed many forms of gun control. His administration took several actions to loosen gun regulations and limit the ability of states and municipalities to pass their gun laws. For example, Trump signed a bill that repealed an Obama-era regulation that made it harder for people with mental illnesses to purchase guns (Robertson). Also, his administration proposed a rule that would have allowed people to carry concealed weapons in national parks, wildlife refuges, and other federal lands, but the rule was blocked by a federal judge. Trump openly rejected several gun control measures, including a ban on assault weapons and expanded background checks. In response to the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, President Trump proposed a plan to allow teachers to carry guns in schools (Merica& Klein). In 2018, Trump signed the Fix NICS Act, which provided funding to improve the

National Instant Criminal Background Check System (Congresswoman Elise Stefanik). Furthermore, Trump also supported banning bump stocks, which allow semi-automatic weapons to fire more rapidly, after the mass shooting in Las Vegas in 2017 (Savage).

In addition, he also expressed support for “red flag” laws, which allowed a temporary removal of firearms from those deemed a threat to themselves or others. Indeed, Trump's presidency was characterized by opposition to gun control measures and support for the rights of gun owners. While some regulations were loosened, many of Trump's proposals were met with significant opposition and did not become law (What Are Red Flag Laws? | Maryland Daily Record).

3.4. Joe Biden:

Although his presidency has only been for two years so far, President Biden has taken issue with gun crimes. He called for a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, universal background checks, and closing the “boyfriend loophole” that allows some domestic abusers to buy guns (BBC News). Biden also supports repealing the law signed by Bush that limits lawsuits against gun manufacturers, which will remove their impunity (White House, Biden New Actions). In addition, current President Biden has called for funding research on gun violence and for providing more resources for mental health treatment, which may both contribute in understanding the phenomenon better and enable its strict control (White House, Biden 13 New Actions).

What can be observed is that the policies regarding gun violence under the administrations of George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden are remarkably different. Obama and Biden have been more proactive in calling for gun control measures, while Bush and Trump have generally opposed such measures, while opting for gun rights.

Conclusion : Investigation of the US gun reform environment demonstrated the delicate interaction of historical trends, research findings, politics, and policy decisions. The current gun control debate needs thorough and realistic solutions that combine individual rights with public safety. We can pave the path for a more educated and productive discourse aimed at tackling the difficulties of gun violence in our society by learning from the past and recognizing the complexity involved.

Chapter Two: Rhetoric and Gun Reform: A Comprehensive Policy Analysis.

Introduction:

This chapter will be divided into two parts. Part one will explore some of the major contributions and leanings of the four U.S. presidents to gun-violence-related policymaking, and how partisanship has impacted the efficiency of the policies that each president has advanced. The second part will discuss rhetorical analysis of gun reform and the analysis of the language and symbolism in the four presidents speeches, then it will be concluded by the analysis of the rhetoric used by the four presidents.

1.Part One:

After examining the brief delineation of the presidents' stances on gun-related violence, presented at the end of the last chapter, this section of the second chapter groups them into two prominent stances on the issue of gun violence.

1.1.Gun Rights:

President George Bush significantly pushed toward strengthening gun rights during his presidency. As a result, several laws were passed that facilitated buying and carrying firearms. However, after the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007, Bush signed the NICS Improvement Amendments Act, which aimed to improve the accuracy and completeness of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) (Rosenberg 111-114).

Similarly, Trump was generally seen as a strong supporter of gun rights and did not propose any significant gun control measures during his presidency. However, after the mass shooting in Parkland, he briefly express support for measures like expanding

background checks and raising the age limit for buying firearms, although he ultimately backed away from those proposals in the face of opposition from the NRA (Shear et al.).

1.2.Gun Control:

President Barack Obama was a strong advocate for gun control. During his presidency, he proposed several measures, such as expanding background checks and banning assault weapons (White House, Now is the Time). However, he continuously faced opposition from Republicans and the gun lobby. Consequently, most of his proposals did become actual legislation. However, Obama managed to use executive action to strengthen background checks and ban the sale of firearms to certain groups, such as those with mental illnesses (Obama, President Obama Announces New Executive Actions to Reduce Violence).

Likewise, Joe Biden has been a long-time advocate for gun control and has proposed several measures, such as expanding background checks, banning assault weapons, and holding gun manufacturers accountable for gun violence (White House, Biden New Actions). He has also expressed support for community-based violence prevention programs and has called for an end to the federal ban on gun violence research. However, like Obama, he faces strong opposition from Republicans and the gun lobby, and it remains to be seen how much of his agenda will become law.

Noteworthy here is that gun violence and gun policy are complex issues that involve a range of factors. Therefore, it is difficult to draw direct comparisons between the policies of different presidents. Additionally, the effectiveness of these policies can be difficult to assess, and opinions on their success or failure often depend on one's political views and values.

2.Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Different Policies:

Before Bush, several gun violence prevention measures had been taken. For example, Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act was effective in closing a loophole that allowed felons and other prohibited individuals to purchase firearms from unlicensed sellers at gun shows and through private sales. However, its impact on overall gun violence is limited, as it only applies to handguns and does not address other types of firearms (Violence Policy Center). Additionally, Assault Weapons Ban was also another law that took place before the presidency of Bush (Understanding the 1994 assault weapons ban and why it ended - ABC News). It was effective in reducing the use of assault weapons in mass shootings, but its overall impact on reducing gun violence was limited. Studies have shown that the ban had little effect on overall gun deaths and injuries (Poliseno 13). In addition, the Red Flag laws that various American states advanced allowed law-enforcement officials or family members to petition a court to temporarily remove firearms from individuals who pose a risk to themselves or others. These laws were intended to prevent suicides and reduce the risk of mass shootings.

During his presidency, some prominent laws were enacted. Among these, the Tiahrt Amendments restricted the release of data on firearms trace requests, making it more difficult for law enforcement agencies to track illegal guns. This policy had a negative impact on efforts to combat gun violence and was criticized by many law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act shielded gun manufacturers and dealers from liability for the actions of gun owners. This policy has made it difficult for victims of gun violence to hold gun manufacturers and dealers accountable for their role in gun violence. Moreover, the NICS Improvement Amendments Act provided funding to states to improve the accuracy and completeness of

records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Unlike other policies issued during his presidency, this policy has been effective in preventing individuals who are prohibited from owning firearms from purchasing them, which was aimed to relatively restrict gun crime. Likewise, to reduce the chances of mass shootings around schools, Gun-Free School Zones Act prohibited individuals from carrying firearms in school zones. Nevertheless, while this policy has been effective in preventing gun violence in schools, it did not address gun violence in other locations.

During Barack Obama's presidency, on the other hand, the issued legislation focused strictly on restricting gun use and circulation as a strategy to reduce gun-related crimes and public mass shootings. One such law was the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Reauthorization Act which provided funding to improve the accuracy and completeness of records in the NICS. This policy has been effective in preventing individuals who are prohibited from owning firearms from purchasing them. In addition, the Affordable Care Act included provisions that aimed to improve the mental health care of American citizens, which in turn can reduce gun violence when individuals prone to be violent are attended to. However, these provisions have not been fully implemented and their impact on reducing gun violence is uncertain.

While President Donald Trump has hardly issued any policies that openly restrict the possession of guns, he advanced acts that were hoped to help with the issue of gun violence, nonetheless. The Fix NICS Act, for instance, provided funding to improve the accuracy and completeness of records in the NICS. This policy has been effective in preventing individuals who are prohibited from owning firearms from purchasing them. Also, Trump enacted the Bump Stock Ban which prohibited the sale, manufacture, and possession of bump stocks. The latter are devices that allow semi-automatic weapons to

fire at a faster rate. The effectiveness of this policy could be observed in reducing the use of bump stocks in mass shootings.

After Trump, current President Joe Biden is apparently taking action to counter the issue of gun violence. Biden has proposed a number of executive actions aimed at reducing gun-related crimes, including strengthening background checks, regulating ghost guns, and investing in community violence intervention programs. The impact of these actions on reducing gun violence is uncertain, as they have yet to be fully implemented.

The effectiveness of the abovementioned policies varies depending on the specific policy and its implementation. Some policies, such as the Brady Act and the NICS Improvement Acts, have proved effective in preventing individuals who are prohibited from owning firearms from purchasing them. Nevertheless, other policies, such as the Assault Weapons Ban, have had limited impact on overall gun violence. Policies that limit access to firearms and address the root causes of gun violence, such as mental health care, can be more effective in reducing the rate of these crimes. However, their efficiency has yet to be examined.

3. The Role of Partisanship in Policy Implementation:

Partisanship can play a significant role in the implementation of policies related to gun violence. In the United States, political polarization often leads to opposing views between Republicans and Democrats on critical issues, such as gun control measures. As a result, the policies enacted by presidents from different parties often face significant resistance from the opposing party, thus, obstructing their proper implementation and enforcement of them.

Under President Bush, the implementation of policies related to gun violence was often opposed by Democrats. The 2004 expiration of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, which prohibited the manufacturing of semi-automatic assault weapons and large-capacity

magazines, was not renewed due to opposition from Republicans. This lack of action contributed to an increase in mass shootings and gun violence.

During President Obama's administration, his party encountered significant opposition from Republicans with regard to policies related to gun violence, which included background checks for all gun purchases and a ban on assault weapons. Despite

multiple attempts to implement these policies through executive orders, they faced significant resistance and were not fully implemented.

Similarly, under President Trump, there were few policy changes related to gun violence, and those that were made were often opposed by Democrats. The Trump administration revoked a regulation that prevented people with mental illnesses to purchase guns, while also expressing support for allowing teachers to carry guns in schools. These policies faced opposition from Democrats who advocated for stricter gun control measures.

President Biden has, so far, attempted to pass gun control legislation that includes expanding background checks and banning assault weapons. However, these policies face significant opposition from Republicans and the gun lobby, making their implementation intractable. Furthermore, partisanship can affect the implementation of policies related to gun violence in a number of other ways. For example, if a political party strongly opposes gun control measures, the party member may be less likely to support or enforce policies aimed at reducing gun violence. The same may also be observed in relation to opposing gun rights. This can lead to inconsistent enforcement and weaker outcomes. Partisanship can also impact the way in which policies are framed and marketed to the public. The situation can be more complicated when the media is involved in propagating polarization regarding such an issue. If a particular policy is promoted as being closely associated with

one political party or ideology, members of other parties may be less likely to support it, even if its effectiveness has been proven.

Additionally, the role of interest groups and lobbyists in influencing the policy process is undeniable. For example, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has historically been a powerful interest group that has lobbied against gun control measures. This can hinder the process of effectively implementing policies, even if there are publicly supported by the general public. Particularly noteworthy is that the issue of gun violence is deeply tied to cultural and ideological divides in American society. This can make it difficult to find common ground and build broad-based support for policies aimed at reducing gun violence. As such, policy implementation can be particularly challenging, even when there is agreement on the need for action.

To conclude, partisanship plays a significant role in the implementation of policies related to gun violence. Policies proposed by presidents from different parties often face significant resistance from the opposing party, making it difficult to implement and enforce them effectively. This can contribute to a lack of action on gun violence, as seen under the Bush and Trump administrations, and the limited success of policies implemented by the Obama and Biden administrations.

I. Part Two:

1. Rhetorical Analysis of Gun Reform:

1.1. Comparison of the Rhetoric of the Four Presidents:

The problem of gun control was and still a hot political topic and the subject of discussion, especially throughout the term of President George Bush and Barack Obama, where each president dealt with the issue differently from the other and used different discourses in order to express his opinion towards the issue, discovering the differences in their language and arguments that they contributed significantly to it. Understand the

different ideologies and opinions that determine their positions on the gun problem in America.

1.1.1. George W. Bush:

George W. Bush was famous for his distinctive political speech style. His language was often simple but addressed all segments of American society, which differentiated him from Obama, Trump, and Biden. Bush would also focus on his substantial position in support of the Second Amendment to the Constitution and the rights of gun owners. When he was in the White House to issue a statement on guns, he noted that the government “can find ways to preserve the Second Amendment while also safeguarding the lives of [American] children. ... The time to act is now” (Ponnuru).

This indicates Bush's firm belief that the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the U.S., which protects the right of American citizens to bear arms, is part and parcel of what constitutes American freedom. According to him, it must be adhered to rather than have it compromised. He also indicated that his support for the Second Amendment is inapplicable to the awful use of arms by criminals and terrorists, which results in harming American citizens. Rather, he clarified his opposition to armed violence, although he stressed the necessity and importance of owning weapons.

1.1.2. Barack Obama:

Throughout his tenure as President of the United States of America, Barack Obama addressed the topic of firearms in multiple speeches. Of particular importance to this study are the speeches which he delivered in the aftermath of mass shootings in which innocent people were killed. What distinguished Obama's statements from those of former presidents is his constant emphasis on the need for rational solutions to minimize gun violence. Obama continuously admitted that the issue is complex and sensitive, and that it requires deliberate measures to be taken:

We all have a strong duty to try. And the fact that this is a complicated topic is no longer an excuse to do nothing. The fact that we cannot prevent every act of violence does not mean that we cannot continuously diminish violence and prevent the most heinous acts of violence.. (Obama, School Shooting in Newtown)

In this speech following the mass shooting in Sandy Hook Elementary School, President Obama emphasized that responsibility should be taken by everyone in order to apply effective measures to reduce the problem of gun violence. He indicated that the complexity of the problem is not an excuse to prevent Americans from continuing to search for solutions that would save their lives.

The conception of change used in his speech was also distinctive, as change was one of the most important concepts Obama constantly employed in his speeches regardless of the theme of the speech. On serious issues such as armed violence, this concept was especially crucial as he stated that Americans “can’t tolerate [gun violence] anymore. These tragedies must end. And in order to put a stop to them, we must change.”(Obama, Speech at Prayer Vigil). This statement was made by Barack Obama after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown. In the statement, he openly expressed concern about the persistent problem of gun violence. Obama argued that change was necessary in order to solve the issue, noting that the situation had worsened and was no longer tolerable. The statement also reverses his explicit intention and belief in changing the situation and the need to take effective measures in order to protect the largest number of innocent people.

1.1.3. Donald Trump:

Former U.S. President Donald Trump's rhetoric on gun control was also distinct from that of many other presidents in several ways. First and foremost, Trump was a vocal

supporter of gun rights and the Second Amendment, and he often spoke in favor of gun ownership and against gun control measures. His strong support made him distinguished from the previous president, Barack Obama. Unlike Obama, whose focus was not the Second Amendment, and for which he had been criticized as a violation of the Amendment, Trump fervently supported the need to protect it. Trump also frequently emphasized the need to protect Americans' right to bear arms and argued that gun violence was a mental health issue rather than a problem related to the circulation and possession of guns. As he stated in his remark at the National Rifle Association leadership forum:

No longer will the government be trying to undermine [people's] rights and [people's] freedoms as Americans. Instead, we will work with [the people], by [the people's] side. We will collaborate with the NRA to encourage ethical gun ownership and to maintain our amazing hunters' access to the great outdoors. (Trump, National Rifle Association Leadership Forum)

This statement pointed to another notable aspect of Trump's rhetoric on gun control; that is, his close relationship with the National Rifle Association (NRA). Trump frequently spoke at NRA events and praised the organization for its efforts to defend the Second Amendment. His statement reflects his pro-gun rights stance and his belief in the importance of protecting the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the right to bear arms. This stance has been controversial. It made him subject to constant criticism of being overly lenient on gun ownership and failing to take significant action to address gun violence in the country.

In his statement, Trump emphasized the need to work with the NRA to promote responsible gun ownership. The NRA has long been a powerful lobbying group in the United States, advocating for gun rights and opposing legislation that would restrict access

to firearms. Trump's statement suggests that he viewed the NRA as a valuable partner in promoting responsible gun ownership, rather than as an obstacle to be overcome.

Furthermore, Trump's statement highlights the importance of protecting the interests of hunters. Hunting is a popular activity in many parts of the United States, and access to natural resources is crucial for those who rely on it. Being entrenched in American culture, hunting with its reliance on guns makes it difficult to press for a

complete renouncement of guns. Also, Trump's emphasis on protecting hunters' access to natural resources reflects his broader support for rural communities and his belief in the importance of preserving traditional ways of life.

In the same forum, Trump stated that the country's policemen and police officers are aware of the law, and hence they only accuse criminals of being armed (National Rifle Association Leadership Forum), "Washington has gone after law-abiding gun owners while making life easier for criminals, drug dealers, traffickers, and gang members." Trump argues that focusing on gun control measures that target law-abiding gun owners is misguided and ignores the fact that criminals, drug dealers, traffickers, and gang members will still have access to guns regardless of any restrictions. By emphasizing the need to go after criminals, drug dealers, traffickers, and gang members, Trump suggests that the federal government has been neglecting this important aspect of the issue. He implies that the government has been making life easier for these groups by not doing enough to address their access to guns and other weapons. Indeed, Trump's message is that gun control should not punish law-abiding citizens and that efforts to reduce gun violence should focus on targeting criminals and other dangerous individuals.

1.1.4. Joe Biden:

President Joe Biden has been a strong advocate for stricter gun control measures, and he has been using his presidential platform to push for legislative action on gun

control. In his speeches and public statements, he often refers to the need for common-sense gun laws that can help reduce gun violence in the United States. Compared to the previous presidents' rhetoric on gun control, his is closely similar to Obama's rhetoric. As he supported measures such as background checks for gun sales, a ban on assault weapons, and limits on high-capacity magazines. Biden also called for increased funding for mental health services and law enforcement efforts to combat gun violence. As Biden promised a series of gun control bills in a February 2020 speech in Las Vegas, President Biden gave an address from the White House, lamenting the ongoing epidemic of gun violence, and emphasizing the importance of significantly tightening gun control laws. However, the president is already behind schedule on this matter. Biden had promised in his campaign to introduce gun control legislation on his "first day in office," when mourning the "[i]nnocent victims, murdered in a classroom that had been turned into a killing field"(Biden, Gun Violence in America).

The president addressed gun-rights activists directly, stating that the Second Amendment is "not absolute." (Biden, Gun Control). Biden specifically expressed his will to pursue outlawing 9mm handguns while saying that he "respect[s] the culture and the tradition and the concerns of lawful gun owners. At the same time, like with all other liberties, the Second Amendment is not absolute." (Biden, Speech on Guns).

In another speech, the president emphasized that the issue of gun control "is one of conscience and common sense" (qtd. in Nerozzi). Biden also clarified his intentions to avoid any misinterpretations of his statement by stating that these laws that he pushes for are "not about taking away anyone's guns," and that they are "not about vilifying gun owners." Instead, Biden stated his belief "responsible gun owners" should be treated "as an example of how every gun owner should behave" (qtd in Nerozzi).

2. Analysis of the Language and Symbolism in the Speeches:

The four presidents of the United States of America use language and symbolism to frame the problem of weapons and to clarify the need for measures to reduce the risks that result from the unlawful use of weapons. They usually use special phrases and symbols to emphasize the issue and clarify their positions on the problem. One such use of language can be observed in naming the USA Patriot Act which aimed to fight terrorism. The Symbolism of “war” is present. Upon naming it, former President Bush took advantage of this discourse and events surrounding terrorism and gun abuse to emphasize the need to protect the Second Amendment. In relation to the latter’s importance in protecting the rights of American citizens, the president also used the term “freedom” conjointly.

President Donald Trump was also one of the strongest supporters of the protection of the Second Amendment. He symbolized and indicated his conviction in the right to carry arms for the American people. “[T]he Second Amendment people” is that he used to unite supporters of the Second Amendment and make the case resonate more powerfully (Schultheis).

President Obama had a relatively different position, as he called for support for efforts to regulate weapons and prevent armed violence more than addressing the issue of protecting the Second Amendment. Consequently, he was believed by many to be against the Second Amendment. This made him make this statement: “I believe in the Second Amendment. [...] How did we come to the point where people believe that demanding a thorough background check entails taking away people's guns?” (Rosenfeld).

Former President Barack Obama has consistently advocated for tighter gun control measures during his time in office. In his speeches, he has used language that reflects his deep concern for the victims of gun violence and his commitment to making changes that

can help prevent future tragedies. Obama has often emphasized the need for common-sense gun laws that protect the rights of responsible gun owners while also reducing the number of firearms in circulation (Office of the Press Secretary, Common Sense Gun Safety). He mentioned the importance of background checks for all gun purchases, closing loopholes that allow guns to be sold without cheques, and limiting access to high-capacity magazines and assault weapons (White House, Now is the Time).

Obama has also highlighted the need for increased mental health resources and support for law enforcement in their efforts to prevent gun violence. Throughout his speeches, Obama has consistently emphasized the need for unity and a willingness to work together to make meaningful progress on this critical issue. He has urged Americans to join efforts to support measures that will help prevent gun violence and make communities safer for everyone.

Current President Joe Biden has also extensively mentioned gun control. In his speeches, he has used language that emphasizes the need for action to prevent gun violence and protect public safety. He has called for common sense measures such as universal background checks, bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and increased funding for mental health services (White House, Biden New Actions). He has also highlighted the devastating impact of gun violence on communities across the country, particularly those that are disproportionately affected by gun violence.

Biden has spoken passionately about the need to take action to prevent tragedies like mass shootings and emphasized the importance of working together to solve the issue regarding the safety of the community. Overall, his language on gun control has been firm but measured, reflecting a deep concern for the well-being of the American people and a

commitment to finding effective solutions to one of the most pressing issues that the U.S. encountered.

2.1. Identification of common themes and differences in the rhetoric:

Due to the seriousness of the gun issue in America, every president attempted to solve it based on his point of view. Although there are some common themes in relation to weapons in America that are addressed by Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden, each president had his distinctive style and methods of handling the issue with distinctive policy suggestions. Thus, it is important to know the differences and similarities in order to study each president's policy separately and uncover which of them was more effective.

One of the most important similarities between the four presidents is that they dealt with the issue of public safety in their speeches, and emphasized the need to solve the issue of gun violence in order to protect the American people. In their speeches, all four presidents considered the problem a priority and agreed that public unsafely is a serious issue. In addition to the issue of public safety, the four presidents continuously addressed background checks. The four presidents emphasized the importance of ensuring that weapons are used legally, which would reduce the rate of gun-related crime. The four presidents also tackled the importance of the Second Amendment and the need to protect it, while also emphasizing the call for more wise and responsible gun ownership.

Although the four presidents dealt with multiple common issues on gun control, there are also differences that distinguished each president, reflecting the role of partisanship in different policies. President Bush, for example, was one of those who called for emphasizing the implementation of his contemporary laws with regard to weapons during his tenure, in addition to monitoring the background of weapon owners. On the other hand, President Obama was a supporter of gun control laws and the prevention of assault weapons. Also, President Trump differed with his opposition to gun

control laws, which was accompanied by encouraging school-funded protection. Finally, President Joe Biden's policy preference is similar to Democrat counterpart, Barack Obama. Biden highlights the background check laws and the dangers of offensive weapons. However, he also promoted funding gun-violence-related research, which would further explore the problem in-depth and provide solutions that may contribute to protecting the American people.

3. Analysis of the Rhetoric Used by the Four Presidents

3.1. George W Bush:

President George W. Bush rarely addressed gun violence during his presidency, so his rhetoric on the topic is limited. Among the few occasions on which he addressed it was his speech on April 27, 2000 where he discusses political fundraising and gun control. he states that "GOV. GEORGE W. BUSH: I don't think they expect me to. I may -- I'm not a member of the NRA -- and, by the way, have never been a member of the NRA. Not to be needling my opponent, Mr. Gore, but he was a member of the NRA at some point in time, and I have never been a member of the NRA. I'm a pretty independent thinker about gun safety and enforcing gun laws." ("Online NewsHour: Newsmaker: George W. Bush Interview -- April 27, 2000"). The rhetoric in this caption revolves around his affiliation with the National Rifle Association (NRA) and his stance on gun safety and enforcement of gun laws. When he said "I may -- I'm not a member of the NRA," this emphasizes his non-membership and reinforces the notion of his independence from the NRA. Bush also highlighted his own independent perspective on gun safety . Furthermore, Bush expressly targets Mr. Gore, adding, "Not to be needling my opponent, Mr. Gore, but he was a member of the NRA at some point in time." Bush discreetly attacks Gore's former

involvement with the NRA, implying that this allegiance may not coincide with Bush's own ideas or morals.

In another speech by president George W. Bush in 2004 he states “I made my intentions-I made my views clear. I did think we ought to extend the assault weapons ban and was told the fact that the bill was never going to move. People from both parties opposed the assault weapon prohibition because Republicans and Democrats were opposed to it. Now, I think that law-abiding folks should be permitted to possess a firearm. “I believe in background checks at gun shows or anywhere to make sure that guns don't get in the hands of people that shouldn't have them. But the best way to protect our citizens from guns is to prosecute those who commit crimes with guns” (Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States) This caption exhibits several rhetorical elements that can be analyzed, the repetition of "I made my" at the beginning emphasizes the speaker's determination to express their views clearly, as he defends the rights of citizens to own guns, with background checks in place to prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands. Whereas, through his speech, George Bush emphasized the necessity of prosecuting the perpetrators of crimes who use weapons. Explaining that this is an effective way to protect American citizens. His commentary on the subject presents his rhetorical strategies of balancing his opinion on the subject in order to resonate with his audience and please the American people, who are distinguished by their differing ideologies.

3.2. Barack Obama:

Barack Obama was known for his advocacy for gun control and his efforts to reduce gun violence in America. A key rhetorical strategy that he used when discussing this issue includes emotional appeal. Obama often used emotional language to connect with his audience and highlight the human toll of gun violence. For example, in a speech following the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, he emphasized the importance

of the joint action of the people and government to stop such “tragedies”, “regardless of the politics” (Obama, School Shooting in Newtown). By using the word "tragedies" and calling for collective action "regardless" of the political background differences, Obama appealed to his audience's sense of compassion and urgency.

Obama had used emotional appeal before on multiple occasions. For example, in his eulogy for the victims of the Charleston shooting, Obama sang Amazing Grace, a hymn that expresses deep emotions of loss, hope, and faith (Klein). The emotional appeal, in this case, was aimed at uniting citizens in grief and compassion for the victims. Earlier in his 2004 Democratic National Convention speech, Obama recounts the story of his humble beginnings as a child of a single mother, growing up with the help of grandparents

who worked hard to provide for him (Bernstein). This story evokes emotions of empathy, hope, and inspiration, and makes Obama relatable to the American people.

In his 2015 speech at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, Obama connected the civil rights struggles of the past with the ongoing fight for racial justice. Thus, he evoked emotions of anger, sadness, and hope, while encouraging people to continue the fight for justice and equality (Obama, 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Marches). Furthermore, in his 2017 Farewell Address (Obama, Farewell Address), Obama addressed the importance of democracy and the threat of authoritarianism. He warned that “democracy can buckle when [people] give in to fear,” and appealed to the emotions of fear and patriotism to encourage people to stand up for democratic values.

In addition to emotional appeals, Obama often used *logical arguments* to support his position on gun control. For example, he often cited statistical data about gun violence in the U.S. and compared it to other countries with stricter gun laws (Chalabi). He also argued that common-sense measures like background checks and limits on high-capacity

magazines could help prevent mass shootings. In a 2016 speech following a mass shooting in Orlando (Obama, Tragic Shooting in Orlando), he argued for the necessity of stronger gun control laws by stating:

The gunman seemed to be armed with a pistol as well as a powerful assault weapon. This tragedy serves as yet another reminder of how simple it is for someone to obtain a weapon that allows them to kill people in a school, an institution of worship, a movie theater, or a nightclub. And we must determine whether that is the sort of country we want to be. Actively doing nothing is also a choice. (Obama, Tragic Shooting in Orlando)

This argument uses common ground, as in “This massacre is therefore a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people” in public areas, to indirectly call for action that American people “have to decide if that’s the kind of country [they] want to be. And to actively do nothing is also a decision”. The argument also appeals to emotion by referring to the event as a massacre, while appealing to people’s common sense through prompting them to envisage the country that they want the U.S. to become.

A similar example can be traced in his 2013 speech after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. President Obama argued for background checks on gun buyers by saying:

We must change instead of making excuses or blaming others for our inactivity. We'll be informed that the reasons of such violence are complicated, which is correct. There is no one legislation or collection of regulations that will eradicate evil from the world or prevent every senseless act of violence in our society. But that cannot be used to justify inaction. We can certainly do better than this. (Obama, School Shooting in Newtown).

This argument acknowledges the complexity of the issue while calling for action and rejecting excuses for the apparent apathy towards such crimes. Similarly, in the 2016 speech at a memorial service for police officers killed in Dallas, Obama argued for a balanced approach to gun control and public safety:

We also know that arming people with strong weapons makes acts like this more deadly and terrible, and in the days ahead, we'll have to confront those realities as well. Finally, it is not about finding policies that work; it is about generating agreement, combating skepticism, and finding the desire to change. (Obama, Memorial Service in Dallas)

Here, he acknowledges the role of guns in making attacks more deadly while also emphasizing the need for consensus to change the situation, rather than just finding policies that work.

President Obama also often appealed to the *shared values* of freedom, safety, and responsibility when discussing gun violence. For example, in a 2013 speech, he stated that respecting the Second Amendment does not contradict with preventing “an irresponsible, dangerous few from inflicting harm on a massive scale” (Obama, Remarks on Gun Violence). By framing his position as a way to protect the public while still respecting the Second Amendment, Obama appealed to a broad range of Americans who value both freedom and safety, but who also respect the appeal of responsible action.

In his 2013 speech after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, President Obama argued for gun control by saying:

This is no longer acceptable. These tragedies must come to a stop. And in order to put a stop to them, we must adapt. We'll be informed that the reasons of such violence are complicated, which is correct. There is no one legislation or collection of regulations that will eradicate evil from the world

or prevent every senseless act of violence in our society. But that cannot be used to justify inaction. We can certainly do better than this. If there is even one step we can do to rescue another kid, another parent, or another community from the anguish that has befallen Tucson, Aurora, Oak Creek, and Newtown, as well as towns from Columbine to Blacksburg before that, we owe it to ourselves to try. (Obama, School Shooting in Newtown).

His argumentation appealed to common values such as protecting children and preventing senseless violent action. The use of emotional languages, such as “grief,” “obligation,” and “try,” also appeals to shared moral principles and the belief that something must be done to prevent future tragedies.

Additionally, throughout his presidency, Obama frequently called on Congress and the American people to take action to reduce gun violence. He used phrases like “we can't wait any longer” and “enough is enough” to express his sense of urgency. Obama framed the issue as one that required immediate action, which is why he sought to motivate his audience to get involved and demand change.

Generally, Obama's rhetoric on gun violence was characterized by a combination of emotional appeals, logical arguments, appeals to common values, and calls to action. By using these strategies, he sought to build support for his position on gun control and inspire Americans to take action to prevent gun violence.

3.3.Donald Trump:

President Donald Trump's rhetoric on gun violence during his presidency was characterized by a mix of conflicting messages and shifting positions. On the one hand, Trump often emphasized his support for the Second Amendment and portrayed himself as a defender of gun rights. He often spoke about the importance of the right to bear arms in protecting individual liberties and self-defense. For example, in a speech at the National

Rifle Association convention in 2018, Trump claimed that the “Second Amendment rights are under siege, but they will never, ever be under siege as long as [he was the] president” (Lima).

Additionally, in his 2019 State of the Union Address, Trump said:

We must create a culture that values the dignity and sanctity of human life. All children, born and unborn, are made in the holy image of God. The final part of my agenda is to protect America's security at home and abroad. That means supporting the men and women of law enforcement, also means securing our borders, and protecting our national interests. And it means defending, always, the right to self-defense. (State of the Union 2019: Read the full transcript)

In a speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference in 2020, Trump exclaimed that U.S. citizens “We will always protect our right to self-defense and our Second Amendment rights.” (Remarks by President Trump at the 2020 Conservative Political Action Conference | National Harbor, MD). These speeches demonstrate Trump's consistent emphasis on the importance of the Second Amendment and his commitment to protecting Americans' right to bear arms. He often portrayed himself as a champion of gun rights and a defender against what he saw as attempts to restrict those rights.

In relation to the effective implementation of the law, Trump frequently criticized the “gun-free zones” as ineffective in preventing gun violence, arguing that they only serve to disarm law-abiding citizens and create targets for potential offenders. For instance, in the NRA Convention Speech in 2017, Trump declared the end of eight years of restrictions on the gun ownership laws that the Second Amendment guarantees. He argued that during his presidency “federal agencies [would no longer]” prevent law-abiding citizens from holding arms that can help save their lives had an attack by an

offender was launched, as that was an unquestionable right granted to them by the Second Amendment (Donald Trump's full NRA speech 5/27/22 Transcript). Additionally, in his speech during his campaign Rally in Vermont, in 2016, Trump stated that “[g]un-free zones are a catastrophe. They're a feeding frenzy for sick people,” (Donald Trump Is Against 'Gun-Free Zones' But Guns Aren't Allowed on Many of His Properties, Staff Says - ABC News) . These speeches demonstrate Trump's consistent criticism of gun-free zones, which he often characterized as ineffective in preventing gun violence since they only disarm law-abiding citizens.

In addition to condemning the creation of gun-free zones, Trump called for arming teachers to prevent future shootings in the wake of the Parkland school shooting in 2018

(University of North Carolina). His argument was that trained and armed teachers would be able to quickly respond to any threats and prevent casualties (Trump endorses guns for teachers to stop shootings - BBC News). Also, in a speech at the National Rifle Association convention in 2018, he declared his support for the Second Amendment and arming teachers, “not only because [of his] belie[f] in freedom, but also because [of his] trust in everyday, talented, wonderful people” (SVITEK). At a campaign rally in Montana in 2018, Trump proclaimed the “need [for] teachers to be armed.” He stated that they “don't want to have 100 guards standing with rifles all over the school”, which is why teachers were allowed to obtain “a concealed carry permit.” Despite his insistence on implementing this suggestion, however, his proposal was met with criticism from many educators and school safety experts who argued that arming teachers could lead to more danger and confusion during and after shooting crimes.

Trump was also an advocate for background checks. He constantly expressed support for expanding background checks on gun purchases, particularly in the wake of

mass shootings. However, he reversed course and withdrew his support for such measures later during his presidency.

A prominent example of this can be traced in a speech following mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton in 2019 (Rupar). In this speech, Trump emphasized the necessity “of identifying and acting on early warning [signs, and preventing] the glorification of violence in our society.” Trump believed that “the gruesome and grizzly video games that [were then] commonplace...” were a source of concern that required “reform[ing the] mental health laws to better identify mentally disturbed individuals who may commit acts of violence and mak[ing] sure those people not only get treatment but when necessary,

involuntary confinement.” For him, gun-related crimes were related more to “[M]ental illness and hatred” than to the abundance of guns. This argument would focus the government’s efforts on what was believed as the origin of the issue, rather than treating what he believed as unrelated. Similarly, in a press conference with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in 2019, Trump stated his desire to enforce background checks by joining the efforts of both the Democrats and the Republicans (Watch: Trump takes questions at a joint press event with Australian PM) Despite this apparent support for background checks, president Trump was often vague about what his conception of “background checks” was, and his proposals did not always lead to concrete policy changes.

Another persisting point in Trump’s speeches is blaming mental illness for gun crimes. Trump often cited mental illness as a primary cause of gun violence, calling for increased access to mental health care and for better identification and treatment of individuals with mental illness. For example, in a White House speech following the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton in 2019, Trump clearly stated that “ mental illness and hatred pull the trigger, not the gun.” Trump also referred to the mentally ill as undeserving

individuals of “access to firearms” (Donald Trump Statement on Mass Shootings: Full Transcript of Speech & Remarks). He held that American laws of mental health required a “reform [...] to better identify mentally disturbed individuals who may commit acts of violence” (Lovelace Jr.). Had these citizens been unresponsive to the treatment of their mental issues, Donald Trump deemed necessary the act of their “involuntary confinement” to protect public safety.

Despite this apparent support for restricting access to arms by people who are deemed unqualified due to mental issues, his proposals for addressing mental illness in relation to gun violence were often criticized for being vague or insufficient. Mental health advocates argued that blaming mass shootings on mental illness perpetuated harmful stereotypes and stigmatization of people with mental health conditions (Mitropoulos)

Trump's rhetoric on gun violence is often considered controversial and polarizing. His response to the Parkland shooting was criticized on the basis that he met with members of the National Rifle Association shortly after the shooting. It was during this meeting that he proposed arming teachers, rather than implementing stricter gun control measures. In his 2016 rally in Kentucky, Trump criticized what he perceived as Hillary Clinton and her supporters' desire “to abolish the Second Amendment [and] take away [people's] guns” (Diaz), which would apparently upset many gun owners. Also, during a press conference in 2019, he declared “mental problem[s]” as the source of the persistent hate and gun crimes, and not the easy access to guns in itself (Howard) Furthermore, in a meeting with members of Congress on gun control in 2018, Trump hinted at the futility of laws that did not disarm the mentally disturbed early on (Wolfe). He stated: “Take the guns first, go through due process second... I like taking the guns early, like in this crazy man's case that just took place in Florida... it would have taken a long time to get to court.” (Landers)

These remarks were controversial because they were perceived by some as advocating for violence or undermining processes through which the criminals would be sooner held accountable for their crimes in court. In the case of his 2016 rally in Kentucky, his remarks were widely criticized as implying that Second Amendment supporters could use violence against Hillary Clinton if she were elected (Stempel).

To sum up, despite its controversial content, Donald Trump's rhetoric on gun violence was characterized by a focus on defending the Second Amendment and blaming mental illness for mass shootings. His calls for arming teachers and his shifting positions on background checks drew criticism from both sides of the political aisle. His controversial remarks and divisive rhetoric may have hindered efforts to find common ground on the issue of gun reform.

3.4. Joe Biden:

President Joe Biden has been an advocate for gun control and has spoken extensively about the issue of gun violence during his career in public office. Since taking office, he has continued to address the issue of gun violence, particularly in the wake of several mass shootings in the United States. Here are some key points in the rhetoric used by President Biden on gun violence:

One major characteristic of current U.S. President Biden is its sense of urgency. President Biden frequently emphasizes the need for immediate action on gun violence. He often uses phrases such as "We can't wait any longer," and "Enough is enough." He also frequently mentions the victims of gun violence, both those who have been killed and those who have survived but are living with the consequences of their injuries.

In his 2021 speech on gun violence, President Biden argued for gun control by stating:

For God's sake, this is an epidemic that must be stopped.

We need gun reform now. Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines must be prohibited. Don't tell me it can't be done. We've done it before, and it worked. We need background checks, and we need to close the loopholes that allow people who should never have a gun to get one. We need to make sure that guns are not in the hands of dangerous people who threaten our families and our communities. Every day, 316 people are killed in this country. Each and every day. We can't stay silent or wait much longer. We must act, and we must act immediately. (Remarks by President Biden on Gun Violence Prevention)

This argument emphasizes urgency by referring to gun violence as an epidemic that needs to be stopped immediately. The argument also includes specific policy solutions, such as banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, implementing background checks, and closing loopholes. The use of statistics, such as the fact that 316 people are shot every day in the United States, further reinforces the urgency of the issue. Overall, this argument urges the audience to act quickly and decisively to address the problem of gun violence before more lives are lost. Additionally, President Biden has often spoken about the need to prevent gun violence before it occurred. He has proposed measures such as expanded background checks, red flag laws, and a ban on assault weapons. He has also called for more funding for research into gun violence and its causes.

In his 2021 speech on gun violence, President Biden argued for gun control by saying:

We need to do more than just pray. We need to act. We need to pass common-sense gun reform. We need to make sure that we're not selling weapons of war to people who shouldn't have them. We need to make sure that we're doing everything we can to prevent guns from getting into the

hands of people who are a danger to themselves or others. We need to invest in evidence-based programs that address the root causes of gun violence, like poverty, mental illness, and domestic violence. We need to make sure that we're not just treating the symptoms of gun violence, but we're addressing the underlying problems that lead to it in the first place. (Remarks by President Biden on Gun Violence Prevention)

This argument emphasizes prevention by focusing on addressing the root causes of gun violence, such as poverty, mental illness, and domestic violence, and investing in evidence-based programs that can help prevent it. The argument also includes specific policy solutions, such as preventing the sale of weapons of war to people who shouldn't have them and making sure guns don't get into the hands of dangerous individuals. The use of emotionally charged language, such as “we need to do more than just pray,” further reinforces the urgency of the issue and the need for preventative measures. Overall, this argument urges the audience to prioritize prevention in the fight against gun violence and to take action to address the underlying problems that contribute to it.

President Biden has also emphasized the need for unity in addressing gun violence. He has called on Congress to pass common-sense gun reform measures and has urged both Democrats and Republicans to work together to find solutions to this issue. In the White House Rose Garden on April 8, 2021 speech on gun violence, President Biden argued for gun control by saying:

We must come together as a nation. We must stand united against gun violence. This is not a case of red or blue. This is an American issue. We need to put aside our differences and work together to find common-sense solutions that will protect our families and our communities. We can all agree that we don't want to see any more lives lost to gun violence. We can

all agree that we want to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. We can all agree that we want to make our communities safer for everyone. Let us band together and do the right thing.

This argument emphasizes unity by calling on people to put aside their political differences and work together to find common-sense solutions to gun violence. The argument also includes specific policy solutions, such as keeping guns out of the hands of outlaw people, who are likely to be agreeable across the political spectrum. The use of inclusive language, such as "we can all agree," further reinforces the idea that gun violence is an issue that affects everyone, regardless of political affiliation. Overall, this argument urges the audience to prioritize unity in the fight against gun violence and to work together to find solutions that will benefit everyone

President Biden often speaks with empathy about the experiences of those who have lost loved ones to gun violence and the trauma that survivors of gun violence have to endure. Furthermore, President Biden has often called on gun owners to take responsibility for their firearms and to secure them properly. He has also emphasized the need for gun manufacturers to be held accountable for the impact their products have on public safety.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, researching gun rights and gun regulation has revealed the complexities of this contentious issue. The evaluation of various policies has shown the importance of a nuanced and balanced approach that recognizes both the imperative of public safety and the preservation of individual rights. Partisanship has shown to be a key impediment to the successful implementation of meaningful gun regulation policies. Furthermore, our rhetorical research has revealed the significant effect of public discourse on forming perceptions and views about this topic. A collaborative and inclusive effort including governments, communities, and stakeholders is required to address the recurring issues

posed by gun violence. We may aim to develop a safer and more peaceful society for everybody by encouraging constructive debate and identifying common ground.

General conclusion:

1 Implications of the research for policy and practice:

A comparative analysis of gun reform policies and rhetoric under four US presidents - George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden can hugely help in several implications for policy and practice. One key implication that may arise from such research is that it helps in identifying successful and unsuccessful gun reform policies under the presidency of the four presidents, providing the evaluation of the effectiveness of different policies. This information can guide the crafting of legislation and regulations that effectively address gun violence while considering public safety concerns.

comparative analysis of gun reform policies contributes to discovering the differences, with the increase in gun violence in recent years and the great development witnessed in the field of weapons, it became necessary to compare studies of reforms and policies as Policymakers may make educated judgments regarding which policies are most likely to produce desired outcomes by highlighting the successes and failures of previous policies.

In addition to this, this research can shed light on the discourses used by each of the four presidents, as their comparison helps to understand how they controlled the debate on gun control and their influence on the public and public opinion as a whole and this will help Policymakers to make a better convey of their objectives and garner public support for proposed measures.

Furthermore, The research and the results of the analysis are considered a valuable resource for future reforms regarding arms reforms, as it provides this field with a comprehensive vision of the lessons learned that will assist politicians to develop more

effective strategies, whether through new reforms or in terms of other effective rhetorical speeches that help frame different opinions and come up with reforms that help limit the issue despite the existing partisanship.

2 Conclusions drawn from the analysis:

This study provided a comparative analysis of gun reform policies and rhetoric under the four U.S. Presidents: George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden. And showed the significant of the topic where the analysis came out with many results. One of the important results that every presidents employed different approach to gun reform policies and rhetoric. George Bush's presidency saw a focus on maintaining the exits of gun rights and regulations while Barack Obama advocated for stricter gun control measures, including background checks and assault weapons bans, but faced a huge political opposition of congress which limited the effectiveness of his reforms. furthermore , president Donald trump Characterized by a tense approach He was distinguished for his stances in favor of gun rights. The Joe Biden administration has prioritized gun control as a key policy issue and has undertaken sweeping reforms such as strengthening background checks and banning assault weapons, and addressing gun violence as a public health crisis.

This dissertation reveal also the division of partisanship between Democrats and Republicans that they holding different views and priorities. where the Democrats generally advocate for stricter gun control measures such as background checks, assault weapons bans, while Republicans typically support protecting the Second Amendment rights. The four examples selected in the research represented by each of President Bush Obama Trump and Biden from 2001 to the present time 2023 have provided a detailed understanding of this partisan division. It also included a mention of the effect of interest

groups, such as the NRA, in shaping the discourse and policy outcomes on gun reform of the four presidents.

Exploiting its power as a strong prominent lobbying group in shaping the discourse surrounding gun reform, with the NRA emphasizing the importance of the Second Amendment and individual rights to gun ownership what made republicans presidents as George bush and Donald trump adopt a more conservative approach to gun control, aligning with the NRA and also aligned with the NRA's positions on protecting the rights of gun owners. While democrats faced a strong opposition from the NRA during presidency of barack obama Campaigns were launched against his stricter laws after many guns shooting occurred . whereas Joe Biden also faced an opposing because of NRA that remained a staunch opponents of his measures such as banning assault weapons, and limiting high-capacity magazines .

The dissertation also demonstrate congress' reaction to Barack Obama's and Joe Biden's executive actions and directives on gun matters that has been also divided along party lines. Republicans largely condemned Obama's actions, claiming that he was circumventing Congress and intruding on Second Amendment rights. Democrats have been more supportive of Obama's actions and have worked to implement gun control legislation. Republicans who advocate against intruding on Second Amendment rights have criticized Biden's gun control proposals. Democrats largely embrace Biden's plans, but achieving meaningful gun control legislation may be difficult in a Senate that is deeply split. Individual reactions vary, and public opinion and pressure from interest groups can influence politicians' responses.

The study also showed that language and symbolism has an importance role in shaping gun reform debate and conclude that the four presidents' rhetoric reflects their positions on gun regulation, their prioritization of public safety, and their methods to

finding a balance between Second Amendment rights and the execution of policies aimed at decreasing firearm dangers despite the sensitivity and seriousness of the issue conflicting public opinion and interference of lobbying group as the NRA to protect their own interests.

3 Limitations and directions for future research:

For international students who are interested in American history, policy, and politics, we specifically wanted to add and highlight a significant topic in American politics and civilization. As a result, we discussed a novel approach to the issue of gun violence.

although we were constrained in numerous ways. Our topic is political, so the first barrier is limited access to information. A lot of sources are articles, which we identified on well-known websites and newspapers. There is also a great poverty in the availability of books on our subject because of their scarcity and failure to address the very aspects to which we have directed our focus. Despite the lack of sources and books, our research was a challenge for us to address aspects that were not previously addressed, as the note included our own analyzes that will help a lot in future studies.

Furthermore the conflicts over points of view and personal issues were the most challenging challenge we encountered, Because there are so many ideas and viewpoints, each of which is valid in some respects, it is difficult to remain objective. We believe that the Bill of Rights was a breath of fresh air for the colonists, who celebrated the new laws as evidence of modernization. Governors cannot argue in favor of the second amendment at the expense of the people, and some of these amendments seem archaic and do not apply to modern society. Regarding the judgments made by each president and the deliberations held by each, the subject is extremely sensitive and in-depth. Each of them has a different approach when addressing delicate issues like gun violence. A study of the previous four presidents is part of our topic. Therefore, we found it challenging to assess

each of the changes and discussions and the most crucial factor due to the rise in incidents and issues relating to weapons in recent years. Our topic is fresh. The topics covered in her memorandum have not been the subject of any prior research, thus it took a lot of effort and analytical energy to draw conclusive results.

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الملخص:

تقدم هذه المذكرة تحليلاً مقارنًا لقوانين الأسلحة والسياسات المتعلقة تحت عهدة أربع رؤساء للولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، وهم جورج بوش الابن وباراك أوباما ودونالد ترامب وجو بايدن. تتضمن المذكرة خلفية شاملة لهذا الموضوع مع تحليل بعض البحوث السابقة المتعلقة بالإصلاحات التشريعية للسلاح من أجل تغطية الفجوة الموجودة في هذه الدراسات والمتمثلة في تحليل فعالية السياسات المتبعة من كل رئيس و دور الحزبية في تطبيق هذه السياسات. كما تطرقت مذكرتنا أيضا إلى تحليل بلاغة الخطابات السياسية المتعلقة بالتعامل مع قضية إصلاح تشريعات السلاح المستعملة من طرف الأربع رؤساء، وتمت فيها مقارنة خطاباتهم من أجل البحث عن أوجه التشابه والاختلاف وتسهيل تحليل اللغة الرمزية المستعملة من قبل كل رئيس لفهم مدى تأثيرها على الجماهير وعلى السياسات العامة المطبقة.

Declaration:

We hereby declare that the dissertation entitled " A Comparative Analysis of Gun Reform Policies and Rhetoric under Four U.S. Presidents: George Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden." Is our own work and that all the sources we have quoted have been acknowledge by means of references.