

MATTHEW HOY

JUNE 25, 2016 9:21 PM

The left is misplacing the blame for the Orlando terror attack

HIGHLIGHTS

Christians, Republicans, the NRA and AR-15 rifles are scapegoats

The terrorist himself and the radical Islamic ideology he pledged allegiance to are to blame

You can oppose same-sex marriage and still be horrified by the slaughter of innocent gay people



BY MATTHEW HOY

Two weeks ago, an Islamic terrorist walked into a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and opened fire, [killing 49](#) and injuring over 50 more.

During his hourslong rampage, the terrorist (whom I will not name) called 911 and a local television station to proclaim his allegiance to ISIS, the terror group that controls large swaths of Iraq and Syria. President Barack Obama has referred to them as a “JV team.”

In the hours and days following the attack, the mainstream media, liberal politicians and President Obama all came out with statements identifying who was to blame for the massacre.

According to the [New York Daily News](#), it was the National Rifle Association’s fault.

According to Salon.com, “toxic masculinity” was to blame.

According to an [American Civil Liberties Union](#) lawyer, the “Christian Right” was to blame.

According to [The New York Times](#), a who’s who of Republicans are to blame, despite the fact the murderer was a registered Democrat.

According to CNN host Anderson Cooper, it was Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi’s fault because [she never tweeted about gay pride month](#).

According to an article from [McClatchy](#) (the owner of The Tribune), it was the North Carolina Legislature’s fault for passing a bathroom law, along with every other law that’s been proposed that would allow religious people to decline to participate in gay marriage ceremonies.

In short: It was my fault.

I’m opposed to most gun control laws simply because they don’t work.

Criminals, terrorists, documentary filmmakers like [Stephanie Soechtig](#) who (there is ample evidence) illegally purchased firearms across state laws for her “Under the Gun” documentary, and journalists like [David Gregory](#), who violated Washington, D.C.’s ban on possession of large-capacity magazines, don’t follow the laws.

In Sacramento days after the Orlando attack, lawmakers [berated Second Amendment supporters](#) as they passed yet another slew of gun control bills — none of which would’ve stopped the San Bernardino terrorist attack that spurred their creation in the first place, nor the shooting in Orlando.

I support religious freedom laws because the LGBT community and their supporters are sore winners. Having successfully imposed gay “marriage” on the nation by judicial fiat, religious Christians who simply want to be left alone are instead threatened with financial ruin unless they agree to participate in a ceremony antithetical to their faith.

I support tolerance for my political foes. What this means, practically, is that I can oppose same-sex “marriage” and allowing men who think they’re women access to women’s bathrooms, locker rooms and dorm rooms, yet still be horrified at the wanton murder of 49 of my fellow Americans.

I support the ability of law-abiding citizens to purchase firearms to protect themselves, including AR-15 pattern rifles if they so choose. (For the record, the Orlando terrorist used a [Sig Sauer MPX rifle](#), which is not an AR-15 pattern rifle.)

I support the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to defend themselves from harm using firearms guaranteed them by the Second Amendment both at home and in public.

I support shall-issue concealed carry regimes where anyone who is legally entitled to own a gun and wishes to carry a firearm for self-defense may do so.

I support the abolition of gun-free zones that have neither armed security present nor metal detectors to ensure that all people there are unarmed. Otherwise, we should stop calling them gun-free zones and call them what they really are: soft targets.

Who is responsible for 49 lives lost in Orlando?

The terrorist who took them.

The radical Islamic faith and the terror organization ISIS that inspired him.

Conservative columnist Matthew Hoy is a former reporter, editor and page designer. His column appears in The Tribune every other Sunday, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks. Read Hoy’s blog at [Hoystory.com](#). Follow him on Twitter [@Hoystory](#).

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COMMENTS

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Matthew Kaney · Software Developer at Self

We’re never going to solve any problems if we have BOTH sides being ridiculously stupid. The guy wasn’t really an Islamic terrorist, and the problem has nothing to do with him using an “assault weapon.” It was NOT, btw, an AR-15. It was a Sig Sauer MCX. But that issue aside... one could have used a couple of .45 caliber handguns to do the damage he did considering that police did not enter the nightclub for over THREE HOURS.

Think about that. You fools are all arguing over things that will never get settled, and meanwhile, police, who had already engaged the killer in a firefight BEFORE he entered the club, then fell back and allowed him to kill people for over THREE HOURS. He probably could have done at least half as much damage with a machete in that time. Wake up.

Like · Reply · 1 · Jun 28, 2016 10:01am



Aaron Ochs · Who cares? at None of Your Damn Business!

Couple of things.

For one, the National Rifle Association allows assault rifles like the one Mateen used to be purchased through the gun show loophole. They share responsibility.

Two, [Salon.com](#) didn’t blame the shooting on “toxic masculinity.” If you read the article a little closer, you’ll notice the writer was talking about the shooter’s motives and how they were rooted in toxic masculinity, which she defined as “a desire on the part of the shooter to show off how much power and control he has, to take male dominance to the level of exerting control over life and death itself.” A philosoph... [See More](#)

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Chris Wagoner

What is this GUN SHOW loophole I always hear about?

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Aaron Ochs · Who cares? at None of Your Damn Business!

Chris Wagoner https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_show_loophole

Like · Reply · Jun 27, 2016 8:34am



Matthew Hoy · Works at Professional Annoyer of Liberals

<https://youtu.be/UEihjKNhN8>

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Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios

It’s true that the doctrinaire left has downplayed or denied the role that Islamic terror played in the Orlando tragedy, but the right also downplays the role of other factors, like easy access to assault weapons & anti-gay rage. This massacre was unique in having a cluster of triggers rather than only one thing. By all accounts, the shooter, Omar Mateen was a deeply conflicted, barely closeted gay man whose religion forbids gay relationships. Apparently, Mateen did not live as a devout Muslim; he drank alcohol, was clean shaven & did not dress or worship according to Islamic tradition. It was... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · Jun 26, 2016 12:57pm



Mary Lucey · Cascade High School - Everett, WA

Mr. Hoy, when you loose 49 people and 50 injured community members this can not be considered sore winners! There are no winners here except for the only people cheering on this horrific mass murdering is, Evangelical Ministers and pastors. Yes, these faith based haters are screaming for more violence against the LGBT citizens. If you preach hate from the pulpit, your followers will carry out your message. How could a god loving person advocate for such violence towards others. I can list 10 highly visible preachers cheering ISIS on. Evangelicals have partnered with the terrorists. It is common ... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 2 · Jun 26, 2016 11:30am



Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios

In 2007 a right wing author, pundit, Dinish D’Souza published a book called “The Enemy at Home”, wherein he suggested that American religious conservatives should find common ground with radical Muslims & join forces to go after their “real” mutual enemies, liberals, atheists, feminists, gays, etc. In this way, said D’Souza, terrorist attacks against the west could be reduced or cease altogether. According to the author, the first step to a conciliatory relationship with Islamists would be to admit that we Americans are precisely what Osama bin Laden said we were; a godless, debauched, lazy, sinful, materialistic people who deserved 9/11. Thankfully, that book did not make much of a splash, though today’s hateful evangelical preachers applauding the Orlando murders are examples of those who embrace the warped philosophy expressed in D’Souza’s book.

Like · Reply · Jun 26, 2016 1:11pm



Allen Rasor Sr. · John Marshall High School, Los Angeles, CA

Right on, Matthew!

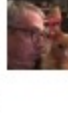
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Gerald Clare · Works at Retired mostly

Blame is not the point, in my view. The perpetrator relieves the blame. The question for us is prevention. I believe that irrespective of motive we should do all we can to keep guns, and especially high capacity magazine guns, out of the hands of individuals who have any indicators of likelihood to use them against innocents. This would include people with a criminal history, significant psychiatric illness or a history of expressing the view that violence is an appropriate means to an end of whatever nature religious or political. It’s just too easy to get guns. I own guns, I’m not advocating taking all guns away from everyone. America is drunk with guns and it’s time to sober up.

Like · Reply · 1 · Jun 26, 2016 8:56am



Gerald Clare · Works at Retired mostly

Russ Byler What a specious response. DUI’s weren’t the topic, were they? Do I need to list all the changes in our culture that I would like to see? No. I was responding to this one, guns. Oh, and it’s a lot easier to get a gun than a driver’s license. “Squacking” is that your attempt at demeaning my point of view.

Like · Reply · Jun 26, 2016 7:56pm



John Gajdos · School Of Hard Knocks, University Of Life

Absolutely positively correct. Blaming the shooter for his actions, what a novel idea.

Like · Reply · 3 · Jun 26, 2016 8:33am



Brett Cross · California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly)

Matthew you’d still make a really great segregationist despite the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Oh, and you haven’t missed your calling there are still lots of them in the South. Not as many out here in the West.

Like · Reply · Jun 26, 2016 8:11am



Brett Cross · California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly)

Kevin Rice let’s not play stupid games. I don’t really know you obviously. I know who you are but I don’t really like you and I don’t care if you like me or not- not would be preferable. You know the history of the Republican and Democratic parties so I’m not going to go into all that. And you know the history of Southern Democrats and you know the difference between Democratic party of today and that of the old Southern Democrats. Which interestingly enough are now part of the Republican party. And you also know the history of the ‘64 Civil Rights and the President who signed the Act and their party affiliation. So stop playing dumb smart with me. Thank you.

Like · Reply · 2 · Jun 26, 2016 8:57am



Gene Raino

Great article. I could add a thousand statistics but they won’t change the leftist mind. Encore.

Like · Reply · 4 · Jun 26, 2016 8:01am



Scott McVey

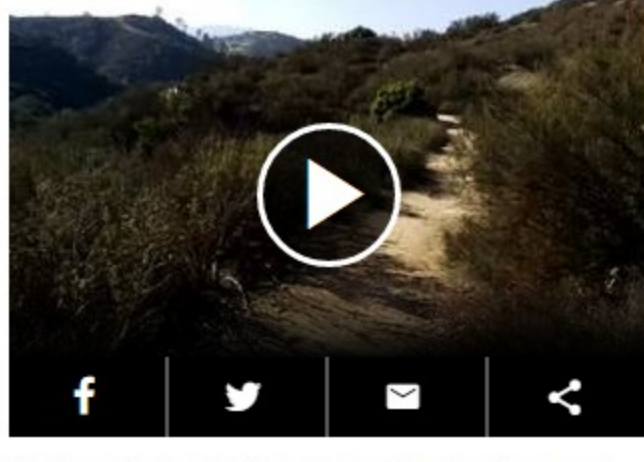
Well stated!

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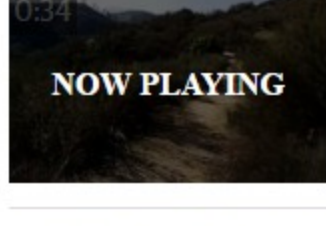
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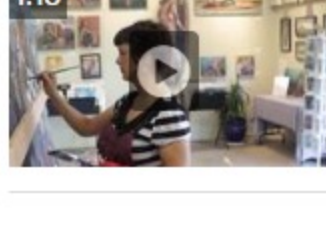
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ABOUT MATTHEW HOY



Matthew Hoy, a conservative, is a San Diego-area native and 1994 graduate of Cal Poly’s journalism program. He spent 15 years at various newspapers along the West Coast, including Theompoc Record, The Daily World in Aberdeen, Wash., The North County Times in Escondido and The San Diego Union-Tribune. For 15 years, Hoy has written a blog on politics and the media, Hoystory.com. Hoy’s column will be published in The Tribune every other week, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks.

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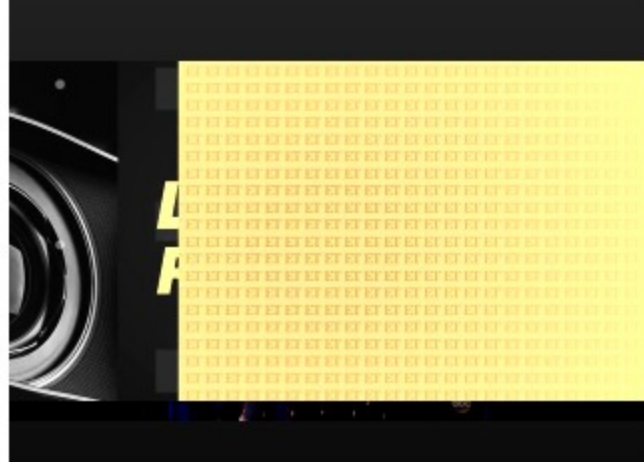
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