

**THE MEANING OF THE WEAPON**  
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The weapon. It is quite a simple word that has very powerful meaning: the weapon is something that can kill. From ancient times weapons have served humans to destroy and conquer something belonging to other humans or to kill them. Each war has been a triumph of the weapon. Each death is a tribute to the weapon, something that gives it glory.

There is no natural concept of the weapon in the nature: claws and teeth of the animals have not been designed by the power of reason and rational experience of killing the equal species. The weapon has evolved with human culture and is a very special kind of tool. Since the humanity appeared and evolved on Earth, our ancestors have produced various tools, such as stone and, later, iron axes, spears, hammers, etc. These multipurpose tools were designed to serve humans in their efforts to survive: find and get food, hunt, construct buildings, defend themselves against danger. When survival required killing, these tools were also used for it. Later, when social and moral human qualities evolved to what they are now, the weapons changed. In modern society the weapon has become the tool, invented and engineered specifically for the purpose of killing and destruction. Through the history it has also gained the meaning of controlling and manipulating other humans. The weapon has become the symbol of the power, as well as the symbol of the war.

Why do the wars break out? Is it about the defense only? No, it is about lands, resources, and power. People want to dominate, they want the power. And others do not want to share what they already possess. That means, those who want the lands, resources, and power need a tool to obtain the desirable: a special, perverted tool. Something that we are calling “the weapon” now. Those who have to oppose the aggressor also have to obtain and use the weapons. The weapon makes the aggressor and the defender equal. They can easily change their roles to the opposite.

People often cannot control the weapon. Sometimes people cannot even control themselves. That is the core of the problem. A person with too much power in his/her hands is already affected by this power, he/she usually wants to use it. Also, motives and actions of some people are not acceptable in the modern society. As the result, mental and moral defects combined with such a power can lead to several destructive, irreparable accidents of using weapon. We do not even mention deadly the weapons of war used by the armies. There are numerous examples when easily available firearms or other relatively small weapons were used to bring destruction and make people suffer. One of the most meaningless acts of killing and dramatic problems of modern times is shooting in public places and acts of terrorism.

More than a century ago, on February, 2, 1902 in the state of Illinois, the USA Ms. Fletcher R. Barnett, a school teacher shot another teacher Eve C. Whisman with a rifle in her classroom. Then, he shot at the student who tried to help Mrs. Whisman, but missed. That was the first case of shooting at school. There have been many other cases like that one for the recent 112 years, and they still continue to happen regularly. One of the most recent shootings was the one in Sandy-Hook school, in Connecticut (the USA) on December, 14, 2012 and in School №263 in Moscow, Russia on February, 3, 2014.

Despite all these accidents, there are different organizations, though, which are trying to make it legal and free to carry and use weapons, such as “Right for Weapons” in Russia or

National Rifle Association of America in the USA. While the rest of the world is trying to stop spreading weapons in society in order to prevent such unwanted consequences as increasing crime rates or possibilities to start a civil war by separatists or religious fundamentalists, these organisations are willing to make weapons available for everyone. Their reason is that everyone has the right to protect his/her life, property and family. Actually, the foundation of such organizations was determined by the necessity of self-defence. In other words, such forms of social demand on weapons are caused by what human beings have been doing. One more aspect of this problem is that some part of the society is trying to find legal ways to use weapons freely and openly, for example, for sports or hunting. And such "legal" weapons is often used in criminal actions.

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Such controversial wishes often push people to use services of "black markets", which are illegal. The situation can also change significantly in several years from now with the development of 3D-printing: 3D printers are able to construct some parts of weapons (we mean firearms) that can be used to construct your own weapon (e.g., uncharged "Liberator" by Cody Whilson) or modify these models which already exists (this has already been done for AK and AR-15 magazines and AR's receiver).

It is obvious that a term "weapon" involves not only firearms, but also weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear, chemical, biological and even these types that are based on newly discovered physical phenomenon. It is true that they are restricted in some way by Geneva Convention and international humanitarian law due to their destructive power.

Nevertheless, we believe we still need weapons. As it was said before the real purpose of weapons is to protect. The universe is not well explored and we do not know what is expecting us there or if something is going to appear from there. This is an unknown threat. And any threat must be eliminated. Another possible reason is facing some kind of destructive disaster on our planet. If people face the problem of extinction, the only way of living will be survival. This option is extremely likely due to the fact that humanity is "doing its best" to destroy the world we know, considering environmental pollution, destruction of flora and fauna, waste of the resources. Though we do not want it, the weapon may become the last argument.